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FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

***THE IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURAL INPUT SUPPORT
PROGRAMME IN PROMOTING FOOD SECURITY IN ZIMBABWE. A CASE STUDY
OF MAZOWE DISTRICT***

BY

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APPROVAL FORM

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DEDICATION

My dedication goes to the Almighty God. If it was not for his favor, this dissertation would not have seen the light of the day. Your love and grace has seen me this far.

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To begin with, glory to the Almighty God for sailing me throughout the entire course of my studies. Without the Almighty's guidance nothing would have transpired.

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ABSTRACT

Food security has remained a very big challenge in many rural areas in Zimbabwe. Many households in the country's rural areas have remained impoverished in terms of food security. Maize being a strategic grain crop for food security and livelihood purposes for the nation has remained low in production amongst smallholder farmers in the country. The government of Zimbabwe has realized the importance of maize production and implemented the input support programme to boost agricultural production so as to promote food security for households and the nation at large. However, household food security prospects are under threat due to continuous decline in maize production especially in the smallholder farming sector that is regarded as the major producers of maize grain. Among other factors, low maize production is blamed on the ineffectiveness of the programme and other natural factors beyond human control like climate change. Government interventions to reverse declining maize production and promote food security are mainly centered on subsidized input provisions but yields remain low. Apart from production gains realized from increased input usage, sustainable production gains can also be realized through efficient use of these resources.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

Agriculture plays a significant role in promoting food security and livelihoods particularly in rural households of developing countries. In Zimbabwe, the sector is at the center stage for promoting an all-inclusive national development. The 2015 National Budget alluded that agriculture sector supports approximately 70% of rural livelihoods and about 25% employment in Zimbabwe, Rukuni (2009) also pointed out that the sector contributes 25% to the total national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and is a sustainable source of rural income and livelihoods. The importance of agriculture in promoting food security and poverty reduction is well recognized by the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) an African Union initiative to develop the agricultural sector to accelerate national and regional development FAO (2009).

Despite this importance of agriculture in enhancing food security and national development, many rural households in Zimbabwe remain food insecure and impoverished due to low agricultural production particularly in maize production, a key crop for food security. This is also despite the effort made by the government to distribute land to the majority of smallholder farmers under the Fast Track Land Reform Programme in a bid to promote food security and improved livelihoods through agriculture production. Low agriculture production in smallholder farmers has been mainly attributed to high cost of inputs on the market, lack of mechanization, persistent droughts among others. In its effort to overcome some of the challenges in the agricultural sector, the government of Zimbabwe introduced the Agricultural Input Support Programme in the year 2000 aimed at boosting agricultural production to promote food security, enhance rural livelihoods and overall economic growth. Agriculture Input Support Programmes are basically agricultural inputs given to smallholder farmers on a free or subsidized basis to promote agriculture production. These inputs are mainly in form of fertilizers, maize seeds, sugar beans and in some cases mechanization equipment. The input support programmes are implemented across the whole country targeting particularly smallholder farmers who are resource constrained.

Against this backdrop, this study aimed at analyzing the impact of these programmes in promoting food security through increased maize production in Mazowe district. The study focused on maize because it is a staple crop and a major crop grown for food security and income generation. An understanding of the impact of these programmes is fundamental for policy recommendation that will assist in the designing of sound agricultural input strategies that yield greater results in stimulating maize production and enhance food security in the country.

1.1 Background to the study

Agriculture input support programmes play an important role in overcoming smallholder farmers' production constraints and hence increasing the probability of households to achieve food security. According to Dorward (2009), many countries including Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Zambia pursued large scale "universal" subsidy programmes from the 1960's up through the 1980's. These programmes were characterized by a government controlled input marketing system, in which agricultural inputs were supplied to farmers at restricted and subsidized prices. The experiences beneath these programmes were mixed, whereby the programmes succeeded in raising input use by farmers and increasing agriculture production. Nevertheless these inputs were very expensive, most subsidies benefited relatively well connected farmers, and the advanced in agricultural production were dependent on continued government support.

By the end of the last century most input markets were liberalized and this led to the emerging of new input programmes in many African countries. According to Banful (2010), the Malawian government pioneered the return to large scale subsidies in 1998 when it began distributing free fertilizer to farmers. Countries like Nigeria, Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya, and Ghana also introduced the free fertilizer programme. According to Yawson (2010), in 2006, Nigeria hosted the African fertilizer Summit under the patronage of the African Union (AU), the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). One of the most crucial decisions made at the summit was the Abuja declaration on fertilizer for African green revolution, in which AU member states set out to increase fertilizer intensity. One of the instruments in the five point

action plan was to implement smart subsidy programmes to improve access to farmer inputs for smallholder farmers to increase crop production and ensure food security.

African heads of state have not gave up in terms of coming up with strategies that will increase household food security in the continent. The heads of state of African countries went further to come up with the CAADP. The Programme was formed in 2003 at the African Union conference. CAADP is aimed at improving agricultural production mainly in the rural areas of African states so as to promote household food security and agricultural led nation development at large. The Programme has helped to come up with new strategies that African countries can use to boost production in their countries. Such strategies include the use of input support programmes and indigenous knowledge systems to boost production so as to promote food security amongst rural households. Such an initiative by the African heads of state has shown their commitment to address the issue of food insecurity in the continent. These initiatives are also in line with the Millennium Development Goal number 1 which targeted the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger by 2015 through efficient use of productive resources thus contributing directly to the reduction of rural poverty and hunger. The CAADP has also applauded the input support programmes in many African countries which have contributed to the improving of household and national food security.

During the pre-colonial era in Zimbabwe, 70% of the arable land was owned by 4500 white settlers who were the main producers in agriculture. By then most rural settlers were peasant farmers who relied on working on these white farms for their livelihoods. These peasant farmers were settled on reserves that were not suitable for crop production due to the poor soils. These reserves had rocky areas which were not suitable for crop production. Moreover no input support was given to these peasant farmers either by the government or their farm masters to help them in their agriculture production. Most of farmers relied on what they got from their farm masters and produced little that could sustain the household throughout the year before the next farming season. These peasant farmers were struggling with prohibitive prices of inputs like fertilizer which made them remain food insecure due to low agricultural production.

In the year 2000 the government of Zimbabwe came up with the land redistribution exercise. This exercise saw the redistribution of land to the peasant farmers in rural areas and most of

them were proudly A2 land owners. They were moved out of their unproductive reserves to more productive land where they had good soils to produce for food security and also get surplus for income generation. This exercise was to cover the gaps of colonialism whereby white settlers still owned the means of production in the country and most blacks were still subjects to the white men. The land redistribution by the government of Zimbabwe gave the former peasants the right to own the means of production in their own country. However this was very difficult especially in agricultural production because of the prohibitive prices of inputs especially that of fertilizer which was beyond the reach of many former peasant farmers.

In a bid to increase agricultural production and enhance the food security of the former peasant farmers the government availed funds for the agricultural input support programme to ensure food security at household level. This was consistent with the inception of the 2000 fast-track land reform programme which redistributed land to former peasant farmers. The Input Support Programme is aimed at giving farmers free subsidized inputs to promote production mainly for cereals (maize, sorghum and millet) and oil seeds (cowpeas and sugar beans) crops. The emphasis of this programme is on enhancing food and nutrition security and incomes to support decent livelihoods in these households.

All eight provinces in the country are beneficiaries of this programme and these agricultural inputs are distributed according to the needs of the particular farming region. According to Farmers Unions in Zimbabwe (2014), agricultural input support programme has benefited 1.6 million household countrywide. Every year each household receives 10kgs of maize seed, 50kgs compound D, 50kgs ammonium nitrate and 50kgs lime fertilizers. Those in semi-arid regions which receive low rainfall levels get 5kgs each of sorghum or millet seed. This has seen subsistence farmers significantly increasing input usage to improve their crop yields.

Mazowe district was of interest because of its significant contribution of maize to the nation and has one of the most productive arable lands in Zimbabwe. The district is one of the districts in the seven districts of Mashonaland Central province that is a major beneficiary of the government input support programme. The district is split into 29 wards and all these wards have been major beneficiaries of the agricultural input support programme. Mazowe has great potential for crop production given the favorable climatic environment and soil quality. The

district ranks very high in maize production and is regarded as the country's food basket whereby it has been the main source of maize and soya bean for the country.

1.2 Problem Statement

The Government of Zimbabwe has been providing input support to most of the smallholder farmers across the country for the past decade to food security and agriculture led economic growth. The programme is aimed at addressing production constraints faced by smallholder farmers resettled under the land reform programme, old resettled farmers and communal farmers. The programme supports mostly maize, which is the main staple food for food security purposes and a key crop for income generation for most rural households. Despite this enormous support, the nation continues to experience a decline in maize production particularly in smallholder farming sector. (MAMID,2010). This has contributed to food insecurity among many rural households and the nation at large. The downward trend in maize production has been attributed to several factors that range from lack of adequate inputs, natural causes and ineffective sector specific policies. Given the importance of maize crop the economy, the continuous sliding of production has retarded the pace of economic development, threatened food security status and rural livelihoods of the nation. Mazowe as one of the main producers of maize has been a beneficiary of the government input support programme where the programme expected to improve household food security through increased production. Hence the study seeks to explore the impact of government input support programme in promoting household food security.

1.3 Aims and Objectives

The aim of this study is to analyze the impact of government agricultural input support programme on enhancing household food security through increasing maize production in Mazowe district. The study focused mainly on smallholder farmers who are mainly beneficiaries of the programme. More specifically the study aims to;

- Establish the level of government input support at household level and the beneficiary targeting criteria in the Mazowe district,

- Identify the major factors affecting the impact of the input programme in promoting food security amongst beneficiaries of the programme, and
- Establish the level of maize production between beneficiaries of input programmes and non-beneficiaries,

1.4 Research Questions

The research objective will be guided by the following research questions;

- What is the level of government input support at household level and how are these farmers targeted?
- What are the factors affecting the effectiveness of government input support programmes in promoting food security?
- Has the input support programme managed to contribute to food security at household level amongst the beneficiaries?

1.5 Theoretical Framework

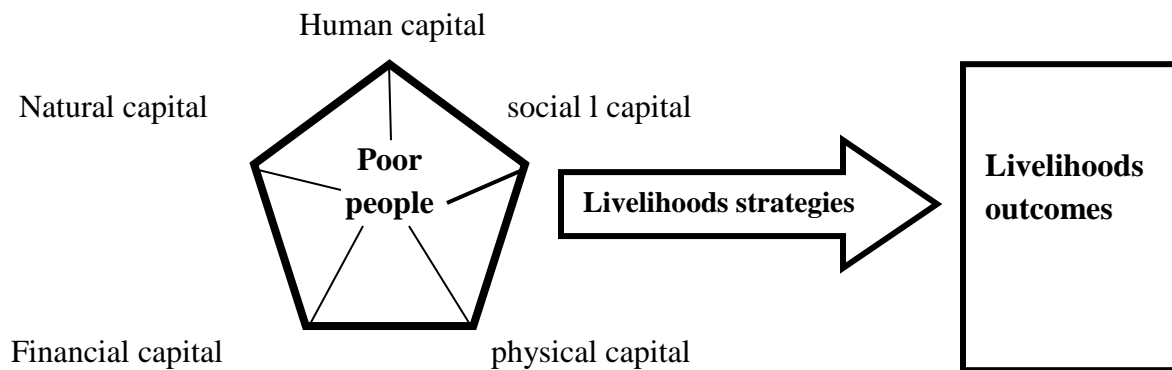
This study is going to base its argument on the economic theory of production function and sustainable livelihoods. The theory of production function points out that production of a crop (maize) depends on a number of factors that include seeds, fertilizer, labor, land, rainfall etc. A production function is described in terms of maximum output that can be produced from a specified set of inputs, available to the farm Battese, (1992). The theory further alludes that an increase in usage of any single input results in increase in output of the crop. However, continuous application of that input results in decrease of output at certain level and is referred as diminishing rate of returns.

In this case, if a farmer uses recommended seed and fertilizer rates all other inputs hold constant will result in increase in output of maize. The theory eludes that at this stage the farmer is maximizing output subject to existing input level. Due to high cost of inputs farmers are not able to apply these recommended input levels to increase production that translate in improved incomes and livelihoods. Therefore, the inputs support by the government through the provision

of adequate inputs to maximize production of maize will therefore have impact on the production function resulting to increased output. Sustainability of production can be now achieved when the same high level of output is realized even if the government withdraws the inputs. This means farmers will be able to save enough capital to purchase the recommended inputs levels in future so as to remove the dependence syndrome of farmers on government.

The study is also centered on the concept and theory of Sustainable Rural Livelihood Framework (SRLF). The approach draws on the main factors that affect poor people's livelihoods and the typical relationships between these factors. These factors are human capital, financial capital, physical capital, natural capital and social capital. These factors are regarded as livelihoods assets used by farmers to derive their livelihoods strategies to achieve desired livelihood outcomes. To enhance farmers to improve their livelihoods using these 5 capitals, there is need to boost and support key capitals that farmers lack. Mostly, farmers lack the financial capital to purchase key inputs hence the government has boosted this capital on farmers through input support programmes to ensure sustainable livelihoods.

Figure 1: The Sustainable Rural Livelihood Framework



Source: Adapted from Davis, 1996

1.6 Justification of the Study

Despite the government's huge intervention in the agricultural sector, through the introduction of the input support programme aimed at boosting agricultural production amongst smallholder

farmers. Most studies focusing on the government input support programme have focused more on sustainability of the programmes and not dwelt much on the effectiveness of the programme in the enhancement of household food security. Therefore, an understanding on the programme's impact on ensuring food security is critical for redesigning and repackaging of the programmes to improve its effectiveness in addressing food security in a sustainable manner. Taking into consideration that the interventions were done under a tight fiscus, the evaluation of the programme in enhancing food security should be a priority so as to address the main challenges that are hindering the enhancement of food security though there has been a way put forward to solve the problem. Apart from this understanding the level of supporting smallholder farmers in production helps in identifying factors that are limiting maximum production since the most crucial part to ensure maximum crop production. In so doing, this study will eventually help the government in coming up with strategies that will help to ensure maximum production that will also lead to the enhancement of food security.

According to FAO (2003), the smallholder farming sector is viewed as the backbone of African agriculture and the intervention by the government will help to tackle challenges faced by the smallholder farmers to enhance household food security. The smallholder farming sector on its own, contributes about 70% of total maize produced in the country and 60% of formal employment (Rukuni, 2000). However such statistics within the sector have declined because of the drastic decline in maize production which has affected the food security of the smallholder farmers. The sector before provided a source of valuable livelihoods to two thirds of the rural people Mano and Nhemachena (2007), but in the present the sector is facing serious challenges in maize production and food security has been affected. The decline in agricultural production within the smallholder sector has posed a great threat to economic growth activities and food security of the nation FAO, (2009). Thus, if the nation is to envision a sustainable economic development and food security, the need to increase production in this sector should not be overemphasized.

Maize being the staple food of the country and most important food security crop of the nation, its importance to the nation can be derived from the land put under its cultivation compared to other crops and the support it gets from the government. Apart from being a key crop for food

security reasons; the crop also generates valuable income for farmers and supports the livestock sector. In addition, there is no direct correlation in the production condition across regions (Braun et. Al, 1999) and it implies that specific production information need to be generated at specific locations to see if production of this crop is helping in enhancing food security and rural livelihoods. Therefore, this study is worthwhile doing.

1.7 Scope/Delimitation of the study

The study was done in the Mazowe district which is in the Mashonaland central province. There are 29 wards in the district which comprise of commercial farmers, smallholder farmers.

1.8 Limitations of the Study

In an effort of carrying out this research the researcher was faced with the problem of time, finance and visitation of Mazowe district the case study of the research. The researcher being a student the time frame given was so limited in carrying out the research work. Also the distribution and collection of the questioner to the staff at AGRITEX offices of Mazowe was not easy for the researcher as the respondents were not always available.

1.9 Dissertation Structure

The study is organized into five chapters which are explained below. Each chapter will have an introduction and a conclusion at the end. Chapter one covenant with the introduction to the problem background of the study, the statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, delimitation, assumptions and the limitations . Chapter two covers literature review which shows the works of other scholars on the same study. Chapter three focuses on the methodology used to conduct the research. These are sampling, data collection methods, research design, data collection procedures and data analysis and presentation. Chapter four covers field work and how the collected data was processed and presented in tables, graphs and charts. This was used for analysis and interpretations. The final chapter that is, chapter five contains findings, conclusions and recommendations deduced from chapter four.

1.10 Conclusion

This chapter put down the foundation for the study. It motivated the study, presented the problem, objectives, research question and the key research issues to be explored during the study. In addition, it presented a justification for the study by articulating the expected contribution and benefits from the project. Finally, the road map on the organization of the chapters or the overall structure of the study was provided.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

Inputs support programmes have been used as a major tool for increasing agricultural production in most developing countries. This has seen many countries adopting a free or subsidized input programmes which have managed to contribute in overcoming production constraints on smallholder farmers thereby boosting agricultural production. According to World Bank (2010), input programmes play a critical role in improving the usage of necessary inputs that are critical in enhancing increased production thereby promoting food security and alleviating poverty among many rural farmers.

Many of the world's poor live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their incomes and livelihoods, whether as farmers or agricultural labourers Rukuni (2000). Most economies are driven by smallholder farmers who contribute significantly to national food security, economic development and rural development. It is a very basic understanding that the economic health and long-run viability of the rural economy is crucial for the well-being of the developing countries poor FAO (2010). Being the prime source of employment, agricultural production is probably the single most important factor for a thriving rural economy. Most livelihoods in rural economies are fully hinged on agriculture and in Zimbabwe about 70% of population derive their livelihoods from agriculture Mano et al, (2000).

2.1 The role of Input Support Programmes

Adequate agricultural inputs play a critical role in enhancing the production of any crop. This has been fully recognized by the African Union heads of state meeting in Abuja. This has resulted in the endorsement of the Abuja Declaration that recommends member states to devise strategies to increase fertilizer usage from average of 20kgs to 50kgs. The coming together of African heads of state to discuss on the increase of fertilizer usage by farmers in their countries brought out the importance of agriculture inputs in increasing production. This was because of the low usage of inputs in African countries especially in south Saharan Africa whereby fertilizer usage was below by international standards Wiggins and Brooks, (2010). The hope was to increase

agricultural production through the usage of these subsidies. These inputs were meant to increase agricultural development among poor rural households.

There is strong evidence to suggest that agricultural inputs raise production substantially, and that they are essential for sustaining intensive agriculture in the long term without depleting soil fertility Crawford et al, (2006). This is through the growing of crops like millet and sorghum which have generally lower yield potential, but there are still possibilities for significant yield responses in the context of integrated soil fertility management Poulton and Dorward, (2008). The input support programme also plays an important role in soil fertility management which keeps the soil fertile and not depleted. The maintains of soil fertility will help in increased production of crops as well as enhance rural incomes and sustainable production of maize The programme helps smallholders accumulate productive and financial assets from a few years of surplus harvests, the farmers may be able to finance full-priced inputs from their own savings. This shows that the input support programme will help farmers to be self-reliant since the programme will help in enhancing rural incomes.

Input support programmes also play an important role in promoting national and household food security. The input support programme is in line with the millennium development goal number one which states the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger thus control of productive resources, contributing directly to the reduction of rural poverty and hunger. Though the input support programme is aimed at increasing production it is also in line with promoting food security in households and the nation at large. The Comprehensive African Agricultural Programme FAO (2009), outlines the importance of the input programmes in promoting food security whereby most people in Africa especially in the rural areas are food insecure because of lack of inputs for agricultural production and also because of the effects of the weather on crops due to climate change. CAADP has applauded the input programme in promoting food security through the provision of inputs that are conducive to the change in weather patterns though most of African countries have not fully achieved the new breed of seeds.

Agricultural input programmes also play an important role in the effective raising of land and labor production and in driving down food staples prices which will raise the real incomes of large numbers of poor consumers as well as raise the incomes of poor producers. This expands

the demand for locally produced non-staple foods like horticultural and animal products and non-farm goods and services, driving up local labour demand and wages. At the same time increasing staple crop production can release resources for the production of non-staple foods like horticultural and animal products and non-farm goods and services. Such growth multipliers were critical in driving growth in Asia Hazell and Rosegrant (2000), and need to be given much greater emphasis in analysis of input programmes impacts; in particular this requires more emphasis on agricultural input impact on food prices and poor consumers or net buyers. It also requires implementation of subsidies over a longer period, to achieve structural change rather than short term productivity gains.

Input support programmes also play a major role in increasing rural incomes amongst the beneficiaries of the programme. This is through increased production of the crops due to the support given. The increase in production of crops will help most of the beneficiaries get surplus that they sell in markets to get incomes that will help in the enhancement of rural livelihoods. The enhancement of rural incomes through increased production is very important for it creates a better society for most rural areas whereby the dependency syndrome that has been adopted by most rural people will be eradicated. This is because people will be in a position to plan ahead for successful outcomes in terms of production and also have better livelihoods since they will be in a better position to know what has to be addressed. A case in point is the Tanzanian input programme whereby through increased production by the input programme most of the smallholder farmers managed to sell surplus and purchase goods that enhanced their livelihoods. Most of the smallholders managed to provide themselves social services such as health services, education for their children as well as support their families with the incomes.

2.2 Factors affecting the effectiveness of the input support programme

The study of assessing the contribution of input support programme in enhancing rural incomes and sustainability of maize production has been done using various methods. It is important to note that the studies of the impact of the input support programmes that have been done, especially in the African continent tend to have a number of data limitation problems and tend to

limit the value of the data. Apart from factors in the sustainable rural livelihoods framework they are other external factors that affect the effectiveness of input support programmes in increasing maize production amongst smallholder farmers. These factors include climate change, which has greatly affected the agricultural sector because of the change of weather patterns; another is land degradation which has affected the fertility of soil and has greatly affected the production of crops

Zimbabwe's agriculture is currently facing serious challenges of production MoF (2011). In recent years, production has declined drastically and the country is unable to feed itself. Maize as the key crop for the country, production has decline drastically and has threatened the livelihoods of many rural farmers. Among some of these challenges that include, climate change, persistent droughts, lack of mechanization, poor seed varieties, lack of adequate training, access to inputs has remained topical in being blamed as the main cause of low production. Prohibitive prices of inputs has made the agricultural sector suffer because prices of most inputs especially fertilizers is beyond the reach of many rural farmers.

Previous studies have identified numerous factors that limit the effectiveness of the input support programme in boosting production. According to FAO (2010), growth with equity is one of the main factors because agricultural inputs when they target the right group to benefit from the programme means of production will be fully achieved by all farmers including smallholders. The programme should target the most vulnerable groups going up to the group in less need of inputs support. This will help in the development of all people equally without leaving a group out of the development and enhancement of livelihoods circle. The enhancement of rural incomes will be achieved since the programme would have tackled one major problem of targeting which will ensure growth with equity. Some scholars suggest that an objective of increasing national self-sufficiency in grain production will require the programme to target the most productive households, who may be somewhat less-poor. However these can mislead the actual goal of the programme in increasing production among the poorest smallholder farmers who are the main group meant to benefit from the programme, a study by Chibwana (2010), in Malawi stated that the inputs were disproportionately allocated to households with relatively more land more assets and to male headed households. The most vulnerable and female headed households were less likely to receive vouchers.

2.2.1 Physical and Social Structure

Physical and social infrastructure, such as road conditions, access to telephone and mobile phone service, access to extension service, etc., have also been mentioned for their role in rural development and farm production. Jacoby (2000) examined the benefits of rural roads to Nepal farms and suggests that providing road access to markets would confer substantial benefits through higher farm profits. Results showed that distance to the nearest motorable road and access to extension services have positive effects on maize production in Kenya. More developed infrastructure would help in the distribution of inputs whereby they will reach the farmers in time for planting. Availability of the above factors will help in the boosting of maize production since they will be communication between farmers and the suppliers of inputs.

The availability of good roads in the areas to receive the inputs is an added advantage to the receiving of inputs in time. Good roads do improve the delivery of inputs rather than roads that have been bad which will comprise the faring of inputs in time.

2.2.2 Financial Constraints

Financial constraints within the government can also affect the purchasing of farm input whereby the purchasing of inputs can be constraining for the government. The government of Zimbabwe with the overarching challenges in the economy cannot fully purchase the inputs to benefit every smallholder farmer. Financial constraints within the government's economy, has led to food insecurity of most smallholder farmers since the prohibitive prices of inputs has led to decrease in maize production. Most smallholder farmers in the country cannot afford inputs because of little incomes. This has led to the decrease in maize production whereby inputs reach farmers late for the planting season. Timing of input usage is important for yields. The farms that face financial constraints may not be able to optimize production.

2.2.3 Distribution of Inputs

Distribution of resources is another overlapping factor that affects intended goals of development in Africa. This can also be attributed to the input support programme whereby the unfair distribution of these inputs has seen most smallholder famers legging behind in increased

production. The distribution of inputs has to be done in a fair manner whereby the group in need of this support has to benefit first going down to well off farmers. A case in point is that of Ghana whereby the input programme benefited farmers who were politically connected and left out many peasant farmers who were in need of inputs for production. This shows that distribution is a factor that has affected the effectiveness of the input support programme because the distribution of these inputs has not been done in a fairly manner that gives every farmer the opportunity to produce. Fair distribution will remain a challenge

2.2.4 Corruption

Corruption is another factor that affects the distribution of inputs to farmers. Corruption has remained a major underdevelopment factor in most African states and it has remained unsolved and leading to less development of other sectors that have been lagging behind. The practice of the input programme in other countries has been not very much transparent. The results of the programme have brought out a negative performance of the programme's exercise whereby inputs have been diverted to suit political interests rather than to address the actual problem on the ground. When resources are diverted to suit political interests the distribution of these inputs becomes biased whereby not all receive. A case in point is the input support programme in Ghana. The supply of inputs between districts was formally based on vague notions of "farmers' need". However, Banful (2010), argues that the actual regional allocation of inputs was more closely correlated with political factors than efficiency or equity considerations. Specifically, he shows that districts, which the incumbent party lost in the previous election in 2004, received more vouchers than districts it won. Further, the number of vouchers allocated to a district increases with the vote margin, with which the district was lost.

Corruption can be viewed in another aspect whereby not all available resources are distributed to farmers. A case in point is that of the Ghana input support programme whereby vouchers meant to be distributed to farmers were not available for distribution. According to Yawson et.al (2010) initially, the government planned to issue 600,000 vouchers in 2008, each redeemable for the specified rebate on one 50 kg bag of fertilizer, but in the end more than 1.1 million vouchers were printed, although less than 50% of those were eventually redeemed. The reasons for the overrun of the number of vouchers and subsequent low redemption rate are not entirely clear. However, it appears that lack of clear criteria for the distribution of vouchers and general

uncertainty about how many vouchers were available in each district generated an initial shortage of vouchers during the critical late summer months where fertilizers are most effectively applied.

2.2.5 Climate Change

Natural causes are another factor that has affected the effectiveness of the input support programme. The IIED paper on climate change in Zimbabwe by Donald Brown et.al (2009), outlined that the effects of climate change have been noted and these include rainfall variability and extreme events. These conditions combined with warning trends are expected to render land increasingly marginal for agriculture which poses a threat to the economy and livelihoods of the poor due to their dependence on rain fed agriculture. This has negative impacts on the input support programme whereby its effectiveness in enhancing rural incomes through increased production is challenged by the effects of climate change. However though the sub Saharan region increased its use in inputs to increase production climate change has rendered the programme to yield fewer results because of its harsh weather conditions unfavorable to the agricultural sector.

Climate change has affected the rain patterns especially in the sub Saharan region. In sub Saharan region the input support programme has been recognized in countries like Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe to boost agricultural production among smallholder farmers. However the region faces a very harsh rainy season whereby rainfall patterns in the region have been characterized by shifts in the onset of rains, increase in the frequency and intensity of heavy rainfall events, increase in the proportion of low rainfall years, decrease in low intensity rainfall events, and increase in the frequency and intensity of mi-season dry spells Ungani (2009). Moreover extreme weather events namely tropical cyclones and drought have also increased in frequency and intensity Mutasa (2008). This clearly brings out the negative impacts of climate change on the input support programme which is meant to boost production and enhance rural livelihoods. Rainfall is a major component needed in production but because of climate change it has become a scarce resource to farmers and most cannot have alternative measures like irrigation because of low incomes to purchase. This is evidenced among smallholder farmers who are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

2.3 Review of empirical studies

Globally, there is a wide body of empirical research on input support programmes in the developed and developing countries Bravo-Ureta et al (1993). While the empirical literature on input support programmes is vast in developing countries and Asian economies, few studies focus on African agriculture and particularly Zimbabwe Chirwa (2003). These studies bring out how these programmes have been carried out and brought about changes in maize production and promoting food security and rural livelihoods. However other studies show how successful the programme was and others how it failed due to factors beyond the control of human nature such as low rainfall. Other factors include political interference, corruption as well as poor targeting of the main beneficiaries.

Inputs support programmes have been used as a major tool for increasing agricultural production in most developing countries. This has seen many countries adopting a free or subsidized input programmes which have managed to contribute in overcoming production constraints on smallholder farmers thereby boosting production. According to World Bank (2010), Input programmes play a critical role in improving the usage of necessary inputs that are critical in enhancing increased production hence food security of many rural farmers.

A study carried out by Kibarra (2005) evaluated the impact of input support programmes in Nigeria to investigate the successfulness of the input support programme in promoting food security through increased production through the support programme. Results indicated that maize production increased by 49 percent after government provided subsidized inputs to smallholder farmers. In addition, farmer household incomes significantly improved by 35%. Food security amongst the beneficiaries increased whereby most families managed to have three meals a day though other families reported to have only two meals a day. The programme also changed the diet whereby families enjoyed nutritious meals. The study gave recommendations on the need to improve targeting of input beneficiaries to avoid inputs being taken by wrong people. Therefore the study makes targeting as a crucial point to consider since it will give the less privileged the chance to take part in the means of production in agriculture, targeting will also enable a balanced output in agriculture production hence making nations food secure. Targeting will also promote equity specifically at the poorest smallholder farmers.

A paper by Pan et al (2011) examined the effectiveness of input support programmes carried out in Tanzania by the government. This was in response to the high food and fertilizer prices in the country that prevailed in 2007-2008. The study was based on the concept of efficiency, whereby there was high production and sustaining intensive agriculture in the long term without depleting soil fertility through the support. The study also included the concept of equity whereby considerable resources were diverted to benefit the less-poor with good political connections though it did not fully target the rightful people in need of input support. Though the targeting criteria were not transparent the programme managed to increase national and household food security amongst the beneficiaries. Crop production increased significantly and rural incomes increased because most farmers took their supplies to the market. This also led to produces on the market to be affordable. The input support programme improved household food security and national food security. However the concept of sustainability of production was not considered since the programme was run in a short period

A study by Yawson et.al (2010) in Ghana concerning the agricultural input support programme showed that the programme is a boost in agricultural production. The study used the concept of efficiency. Though the programme was an emergency measure to mitigate the extreme impacts of high fertilizer prices within the country, it yielded positive results. The programme though run for a short period it managed to raise national and household food security in the country whereby maize production increased by 58% and rice production by 30%. This was a significant raise in crop production which brought about food security and the results of the programme were very much welcomed by the farmers in Ghana. However the authors state that there was no attempt at targeting the poorest households, and particularly large fertilizer importers appear to have benefited greatly from the programme. The issue of targeting to create equity remains an unsolved problem whereby the programme is targeting the wrong groups at most.

A study by Chinsinga (2010) in Malawi indicated a substantial positive effect on the use of agricultural inputs, agricultural production and food production. According to Chibwana et al (2010), the programme increased maize yields of recipient farmers by 57%. The government input programme caused some changes in cropping patterns, as farmers reallocated land from alternative food crops such as cassava or sweet potato towards maize. The Malawian input programme was one of the most successful in increasing national and household food security.

Official estimates suggest that national maize harvests increased by around 1 million tonnes in 2005/6 rising to more than 2 million tonnes in the 2008/9 season. Moreso findings from focus group discussions, suggested that rural real wages increased continuously over the agricultural input support programme lifetime even for poor non-beneficiaries. As maize production by the agricultural input support programme beneficiaries increased, the households' dependence on off-farm work reduced and more jobs were available for non-beneficiaries and land-less poor. Authors of the study state that it is difficult to judge how strong or widespread such effects were, or to which extent the reported reductions in poverty rates can be attributed to the agricultural input support programme. The Malawi agricultural input support programme had a large effect on productivity and output, but the programme was very costly, it largely failed to target the most vulnerable households and its long term sustainability is questionable.

A study carried out by Seaman, (2008) to assess the impact of inputs support programme on household food security and welfare of the pilot Social Cash Transfer and Agricultural Input Subsidy Programmes in Mlomba TA, Machinga District, using the efficiency and targeting concept. The study found that 84.6% of surveyed households obtained subsidized fertilizer and that the proportion of households obtaining subsidized fertilizer vouchers did not vary markedly with increase in household food security although poorer households received on average less fertilizer than better off ones. The study showed that the targeting criteria of the programme was based on the concept of the best farmers who produced more were given more inputs than the smallholder farmers. However the study showed that all farmers who received these inputs gained income through the use of these inputs, with the well off farmers gaining more.

A study by Chirwa (2010), in assessing the effectiveness of the input support programme in increasing maize production in Hwedza noted that the programme was a success in bringing about production among smallholder farmers. The programme managed to increase maize production among the beneficiaries of the input support programme. Increase in production was significant which also increased food security amongst the beneficiaries. Most of the beneficiaries managed to produce 0.7tonnes per hectare as compared to 0.4tonnes per hectare before the support by the government. However food security was not fully achieved since most of the beneficiaries still afforded two meals a day and others even one meal. This was because not all farmers had maximum output from the programme. Other crops were affected by harsh

weather and others claimed that fertilizer was in short supply whereby some farmers got fertilizer very late which compromised maximum output. The study omits the targeting criteria used whereby not all smallholder farmers benefited from the programme. Most smallholder farmers did not get the exact inputs. Three households were to share a 50kg bag of fertilizer and two on a 10kg bag of maize seed. This however comprised the yields of many farmers who did not get the expected outputs from the input programme whereby other smallholder farmers only produced what was enough for their family consumption.

Mudzonga and Chigwada (2009), evaluated the effectiveness of the input support programme in the area of Hwedza as well. This study focused mainly on the yields produced after application of the inputs on smallholder farmers. The results clearly showed the failure of the programme in increasing maize production among smallholder farmers. The increase in maize production was not significantly high as expected by the aim of the programme. However the contribution of the programme in promoting food security was not fully achieved. This is because of the ineffectiveness of the programme which compromises maximum output to be achieved by farmers. Results from the study showed that inputs provided by the government were distributed very late and sometimes targeted the wrong people. In the previous seasons other farmers even reported not to have received the full package as promised by the government. Though farmers managed to harvest something the maize they get is not enough to carry them through the next farming season.

2.4 Conclusion

The chapter drew literature from various studies of input support programmes empirical studies. The chapter began by pulling out the meaning of the input support programme and the role that this programme is playing to lay a better understanding. The study explained the conceptual framework outlining how crop production can be achieved. The chapter went on to review factors that affect the input programme in terms of crop production in maize and agriculture at large. Factors like climate change, distribution and financial constraints and how they impact on agriculture were reviewed.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

The objective of this chapter is to develop the methodological framework to be used for the study. Firstly, the chapter describes the study site followed by the research design that explains how data was collected. The analytical framework to be used for analyzing the study findings is also developed here including data types needed and their sources. The chapter also gives an outline of the sampling procedures and tools used in data collection. Finally, the study considers possible limitations that may affect model results and how they are minimized.

3.1 Study Area

Mazowe district, one of the seven districts in the Mashonaland Central province was used as a case study. The district was of interest because of its significant contribution of maize to the nation and has one of the most productive arable lands in Zimbabwe. The district is a beneficiary of the input support programme targeting smallholder farmers. The smallholder farmers were former peasant farmers who were resettled by the land reform programme in 2000. The district is split into 29 wards and its boundaries starts only about 30 kilometers out of Harare along the Harare-Bindura way. Mazowe has great potential for crop production given the favorable climatic environment and good soil quality. These features have made the district a major recipient of government programmes aimed at boosting agricultural production. The district has contributed substantial quantities for crops to national production. In years of good rainfall, Mazowe ranks very high in maize production and is regarded as the country's food basket together with such districts as Hurungwe, Murehwa and Wedza. The district lies in both natural region I and II that are favorable for crop production and is also comprised of large scale and small scale farmers. Mazowe district is endowed with variety natural resources, in terms of soils, vegetation, terrain and receiving annual average rainfall of between 500-1100 mm. Thus, for years, Mazowe district has been the main source of maize and soyabean for the country. The district has the most productive citrus production farms and is the one with the only citrus manufacturing plant in the country. Apart from farming activities, the district is also well known of its richness in minerals especially gold.

3.2 Research Design

A research design is a plan or guide for data collection and interpretation, with sets of rules that allow the researcher to conceptualize and examine the problem under study (Burkingham and Saunders (2004)). For this cause a comprehensive approach was used. The explanatory approach was used for the procedures and methods of gathering data. This enabled the researcher to fully understand the effectiveness of the government input support programme in promoting food security in rural areas and sustainable maize production among smallholder farmers. The explanatory method was adopted so that it would give clear justification of the impact of the input support programme on increase in maize production thus promoting food security.

The research was subjective towards a field work approach. It enabled the researcher to have a clear insight of things on the ground pertaining to the study. It gave the researcher a closer interaction with the respondents giving out information for the study.

3.3 Research Methodology

Research methodology is a systematic way of responding to research questions using realistic data, (Strauss (2001)). It also serves as a crucial channel of helping the researcher relate with the participants of the study. The research methodology employed should assist the researcher to be ethical and sensitive to the issues under study. Research methodology is a systematic way of valuing the research problem. Qualitative and quantitative are the two common approaches in research methodology. The study employed both qualitative and quantitative approach. The use of both approaches is known as triangulation. Triangulation employs both quantitative and qualitative techniques, methods language and concepts into a single study (Johnson (2004)).the use of both the quantitative and qualitative help in complementing each other during the collection of data. Triangulation involves the use of questioners, interviews and focus groups to collect data.

Triangulation provides data with background thereby complementing collection and analysis of the data. Triangulation method employs the strength of both the qualitative and quantities methods to provide a broader view of the subject under study. The approach expands the research study in a way that is not possible with a single approach. The process of providing statistical analysis of a research study together with examination builds the study with

comprehensive results that are more likely to bring a difference. This then shows how it can be effective since under this study there is assessment of a certain criteria that also requires statistical information for its validity to the body of knowledge.

The challenge of triangulation lies in the corresponding part when using the two methods. You should not copy the processes when using them in the collection of data. Copying data methods makes the costs of gathering data be doubled and vast delay in coming up with the most pertinent data as there will be needed for selection.

The use of triangulation helped the researcher to examine the effectiveness of the government input support programme in promoting food security and sustainable maize production through increased production. Using the qualitative approach, the researcher collects in-depth information to answer some questions and using a quantitative approach the researcher collects numerical information for other questions Creswell (2013).

3.4 Data types and sources

The study used both primary and secondary data. The reason of employing both secondary and primary data was to get a full insight of the input support programme on how it has boosted production among smallholder farmers. The main sources of secondary data were ZIMSTAT publications, World Bank Publications, FAOSTAT, the Ministry of Agriculture Department of Economics and Markets and the Grain Marketing Board (GMB). Data on maize production, area planted, yield and some rainfall figures were obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture (crop assessment reports). Secondary data collected included national financial allocation on input support programmes, number of farmers supported, national maize production statistics etc. Primary data was obtained through a survey conducted in Mazowe district. The survey used a questionnaire that was administered to beneficiaries and non beneficiaries of input support programme. Data types necessary for evaluating the impact of input support programme were; demographic structure of households, amount and types of inputs received, area of maize planted with the inputs, quantity of maize harvested, income from maize sales, perception of input programmes.

3.5 Research instruments and Administration

A structured questionnaire was designed and administered to smallholder farmers in this district. The major advantage of using a questionnaire is that the interview will be structured and the same questions will be asked reducing the element of bias induced by informal interviews. Questioners were distributed to respondents who are the main beneficiaries of the input support programme in the Mazowe district. Some focus group interviews with farmers benefitting from the government input programme were also used to validate some of the findings from questionnaire response. Three enumerators administered the questionnaires for a period of 5 days. Enumerators responsible for administering the questionnaire to the sampled farmers included two AGRITEX extension officers also took part in the administration of these questioners to smallholder farmers.

Questioners are designed to collect factual data from respondents of a subject matter. These questioners are a set of questions that gather straight forward behavioral statistics towards how people respond towards certain issues. The questionnaire measured whether smallholder farmers benefited from the programme in increased maize production which promotes food security rural and sustainable maize production. This makes the data collection instrument relevant to the research study as smallholder farmers in Mazowe will respond on whether the input programme is effective in boosting maize production in Mazowe. Open ended questions and closed ended questions constituted the questionnaire handed to the respondents. Open ended questions gave the respondents an opportunity to give personal opinions towards the issue thereby giving the researcher the basis of collecting qualitative data. Closed ended questions helped the researcher to get responses that were easy to analyse. The major advantage of using a questionnaire is that the interview will be structured and the same questions will be asked reducing the element of bias induced by informal interviews.

The major advantage of using a questionnaire is that the interview will be structured and the same questions will be asked reducing the element of bias induced by informal interviews. Same questions will be asked reducing the element of bias induced by informal interviews.

Questionnaire lack direct communication with the respondents and this will lead to data being misrepresented and will lead to inaccurate findings.. Some respondents may give information that is inaccurate so as to please the researcher.

3.6 Target Population

A target population is viewed as any group of individuals that have one or more characteristics in common that is of interest to the researcher Khan (1999). The Study focused mainly on smallholder farmers in the Mazowe district benefitting from the input support programme. The research also included appointments with AGRITEX officers of the district to get an insight of how the input support programme has managed to boost maize production within the Mazowe district. These AGRITEX officers helped with statistics on maize production within the past years. Questioners were administered to smallholder farmers in the district village heads were also included in the research exercise so that they could give information of how the input programme has managed to improve the livelihoods of the families within the village area they head.

The diversification of the population was necessary in this research study so as to get different views about the study thus getting a balanced view about the effectiveness of the input support programme in promoting food security and sustainable maize production. .

3.7 Population Sampling Procedure

The most common sampling designs are the probability sampling design which is categorized into simple, random, systematic, and stratified and cluster and non-probability which is categorized into convenience sampling purposive sampling and quota sampling. The study employed the probability sampling method since it allocates equal chances of selection for each respondent. The probability sampling methods have many advantages over its non-probability method. The most common one being that it absolutely removes the element of bias in interviewee selection.

The study purposively selected five wards in the district that had a high concentration of smallholder farmers who benefited from the input support programme. The selection was done

in a way that the wards were not far from each other to reduce travelling costs, reduce enumerator monitoring stress and variation in climate and soil types. Sampling of wards was done through the help of Mazowe AGRITEX officers that have a better understanding of farmer distribution in the district. The study sampled 50 smallholder farmers of which 25 were beneficiaries of input programmes and 25 were non beneficiaries. Within each selected ward, the study selected a random sample of 5 farmers who benefited and 5 farmers who did not benefit from the 2014/ 2015 input support programme. In this study, respondents were household heads except when he/she is absent in which case they may be replaced by sons or daughters who are knowledgeable of the household's farming operations

3.8 Analytical framework

Chapter four is going to present the research findings and discussion of the findings. Quantitative and qualitative analysis is going to be employed in analysis of the findings. A descriptive analysis is employed using primary data collected from Mazowe district using a structured questionnaire and secondary data from secondary sources. Quantitative analysis focuses more on descriptive analysis where results are to be used to describe the smallholder farmers. Descriptive data analysis carried out included calculating and interpreting means, percentages, and frequency distributions appropriate for the different types of data collected in this survey. The chapter shall begin by giving some characteristics of the interviewed smallholder farmers. The Sustainable Rural Livelihood Framework (SRLF) is going to be used in describing the characteristics of the farmers. The approach draws on the main factors that affect poor people's livelihoods and the typical relationships between these factors. These factors are human capital, financial capital, physical capital, natural capital and social capital. These factors are regarded as livelihoods assets used by farmers to derive their livelihoods strategies to achieve desired livelihood outcomes. Qualitative analysis is also going to be done to evaluate and analyse the outcomes that are not quantitative but are essential to understand the impacts of input support programmes.

3.9 Limitations to data collection

This study was constrained in terms of accuracy, availability and accessibility the primary data needed to create accurate measures of level of input support, maize production and rural

incomes. Firstly, farmers had problems in recalling all activities that happen on the farm accurately. This had a negative implication on the accurate measures of maize production, incomes obtained from agriculture and amount sold to the markets. Farmers were not willing to share other relevant information that might be regarded as sensitive resulting in under reporting or over reporting on the various activities. This problem was minimized by fully explaining to every respondent the purpose of the study and by ensuring maximum confidentiality of the obtained information.

The study was also constrained in terms of the resources required to undertake studies of this kind. Empirically, larger samples are said to be better off in coming up with meaningful conclusions about a study and to offer powerful prescriptions that inform policy. However, the study attempted to achieve the desired goals given limited resources and also ensured collection of quality data through adequate probing on each and every question.

3.10 Conclusion

This chapter presented the research methods that were used for this research study. The chapter first discussed the study area and how it was chosen. It then went on to discuss the detailed research procedures covering such issues like research design, sampling strategy, data collection methods, data needs, data analysis procedures, survey administration and analytical framework. This is followed by a discussion of the limitations of the study and the main ethical considerations for the study.

CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.

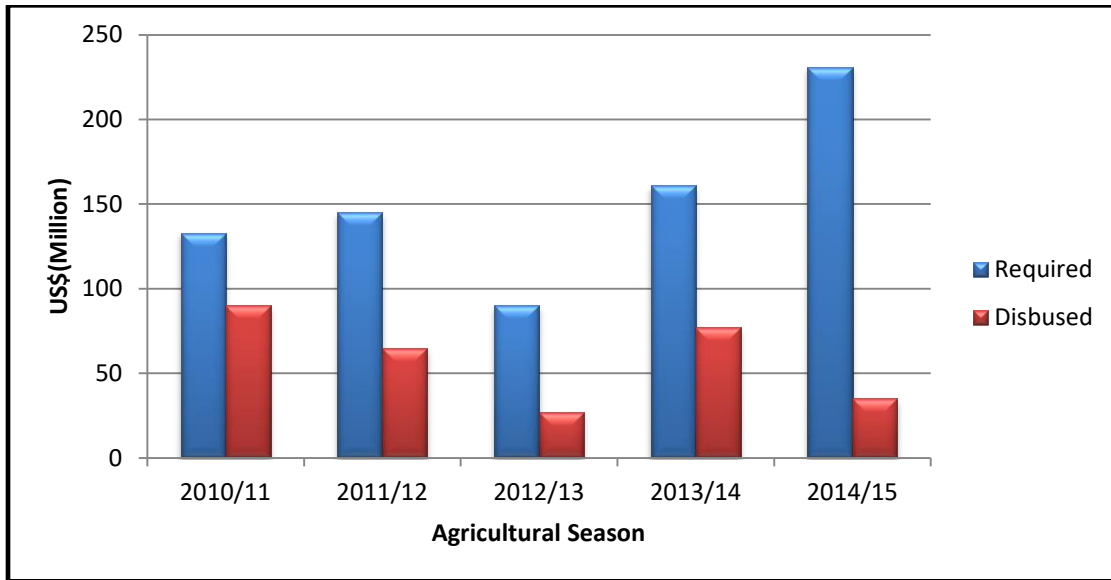
4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings from the study conducted in the smallholder maize producers in Mazowe district. The chapter presents an analysis of findings that will answer the hypothesis postulated in chapter one. The chapter starts with the global situation of the input support programme and the overall maize production in the country. The chapter will proceed by analyzing the demographic characteristics and link them to household agriculture production and livelihoods options. The demographic characterization will be based on the Sustainable Rural Livelihoods Framework.

4.1 National Budget Allocation to Input Support Programme and Maize Production

Government Input support programmes mainly targets smallholder farmers and is funded by the treasury under the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED). The Ministry of Agriculture Mechanization and Irrigation Development (MAMID) is responsible for planning and coordinating the input programmes in liaison with MoFED. Figure below shows the trends of treasury allocation to input programmes since 2010/11 to 2014/15 agricultural seasons against the budgeted. The figure generally shows that in all agricultural seasons the treasury never disbursed the required amount requested for full implementation of the input programmes. The figure also depicts a general decrease in the amount disbursed toward input programmes despite an increase in 2013/4 agricultural season. The amount required for input programmes also shows an increasing trend that contradicts the amount disbursed. According to the MAMID 2015, the increase in amount required for input support programme is due to price increases and an increase in the area targeted for maize production. However, the decrease in disbursed amounts is due to contraction of fiscus space.

Figure 2: Trends of Budget allocation to Input Support Programmes from 2010 to 2015

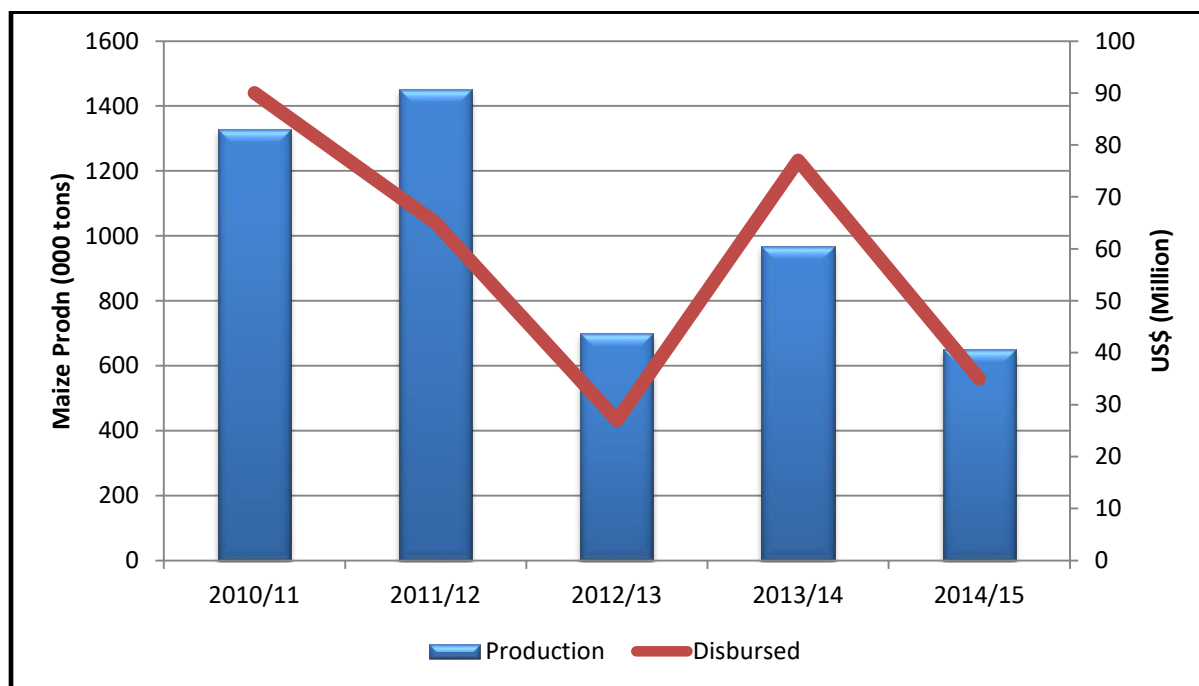


Source: MAMID; 2015

4.1.1 Relationship between budget allocation to Input Support and Maize Production

Figure below shows the relationship between the amount disbursed to input support programmes and the national maize production. This is to establish whether the input support programme is having any impact on national maize production before the study analyses its impacts on smallholder farmers. The figure shows generally positive relationship between amount disbursed and maize production with the exception of 2011/12 agricultural season. This deviation was as a result of the good rainfall pattern that was experienced in 2012 that stimulated the output of maize. Therefore, based on the relationship depicted in the graph below, the study can conclude that there is a positive relationship between amount disbursed to input programmes and maize production in the country.

Figure 3: Maize Production and Amount disbursed to Inputs Support Programmes from 2010-2015



Source; MAMID, 2015

4.1.2 Beneficiaries of Input Support Programmes

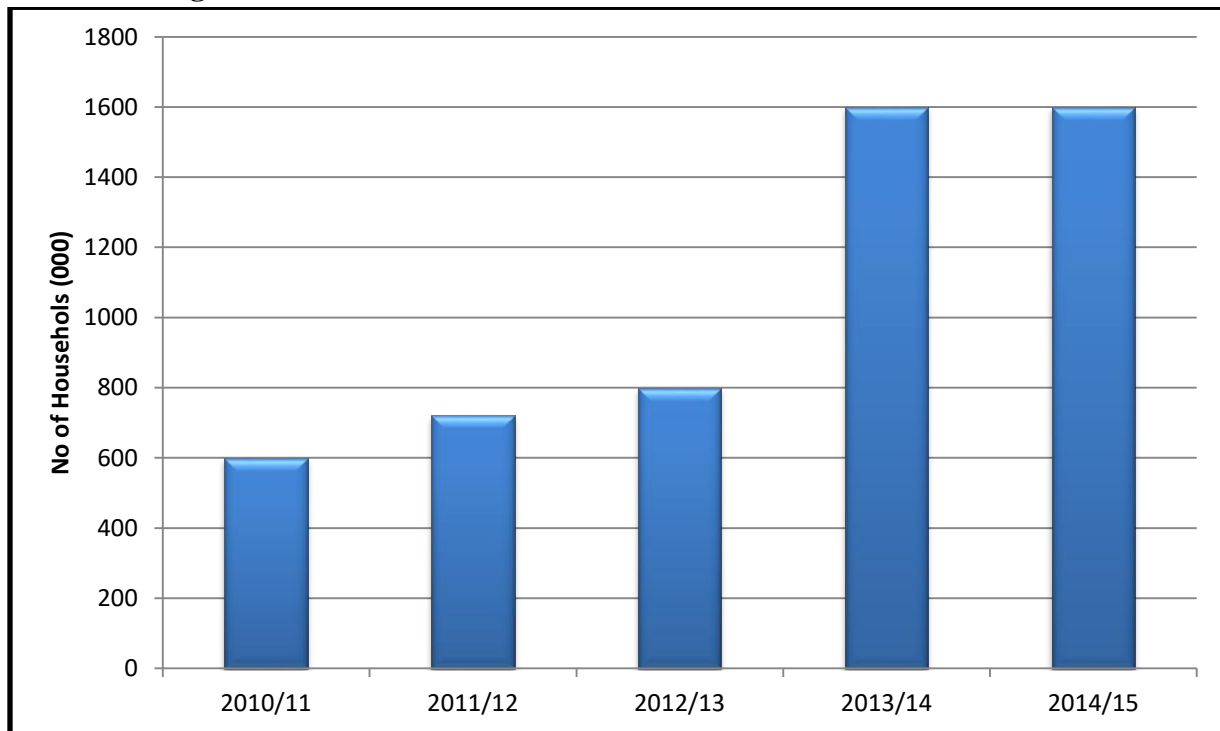
Beneficiaries of the input support programmes were mainly smallholder farmers found in the following land resettlement categories;

- i. **Communal Area:** These are smallholder farmers found in the communal areas of the country and normally have a land holding size of less than 2 hectares. These farmers are resource constrained and usually fails to utilize all of their land.
- ii. **Old Resettlement:** This category is of those farmers that were resettled just after independence and have a land holding size of less than 5 hectares. These farmers have better lands suitable for agriculture compared to communal area category.
- iii. **A1:** This category is of those farmers that were resettled in the Fast Track Land Reform programme of 2000 and on wards. This category has land holdings that range from 5 to 15 hectares.

In year 2010, the input programme mainly targeted the communal area category that was regarded as vulnerable group (MAMID, 2010). The failure to meet the national maize

requirements prompted the government to increase the span of support to the Old Resettlement and the A1 category. To date, all smallholder farmers are being supported under the government input support programme. The total number of smallholder farmer households in Zimbabwe is 1.6 million (MAMID (2015)). In light of the above, the graph below shows an increase in the beneficiaries from 600 000 households in 2010 to 1.6 Million in 2015.

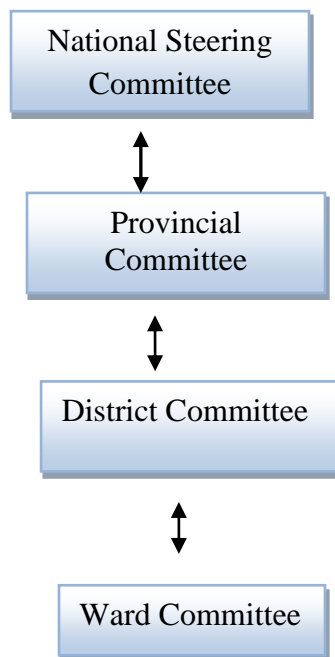
Figure 4: Number of beneficiary households under the Government Input Support Programmes from 2010 to 2015



Source: MAMID; 2015

4.1.3 Level of Input Support Vs Number of Beneficiaries

In its planning phase, the government intends to give all the smallholder farmers the same level of input support. However, the increasing number of beneficiaries and the declining budget allocation shows that the planned level of support is definitely not matching with the requirements as planned. Since resources are becoming scarce and households to be supported are increasing, brings in a problem of targeting in the rural areas where inputs will get to the last of beneficiaries. The framework below shows how government envisages targeting of smallholder farmers in its planning phase;



In line with the guidelines of the targeting criteria, recipient household of the input programme should

- be a good and active small-scale farmer
- have the capacity to cultivate all the area set,
- be able to cover transportation fees of his/her inputs from the collection point.

The National steering committee is responsible for setting the guidelines of the quantities of inputs to be received by each household. This information is passed on to the provincial committee that liaises with respective districts and ward committees to come up with all smallholder names and their locations. This process will be used to come up with strategic planning on distribution modalities. These committees are mainly comprised of AGRITEX, Office of the President and Cabinet, Grain Marketing Board, Republic Police of Zimbabwe, Village Heads and Councilors

4.2 Findings from the Survey

This section is going to analyze the findings from the survey done in Mazowe district. The survey targeted smallholder farmers who produce maize. 50 respondents were targeted of which 25 were beneficiaries of input programmes and 25 respondents were non beneficiaries. This was

done to compare if there is a difference in maize production, level of livelihoods and incomes between those getting support and those not getting support.

4.2.1 Socio-economic Characteristics of the Sampled Farmers

In order to understand why the government has made a policy initiative to support smallholder farmers with input programmes, it is important for the study to get a picture on the socio economic characteristics of the smallholder farmer households. This will help in giving future recommendations for policy interventions particularly on areas which the government will need to concentrate when giving support to ensure increased maize production and improved livelihoods. Analysis on this section is going to be based on the Sustainable Livelihood Framework factors that are key in ensuring the optimum livelihoods among households. Analysis of these key livelihood factors will enable policy recommendations to government to concentrate on supporting some of them and leave others that may be sufficient to stimulate increased livelihoods.

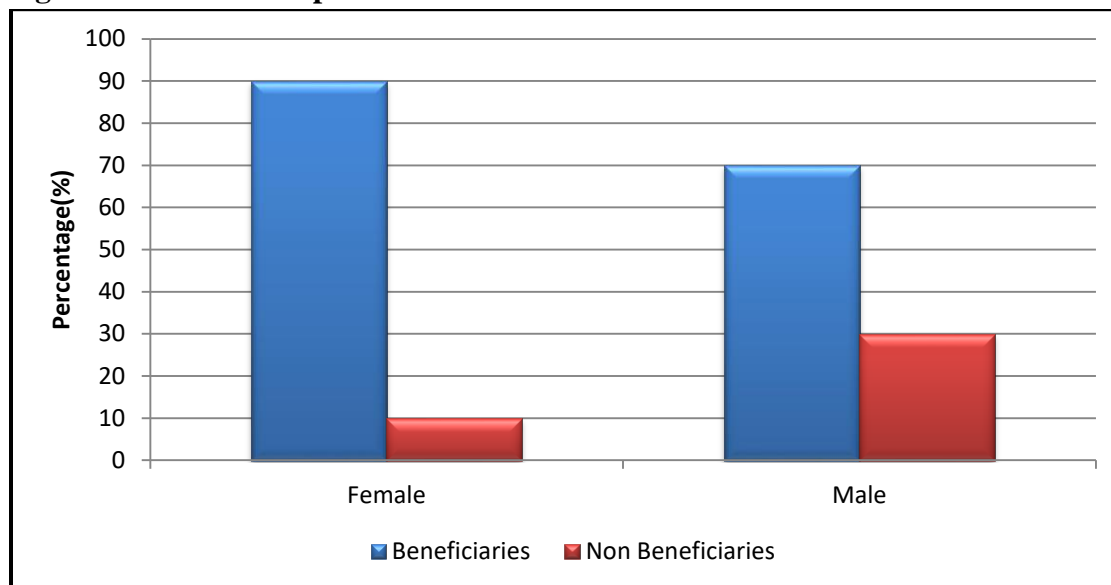
4.2.2 Gender of Sampled Household

Results from the study indicated that from the maize producing smallholder farmers, 80% were male while only 20% were female. These figures show that majority of households in the Mazowe district are male headed and are in correspondence with other studies like the Zimbabwe Vulnerability assessment Report 2014. Gender of household head has a great influence on input support priorities. A study by Vranken (2001) in Malawi Input support programme shows that households with female heads and child headed are given the first priorities when it comes to input support because they are regarded as vulnerable. On the same note, female headed households are regarded as more productive compared to their counterparts thereby utilizing inputs more efficient than male headed. This was based on the fact that female spent more time in the fields and they are dedicated farmers. This argument is also supported by many studies by World Bank (2010) that concludes that female farmers are the cornerstone of smallholder agriculture in Africa who if supported by enough inputs can increase household incomes and livelihoods of their families. However, according to FAO (2001), female farmers are usually discriminated when it comes to resources allocation and agricultural programs. The report cites that most programs favor male counter parts that female.

4.2.3 Gender and Input Beneficiation

The graph below shows the results of the relationship between gender and the farmers interviewed. The results show that of the female farmers interviewed, 90 percent of them were beneficiaries of the inputs programme and 10 percent did not benefit. As for the male farmers, 70 percent benefited while the remainder percentage did not benefit. These results indicate that priority on input support programmes is given to female headed households compared to male headed households. These results are well conforming to the study by Vranken (2001) on Malawi Input support programme indicated above.

Figure 5: Gender of inputs beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries



Source: Survey results, 2015

4.2.4 Age of Household head Beneficiaries

In the initial inception of input support programmes, the issue of vulnerability was the major factor of consideration. Vulnerability was mainly considered in the aspects of inability of household to purchase adequate inputs and susceptibility to shocks. Age of household head was one of the factors that determined vulnerability of the household. The more the elderly the household head becomes the more vulnerable it become to shocks. Elderly people are usually no longer able to acquire enough resources to purchase inputs hence the need to be supported for

them to be more productive. The table below indicates that those households with household heads greater than 60 years had the highest beneficiaries.

Table 1: Age of household head beneficiaries

Gender/ Age	20to 30 years	31 to 45 years	40 to 60 years	>60 years
Male	10%	35%	78%	100%
Female	25%	80%	100%	100%

Source: Survey data, 2015

4.3 Sustainable Livelihood Capital Analysis on Sampled Households

4.3.1 Human Capital

According to SRLF, the human capital plays a very crucial role in determining the level of agriculture production and how a household can allocate scarce resources, time and make accurate decisions in farm production activities. This capital involves the availability of labour and education that are important for the successful pursuit of different livelihoods and production strategies. Results of the study showed that an average household size is 6 persons in Mazowe District and average persons in that household providing labor to agriculture production was 4. In line with agriculture labor requirements for maize productions, the figure of 4 people supplying labor means there is surplus labor in Mazowe district, therefore the government should not bother itself to make policy interventions that supports labor in Mazowe district.

4.3.2 Financial Capital

This is a crucial livelihood capital that allows farm households to plan in advance and be able to meet targeted maize production to keep on increasing food security and their livelihood option out of agriculture. The study showed that on average the household is getting about US\$50 per month on other activities other than maize production. On average, the household also sells about a tone of maize each agricultural season thus giving an average of US\$400. The average cost of producing a hectare of maize is US\$700 and this shows that most households cannot meet this

requirement and therefore the government should come up with comprehensive policy measures that support this capital that includes agricultural loans, direct financial injection etc.

4.3.3 Natural Capital

This capital is mainly concerned of the natural resources owned by farmers. Mainly the natural resources owned by farmers are the land holdings. The study found out that on average farmers in Mazowe district have land sizes of 7 hectares and most of the farmers are utilizing less than 40% of the land allocated to them. This shows that the government has intervened well in allocating land but should now concentrate more on giving support options that enhances maximum utilization of the land.

4.4 Level of Input Support Benefited

This section is going to evaluate the level of input support given to smallholder farmers. This section is important as it is going to answer the first objective that endeavors to;

- *Establish the level of government input support at household level in Mazowe district,*

The level of support also determines maize production levels by farmers. When recommended application rates of inputs for a given hectare are given on time, it is expected that yield will subsequently increase. In its planning phase of 2014/15 agricultural season, the following input pack was recommended for support to farmers.

- 10 kg of Maize seed
- 100kg of Basal fertilizer
- 100kg of top dressing
- 50 kg of Lime
- Tillage support

This input package was enough to plant 0.4 hectares of maize to support food security and increase incomes and sustain livelihoods of a family of about 5 inhabitants. Table below indicate the level of support received by beneficiaries in relation to the recommended support level.

Table 2: Level of inputs Support given to farmers

Type of Input Support	Received All	Received Partly	Never Received	Total
10 kg of Maize seed	100%			100%
100kg of Basal fertilizer		60%	40%	100%
100kg of top dressing	1%	89%	10%	100%
50 kg of Lime			100%	100%
Tillage support			100%	100%

Source: Survey data, 2015

The table above clearly indicates that there is no single beneficiary that got the entire recommended input support package. Results show that only maize seed was received in full package by all the beneficiaries in its recommended quantities. Only 1percent of the beneficiaries also received all the recommended levels of top dressing fertilizer. Tillage support was never received by any of the households.

Therefore, the study concludes that despite setting an input package that can fully achieve maize production and increase food security and livelihoods of farmers, none of the farmers is getting the full package on the ground. Hence there is need for government to acquire enough resources to purchase enough inputs if it requires to fully achieve its objectives. Through some discussions with farmers, they even reiterated that some of the beneficiaries are selling off the inputs because they feel they cannot achieve anything without full package.

4.5 Maize production Levels

This section is going to evaluate if there is an increase in maize production due to input support programmes. This section is also going to address the objective that endeavors to;

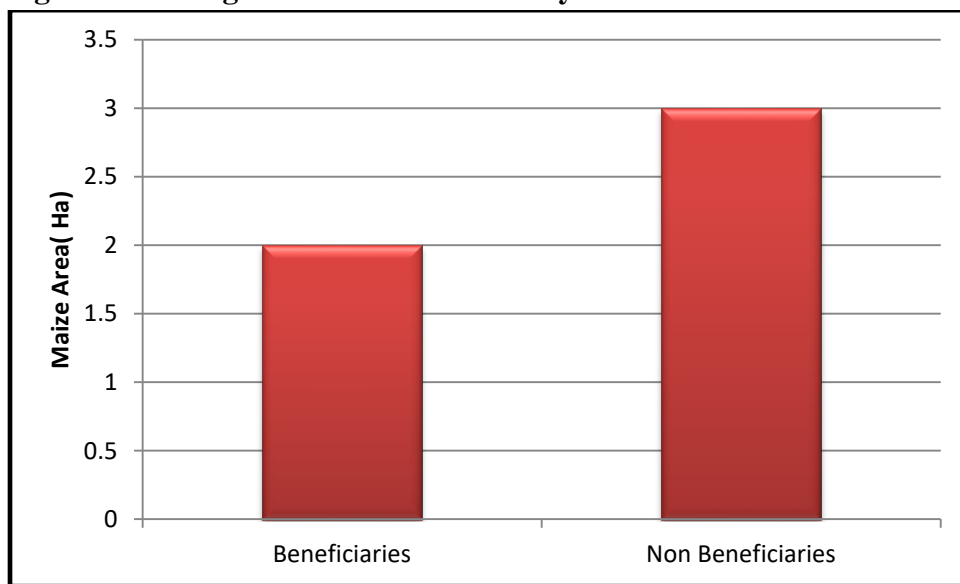
- *Establish the level of maize production between beneficiaries of input programmes and non-beneficiaries,*

4.5.1 Area plated to Maize

The graph below shows that on average, beneficiaries of input programmes planted 2 hectares of maize while non-beneficiaries planted an average of 3 hectares. This indicates a certain level of dependence syndrome on beneficiaries. Usually when a household is targeted to receive inputs from the input support programme, the household tend to relax and wait for the supported inputs. The outcomes on the level of support as indicated in the above analysis will result in decrease in

area planted for maize as beneficiaries will not plan in advance as they are expecting to receive all inputs as promised. In a discussion with one of the non beneficiary, she pointed out that those chosen to benefit will wait for inputs and not plan ahead as information on quantities to be received will be misinterpreted as information relays to us. She pointed out that the information that they received indicated that beneficiaries are going to receive inputs enough to support 5 hectares of maize production.

Figure 6: Average Area Planted Maize by Beneficiaries



Source: Survey Results, 2015

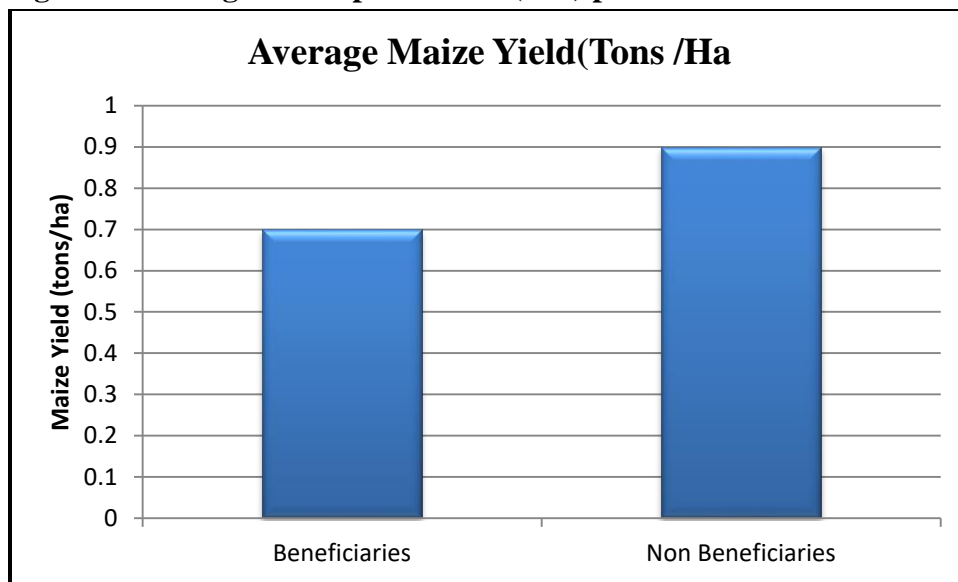
4.5.2 Comparison of Maize Production Levels

In order to establish whether there is a difference in maize output between beneficiaries of input programme and non-beneficiaries, a comparison in maize output per hectare between the two groups was conducted. The graph below shows average yield differentials between the two groups. The graph shows that there is no significant difference in maize yield gap between the two groups although non beneficiaries have greater yields compared to beneficiaries. Beneficiaries have an average of 0.6 tons/ha compared to 0.9 tons/ha obtained by non-beneficiaries. Although both yields obtained are greater than the national average of 0.58 tons/ ha in 2015, Mazowe area should surpass this level due to good soils and climatic conditions present. Further interrogation of these yield differentials pointed out that beneficiaries usually do not get these inputs on time and usually quantities that are not enough. Therefore, beneficiaries usually

miss the best production window of maize production because they will be waiting for inputs. This has compromised the promoting of food security amongst the beneficiaries.

Therefore, the study concluded that non beneficiaries have greater yields compared to beneficiaries. These results contradict those of a study by Chirwa (2003) on analysis of input subsidy programme in Malawi. The study found out that non-beneficiaries had more maize output compared to beneficiaries. However, the differences can be explained by the issue of insufficient inputs given to farmers and the fact that in Zimbabwe inputs are given for free without any farmer's contribution. The argument on free inputs was well discussed and researched by the World Bank (2009). The report gave insights that free inputs programmes do not give incentives for agricultural production since farmers will not use inputs efficiently because they will not have contributed anything. The World Bank is against free inputs distribution to farmers because it says it's not sustainable and a waste of resources.

Figure 7: Average Maize production (MT) per Hectare



Source: Survey Results, 2015

4.5.3 Maize Production and Food Security

Maize production in smallholder farmers is mainly for food security purposes and for livelihoods purposes derived from maize sales. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, an adult person consumes 110kgs of maize per annum and in Zimbabwe a family has an average of 6 persons CSO (2014). This translates into 660kg/ household / annum. This implies that beneficiaries who had an average of 0.6 tons/ha are food insecure. Farmers usually keep enough maize for food security purposes and the rest is sold or exchanged for other things that promote the families livelihoods options. Maize is normally sold at farm gate, to middlemen, Grain Marketing Board (GMB) and private companies. Most farmers indicated that they sell their maize to private companies who come in their areas. Although these companies are paying less money per tonne compared to GMB, farmers reiterated that GMB is taking time to pay them after delivery putting a threat to their livelihoods and preparation for next agricultural season. The table below shows a trend of average incomes from maize sales from the beneficiaries of inputs programmes and non-beneficiaries for the past 3 years. The table clearly depicts a relative equal and almost a constant income for beneficiaries of input programmes and non-beneficiaries although the average income of non-beneficiaries show a general increase trend.

Table 3: Incomes got from selling Maize

Category	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Beneficiaries	450	500	450
Non Beneficiaries	400	485	500

Source: Survey Results, 2015

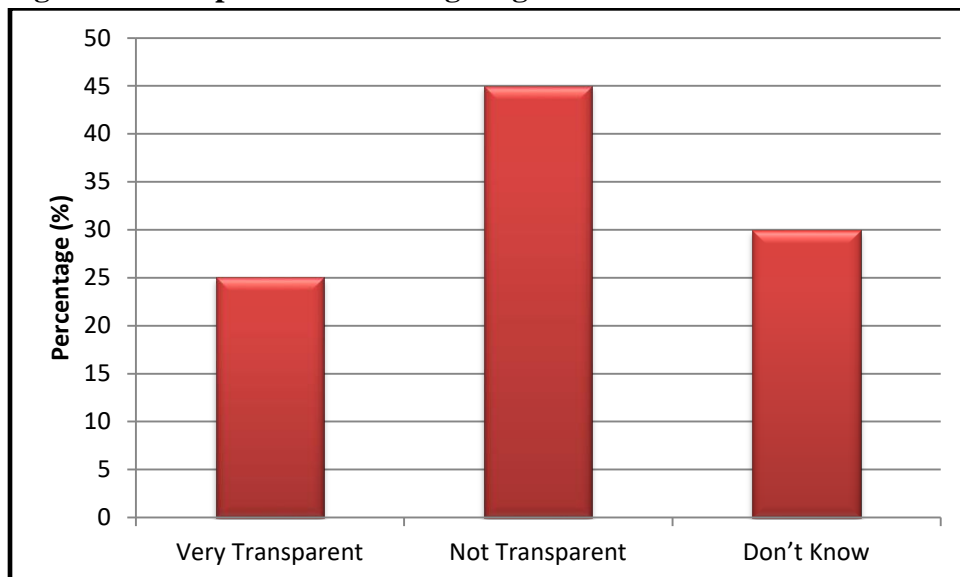
This is an indication that there is no significant difference between farmers benefiting from input support and those not in terms of overall livelihoods. This is an indication that farmers not receiving inputs support work harder than those who receive to give a signal that even though they are not supported they can still achieve better.

4.5 Targeting Criteria

The targeting criterion is one of the key issues that determine whether the input support programmes are going to the intended people. In most cases, reports have been made that inputs are hijacked by political figures and never reach the intended beneficiary. The study found out that the targeting criterion designed and approved by the government at the national level as

outlined in the targeting framework above is different when it comes to final beneficiaries. Farmers were asked whether the selection criteria of the input support programmes was transparent or not, the following were the outcome from the survey.

Figure 8: Perceptions about Targeting Criteria



Source: Survey Results, 2015

Results show that from all the respondents, only 25 percent indicated that the selection process is transparent while 45 percent said it was not transparent and the rest said they do not know. During the interviews, farmers were not comfortable in discussing this question as they feared victimization. Further analysis and interrogation pointed out that farmers fear to talk about this because when it comes to selection of beneficiaries at ward level, high level of political influence comes in. All the set guidelines do not work when it comes to actual distribution of inputs. It is said that when inputs are being given to farmers, those that are known to be powerful in politics are given first priority causing inputs to go to unintended people. The study also found out that after the politically strong people acquire those inputs they sell them at very ridiculous prices to non-beneficiaries.

Delivery of Inputs

The time at which inputs are delivered to farmers is critical for improved maize production. In maize production, there are window periods that are critical for growth and development of the crop. If these periods are missed, the development of the crop will be poor and it will not yield much. For example, maize planting should be done with compound D fertilizer and if you apply at a later stage, it will be useless. Results from the survey showed that farmers received maize seed on time but fertilizers come late and mainly in short quantities. At sometimes the farmer receives top dressing fertilizer first before compound D. These anomalies in distribution of inputs affect the growth pattern of maize crop resulting in lower yields and ineffectiveness of the input programmes.

4.6 Sustainability of Maize Production

Input support programmes are sustainable if they can be maintained over the long time without draining the resources from the fiscus. The declining of support to input support programmes is a clear indication that input support programmes are not sustainable. Also the fact that there is no transparency in distribution defies the efficiency and equity objectives of sustainable development. Given that there is no significant difference in maize production gaps between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries should sent a clear indication that the inputs programmes is not being effective. One key issue is that farmers are being given these inputs for free and are not contributing anything gives no sense of ownership. Even if a farmer sells a bag of fertilizer at \$10/bag, he has already benefited. Therefore, giving inputs to farmers for free creates a dependence syndrome that will make farmers fail to plan on their own.

The government did not put a comprehensive exit strategy on the inputs support programmes. This shows that the time the government will cease giving inputs, there is going to be a decline in maize output that year because farmers are used to be given. It will take time for them to adjust and be able to buy their own inputs for their own production. Results from discussions from farmers clearly showed that farmers are fully dependent on government and they cannot even buy their own inputs. Input support programmes should be put as a temporal policy measure to support farmers for a certain period as the government prepares them to meet their own needs.

The permanent impacts can be achieved by alleviating the market failures affecting the input markets directly or by raising the productive capacity of poor smallholders to a sufficiently high level that the market failures are no longer constraining. For instance, if the input support programme succeeds at permanently developing a more competitive private input supply, the lower prices will make inputs more widely accessible to smallholders. Similarly, if the programme helps smallholders accumulate productive and financial assets from a few years of surplus harvests, the farmers may be able to finance full-priced inputs from their own savings after programme termination.

4.7 Conclusion

The chapter gave an analysis of the findings from the field. The findings from the field showed that the input support programme has not been effective in the enhancement of rural livelihoods and the sustainability of maize production among smallholder farmers. The programme has failed to target the farmers who are in need of the government support on inputs. The distribution of these inputs has been biased leading to its failure in achieving its goals.

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENTATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter is going to summarize the main findings from the study and come up with recommendations for the study. Firstly, the chapter is going to present a summary of the objectives of the study, and major findings from the study. Conclusions and policy recommendations suggestions will be drawn from the analysis.

5.1 Summary

The study looked on the impact of government input support programmes on rural household food security in the Mazowe district. The main objective was to establish if the inputs support programmes are having any significant impact on raising food security in rural households through increased maize production. The study was conducted in Mazowe district where the inputs programmes are mostly administered because of the good qualities of soil and climate for maize production. The study used both primary and secondary data. Primary data was obtained through a survey conducted on smallholder farmers in Mazowe district using a questionnaire. A random sampling procedure was used to obtain a sample size of 50 farmers of which 25 were beneficiaries and 25 were non beneficiaries of input support programmes.

Analysis of the study was also centered on the sustainable rural livelihoods framework. This Approach draws on the main factors that affect poor people's livelihoods and the typical relationships between these factors. These factors are human capital, financial capital, physical capital, natural capital and social capital. These factors are regarded as livelihoods assets used by farmers to derive their livelihoods strategies to achieve desired livelihood outcomes. . Mostly, farmers lack the financial capital to purchase key inputs for maize production hence the government has tried to boost this capital on farmers through input support programmes to ensure food security and sustainable livelihoods. Therefore, the inputs support by the government through the provision of adequate inputs to maximize production of maize will therefore have impact on the production function resulting to increased output. Sustainability of production can be now achieved when the same high level of output is realized even if the government withdraws the inputs. This means farmers will be able to save enough capital to

purchase the recommended inputs levels in future so as to remove the dependence syndrome of farmers on government.

5.2 Conclusion

The study on the impacts of government input support programmes on rural household food security showed that there is no significant increase in maize production realized from the support due to inadequate inputs being given to farmers. The study has shown that despite government recommending input packages that can incentivize and stimulate maize production; farmers are not getting full packages thereby affecting maize production. The study showed that 100 percent of beneficiaries only got a full pack of 10kg of maize seed. Farmers did not obtain sufficient inputs of all other recommended inputs making it difficult to increase maize production. The survey showed that none of the farmers got tillage support which is crucial for efficient land utilization.

Further analysis showed that non beneficiaries had a higher maize yield compared to beneficiaries mainly because inputs from the support programme normally arrive late after the rains have started and usually come in fewer quantities as promised. After farmers are selected to benefit from the input programmes, they wait for the inputs and would never make efforts to buy their own inputs. Late arrival of inputs affected the maize output as the effective production window will have gone.

The study also looked at the targeting criteria used on the input support programmes as it is important in determining whether the inputs are going to the right beneficiaries who require them. The results showed that the planned targeting mechanisms that are planned at the head offices at Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development are not the ones that are used at ground level. Targeting at ground level showed that, it is highly politicized and those with bigger political muscles get the inputs. This means that the inputs are not getting to the intended beneficiaries who at a later stage sell them on the open market at cheap prices.

The study also concluded that with the current mechanisms and the level of support, the input support programmes are not sustainable in enhancing maize production. Input packs are reaching farmers in lesser quantities that planned hence their effectiveness in achieving the intended goal are not reached. Furthermore, the continuous draining of the input support programmes to fiscus,

yet maize production is not significantly increasing and the fiscus is also contracting is not sustainable. This has been shown by a decreasing support to the program with time. The government is also seen importing maize each and every year yet it has also supported at the production level. Free handouts are not also sustainable as farmers develop a dependence syndrome and will not be able to plan on their own if the government withdraws. Overall, the input support programmes have not made a significant impact in enhancing food security as beneficiaries have not made much yield differentials compared to non beneficiaries. However, input programmes are good incentives for stimulating maize production if they are administered efficiently and also supported by a set of key policies that support maize production. Henceforth, the study recommends the following to enhance improved livelihoods from the input support programmes.

5.3 Recommendations

Recommendations to maize smallholder farmers

Maize remains a critical and most consumed crop in the country and across the region hence maize production will forever remain a profitable enterprise. Study showed that farmers are failing to increase their output of maize due to inadequate inputs delivered and late delivery of inputs. Hence the study recommends the following to the maize farmers;

- i. Farmers should aim to plan ahead and purchase part of their inputs as they wait for government inputs support. This is to ensure that they are able to utilize the maize production window as government inputs come late.
- ii. Farmers should also organize themselves and call for other services like effective agricultural training to increase their wealth of knowledge and be able to fully apply the knowledge to increase their maize output.

Recommendations to the government

If the government envisions improving the livelihood of rural farmers with input support programmes, the following recommendation should be considered;

Targeting Mechanisms: The government should put in place efficient and effective targeting mechanisms that are followed by a monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure inputs reach the rightful people and are not high jacked by political figures at ground level.

Input Support Programmes Funding: To reduce the burden of funding the input support program through the fiscus, the government should endeavor constituting an Agricultural Revolving Fund that will be responsible for funding such programmes. Farmers should be contributing to this fund for them to participate.

Exit Strategy: To remove the dependence syndrome among farmers and make them contribute to their farming activities, the government should not give inputs to farmers for free. The government should let farmers contribute to inputs on an increasing basis till it wean them of may be in 4 years' time. For example, the government may opt to make farmers contribute 15 percent of the cost of inputs in the first year followed by 30%, 50%, 75%, and 100% in year 2, 3 and 4 respectively.

Distribution Modalities: The government should put in place efficient and effectiveness distribution modalities to make sure farmers get inputs on the correct time so that they plant and use the input on time. Maize production is time sensitive and any miss in time to plant will affect production.

Other Production Support Mechanisms: As government concentrate on giving farmers inputs; it should also concentrate of giving other support services that are crucial for maize production. These support services include extension services and irrigation support to counter droughts. These support services complements the production of maize apart from inputs programmes

Monitoring and Evaluation: Government at the district level should establish a database of beneficiaries and farming input provided for harmonization. The database should contain information and records on operational areas, what each provider is doing, and the names of the beneficiaries. This information should be used to track performance of the programmes and advise future programmes

Sustainability of Maize production: Government should involve other stakeholders like NGOs and private sector discuss sustainability measure of input programmes

- Government and other stakeholders should facilitate a credit system with reasonable interest rates which will target farmers other than continuing with free inputs.

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Appendix : Questionnaire

**THE IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT INPUT SUPPORT PROGRAMME IN
PROMOTING FOOD SECURITY IN ZIMBABWE. A CASE STUDY OF MAZOWE
DISTRICT.**

HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE

Department of Development Studies, Midlands State University

Introduction

How are you sir/madam? My name is Audrey Chikengezha, a final year student at Midlands State University studying towards an attainment of a B.A Honours Degree in Development Studies. I am carrying out a research on “The impact of government input support programme in enhancing food security in Zimbabwe”. I am kindly asking for your response to the following questions. Assurance is granted on the confidentiality of your responses and they will be used strictly for academic purposes.

A: QUESTIONNAIRE IDENTIFICATION

1. Date of Interview:	2.Name of Interviewer:
3. Name of Interviewee:	4. Time of interview:
5. Farm Name:	6. Plot number:
7.Cell Phone number:	8.Village Name:

B: HOUSEHOLD DEMOGRAPHICS *(please circle appropriate)*

- B1. Name of Respondent_____
- B2. Gender of Respondent *1=Male* *0=Female*
- B3. What is the age of respondent in years?_____
- B4. Are the household head? *1=Yes* *0=No*
- B5. What is the education level of the household head?
*1=none, 2=primary 3= secondary 4=vocational training, 5=College
6=University*
- B6. What is the marital status of the household head?
*1=Single, 2= Polygamous married 3=Widowed, 4=Separated/Divorced, 5=Other
(Specify_____*

B7 If No, what is the gender of the household head? 1=Male 0=Female

B8 How many hectares of land does the family own? _____

B9 Please give me the names of the family members (including children) currently residing in your household starting with the head of the household. (NB: A household comprises people living together on the same yard, eating from the same pot, share economic resources and members are permanently available at home or temporarily away from home for a job or study or some other business).

NO.	NAMES OF THE USUAL RESIDENTS	RELATIONS HIP TO HOUSEHOLD HEAD	SEX 1=M 2=F	AGE	EDUCATION LEVEL	OCCUPATION	FULL (1) or PART-TIME (2) ON FARM? NO WORK =0
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							

1 Relation to household head: 1=Spouse, 2=Child, 3=Grand Child, 4=Brother, 5=Sister, 6=worker 7=Daughter-in-Law, 8=Son-in-Law, 9= Mother, 10= Father, 99=others, specify (Household head= 50)

2 Sex 1=Female, 2=Male

3 Education level 1=Primary , 2=Secondary, 3=College, 4=University, 6=Vocational training 99= Others

4 Employment status 1= Employed, 2= Unemployed 3=Pensioner, 4=Retrenched, 5=Schooling, 99=Other

C: INPUT SUPPORT IN 2014/2015 AGRICULTURAL SEASON

C1 Did you receive any Inputs from the Government Input Support Programme 2014/2015

1=Yes 0=No

C2 If yes what types and quantities of inputs did you receive (circle all you received)

- 1) Maize Seed Quantity _____
- 2) Compound D Quantity _____
- 3) Top Dressing Quantity _____
- 4) Sugarbeans Quantity _____
- 5) Others (specify)
- 6) _____

C3 How were you selected as a beneficiary?

C4 Was the selection criteria transparent (*Comment*)

C5 What time did you receive the inputs?

1 = before onset of rains 2 = after the rains 3 = very late

C6 Where the inputs sufficient for the intended area supported?

1=Yes 0=No

D: MAIZE PRODUCTION

D1 How much area did you cultivate for maize? _____

D2 How much was the area for maize supported by input programme? _____

D3 How did you prepare your land? (*Circle all that apply*)
1=Hire tractor 2=Use own tractor 3=Use own cattle/donkey 4=Hire draft power
5=Use own hoes 6=Other (*Specify*) _____

D4 What was the other source of maize inputs for your maize production.

1.Contract farming	2. NGO	3.Use own savings	4.Credit (loan	5.Other

D5 How much maize did you harvest from the field of input support programme?_____

D6 With the introduction of the government input support programme has maize production increased for the past five years.

1=Yes 0=No

D7 If yeshow has the increase in maize production helped in promoting food security in your home?

D8 If No, What factors can be attributed to the government input support programme in the failure of increasing maize production?

D9 Without the government input support programme can the household purchase inputs at their own expense?

1=Yes 0=No

D10 What other factors do you think are affecting your maize production?

D11 How many tonnes did you get from the last farming season?_____

D12 Do you think the maize obtained can take you through until the next farmingseason?

D13 What are your perceptions about the input support programme on the sustainability of future maize production?

D14 Do you think inputs support programme should be abolished or continued?

D15 What recommendations can you give so that the input programme can be effective in achieving maximum production of the maize crop?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME



Midlands State University
Faculty of Arts
Department of Development Studies
P.O Box 9055
Gweru
14 April 2015

Dear Respondent

RE: APPLICATION TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH

My name is Audrey Chikengezha and I am a final year student at the above mentioned institution. I am conducting a research on the topic ‘ the impact of government input support programme in enhancing food security in Zimbabwe. The research is being carried out in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the Bachelor of Arts in Development Studies Honours Degree that I am currently studying.

I am kindly requesting for your assistance in the form of responses to the questions in the questionnaire attached to this letter. The information made available on this questionnaire will be highly confidential and will be used strictly for academic purposes.

Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated

Yours faithfully

Audrey Chikengezha

0776 991 93