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UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE



Resilience Building through Agroecological Intensification in Zimbabwe (RAIZ) Project

Managing Innovation Agendas: How DeSIRA Projects Balance
National and Global Priorities.

DeSIRA-LIFT WEBINAR - 9th October 2023



RAIZ

Resilience building through
Agroecological Intensification
in Zimbabwe

1. Project Facts Sheet

- **Budget**

- EU (3.3M€) & CIRAD (900,000€) – 4,2M€ in total

- **Overall Objective**

- To provide scientific evidence and experience for the design, implementation and progress monitoring of the CSA component of the TEI, and its future projects.
- Provide scientifically tested solutions and concepts to support the necessary changes and adaptations of agriculture to respond to the challenges of climate change.

- **Project Implementing Partners**

- CIRAD, University of Zimbabwe (UZ) & CIMMYT

- **Country(ies)**

- Zimbabwe (Murehwa & Mutoko Districts)

- **Status of implementation (start date, current phase, progress)**

- Start Date: 21 December 2021; 2nd Year of Implementation



Current Progress

- PhD thesis recruitments & projects refined (now 10 students are on board) & 1 MSc
- Governmental clearance for field access in Mutoko and Murehwa (Mudzi district excluded).
- Farm level baseline survey achieved in Murehwa District.
- Key field scale operations are ongoing including data collection e.g. demo plots, farmer engagements, 2 PhD students completed data collection
- Some students completed data collection e.g. Several peer reviewed publications ongoing- 2 articles published recently
- Review of log frame by project technical team
- Project equipment – Cars, Li-Cor LAI meters, Soils moisture probes, weather stations, rainfall exclusion equipment)
- Communication & Visibility Strategy; Data Management Strategy
- CSA Manual and Handbook authoring is ongoing.
- Online (website & social media platforms) and physical visibility (e.g. Field Days (district level) & Harare Agricultural Show, ZITF)

2. Innovation Agenda of RAIZ Project vs Context

The innovation agenda is to make stakeholders (from policy maker to farmers) better understanding trade-offs between the different dimensions of sustainability in farming systems, contextualized to mixed crop-livestock farming in humid and sub-humid areas of Zimbabwe.

- ✓ Climate change; yield gaps; rainfed agriculture & CCA in agricultural sector a national priority
- ✓ Limited consultations but supporting government agenda; technological innovations through research (e.g. tools or models) & social science research focusing on probable behaviour for sustainable intensification.

3. Trade-Offs and Managerial Implications

Yes – the RAIZ project made a few adjustments in the implementation of project activities due to external circumstances however, the agenda of the project and that of policy/policy makers remains aligned.

- ✓ Review of the project expected outcomes/log frame; Support research in agricultural colleges to foster research and innovation at lower levels (Education 5.0 – Research & Innovation); Limited access to Mudzi District; Discrete Choice Experiments (Preferences of farmers for technology and support tools) implementation postponed to 2024 due to elections.
- ✓ Project team has not changed; Project activities have been slowed down due to elections but the nature of activities did not change; Partners have not changed; Communication is yet to be strong awaiting evidence production through research (e.g. papers to launch discussions when published).

Implementation and Contextual Implications

While there was limited consultation of various AIS actors for project development – the project agenda is well aligned to the government's agenda of sustainable intensification and how to balance the trade-offs.

- ✓ S01: Guidance are provided for the design, implementation and progress monitoring of the CSA component of the TEI
- ✓ S02: Concepts and methods to promote AE approaches and practices are developed and adapted to local circumstances
- ✓ S03: Experiences and results made with the to CSA objectives and document AE approaches and practices are assessed for their uptake and contribution
- ✓ S04: The capacity of extension and advisory services on AE approaches and their contribution to intensification, adaptation and mitigation is developed
- ✓ S05: Curricula to promote AE and CSA are developed for higher education purposes.
- ✓ S06: Scientific evidence is provided for policy dialogue on AE and CSA in Zimbabwe

❖ The RAIZ Approach

Long-term on-station experiments

On-farm experiments and farmers' fields monitoring along an aridity gradient

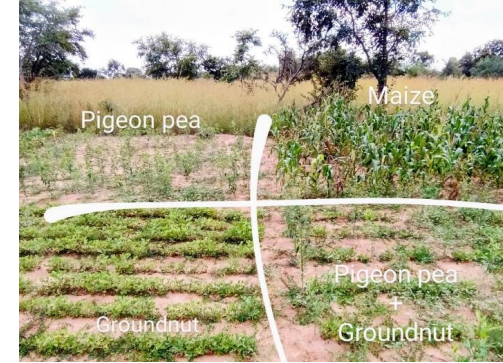
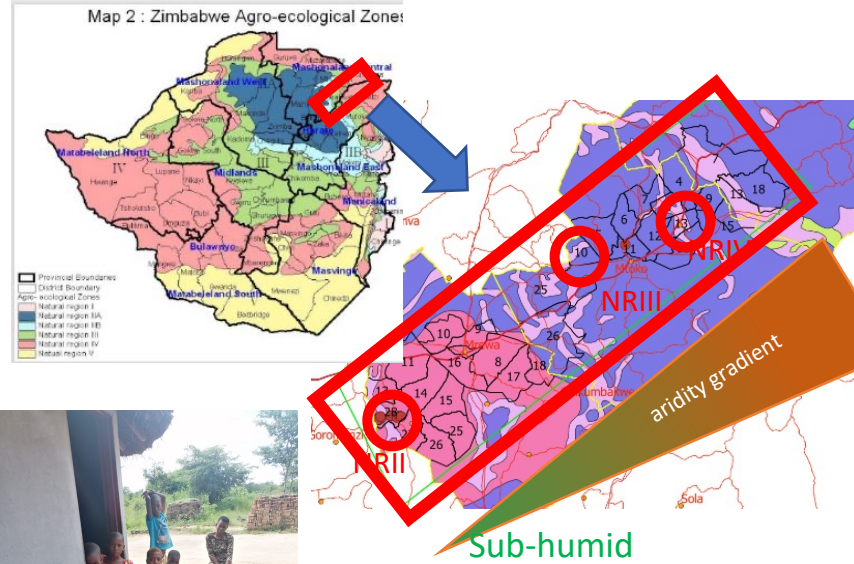
(Living labs)



Albedo measurement



Rainfall exclusion system



Semi-arid

Stakeholders workshops, focus group discussions: prospective, participatory modelling, serious games, policy dialogue

Experimental Economy:
Discrete Choice
Experiments
Randomized Control Trials

Simulation models: crop, farm, landscape

BLOCK ID 1 - V2

Scenario B

If you were proposed these two alternative ways to obtain top dressing, which of the three alternatives 1, 2 or 3 would you choose?

Delivery?	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
	Fertilizer to be collected at the shop	Fertilizer delivered at farm gate	Fertilizer delivered at farm gate
Timing of payment	Immediate payment	Payment after harvest	Payment after harvest
Condition of payment	Always pay	Pay only if yield superior to 250 KG/acre	Pay only if yield superior to 250 KG/acre
Price	0.95 USD/KG (4.05 USD for 50 KG)	1.16 USD/KG (4.8 USD for 50 KG)	1.16 USD/KG (4.8 USD for 50 KG)
Choice			

