

UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE



REPORT ON

OSSREA - ZIMBABWE CHAPTER WORKSHOP 2015

Theme: The Nutrition and Food Security Question in Zimbabwe: Change and Continuity

Held on 12 June 2015 at the University of Zimbabwe Harare, Zimbabwe

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List of Acronyms

Unless otherwise suggested by the context, the words and abbreviations used in this Report have the following meanings:

OSSREA	Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa
LRP	Land Reform Programme
FTLRP	Fast-Track Land Resettlement Programme
UA	Urban Agriculture
SADC	Southern African Development Community
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
ZIMASSET	Zimbabwe Agenda for Social Economic Transformation
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development
UZ	University of Zimbabwe

Table of Contents

List of Acronyms.....	ii
Executive Summary.....	v
SESSION 1:.....	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.1 Opening remarks (OSSREA-Zimbabwe Chapter Liaison Officer, Dr Innocent Chirisa)..	1
1.2 Welcome remarks (the Patron of OSSREA-Zimbabwe Chapter, University of Zimbabwe Vice-Chancellor, Professor Levi M Nyagura)	1
1.3 Key note address (by the Minister of Agriculture Farm Mechanisation and Irrigation Development Dr Joseph Made)	2
1.4 Fundamental causes of food and nutrition insecurity in Zimbabwe: implications for policy (Professor, P Mapfumo, University of Zimbabwe).....	4
1.5 Do food imports complement or compete with local production in Zimbabwe (Dr. A Makochekanwa, University of Zimbabwe).....	5
SESSION 2:.....	6
2.1 Introduction	6
2.0 The Historical Overtones of the Food Question in Zimbabwe as Portrayed in Literature, Professor Rosemary Moyana, University of Zimbabwe	6
2.3 “Gondo Harishaye” Government and food security in Colonial Zimbabwe prior to the 1947 drought, Mr. B Kusena, University of Zimbabwe	7
2.4 Extending the Malthusian Debate to the Zimbabwean Food Security Question: Looking for Critical Strands of the Argument, Mrs H Chirisa, Mrs S Moyo & Mr. G Mhlanga, University of Zimbabwe	7
SESSION 3:.....	8
3.1 Livelihood options for food insecure households in the periphery: the case of Mukumbura area (Mr Dodo, Bindura University of Science Education).....	8
3.1.1 Recommendations:.....	9
3.2 The social ecology of food security in Zimbabwe: the case of Harurwa in Nerumedzo Bikita Zimbabwe (Mr Bandauko, University of Zimbabwe)	9
3.3 Food security and trade protectionism: the effects of Zimbabwe’s agricultural subsidies on maize availability and accessibility, Mr Muqayi, University of Zimbabwe	9
SESSION 4.....	10

4.1 Introduction	10
4.2 Land Reform and Food Security in Zimbabwe, (Mr. J Chivurugwi, Security Expert, Office of the President and Cabinet, Government of Zimbabwe).....	10
4.2.1 Recommendations.....	11
4.3 Factors Militating against Food Security among Rural Communities in Zimbabwe: The case of Muungwe Village in Masholanand West, Dr. P Kwaira, University of Zimbabwe.	11
4.4 Urban Local Governments and Food Security: The case of Zimbabwe, Mrs Tsoriyo, standing in for Dr Musekiwa and Dr Mandiyanike of University of Botswana.....	11
4.4 Discussion.....	12
4.6 Summary of the Workshop Resolutions.....	12
5.0 Way Forward	13
6.0 Vote of Thanks – Dr. Chingono (Director of Ceremonies)	13
Appendix 1 - Programme	14
Appendix 2 -Attendance Register.....	17

Executive Summary

Running under the theme “The Nutrition and Food security question in Zimbabwe: Change and Continuity”, the workshop sought to defuse information and ideas between different stakeholders in Zimbabwe on the contemporary food security issues and contextualised solutions to food security in the country (see Appendix 1 for the Programme). Having this aim, the workshop had the following objectives:

- creating a forum for critical debate and research input on current issues of concern in Zimbabwe,
- providing academics, policymakers, and policy implementers with a platform to produce and present research papers on Zimbabwe,
- providing junior academics with an opportunity to participate in and present conference papers and posters,
- consolidating the visibility of OSSREA in Zimbabwe and mobilising OSSREA membership in Zimbabwe.

The presentation of 11 papers in sync with the workshop theme informed the workshop and sparked discussion, as well as the diffusion of current information and ideas on solving food security issues in Zimbabwe. The presentations were informed by a variety of information sources; primary data (field surveys), secondary data (desktop research – literature review) and some used tabulation.

The workshop drew a variety of participants from various institutions and a wide range of disciplines in those institutions that include social sciences, agriculture, nutrition, engineering and law among others (see Appendix 2 for the List of Participants).

Institution	Number of Participants
University of Zimbabwe	95
Chinhoyi University	2
Women’s University in Africa	2
Bindura University of Science Education (BUSE)	2
Rhodes University	2
World Food Programme	1
Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development	2
Grain Marketing Board	2
Research Council of Zimbabwe	1
Regional Agency for Agriculture Promotion and Advocacy (REAAPAD)	1
Southern Institute of Peace Building (SIPD)	1
Organisation for Integrated Development in Africa (OIDA)	1
TOTAL	114

These participants gathered for the presentation of the resourceful papers on food security and discussion on the same as well as deliberating on the contemporary issues in as much as food security issues are concerned in Zimbabwe. From the policymakers and government, the Minister of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development attended the workshop with a clear key note message which implored on series researches which respond to this ever changing environment. The workshop revealed the gross food and nutrition insecurity in the country, scarcity of agriculture technology and lack of know how in agriculture production specifically to vulnerable small-scale farmers. The relevance of natural resources was also exposed where the presenters acknowledged the role played by *harurwa*, *masawu*, *hacha* and *mazhanje* in improving food security and increasing the welfare of vulnerable people in drought prone regions. The speech from the Minister and the Patron of OSSREA-Zimbabwean Chapter on the theme emphasised the need for series researches to reduce pre and post harvesting losses, to boost the productivity as well as storage of the food produce. Various paper presentations and discussion of the current food security issues enhanced a plethora of recommendations if Zimbabwe has to increase its food security. These recommendations include a systems approach in policy formulation, to expedite the implementation of plans and embark on monitoring and evaluation of the same. It was also recommended that Zimbabwe must employ technology in food production and revive irrigation farming as well as starting water harvesting. There is need to harness the natural resources, recognise their relevancy in food security and conduct researches on how they can be sustainably used.

SESSION 1:

1.1 Introduction

The opening session set the tone for an interactive and stimulating workshop, where papers were presented on nutrition and food security question in Zimbabwe, mainly focusing on bringing change and continuity. In this session introduction to the workshop was made, Professor Nyagura gave some welcome remarks, the Minister of Agriculture, Farm Mechanisation and Irrigation Development biffed up on the current programmes by the ministry to improve food security and two other presentations were made on food policy and food imports

The session provided adequate justification and context for the food security workshop in Zimbabwe as several researches related to the theme were presented and discussed. Running under the theme "The Nutrition and Food Security Question in Zimbabwe: Change and Continuity", the workshop had the following objectives

- Provide academics, policymakers and policy implementers with the platform to produce and present papers
- Provide junior academics with an opportunity to participate and present papers and posters
- Consolidate the visibility of OSSREA in Zimbabwe
- Mobilise membership for the Chapter.

1.1 Opening remarks (OSSREA-Zimbabwe Chapter Liaison Officer, Dr Innocent Chirisa)

At the beginning of the workshop, the facilitator invited the OSSREA-Zimbabwe Chapter Liaison Officer, Dr Innocent Chirisa who introduced Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA), explained the main objective of OSSREA as knowledge generation and expounded on the significance of OSSREA to different stakeholders. He then pointed out that OSSREA get its membership from several universities in different countries in Eastern and Southern Africa, Dr Chirisa also took this opportunity to inform and invite the audience and participants on the issue of membership of OSSREA where he said a \$10 registration fee is required. Twenty dollars (\$20) is the annual subscription for the members.

1.2 Welcome remarks (the Patron of OSSREA-Zimbabwe Chapter, University of Zimbabwe Vice-Chancellor, Professor Levi M Nyagura)

After the opening a brief introduction and opening remarks from Dr Chirisa, the Patron of OSSREA-Zimbabwean Chapter, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Zimbabwe, Professor Nyagura gave some welcome remarks. He described Food security as one of the pillars of economic security. He further illustrated the

linkage between food security and national security using the assertion “national security disappears when there is hunger and food insecurity.”

The Patron stressed the relevance of a systems approach to dissect food security realities in Zimbabwe, considering the whole chain of production and processing of agricultural outputs. Here he emphasis the need to consider the checks and balances and point out where Zimbabwe is missing the goal from production and distribution of agricultural input up to marketing and storage of final agricultural products. In unpacking his message for the need for a systems approach he used some examples from some stages in the chain of production where he asked rhetoric questions, “can we maximise output of maize up to 18 tonnes per hectare and if not why? What can be done to minimise the amount of grains remaining in the fields?” He also highlighted agricultural outputs preservation and marketing, as some of the crucial parts of the food security system, which presents practical challenges in food security issues in contemporary Zimbabwe.

He challenged the institutions to have a direct link with the people growing the crops, so that they get the finer skills in food production, as he pointed out that people claim to know how to grow crops, which have a ripple effect on Zimbabwe’s national food security. In his conclusion, the Patron stressed the need for participation by various stakeholders, (the people, academics, politicians as well as technocrats in government) to come up with good intervention strategies to guarantee food security. He then and commented OSSREA- Zimbabwean chapter 2015 workshop for gathering different stakeholders zeroing in on a crucial food security theme.

1.3 Key note address (by the Minister of Agriculture Farm Mechanisation and Irrigation Development Dr Joseph Made)

The Minister began his speech by expressing the relevance of engaging time series researches to monitor changes in the world phenomena as well as to measure and contribute to food security. He pointed out that time series studies are crucial to Zimbabwe taking cognisance of the problem of climate change. In analysing food security and insecurity in Zimbabwe and Africa, the Minister stated that there is need to look comprehensively at Africa’s net importation where a billion tonnes of wheat are imported from outside the continent.

He commented OSSREA-Zimbabwean Chapter for promoting interaction of academics, researchers and policymakers through such platforms, which inform policy and strategic planning. He further commented the research papers listed on the workshop programme and described them as interesting research papers crucial in dissecting the food security issue in Zimbabwe, which inform policy on nutrition and food security. He further explained how the new policies as ZIMASSET and ZIMASSET Prioritised Plan 2015 (launched within the previous

seven days), Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) feed into the workshop theme of nutrition and food security.

Issues of equity and sufficiency were pointed as crucial in improving food security in Zimbabwe. The minister further commented technological improvements and availability of agricultural inputs as key in improving nutrition and food security in Zimbabwe. Here, he pointed out that if Zimbabwe used enough inputs and technology, one million hectares put to maize production in the country could be enough to feed the country and the country could raise a herd of 15 million cattle, which could be enough to feed the population of Zimbabwe, which is almost 13 million. He however pointed the high cost of inputs and agricultural equipment in Zimbabwe as hindering nutrition and food security.

Contextualising the ministry's programmes with the workshop theme anchored on food and nutrition security in Zimbabwe, the Minister took the opportunity to inform the workshop on the mechanisation programme, which was launched within the previous 14 days. He spoke about the new agriculture machinery bought from Brazil to improve productivity, specifically for small-scale farmers in marginalised sand soils. This exercise could see Zimbabwe enjoy the benefits of green revolution and its resultant impacts to production. The Minister further informed the workshop of other technological, technical as well as mechanical and professional improvements the government was conducting in line with nutrition and food security. He spoke of the massive agrarian mechanisation and modernisation programme that he said is currently underway in Zimbabwe lead by Algeria, Brazil, China, Egypt, Italy, Japan, Poland, Turkey and South Korea, where these countries provided engineers, professors as well as agriculture state of art equipment.

In his speech, the Minister pointed out that, machinery and equipment-testing centre has been set up at Gwebi College, and he further urged Zimbabwean scientists in this field to study the impact of this mechanisation to food production. In support of this development, he pointed out that China and Brazil, who are willing to work with Zimbabwe have dispatched engineers and professors to work with Zimbabwean in a bid to improve food security in the country. Among the current developments stated by the Minister was the National Food Testing Centre provided by the Institute of Engineering Korea.

In line with the theme, the Minister highlighted energy and power as the issues which the government should address to use technology that are cost serving which improve agriculture output (for example looking at organic fertilisers). Besides the challenges agrarian and land reform in Zimbabwe, the Minister stated that the programme shall not be reversed. He pointed out the main thrust

of the government in terms of land reform, as increasing production and productivity. Where one of the strategies the government is using to improve food security, was sending some of Zimbabwean staff to China for training in various fields including water and environmental matters.

In as much as partnership for improving food security, the Minister informed the workshop of several regional companies which are willing to partner with Zimbabwe in the production of live stocks feeds, maize and other agricultural products.

Question: Can you shade more light on how you will distribute the inputs?

Response: the Minister used this question to further highlight his call for researchers' contribution as he said his ministry will welcome research to inform the process.

Question: Can you explain how you have resolved to improve marketing of agric products and payment of the farmers?

Response: in response the minister pointed out that there have been improvements in payment of farmers selling their agric products to GMB, he used the issue of wheat farmers who he said all who delivered wheat this season have all been paid.

Comment: the Minister stress the point raised by the patron on reduction of total yields from poor harvesting methods. Here he referred to the G20 meeting of ministers, which he said revealed that globally there is massive loss of agric outputs due to field loss and gross harvest.

1.4 Fundamental causes of food and nutrition insecurity in Zimbabwe: implications for policy (Professor, P Mapfumo, University of Zimbabwe)

Professor Mapfumo who was supposed to present a paper, Food Policy in Zimbabwe, changed the presentation to fundamental causes of food and nutrition in Zimbabwe. He based his argument on the changes brought about by the Food Policy launched on 16 may 2015. In his presentation, he pointed out that Africa is the global hot sport for food and nutrition insecurity and that poverty is the centre for food insecurity. In his presentation, Professor Mapfumo posed critical questions to be answered if Zimbabwe is to device best ways for attaining food security. This list of question included the following; Can we produce enough?, Is food produced where it is consumed?, Do people want to stay where food is produced? , Do people want to eat what they produce?, Can we meet changing food preferences and tastes? , as well as the question, Can we feed increasing urban population?. These questions were given as thought provoking revelations to all stakeholders of the workshop, if Zimbabwe is to genuinely address the nutrition and food insecurity problem.

The professor went on to explain inherent challenges in the in the Zimbabwe's agricultural productive system, the main being "maize poverty trap" where every farmer just need to grow maize despite the local climate and the soil type.

More of the challenges are high dependence on climate sensitive livelihood sources as well as poor and declining soil productivity as well as high prevalence of poverty. He also pointed, failure to attain food self-sufficiency at house hold level, tailored culture of dependency on aid or relief food, diminishing diversity of food sources, declining natural resources base, diminishing role of house strategic grain reserves, neglecting of traditional food and decreasing rain days as some of the crucial challenges the country need to address to improve food security.

He stressed the need to be realistic with what the country has, as people are still getting a percentage of their energy from wild fruits as “*hacha*” and “*mazhanje*”. In his presentation he pin-pointed that, wet lands are drying, there is high prevalence of land degradation and loss of productivity despite addition of fertilisers, hence concluding that if farmers continue unsustainably and ignorantly putting fertilisers that will no longer increase agric output in the future.

Question: What recommendations can you give to increase production in Zimbabwe?

Answer: The country need to invest in science and technology, improve fertiliser production, ensure timely access of inputs to farmers and improve on the knowledge factor through refresher courses to those involved in agricultural system.

1.5 Do food imports complement or compete with local production in Zimbabwe (Dr. A Makochekanwa, University of Zimbabwe)

Dr Makochekanwa, presented on imports and local production, where he illustrated the growth of agricultural output from in the 1980s, however in the 1990s the trend changed and the farmers had to supplement food by imports. His researches illustrated that the major food crops in Southern Africa are maize, rice, wheat, sorghum, millet, potatoes. His analysis of local food production in Zimbabwe revealed that since 1980, Zimbabwe has never been the breadbasket of Africa.

Question: How can you justify your point that Zimbabwe has ever been the breadbasket of Africa from 1980? Using data from those external sources, is the data reliable?

Response: Dr Makochekanwa said the data he used was obtained from credible international organisations like the United Nations where Zimbabwe is a member. He added that Zimbabwe being a member, the government submits this data to such organisation, which then is rated using the international standards.

Question: How had you taken into account the qualitative side of the research in coming to a conclusion that Zimbabwe has never been the breadbasket of Africa?

Response: Dr Makochekanwa mentioned that since it was a trend analysis to see if whether Zimbabwe has ever exported such food crops, the quantitative data was the valuable source of data.

Contribution: Mr Mukura from the University of Zimbabwe in agreement to Dr. Makochekanwa that Zimbabwe had never been a breadbasket of Southern Africa; he questioned the criterion on which SADCC assigned these responsibilities to different countries. He went on to say this was more like a question of intent rather than a question of fact in the breadbasket issue. In his analysis, he pointed out that by that time South Africa could have been the breadbasket of Africa as it is right now.

SESSION 2:

2.1 Introduction

The session delivered thought provoking presentations about food security from the research persons and experts. The session managed to portray some of the fundamentals of food security while giving the delegates a template from which they could draw lessons.

2.0 The Historical Overtones of the Food Question in Zimbabwe as Portrayed in Literature, Professor Rosemary Moyana, University of Zimbabwe

During her presentation, she made clear the links in literature between the historical land issue and the lack of food by Africans. Literature shows the link between land deprivation and lack of food production for Africans. The Professor also alluded the lack of expertise, lack of capital, governance issues and as well as ideology as the other causes of food insecurity according to literature. The most people who are victims of food insecurity are children and the adults (old age). Professor Moyana acknowledged that these matters are some of the subject that poetry, drama and plays try to operationalise and make solutions for. She also reiterated that literature stresses the importance of mechanisation and irrigation in food security.

She mentioned that the mechanisation helps improve food productivity and its important role in the irrigation initiatives. Having this rainfall variability and shortage, irrigation schemes are said to boost food production, which increases food security and nutrition. The form and content in literature responding to the context of Zimbabwean food security issues is negative. Giving various illustrations from literature, Professor Moyana indicated that general perceptions in literature are pessimistic, negative and cynical which makes the food production initiatives fail to achieve the intended objectives. In real life, what is very important is the general perception of Zimbabweans to their challenges and belief that they can do it. She went on to say the issue of land reform even amongst Zimbabweans themselves they feel it was bad and hence its positives cannot be capitalised. She exposed that the people who are negative about

the Zimbabwe food security situation are not providing solutions to the problem and hence it is a learning point that literature has shown only negatives to Zimbabwean situation but not giving a way forward. She charged that Zimbabwe has to be aggressive and appreciate on attitudes and perceptions, which are negative on the land question. From her analysis, she observed that the national people's well being is linked to food security; where there is no food, there will be no peace.

Comment: One participant supported that agricultural production is about attitudes and perception. He said the positive agricultural production attitude in Vietnam, its national sacrifice made it to be the biggest producer of wheat. It has done this in a period of less than 15 years but compared to Zimbabwe, we have more land than Vietnam. Uganda has 42million people and small but there is so much food there. He went on to say the attitudes of farmers there is so positive that they can produce abundant food. The agricultural productivity depends on how the farmers treat agriculture.

Response: Professor Moyana responded saying yes the issue of food security is linked to mindsets, people want to externalise their problems hence it is a big problem in productivity. To boost food production, she mentioned that there is need to have people's mindsets right to tackle their problems.

2.3 "Gondo Harishaye" Government and food security in Colonial Zimbabwe prior to the 1947 drought, Mr. B Kusena, University of Zimbabwe

Mr Kusena summarised the government and food security issues in Zimbabwe pre-colonial period to the 1847 drought. He gave a brief history of Zimbabwe's colonisation and the intentions of the process. His analysis surfaced that Zimbabwe was colonised resulting from the belief by the British South-Africa Company that it has vast deposits of gold. Fifteen gold claims, for each member of the entourage, were chief among the envisaged loot. Failure to discover the gold in expected amounts made the company turn to agriculture. He acknowledged that irrigation is a game changer in matters of food security. The problem affecting Zimbabwe today has roots in the shaky approach to issues for example efforts to set up irrigation at Odzi River. He elaborated this by mentioning that the absence of a plan to deal with the food question resulted in a haphazard manner in which the food is produced in the country. He recommended that revival of existing irrigation schemes is the key to food security in the postcolonial Zimbabwe.

2.4 Extending the Malthusian Debate to the Zimbabwean Food Security

Question: Looking for Critical Strands of the Argument, Mrs H Chirisa, Mrs S Moyo & Mr. G Mhlanga, University of Zimbabwe

Mrs Chirisa pointed out that Malthus theory stipulates that as population increases, food production also increases since man always asks for food to eat.

She mentioned that this food production reaches a peak above which it cannot exceed; she named it a food ceiling. It is upon reaching the food ceiling that positive checks and natural checks set in to control the population growth. She explained the positive checks coming in as deliberate moves by the populace to control the birth rate by use of contraceptives or various policies that may be implemented to check on the population growth. She defined the natural checks as events that occur like war, diseases or natural disasters which have the effect to reduce the world's population to the population equivalent to the food production ceiling. Clarifying the onset of population checks, she said these checks set in naturally to check population to equate it with food production. The natural checks comes from the realisation that land resource is finite but the mouths to be fed have increased. She related this theory to the current phenomena that Africa has the highest rate of population growth and, as such, the capacity of food production is increasing. In their analysis as authors, they observed that populous nations are self sufficient in terms of food; Africa is the least populated continent and it is not able to feed itself.

Question: How does the theory treat the issues of migration across borders and the onset of technology on agriculture?

Response: She said they looked at the theory as it is and those are the weaknesses of the theory. Mrs Chirisa thanked that there is technology, migration of people and the issue of food donations which are there as agents to promote food security in areas of need. The green revolution has increased food production and hence the issue of the food ceiling, may, as well be debated.

SESSION 3:

3.1 Livelihood options for food insecure households in the periphery: the case of Mukumbura area (Mr Dodo, Bindura University of Science Education)

Mr Obediah Dodo described Mukumbura (in Mt Darwin District), as a settlement succumbing to the ravages of climate change and extreme poverty. The quandary of Mukumbura is also evident in food insecurity, over population, under education, environmental degradation, diseases, civil disorder and crumbling public infrastructure, which have the potential for exacerbating problems in the community- trap the community in the vicious cycle of poverty. Poverty and joblessness is a result of this systematic failure.

In his presentation, Mr Dodo explained several survival strategies used by such a vulnerable societies to cope with food insecurity. Many economically active populations migrate from the community to Mozambique. Some resort to gardening, which faces water shortage problems. He said gardening in the area is done along Mukumbura River but sometimes face some difficulties during the periods of floods. To supplement insufficient food sources, the people in Mukumbura have also resorted to wild fruits such as "masawu" which are used

for making drinks and porridge. During periods of drought, some sell their cattle for less than \$100.

3.1.1 Recommendations:

- There should be water-harvesting projects in the community to increase food security.
- There is need to prioritise such vulnerable rural communities.

3.2 The social ecology of food security in Zimbabwe: the case of Harurwa in Nerumedzo Bikita Zimbabwe (Mr Bandauko, University of Zimbabwe)

Mr Bandauko presented a paper, where he gave a brief background of Nerumedzo communal area in Bikita. He then explained how the local people consider Harurwa as a source of livelihood in the community, where he pointed out several economic and social values of Harurwa as selling at Nyika growth point and in Masvingo; and some buyers are from across the border of Zimbabwe. He further pointed out that, they also use Harurwa to trade with other people for maize or any other agricultural output for food (barter trade). More so, Harurwa can be used to supplement food sources.

Question: Is there no any scientific explanation for Harurwa in Nerumedzo community

Response: Mr Bandauko mentioned that there are no scientific researches done to explain the occurrence of Harurwa in Nerumedzo and urged those who can to carry out such researches for sustainable utilisation of the same.

3.3 Food security and trade protectionism: the effects of Zimbabwe's agricultural subsidies on maize availability and accessibility, Mr Muqayi, University of Zimbabwe

The presentation by Mr Muqayi pointed food security as the pillar in national policies for example ZIMASSET. He also illustrated a variety of subsidies given to local farmers and the criterion for selection of the beneficiaries. He further explained how poor agricultural subsidiary policies and programmes are likely to worsen the food security challenges and prolong food unavailability and inaccessibility. In his presentation, Mr Muqayi, illustrated how agricultural input subsidies increase agricultural output and competitiveness of the local famers. Here, he gave the example of Zambia and Zimbabwe where he pointed out the fertiliser price difference having an impact on the total costs incurred by each farmer (in Zimbabwe US\$34 and in Zambia US \$17)

In conclusion, in cognisance of the where subsidies are being provided in Zimbabwe, and how such subsidies could promote food security, Mr Muqayi provided a list of recommendations, like,

- timely distribution of maize inputs
- public sector reforms, to reduce many institutions involved in the inputs distribution

- need for research and development
- allocation of inputs should be based on competence and merit
- need for monitoring and evaluation
- promote local maize production and avoid dependence
- De-politicisation of agric inputs

SESSION 4

4.1 Introduction

The session gave an opportunity for stakeholders to introspect on the current state of affairs, where Zimbabwe has got it or is going wrong in terms food production and the best way to increase the productivity. Candid and practical, the session left the delegates clear on the best way to proceed.

4.2 Land Reform and Food Security in Zimbabwe, (Mr. J Chivurugwi, Security Expert, Office of the President and Cabinet, Government of Zimbabwe)

He pointed out that national security is at stake when there is hunger. Agriculture is an economic activity, a source of livelihoods and a provider of environmental services. His analysis observed that the land reform started in 1980 meant to distribute equally land between subsistence farmers and the white farmers. He posed questions that, "Is food security a product of land reform?" "Is land reform the cause of the food problem?" In response, he mentioned that indeed inequality in land ownership led to low food production and productivity to the Africans. He also added that other factors like lack of diversified farming and lack of knowledge as chief culprits in the decline of food production. Mr Chivurugwi blamed the two forces that include lack of expertise and lack of capital as contributors to the food insecurity in Zimbabwe. The issue is not about land reform being the cause of food insecurity but the above factors makes it difficult for increased production.

He mentioned that everyone in the economy is tired; the A1 and A2 farmers are now tired of failing to produce, the government of Zimbabwe is now tired of giving free inputs to farmers every year and the Western countries (USA and Britain) are tired of giving pressure on Zimbabwe's land reform. He went on to say the affairs in Zimbabwe have affected other economies like South Africa, Botswana or Namibia. He implored on the need now to move as a group, as an entity to increase production and move forward. He charged that politicians have destroyed our nation, they instilled a feeling that for you to benefit you have to belong to a certain political party but now people are tired of all that. He added, reacting to the claim by Dr. Makochekanwa that Zimbabwe has never been the breadbasket of Southern Africa, that indeed it was a source of food for the region but these problems of food shortage came after the government did not pay the farmers who were producing food.

4.2.1 Recommendations

In his concluding remarks, he made the following recommendations;

- Farmer education or training
- Government should subsidize inputs to boost productivity
- Re-planning on land particularly that is not viable and correct the primitive allocation of land
- Embark on improving the bankability of land for use as collateral security and attract investors.

4.3 Factors Militating against Food Security among Rural Communities in Zimbabwe: The case of Muungwe Village in Masholanand West, Dr. P Kwaira, University of Zimbabwe

The first important message he brought to attention was that rural communities need researchers; failures of rural communities are responsibilities of researchers. He said the global perspectives of food and nutrition are also covered in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which affirmed everyone having the right to a standard of living adequate for health where food is a fundamental right. He appreciated the works of Schumacher (1973) that for one to help any community you have to go there and find out what the community is doing and help them do it better. He urged Zimbabweans to place food and nutrition in community development agenda since food security is a concept of community development. There is need to link food security and appropriate technology in community development hence the need for researchers. Appropriate technology lead to increased food security and sustainable development and management. He blamed the lack of knowledge as the cause of environmental damage. For example, the tobacco farmers in the Maungwe are destroying the green forests.

4.4 Urban Local Governments and Food Security: The case of Zimbabwe, Mrs Tsoriyo, standing in for Dr Musekiwa and Dr Mandiyanike of University of Botswana

In her introductory remarks, she pointed out that agriculture is still seen as a rural enterprise and not an important component of the urban space. Urban areas offer many positive contributions to food production for example high rainfall and readily available technology and inputs. In the same interest, she said urban agriculture can be harmful to infrastructure and should be regulated to observe environmental protection. She stressed that urban agriculture can improve food security and as such, urban local authorities should allocate land for urban agriculture. In Zimbabwe, urban agriculture is unstoppable given the low levels of industrialisation hence the only way is to promote in a regulated and sustainable fashion. Mr Tsoriyo urged Local authorities to ensure food security and local community social equity, economic viability and environmental sustainability.

4.4 Discussion

Comment 1- One participant mentioned she wished if there was a research paper presented on Food Security and Mindsets. This would have linked the food production to the different mindsets. She implored on the need to get things right in the mind, implying that if you think like a thief you will be a thief.

Comment 2- Another participant raised the issue that planning needs implementation; mentioning that Zimbabwe has good plans which lack implementation. He charged that this is how the country had been doing the same things wrong repeatedly.

Comment 3- Polarisation was also mentioned by one participant mentioning that it affects the objective reality and hence the food production. He went on to say, polarized environment is not good for the country. Fighting amongst ourselves is also affecting our food security- the infighting is eating on our resources that we can invest in the food sector. He implored that polarity should be done away with because the country is going nowhere; we are enemies of our own.

Comment 4: Dr. Kwaira from the University of Zimbabwe rhetorically asked how can we increase/improve food security when we are investing nothing in research, science and technology? In the same vein, he charged that there is need for investment in appropriate curriculum; equip education to train investors not consumers; educating design and technology- advanced curriculum from Early Childhood Development.

Comment 5: Another participant mentioned that the food production in the country of Zimbabwe is political where people seek to outdo each other.

4.6 Summary of the Workshop Resolutions

Towards concluding the business of the workshop, participants agreed on a set of resolutions as follows:

- Increase investment in science and technology and researches.
- Invest in youth development - being careful in where we invest our money
- Improve the curriculum of education to instil the right mindsets
- Make land bankable
- Encourage good governance, government be people-centred; government must win people
- Be consistent in policy
- Use of local resources
- Have agricultural entrepreneurial education
- Expedite implementation of plans and ideas
- Engage a systems approach to the food security issues - multi-disciplinary teams to research on the issues.
- Advise ZANU-PF to stop infighting
- Advice media to change focus, so that it moves away from spending time on squabbles and be positive about Zimbabwe

5.0 Way Forward

The workshop participant agreed that OSSREA and all researchers must take the burden to broaden the research on Food and nutrition to come up with robust and contemporary solutions to the problem of food insecurity in Zimbabwe. The participants implored that researchers must collaborate with the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development in form of researches since the minister had invited the workshop to partner his Ministry.

6.0 Vote of Thanks – Dr. Chingono (Director of Ceremonies)

Dr. Chingono hailed the workshop as a valuable contribution to the promotion of food security and nutrition in Zimbabwe. She expressed gratitude to the workshop sponsors and the University of Zimbabwe Vice Chancellor, the OSSREA-Zimbabwe Patron, Professor Levi Nyagura for the successful hosting of the OSSREA - Zimbabwe Chapter workshop 2015. She thanked the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development; Dr J. Made for gracing the occasion and for his resourceful keynote address. Acknowledging the invaluable contributions from the experts and research persons, Dr. Chingono assured them that their effort would not be vain. The speaker also thanked the delegates who had created time to attend the workshop and further exhorted them to be true and passionate champions for collaborating with the government in its efforts to promote food security and nutrition.

END OF WORKSHOP!!!!

Appendix 1 - Programme

OSSREA-Zimbabwe Chapter Workshop 2015

Date: June 12 2012

Venue: University of Zimbabwe (Harare), HLT 200

Theme: The Nutrition and Food Security Question in Zimbabwe: Change and Continuity

Director of Ceremonies: Dr Heather Chingono

Tentative Programme

Time Slot	Activity
0800 – 0830 hrs	Arrival and Registration of Participants
Session One	
0830 – 0835 hrs	Housekeeping
0835-0845 hrs	Introductions by the OSSREA-Zimbabwe Chapter Liaison Officer, Dr Innocent Chirisa
0845 – 0900 hrs	Welcome Remarks by the Patron of OSSREA-Zimbabwe Chapter, University of Zimbabwe Vice-Chancellor, Professor Levi M Nyagura
0900-0915 hrs	Keynote Address by the Minister of Agriculture, Farm Mechanisation and Irrigation Development, Dr Joseph Made
0915-0945hrs	<i>Food Policy in Zimbabwe</i> , Professor, P Mapfumo, University of Zimbabwe <i>Do Food Imports Complement or Compete With Local Production in Zimbabwe?</i> Dr. Albert Makochekanwa, University of Zimbabwe
0945 -1000hs	Discussion
1000-1025 hrs	Tea/Coffee Break, Networking & Posters' Viewing
Session Two	
1025-1100 hrs	<i>The Historical Overtones of the Food Question in Zimbabwe as Portrayed in Literature</i> , Professor Rosemary Moyana, University of Zimbabwe <i>"Come hell, come thunder; an eagle will never return empty-handed": Government and food security in colonial Zimbabwe prior to the 1947 drought</i> , Mr. B Kusena, University of Zimbabwe <i>Extending the Malthusian Debate to the Zimbabwean Food Security Question: Looking for Critical Strands of the Argument</i> , Mrs H Chirisa, Mrs S Moyo & Mr. G Mhlanga, University of Zimbabwe

1100-1130 hrs	Discussion
Session Three	
1130 -1230 hrs	<p><i>Livelihood Options for Food Insecure Households in the Periphery: The Case of Mukumbura Area</i>, Mr. C Nyoni, Mr. O Dodo & Mr. F Maushe, Bindura University of Science Education</p> <p><i>The Social Ecology of Food Security in Zimbabwe: Case of Harurwa in Nerumedzo, Bikita, Zimbabwe</i>, Mr. E Bandauko, Dr. I Chirisa and Mr. J Bhanye</p> <p><i>Urban Local Governments and Food Security: The Case of Zimbabwe</i>, Dr. N Musekiwa and Dr. D Mandiyanike, University of Botswana</p>
1230 -1300 hrs	Discussion
1300 – 1400 hrs	Lunch Break, Networking & Posters' Viewing
Session Four	
1400-1550 hrs	<p><i>Food Security and Trade Protectionism: The Effects of Zimbabwe's agricultural subsidies on maize availability and accessibility</i>, Mr. S Muqayi, University of Zimbabwe</p> <p><i>Land Reform and Food Security in Zimbabwe</i>, Mr. J Chivurugwi, Security Expert, Office of the President & Cabinet, Government of Zimbabwe</p> <p><i>Is it a matter of survival or growth? Scope and Limits to Innovations towards Urban Food Security in Havana (Cuba) and Harare (Zimbabwe)</i>, Dr. I Chirisa, Mr. E Bandauko and Ms G Mandisvika, University of Zimbabwe</p> <p><i>Factors Militating against Food Security among Rural Communities in Zimbabwe: The case of Muungwe Village in Masholanand West</i>, Dr. P Kwaira, University of Zimbabwe</p> <p><i>Urban Local Governments and Food Security: The case of Zimbabwe</i>, Mrs Tsoriyo, standing in for Dr Musekiwa and Dr Mandiyanike of University of Botswana</p>
1550-1620 hrs	Discussion
1620-1645 hrs	Way Forward
1645-1655 hrs	Closing Remarks
1655 -1700hrs	Tea/Coffee Break, Networking & Posters' Viewing
1700hrs	Departure

Poster Presentations

- A. Arguments for and against 'Sack' Potato Production in Zimbabwe: An Urban Planning Perspective on Food Systems Innovations

- B. A Review of Food Security Concepts and Issues: Towards a Pragmatic Model for Zimbabwe
- C. Competing Functions in Space: Of Religion, Houses, Food Production and the Wetlands in Harare
- D. Post-harvest Issues: Rethinking Technology for Value-Addition in Food Security and Food Sovereignty in Zimbabwe
- E. Is it a matter of survival or growth? Scope and Limits to Innovations towards Urban Food Security in Havana and Harare

Appendix 2 -Attendance Register

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