Forage seed production and trade as a pathway out of poverty in the smallholder sector: Lessons from Zimbabwe Crop Livestock Integration for Food Security (ZimCLIFS)

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Why forage seed production?

- To improve pastures and avail fodder for livestock;
- Soil improvement (nitrogen fixation from legume crops, crop rotations, cover crops etc.)
- Diversify farm income sources
- Farmers already producing cash crops for the market, can sell pasture seed;
- Source of planting material for fodder

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Objective

Demonstrate potential viability of pasture seed production business in smallholder systems

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Adoption approaches of new forage species

- Lead farmer;
- Farmer-to-farmer;
- Innovation platforms; and
- Field demonstrations.

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Forage production trend

	2012-13 season	2013-14 season	2014-15 season
No. Of Farmers	105	160	245
Area planted (ha)	14.6	35.9	36.2
Seed produced (tons)	6.8	8.6	Work in progress

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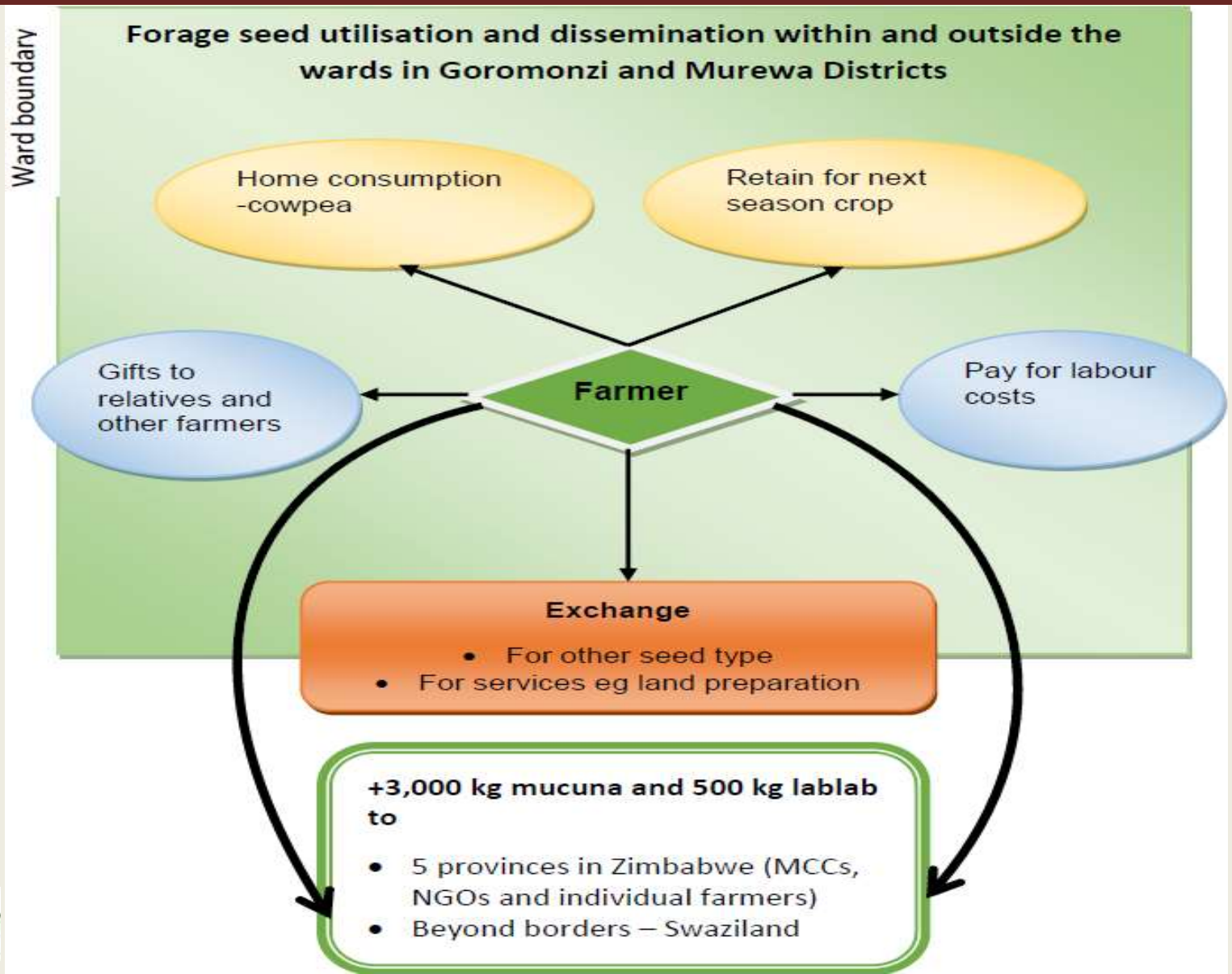
Forage seed production

- Increase – farmers producing forage and seed, area planted and seed production
- 2014 seed sales - USD11,000
- Accessed by farmers

Seed dissemination pathways



Seed dissemination pathways cont'd

ZiMCLIFS Forage Expansion Programme

Mt Darwin – Pfura MCC
50 farmers, 14 hectares forage planted
400kgs Mucuna, 100kgs Lablab seed and inoculant
Projection 2015/16 – 120 farmers, 30 hectares

Seke - Marirangwe MCC
50 farmers, 12 hectares forage planted
400kgs Mucuna, 50kgs Lablab seed and inoculant
Projection 2015/16 –100 farmers, 25 hectares

Mutoko –Kanyongo MCC
50 farmers, 10 hectares forage planted
400kgs Mucuna, 50kgs Lablab seed and inoculant
Projection 2015/16 – 80 farmers, 20 hectares

Manicaland –Hauna MCC
50 farmers, 10 hectares forage planted
400kgs Mucuna, 50kgs Lablab seed and inoculant
Projection 2015/16 – 100 farmers, 5 local schools, 30 hectares

Hwange – Christian Care (NGO)
9 farmers, 2.5 hectares forage planted
50kgs Mucuna, 25kgs Lablab seed and inoculant

Manicaland –Tsonzo MCC
40 farmers, 10 hectares forage planted
400kgs Mucuna seed and inoculant
Projection 2015/16 – 90 farmers, 22.5 hectares

Zaka – Individual Farmer
1 farmer, 5 hectares forage planted
200kgs Mucuna seed and inoculant
Projection 2015/16 – 10 hectares

Swaziland – SWADE
100 kgsMucuna seed exported

Key — Current ZimCLIFS sites — New sites the ZimCLIFS project has expanded to — Provincial capital

Gross margin analysis

Revenue	Lablab	Mucuna	Cowpea
Seed yield (kg.ha^{-1})	800	1,000	600
Price (USD.kg^{-1})	4.00	3.00	1.50
Income (USD)	3,200.00	3,000.00	900.00
Costs (USD)			
Land preparation	40.00	40.00	40.00
Labour costs	50.00	50.00	50.00
Seed costs	100.00	120.00	37.50
Fertilizer cost	150.00	150.00	150.00
Chemicals	50.00	40.00	40.00
Total costs (USD. ha^{-1})	390.00	400.00	317.50
Gross Margin (USD.ha^{-1})	2,810.00	2,600.00	582.50
Cost (USD.kg^{-1}) seed	**0.49**	**0.40**	**0.53**

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Discussion and way forward

- Farmers able to realise income from sale of seed
- Livestock feed from forage legume stover and seed
- There is scope to develop formal pasture seed industry in the smallholder sector
- Need to involve private sector and other market players to strengthen the market and for sustainability

Thank you

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Strategy materials: www.ilri.org/mission