

Integrated crop-livestock technologies for improved production: Lessons from ZimCLIFS project

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Objectives

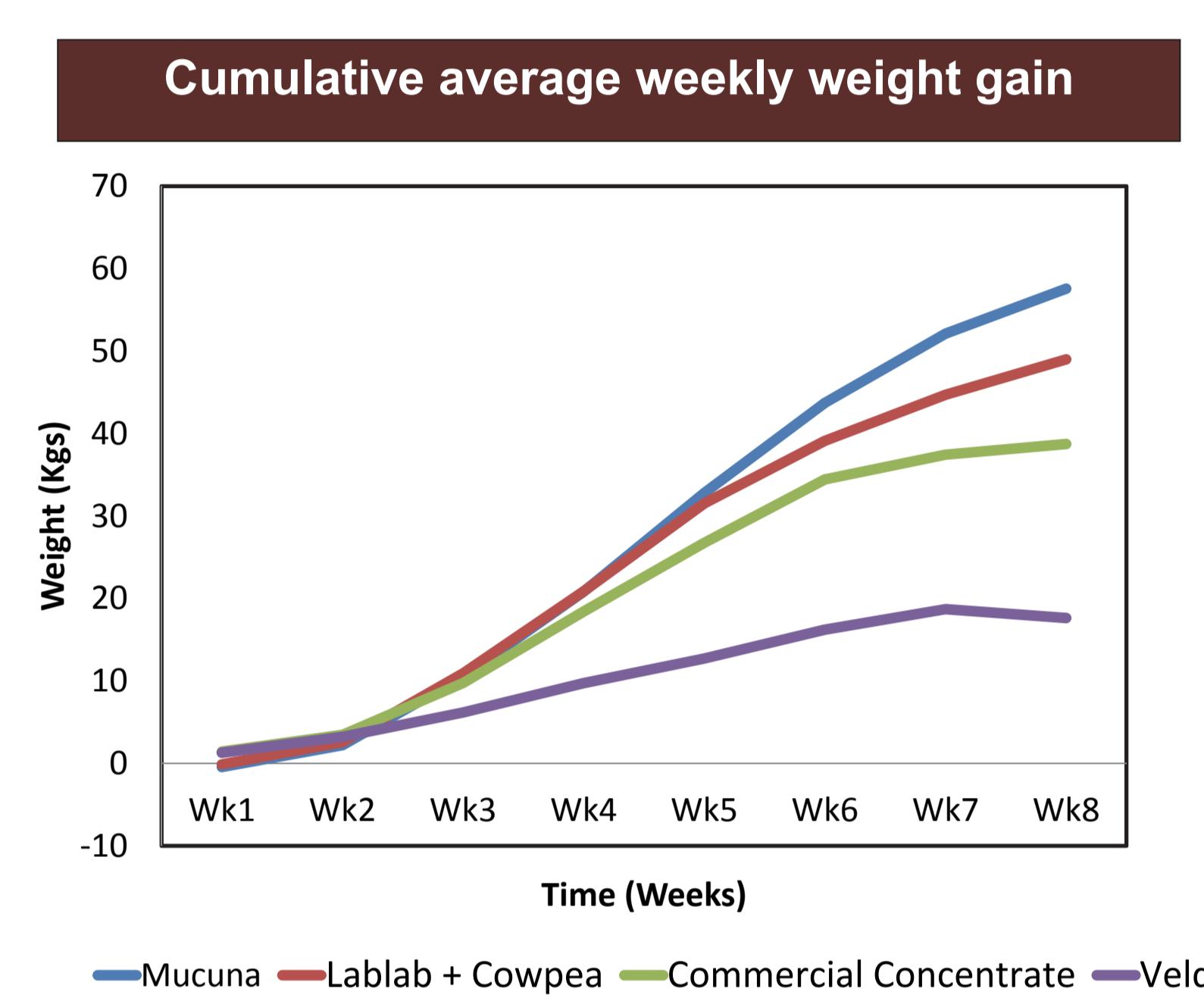
- Increase smallholder crop-livestock household productivity by identifying and adapting appropriate technologies and associated management practices
- Improve farmers access to resources, technologies, information and markets by characterising and strengthening crop and livestock value chains
- Increase the skills of research and extension staff and agribusinesses in the design and implementation of integrated farming systems research-for-development programs in Zimbabwe

Approaches

- Identify critical value chains (identified beef, goat and groundnut)
- Develop effective innovation platforms (IPs)
- Identify constraints to production/ marketing and suggest alternatives from IP stakeholders
- Establish farmer's envisaged future with crop and livestock production
- Develop effective partnerships with local change agents
- Identify critical success factors and drivers for on-farm production
- Simulation modeling

Phase I: 2012–2015

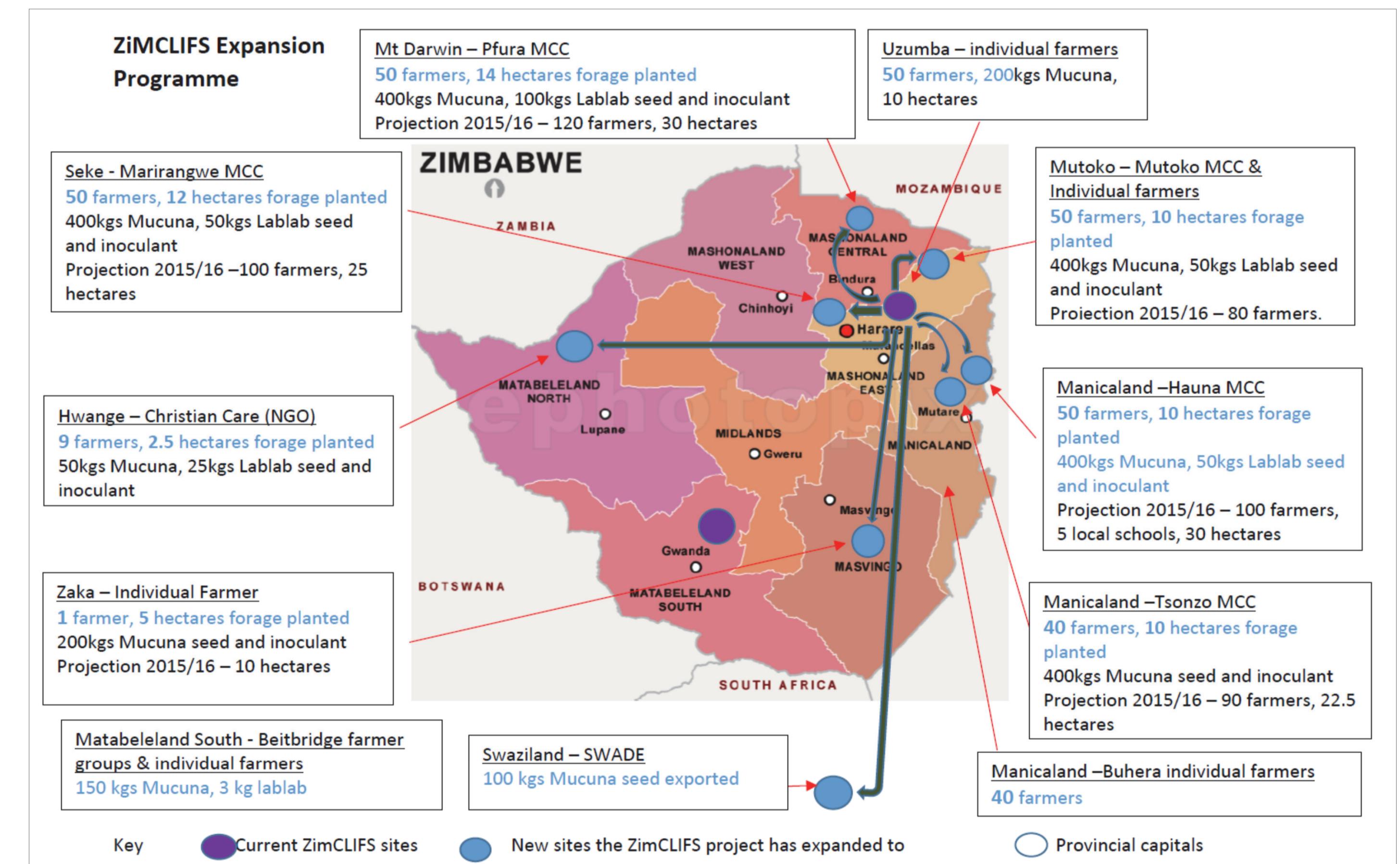
- Implemented in six districts of Zimbabwe (four in sub humid region and two in semi-arid region)
- Reached out to +/-480 households



Out-scaling phase: Nov. 2015–2017

Key focus:

- Evaluation of modelled C-L systems and different out-scaling models
- Involvement of the private sector and the mainstreaming of gender
- Extension of project technologies to more villages and wards in the same six districts, and to two new ones (Uzumba and Mutoko), reaching more than 6,000 farmers
- Selection of technology options preferred by farmers



Lessons learned

- IP process is effective in facilitating change
- It is important to adapt innovations to prevailing circumstances
- Farmers need mentoring to deal with aggressive private sector markets
- Encourage farmers to use own resources from onset and for their own development
- Even with most effective extension system, farmers learn best from other farmers—Lead farmer approach

Established partnerships

- Government departments—NARS, extension and district authorities
- NGOs/development partners—CADS, CTDO, GOAL Zimbabwe, Help Germany, Amalima
- Farmers and local leaders
- Academic institutions—University of Zimbabwe
- Private sector—Input and output market, seed companies (Klein Karoo), livestock buyers (Bulawayo and Binder abattoirs).

Contact

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