



Midlands State University

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FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

**PROPOSED TOPIC: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ENHANCED MAIZE PRODUCTION
PROGRAMME IN ENSURING FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN GUTU DISTRICT**

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**DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS OF THE BACHELOR OF ARTS HONOURS DEGREE IN
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AT**

MIDLANDS STATE UNIVERSITY

ZVISHAVANE

ZIMBABWE

2017

APPROVAL FORM

The undersigned confirms that they have supervised the student with the following Registration number R144360C of the project title, ***THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ENHANCED MAIZE PRODUCTION PROGRAMME IN ENSURING FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN GUTU DISTRICT***. Submitted in Partial fulfilment of the Bachelor of Arts in Development Studies Honors Degree at Midlands State University.

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DEDICATION

My dedication goes to the Almighty God. If it was not for his unbound and unlimited grace and favor, this dissertation would have not been completed. Your unmerited favor has seen me this far.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To begin with, I would like to thank the Lord Almighty for sailing me through the entire course of my studies. Without the will of the Almighty, nothing would have been possible. Secondly, I am thankful to the Midlands State University, Department of Development Studies particularly my supervisor Professor jephias Matunhu for showing patience and remorseless support and directional supervision through the dissertation writing. I also extend my gratitude to the Gutu farmers and Gutu AGRITEX officers for their unwavering support through the entire course of the research and their contribution towards the study. Finally, my acknowledgements go to my mother Mrs E. Matundu and my lovely sister Miss R. Matundu for their unwavering support and their strong faith in me through the entire course of the dissertation writing. Thank you all once again and may the Almighty continue to bless you abundantly.

ABSTRACT

In Zimbabwe, food security has been always a major challenge in parts of the country especially in the rural areas and many households in the country remain food insecure. Maize being the staple food for the nation and a strategic crop for food self-sufficiency for the nation it been suppressed due to the lack of effective economic policies and this has resulted in the low production of the crop amongst the farmers especially communal farmers in the country. Developing countries have realized the importance of maize production and implemented input scheme programmes to act as a supporting pillar to the already existing agricultural efforts to boost agricultural production to promote food security as well as to boost the nation's economy. However, food security is under threat due to low production of maize especially in communal farmers as compared to the A1 and the A2 farmers. This resulted in the predictions of household food security being under threat due to the continuous underutilization of the available land amongst other factors. The Government's effort in trying to reverse the decline in maize production and promote the nation's food self-sufficiency has been mainly centered on sponsored input scheme programmes but this will only sustain the nation for a short period. Regardless of production gains derived from increased input utilization, sustainable production can also be achieved through effective use of the available resources and effective economic policies.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AGRITEX	Agricultural Technical and Extension Services
CSO	Central Statistics Office
EFP	Emergency Feeding Programme
FAO	Food And Agriculture Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GMB	Grain Marketing Board
I.R.M.A	Information Resource Management Agency
OSSREA	Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern Africa
RBZ	Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe
ZimStats	Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency
ZimVac	Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee

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CHAPTER 1

THE PROBLEM AND ITS SETTING

1.0 Introduction

The programme was aimed at ensuring food self-sufficiency in Zimbabwe particularly in the Gutu district in Masvingo province. This was the government's development move in stimulating agricultural productivity as well as to achieve economic growth through agriculture. The programme was introduced at the start of the 2016 farming season following the perennial food shortage that had hit the country the previous season. Since the programme was not the first to be implemented in Zimbabwe the 2005 to 2006 season saw the introduction of the Taguta/Sisuthi programme which was also aimed at increasing food security in Zimbabwe.

Unlike the Taguta/Sisuthi programme the maize distribution programme was accompanied by the efforts of the government to provide farmers with requisite resources and technical support to optimally produce specified crops. The scheme targeted farmers that were near water bodies and those farmers that could put a minimum of 200 hectares under maize per individual. Each participating farmer was required to produce at least 1000 tonnes and each farmer was earmarked to receive 250 000 U.S dollars. The financial institutions also participated in the programme by providing sufficiently tenured capital of lower interest rates to allow capital investment to be undertaken to boost the economic growth of the nation as well as the to enable more years of seasonal farming.

The programme also paved way for the Presidential Emergency Feeding Programme which was carried out nationwide. The Presidential Emergency Feeding programme gave room for the maize distribution programme to gather momentum because the populace was still

depending on the presidential feeding scheme hence the maize distribution programme had favorable background to achieve better results as well as to meet the expected target .The grain distribution programme also meant that the Presidential Emergency programme would commence even without the importation of grain from other countries because the maize distribution programme aimed at producing surplus grain to feed the nation. Farmers who received the inputs from the program are subuded to deliver five tonnes each of grain to the Grain Marketing Board this is to ensure that the aim of food self-sufficiency is attained in Zimbabwe particularly in Gutu district.

The first chapter of the study covers the problem and its setting that is the background of the study, objectives of the study, significance of the study, research questions, conceptual framework, theoretical framework, delimitations and limitations of the study that's where exactly the main stumbling blocks in attaining the targeted goals of the scheme as well as to find out if the targeted farmer received the expected inputs not turning a blind eye on ethical considerations.

1.1 Background of the Study

The programme was initiated after the realization that there was the need to utilize the land that was available in Zimbabwe to drive the economic growth. Therefore, to do that there was the need to put a strategy in place that would not only generate boost the economy but be as well a tool to prevent persistent hunger that had befall the nation. The government of Zimbabwe introduced the grain distribution programme to farmers that had applied for the programme and were approved by the AGRITEX of Zimbabwe. According to kubatana.net/doc, two thousand farmers were to be identified on a cost recovery basis for three summer seasons and this was to be with the help of the five months' grain cover secured through imports and local purchases.

However, the majority of the farmers in Zimbabwe were inexperienced and this affected the whole programme because they could not abide by the terms of the programme that is to sell half of their produce to the government. According to an interview conducted by the TRT World news, Zimbabwe expected 3,5million metric tonnes of maize and for the country to be food secure it required 2, 5 thousand metric tonnes and 350 metric tonnes was expected to be left over for consumption.

Additionally, the issue of cash still remained the main obstacle to the programme because instead of the farmers to sell their produce to the government the middle man who had cash bought it from the farmers and sold it to the government at a higher price. The focus of the study was mainly on Gutu district because Masvingo province was one of the Zimbabwe's province which managed to improve maize production during the 2016/2017 farming season. The district is one of the second largest district of Masvingo which managed to benefit from the Enhanced Maize Production input scheme programme.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Although the enhanced maize production scheme showed success as it was intended to do there were still some issues that were needed to be addressed such as the issue of cash which had greatly affected the farmers and paved way for losses to the programme. This was a major problem because instead of achieving the targeted goal in time the government now had to introduce harsh measures to try to achieve the aims of the programme such as strict monitoring of the farm land as well as giving the land to those who could produce the expected output. Masvingo province particularly the Gutu district was one of the Zimbabwean districts which was experiencing food shortages and agriculture was not at its best. The Enhanced Maize Production input programme was expected to facilitate the households in this district with food security.

According to the Saravanan (2008), various extension methodologies have been used in Zimbabwe since 1990 and these include participatory extension (farming system trial, farmer field schools) as well as commodity based extension used mainly by private organizations such as the Cotton Company of Zimbabwe and Command Agriculture of 2005. These methods have managed to sustain the country in managing the issue of hunger but have failed to address the issue of economic growth. The study aims to document the contribution of Enhanced Maize Production programme managed on food self-sufficiency for the households in Gutu district.

1.4.0 Objectives of the study

1.4.1 General Objective

The maize distribution programme's main aim was to become the demarcation line between a nominal harvest in Gutu district before the input scheme programme and a bumper harvest after the Enhanced Maize production input scheme programme as well as to examine the various trends of maize production amongst A1, A2 and communal farmers of Gutu district.

1.4.2 Specific Objectives.

1. To understand the measures that can be put in place to ensure food security in Gutu district.
2. To use the research as a supporting pillar for further programmes such as the Emergency School Feeding Programme and how the two programmes can work hand in glove to improve food self-sufficiency in the district.
3. To find the role played by women in ensuring food security in Gutu district.

1.5.1 General research questions

How effective is the maize distribution programme in ensuring food self-sufficiency in Gutu district?

1.5.2 Conceptual Framework.

The programme is not first of its kind however the previous programme did not have full support of the government unlike the maize distribution programme. The programme was aimed at insuring food self-sufficiency following the drought that had hit the nation in the pre farming season of 2015. After the realization that there was the need to maximize the available land at provincial and district level and the need to do away with the future drought problems that had perennially hit the nation as well as to boost the economy of the nation through this programme.

The government introduced the maize distribution programme which was aimed to produce two point two million metric tonnes of maize on 40 000 hectors of land. Registered and identified farmers were given inputs such as fertilizers, irrigation equipment and other mechanized equipment. The scheme targeted farmers that near water bodies and those farmers that could put a minimum of 200 **hectors** under maize per individual. The financial institutions also participated in the programme by providing sufficiently tenured capita, of lower interest rates to allow capital investment to be undertaken to boost the economic growth of the nation as well as the to enable seasonal farming for the years to come.

1.7 Theoretical Framework

The relationship between livelihoods and food security and food self-sufficiency is complex and influenced by a number of factors that vary in importance across situations and over time. Food security refers broadly to the ability of individuals to obtain sufficient food on a day to day basis. Within the context of this definition, food security has three primary components thus food availability, food access and food utilization.

Chambers and Conway (1991), a livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets and activities required for means of living hence a livelihood is sustainable which can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at local and global levels in the short and long. Henceforth this theory fits in the context of trying to shed light on the maize distribution programme which is aimed at improving the livelihoods of the Gutu district households through the use of assets and resources to generate income.

The theory further sheds light on how provide food self-sufficiency by maintaining or enhancing its capabilities and land as the asset that will provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation and which contributes net benefit that is the aim of the programme to generate income to stabilize the economy.

1.8 Significance of the Study

The reason behind this research is to find out how best the nation of Zimbabwe can improve food self-sufficiency through the input distribution programmes as well as to find relevant solutions to improve the programme and other future programmes that the government or stakeholders might want to embark on. The main beneficiaries of the programme and the research are the populace of Zimbabwe the reason being the programme was initially started to improve the issue of food security in Zimbabwe and along the way to also improve the economic growth through the utilization of the available lands and favorable weather conditions through agriculture.

The secondary beneficiaries of the programme are the farmers who are partaking in the programme. They are of paramount importance because they are the ones who are covering most of the ground work of the programme hence the need to actively work with them during

the study. The research is of paramount importance because it is a tool for building knowledge and efficiency learning for future studies or for similar programmes.

Furthermore, the research is of paramount importance because it can shed light on issues which had not been considered or known to be existing for example the case of this research the issue of the cash crisis which is affecting the farmers as well as the programme and also this can give space to raise question that were not asked before (Freedman 2011). This programme there might be more hidden problems affecting the programme other than the one outlined earlier.

1.8 Limitations

Time is of great essence in any line of research and for this research it was limited because the research required more time to produce meaningful results. Another limiting factor is the issue of money, for there to be maximization of research and data collection money had to be one of the top priorities. It almost became impossible to reach other areas due to the lack of means of transport at the same moment time will be moving. The issue of protocol when it came to data collection especially on the side of the intended interviewed personnel. In most cases the people who could offer the data would have gone out of office and some of them especially the Gutu communal farmers linked the research study to political issues.

1.9 Research Ethics

In carrying out every research confidentiality is of paramount importance, therefore during the field of the research, the researcher had to make sure it was my top priority to safe guard confidentiality throughout the entire research. The researcher made sure that every individual or team that the researcher was going to be interviewing understood the importance of confidentiality in this research and how it was going to affect the research if it was not upheld.

The researcher had to explain the importance of the interview and the research to the farmers and the district AGRITEX officers.

Language was also of paramount importance to the study because for there to be transparency and understanding the researcher had to use the local language in the area of study which is Gutu district to facilitate easy communication. Plagiarism was of the major ethical considerations and to guard against plagiarism the research acknowledged all sources from other academics to make the research authentic.

1.11 Chapter summary

The above discussion pointed out the problem and its settings, background of the study, objectives, theoretical framework, problem statement as well as the significance of the study.

The main aim of the chapter was to give an insight of the research and what it intends to solve.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

Agriculture has always played a pivotal role in maintaining food security in Zimbabwe. In actual fact it is actually the main source of food in Zimbabwe hence the term staple food of the country. Implemented programmes such as the Enhanced Maize Production was responsible for promoting self-food sufficiency in Zimbabwe over the years. Agriculture proved to be the backbone of the economy hence the need to implement such programmes. In southern African countries a sum of the population that lives in the rural areas depend almost entirely on subsistence agriculture.

Developing countries if not all of them turn to such agricultural programmes for one can note that the lack of inputs has been a major problem to the success of agriculture to the extent of living nations in food crisis that is why countries that succeeded in implementing such programmes are food secure and some of them such as Brazil have gone to the extent of exporting agricultural surplus thus increasing their GDP. One can clearly note that programmes such as the Enhanced Maize Production have a long effective way of dealing with the crisis of food insecurity. In Zimbabwe agriculture has been a source of income as well as employment for some families.

According to Rukuni (2000), agriculture produces 25% of Zimbabwe's Gross Domestic Product. According to McCann (2009) a few African countries either exports annually (in a year of good rainfall patterns). McCann (2009) further gave an example of the Ethiopian government which expressed its intention to be a net exporter of maize as soon as the measure of the success of its maize extension programme.

2.1 The role of the Enhanced Maize Production

The Zimbabwean government established a farming inputs subsidy scheme that was aimed improving the Zimbabwe agricultural sector as well as to promote food security in the country. The subsidy mainly targeted the A1 farmers, old resettlement and small-scale farmers who were mostly active in the agricultural activities and those who were near the water bodies. Since Zimbabwe has been a country facing perennial drought seasons it was high time the government had to put some form of strategy to do away with such a problem. Henceforth it was of paramount importance for the enhanced maize production to be initiated because it was going to do away with food shortages as well as to boost the Zimbabwean economy through helping farmers with agricultural inputs as well as making a few changes to the agricultural policies such as the negotiations between the Zimbabwean government and the banks.

According to an online source, advocacy officer for the Bankers Association of Zimbabwe said banks and the government reached an agreement on the issue of the 99 years' lease. This made farming easier for Zimbabwe since it became easy for farmers to access loans from banks. Therefore, the programme was accompanied by a package which allowed easy access of loan for farmers meaning that agriculture was now more viable than it was before the initiation of the programme. The primary objective of the Enhanced maize production is to develop a system which supports food security for the whole country. According to Byerlee and Eicher (1997), maize is Africa's most important food staple hence Africa's emerging maize revolution represents a ray of hope that the crisis can be addressed.

African countries have put in place maize production, inputs and marketing system that have been instrumental in transforming maize into a major food and cash crop. These programmes have sort to enhance food self-sufficiency as well as rural economic growth. Southern African countries such as Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa, Malawi as well as Tanzania have taken

advantage of growing maize in relatively favorable productive environment so that it can be used to accelerate food security in these countries. Supply farmers with inputs to increase maize production this is done to facilitate a continuous system of maize production through the establishment of marketing agencies whose role is to expand, process depositing of agricultural inputs and providing adequate price stability to protect farmers from price fluctuation.

According to Heisey and Smale (1995), the growth of maize production in any country is through the formation of a functional continuous system which has roles such as the depositing agricultural inputs as well as providing a stable market to protect maize production from effects of fluctuating markets and regular price controlling. Another example can be derived from Kenya whereby the more they increased inputs and give farmers credit and skills for good agronomic management the more the harvest increased. Hence the role of the input scheme programme in Kenya was to promote continuous increase in maize production through increasing agricultural inputs to farmers.

Reduction of import rate of maize was one of the main roles of the Enhanced Maize Production this was going to help the country in reduce the importation fees that the nation was paying to get maize from other countries thus the Enhanced Maize Production assured the nation availability of maize meaning there was less or no need to import grain in the country. According to Sintya et al (2004), the elimination of maize import can cause the increase in its demand in a particular area hence in the case of Zimbabwe the Enhanced Maize Production was to do away with the need to import maize and introduce a demand driven market in the nation; maximizing the available land as well as good rainfall patterns by providing farmers with inputs and creating employment in the agriculture sector.

2.2 Factors affecting the effectiveness of the enhanced maize production programme

Agriculture forms the backbone of most developing countries' economy hence the effort that these countries exert when it comes to implementing programmes which affects food security. Funding has been one of the major problems that affect these programmes. This can be evidenced by a newspaper article published by the Newsday (16 April 2017) which reported that the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development only received 30% in budgetary allocations from the Treasury crippling agricultural research service activities. This has resulted in the inadequacy of equipment and the old machinery which is available is outdated and as a result the countries interaction with the outside economy is limited.

According to Byerlee and Eicher (1997), the major crop and resource management problem for many production systems is the decline in soil fertility conveyed by increasing population density and the demise of traditional fallow methods of maintaining soil fertility. Furthermore, the case of soil fertility has affected agricultural land policies in many countries who mostly depend on agriculture. Though many institutes have tried to come up with innovations to solve the case of soil fertility but this has not been much of success. Evidence can be derived from the case of a three-year study (2008-11) which was conducted in two smallholder farming areas of eastern Zimbabwe to evaluate the influence of farmer methods on soil fertility. The conclusion was that farmer soil fertility management influence nutrients in maize grown without external fertilization in Zimbabwean sandy soils (Lehmann 2008).

In Zimbabwe the input subsidy lowered the cost of production for farmers hence becoming another issue which affected the effectiveness of the enhanced maize production. The subsidy could have enticed farmers to increase production even when inflation was very high. This development may have surprised the negative impact of hyperinflation on agriculture production. Beside the issue of hyperinflation, production was also titled by other macro-economic challenges that beset the economy during the period the enhanced maize production was launched.

Another factor was that of price control in Zimbabwe though the issue of price controlling affect almost all developing countries at some point but in Zimbabwe it had reached the extremes greatly affecting the agriculture sector and its programmes. The Zimbabwean government tried to curb the countries rampant currency inflation hence embarking on a price control of all basic commodities even agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, seeds as well as stock feeds.

2.3 General Overview of the Enhanced Maize Production

The Enhanced Maize Production is one of the most effective approaches that the country embarked on, hence such form of a programme assured the country of Zimbabwe a food secured long term period. This can be evidenced by this case of Malawi under President **Kamuzu Banda** as well as Zimbabwe under the leadership of Robert Mugabe. The Enhanced maize production was aimed at ensuring food self-sufficiency for the nation as well as to encourage economic growth through the surplus which was to be exported to generate foreign currency. This programme was introduced during the farming season of 2016/2017 which was accompanied by favorable rainfall for agriculture at its best. The programme provided farmers with requisite resources and technical support to ensure the success of the programme as well as to maximize utilization of the good rainfall pattern.

The scheme targeted farmers who could access water bodies for easy irrigation as well as farmers who had the capacity of producing 200 hectares of maize that very same season each participating farmer was required to produce at least 1000 tonnes. The financial institutions such as the Agri Bank and other commercial banks also participated in the programme by providing sufficiently tenured capital of lower interest rates to allow capital investment to be undertaken to boost the economic growth of the nation as well as the to enable more years of seasonal farming. Banks and the government reached an agreement on the issue of the 99 years'

lease. This made farming easier for Zimbabwean farmers as well as investors since it has become easy for them to access loans from banks. The programme also paved way for the Presidential Emergency Feeding Programme (PEFP) which was carried out nationwide.

The Presidential EFP gave room for the maize distribution programme to gather momentum because the populace was still depending on the presidential feeding scheme hence the maize distribution programme had favorable background to achieve better results as well as to meet the expected target .The grain distribution programme also meant that the Presidential Emergency programme would commence even without the importation of grain from other countries because the maize distribution programme aimed at producing surplus grain to feed the nation. Farmers who received the inputs from the program are subdued to deliver five tonnes each of grain to the GMB this was to ensure that the aim of food self-sufficiency is attained in Zimbabwe.

2.4 Chapter summary

Conclusively it can be noted that the introduction of the Enhanced maize production came as an essential to help lift the struggling Zimbabwean economic sector as well as to promote a viable sustainable long lasting nation which is food self-sufficient and secure. The background of the study shows that the enhanced maize production like in any other country it came as a necessity for the food crisis that had befall the nation of Zimbabwe. This Chapter gave a light of how the Enhanced maize production commenced and this as well gives the researcher a head start in gathering accurate and necessary information.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the types of research methods that were employed by the researcher in gathering information for the study. This chapter mainly brings out how the researcher explored the relationship between information and sources be it primary or secondary data. The chapter will also seeks to clearly examine the methods that were used to try and find accurate, reliable and non-biased research information. This chapter also reviews the different methods used by the researcher and these include random sampling techniques, interviews, questionnaires as well as secondary data. Targeted population as well as the sample size are examined in this chapter. Chapter 3 further shows how people were selected and the technique used to select the representatives of the of the Enhanced maize production input scheme.

3.1 Study Area

Gutu district which is situated in the south-east of Zimbabwe in Masvingo province was used a case study for this research with an estimated population of 203 083 people according to the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (2012). Masvingo provincial maize production in the 2016/2017 farming season was officially estimated at a well above average of **150 938** million metric tonnes significantly higher than the drought reduced output of 2016 and Gutu district was one of the districts which managed to excel in the 2016/2017 farming seasons in terms of maize production.

The district is divided into 40 wards and the district has great potential of producing large amounts of maize given adequate inputs as well as favorable climatic conditions. Gutu district has many sources of irrigation such as Nyazvidzi, Dewure and Mungezi rivers which can be

used to facilitate irrigation projects in the district. These rivers contributed to the targeting of the district as one of the beneficiaries of the Enhanced Maize Production input scheme programme. The climate of Gutu district falls under natural region III which receives 651-800 mm of uneven rainfall on an average annually.

3.2 Research Design

Research design refers to the overall strategy that one chooses to interrogate different components of the study in a coherent and logical way thereby insuring effective addressing of the research problem, De Vaus (2001). In this case the researcher used the descriptive research design. According to Shield and Rangarajan (2013), the descriptive approach is used to describe characteristics of a population being examined hence it does not answer question such as how, why and when the characteristic under observation occurred. The descriptive approach was employed for gathering data because it does not affect the subject under examination. Another advantage of this approach is that it enables the researcher to gather information that is on the ground thus it gives the researcher clear insight of the data thereby providing less biased information.

3.3 Research Methodology

According to Strauss (2001), a research methodology is a systematic way of responding to research questions using realistic gathered data. Therefore, methodology is of vital importance to the study for it helps to create a link between the inputs and the outputs of the study. The study employed triangulation approach which comprises of both qualitative and quantitative research methods as to help the researcher to come up with meaningful presentation of data.

The researcher used the triangulation approach to classify features as well as to create a statistical model in an attempt to explain what the researcher observed. Another reason for

employing this method was to produce the researched findings in numerical and statistical data. The use of the triangulation approach helped the researcher to interrogate all aspects of the research judiciously and it always gave the researcher an advantage of making data collection easier since the researcher was using tools such as the questionnaires and secondary sources to get numerical data. The researcher was objectively separated from the subject matter through this approach. However, the use of triangulation approach makes the cost of acquiring data expensive and double and a large amount of time will be invested in coming up with meaningful results.

Collis and Hussey (2003) is of the assertion that quantitative offers a complete description and analysis of a research subject without limiting the scope of the research and nature of participant's responses. Nevertheless, scholars such as Bells (2005) strongly believe that qualitative approach is heavily based on skills and ability of the researcher whilst the outcome may not perceive as reliable because they mostly come from the researcher's personal judgment.

3.4 Research Instruments and Administration

The researcher made the use of interviews, and structured questionnaires to the A1, A2 and communal farmers of Gutu district as well as secondary data or already existing data this was done to guarantee the authenticity and the practicability of the study.

3.5 Interviews

An interview is a conversation or questioning for the purpose of acquiring data for publication or for record keeping this is according to the Oxford dictionary. There are different types of interviews and they range from less structured to semi-structured using a topic guide depending on the type of data which needs to be obtained and the intended provider of the data. Interviews

were of great importance in carrying out the research because the researcher managed to obtain first-hand information and views of the respondents on how the Enhanced Maize Production managed to bring about food self-sufficiency in Gutu district. The researcher's interviews targeted the spear headers of the programme and the Gutu farmers who participated in the programme as well as the AGRITEX officers and the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture. These interviews aided in obtaining valuable information to aid to the success of the study.

Advantages

- The respondents asked for further clarification from the researcher which made it easier for understanding as well as collecting information from the respondents.
- The interviewer could also ask for clarification where he did not understand
- There was room to ask for relevant information only since the questions were open ended and closed ended.

Disadvantages

- Clarity was a challenge because some of the farmers had forgotten some of the vital information.
- These interviews were time consuming due to observation of protocol especially in organizations where the researcher had to wait until the authorized respondent comes
- Some of the respondents were afraid as they linked the interviews to political issues hence it was difficult to obtain the needed information.

3.6 Questionnaires

The researcher submitted structured questionnaires to the targeted respondents. The researcher managed to gather data using the participants of the programme especially the A1 farmers and the communal farmers of the Gutu district. The reason being that the researcher wanted to get

firsthand information on why they were picked or why they enrolled for the programme. The questionnaire included open ended and closed ended questions in which both literate and semi-literate respondents could understand and answer.

Advantages

- Both semi-literate and literate respondents could understand and answer the questions of the questionnaire.
- The questionnaires were time conserving because from handing the questionnaire to the respondents and collecting it did not take time.
- Questionnaire fulfilled the blanks that were left by interviews such as the figures and dates

Disadvantages

- Some of the respondents did not return the questionnaires
- Some questionnaires returned with blank spaces meaning the respondents were not comfortable filling in the information
- The questionnaires were costly in terms of submitting them and collecting them.

3.7 Secondary data / already existing data

The researcher also utilized secondary information or as it is known as the already existing sources. The secondary data comprised of newspapers, online sources and textbooks. According to Hamilton (2005), secondary source is a record that was created sometime after an event. Hamilton further explains that it is therefore the researcher's job to find the right secondary data which supports his/her study. The researcher also made use of the annual reports from organizations such as the ZimStats. The reason why the researcher used secondary data was to provide strong supporting pillars to the research this was also done to make sure that

the researcher left no stone unturned. The research depended on the secondary data as to find out if the Enhanced Maize production programme managed to ensure food self-sufficiency in Zimbabwe particularly the Gutu district as a whole.

3.8 Population Sampling and Procedure

The research employed probability-sampling procedure since it gives equal chances of selection for each respondent. Probability sampling is categorized into simple, random, systematic and cluster. One of the most important advantages is that it removes the element of bias in the interview range and it gives equal chances of selection for each respondent. Five wards were randomly nominated in Gutu district that had most A1, A2 and communal farmers who benefited from the Enhanced Maize Production input scheme programme and their maize production output. These wards were Chimedza, Chitsa, Gutu South, Makore and Matizha to represent the whole district.

Interviews were carried out to determine the families which were in need of food assistance. In this survey one village was systematically randomly selected in each randomly selected 5 wards in Gutu district. In an estimated population of 203083 people using the formula $n = \frac{N}{1} + Ne^2$ and 95% confidence level, margin error of 5% to determine the sample size was 399 respondents of the questionnaires and interviews. Sampling of wards was done with the assistance of Gutu AGRITEX officers that had a better insight of the farm distribution in Gutu district. The research study sampled 60 farmers in Gutu district of which 25 were A1 farmers and 15 were A2 farmers and 20 were the communal farmers. The research went on to sample the families that were in need of food assistance in Gutu district.

3.9 Research ethics

Prior to conducting the study, the researcher took into consideration ethical issues. The researcher took note of standards for manners that differentiate between acceptable and unacceptable conduct thus the researcher observed confidentiality and privacy. The researcher also took the liberty to ask for permission from authorities of heads of departments such as the AGRITEX offices, the farmers as well as the Ministry of Agriculture Mechanization and Irrigation Development. The researcher used a letter provisioned by the school department which seeks permission to carry out the research.

3.10 Analytic Frame Work

Research findings and discussions will be unveiled in chapter four of the study. The researcher is going to use both qualitative and quantitative research approaches. Furthermore, the researcher employed a descriptive and explanatory analysis as well as secondary data and the data the researcher collected from questionnaires and interviews. Descriptive approach uses calculating and interpreting percentages and frequency suitable for various means of collecting data and surveys. Various methods that the researcher used will bring out a clear picture on how the Enhanced Maize Production affected food self-sufficiency in Gutu district.

3.11 Limitation to data Collection

Access to data necessary for the study was a major challenge for the researcher. Primary as well as secondary data was difficult to obtain due to protocol issues within source organizations thus it affected the time frame of the study in a negative way. Illiteracy of some of the respondents also affected data collection as well as the forgetfulness of the famers who participated in the programme since they could not recall the exact dates and the figures of the programme hence the researcher had to compare with the already existing data from

organizations and online sources such as the newspapers and published journals. Some of the respondents did not want to release data because they associated the research with political issues hence the researcher had to bring out the issue of confidentiality. However, the researcher managed to obtain the required information with the available limited resources and time.

3.12 Chapter summary

This chapter focused on the methodologies employed by the researcher on gathering information for the study. The researcher utilized all the necessary skills needed such as privacy and the researcher's questionnaires were designed in a manner that all levels of semi-literate and literate respondents could understand.

CHAPTER 4

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.0 Introduction

The chapter focused on the presentation of data and analysis which the researcher used in his area of study. The information that was provided was in form of narrative format and through the use of tables and graphs gathered from research. The data was also collected from the participants of the Enhanced Maize production which included the A1, A2 and the communal farmers in various parts of Gutu district as well the families who were in need of food assistance. The research further in cooperates data from the various organizations such as Zimbabwe Population Services, AGRITEX department as well as the Ministry of Agriculture Mechanization Development. The results were based on the objectives of the study which were outlined in the first chapter. The results of the study were based on the results of the data provided by the above mentioned sources.

4.1 Response rate to Interviews

The researcher carried out 12 out of the 15 intended interviews which were conducted from various organization and individuals such as the AGRITEX department, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands as well as the beneficiaries of the input scheme programme. The researcher had the interviews mostly done in Headquarters of these organization as well as visits from farmers in various wards of the Gutu district. The researcher had to use platforms such as the WhatsApp messenger and telephone interviews this was done to cut the costs and to save time. The interviews had better results than anticipated and some of the respondents of the interviews were willing to participate the researcher got 80% of the intended interviews.

4.2 Response rate to questionnaires

The researcher mostly handed out questionnaires to main participants of the programme who were the A1 and A2 farmers and the communal farmers who were located near dam projects in this instance the researcher approached the farmers near Ruti and Matezva dams. The researcher distributed 1 questionnaire per every random selected A1 and A2 farm in Gutu district. The researcher randomly picked 20 A1 farmers 20 A2 farmers and 20 communal farmers in 5 wards to represent Gutu district. The researcher also distributed these questionnaires to various departments which included the AGRITEX offices and Ministry of Lands and Agriculture. The researcher managed to give out at least 68 questionnaires to the farmers and out of the 68 only 63 questionnaires gave back their responses.

4.3 National budget allocation to the Enhanced Maize Production Programme

The Government's Enhanced Maize Production targeted all abled farmers to partake in the programme. One of the government's aim was to increase crop production by small scale farmers. According to the Zimbabwean 2017 Monetary Budget, the government provided financial support for the vulnerable farmers under the budgeted \$242.2 million US dollars. The aimed budget and production as a whole covered maize, cotton, soya beans and livestock. The government continued to put food security at its peak of proprieties as well as prioritizing active private sectors participating in financial agriculture and improvements in farming techniques. Each participating farmer was required to produce 1000 tonnes of maize and 2.2 million metric tonnes were produces that farming season and Zimbabwe required 3.5 million metric tonnes to be food self-sufficient and the remaining 350 000 metric tonnes surplus were to be a substitute grain imports of the Presidential Emergency School Feeding Programme. The surplus of the Enhanced Maize Production was to be sold to the GMB by the farmers who participated in the programme.

4.4 Beneficiaries of Enhanced Maize Production

Beneficiaries of the Enhanced Maize Production Programme were those farmers who were mostly located near the water bodies be it the A1 or the A2 farmers and communal farmers thus those who were able to produce 1000 metric tonnes of maize these include the smallholder's farmers or the large scale farmers

- A1 farmers these were the farmers who had an average of 6 hectares of land. These farmers were entitled to participate in the programme because they contribute greatly in the nation's agriculture. According to the Chronicle Newspaper (June 2017) they managed to contribute 24% of the 2.2 million metric tonnes which were produced.
- A2 farmers comprised at an estimate of 20 000 farm unites with the inclusive of other ranges of larger scale commercial farms in addition. These are the drivers of the economy as they were occupied by capable commercial-perception who were able to invest in new production. These beneficiaries would accommodate demand from the middle classes and the elite.
- Communal farmers were also part of those who participated and benefited from the programme. Communal farmers were the leading in maize production for the 2016-17 farming season, as their outputs increases. According to the final crop and livestock assessment report issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development communal farmers increase their yield with an expected harvest of 770 682 tonnes, (The Herald 27 April 2018).

4.5 Levels of The Enhanced Maize Production Programme vs Numbers of Beneficiaries

The initial planning phase of the Enhanced Maize Production input scheme strategically targeted those farmers had land and could participate in maize production with the aid of inputs. Taking for instance the Tokwe Mukosi dam was inaugurated in May 2017. The dam was

expected to transform Masvingo province into an industrial hub, supporting key sectors such as agriculture, tourism and energy, (FAO 2017). The dam was to become Zimbabwe's largest inland lake with the potential to irrigate an additional 25 000 ha of land in the Lowveld which represents almost 50 % of the land which was irrigated.

FAO (2017) further gives examples of areas who were beneficiaries of the input scheme these include Lupane where agriculture was going to utilize water from the Bubi-Lupane dam thus providing sustainable livelihood for the people in that area. In a survey conducted by the researcher AGRITEX officers were helping in identifying the beneficiaries of the free inputs that were being distributed by the government in Gutu district. The programme ended up targeting all capable farmers and the targeting criteria of those who were interested in the Enhanced Maize Production input scheme were that

- Household should be able to cultivate the area set for maize production
- The farmer should be able to cover transport fee to and from the input collection depots
- Area must conducive for maize production
- Geographical location of the farm land thus if it located near water bodies or if its accessible to roads for easy transportation of products

Nevertheless, the researcher discovered that the government started distributing farming inputs to the GMB depots around the country. Communal farmers got one bag of seed and one seed of fertilizer. The researcher also found out in the questionnaire that some of the communal farmers said the inputs were not enough to cater for the whole farming season as compared to those inputs which were given to the A2 farmers under the scheme. This might have been the case of corruption or the government had centred the programme on A1 and A2 farmers.

4.6 Findings from the Survey

This section is going to analyze the findings from the agricultural and food security survey done in Gutu district of Masvingo province in Zimbabwe and under the Enhanced Maize Production input scheme. The targeted population was 399 both of the interviews carried out by the researcher as well as the questionnaires from the research study. The research study also relied on the information provided by surveys from organizations such as the 2017 National budget, Ministry of Agriculture Mechanization Development (14 June 2017) to come up with accurate information about whether the Enhanced Maize production managed to provide food security to the nation.

4.7 Levels of maize production in Gutu district

The research study observed that the levels of maize production from the whole district with variation from A1, A2 and communal farmers. According to the data obtained from FAO (2 February 2018), maize production was exceptional in Masvingo province where the rains were above average. However, other parts of Gutu district were affected by early planted maize crop which resulted in minimum maize production. FAO (2018), states that the government of Zimbabwe continued to support agricultural production due to the low production activities in some of these provincial wards and districts and provinces. The 60 farmers who were the respondents showed that there was an increase in maize production as compared to the previous farming season.

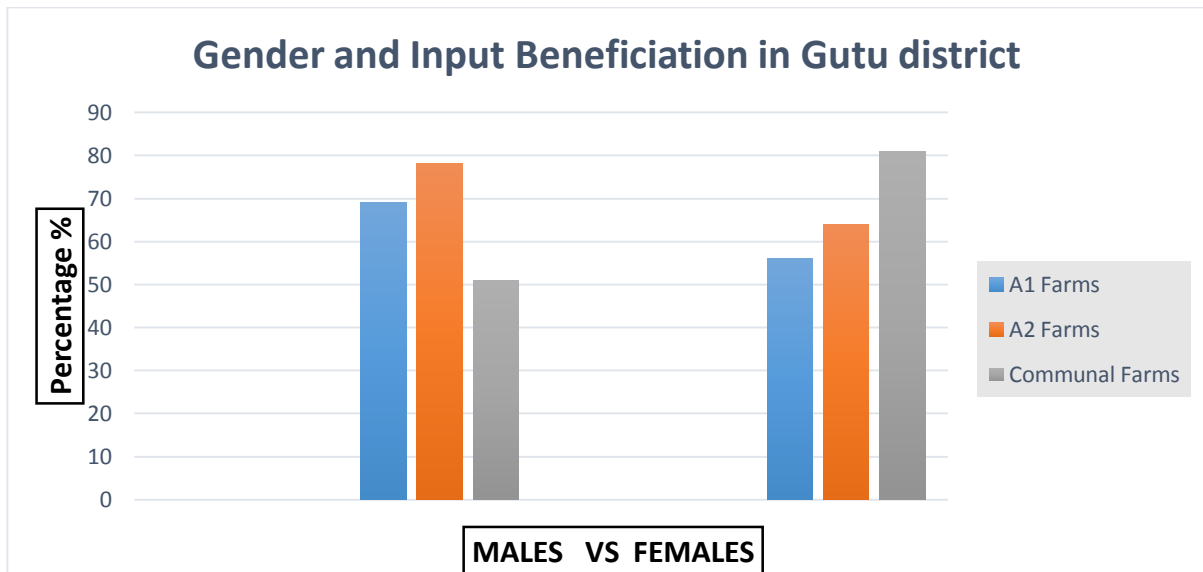
4.8 Gender and Input Beneficiation

An observation made on the relationship between the farmers and gender in terms of the input scheme beneficiation shall explained and illustrated in the table below. The results showed that

the Enhanced Maize Production input scheme benefited the males as compared to their female counter parts. The results were derived from the questionnaires, interviews of the research study and the criteria used by the input scheme to select the beneficiaries of the programme in Gutu district. According to the OSSREA (2004), the bulk of beneficiaries of agricultural development programmes in most developing countries are mostly males as compared to their female counter parts.

OSSREA (2004) further explains that children and women usually provide labor in cropping and irrigating while men generally provide the cash to invest in technology, livestock, seed, fertilizers and other inputs on land. The table below shows the results of the study done by the researcher through interviews and questionnaires. The table shows that men are mostly dominant in the A1 and A2 farming activities as compared to the females who are dominant mostly in communal farming. The research study showed that in Gutu men are at the peak of the farming activities with 50% and above in both A1 and A2 farms.

Table 1



Source: Raw data (2018)

Nevertheless, the results above might have been affected by several factors which includes;

- **Corruption**

In developing countries agricultural inputs are mostly affected by economic hardships which in turn results in corruption. The authorities that spearhead these programmes are usually the ones that are corrupt. Birner et al (2007), states that the more extension agents are in the distribution of inputs and credit the greater the opportunity for corruption. In Zimbabwe the issue of corruption also left many people disadvantaged and food insecure especially women who were eager to participate in the enhanced maize production programme. Reports made by an online source VOA (31 January 2012) showed that farmers in Gutu district in Masvingo protested to what they called looting of farming inputs by senior politicians in the local Zanu PF branch. Other programmes such as the GMB Input Scheme were derailed by rampant corruption at the depots, (Chitando et al 2016).

- **Cash crisis**

In Zimbabwe the cash crisis affected the agriculture sector as well especially in the rural areas where some of the beneficiaries had to sell their input to obtain cash. In a survey conducted by the researcher, it showed that there were the presents of the people who were called the “middle man”, these people approached the beneficiaries with cash in return for inputs. In an interview by one communal farmer she told the researcher that the issue of poverty

- **Lack of technical know how**

Most of the beneficiaries received the inputs without proper without proper management skills this meant that quite a number of these farmers especially the resettled farmers did not possess the technical knowhow of agricultural production. Though they received these inputs, they only planted a small portion of the land even though they qualified in criteria used by the programme to target the beneficiaries. One of the reason was that they preferred to plant a small portion of land for consumption rather than for selling or business endeavour. In a survey done by the researcher in the communal areas the non-beneficiaries of the programme were productive in terms of maize production as compared to those who benefited from the Enhanced Maize Production input scheme

- **Climate variability**

In Zimbabwe climate variability as affected women greatly in these input scheme programme because women play most of the pivotal role in agriculture. FAO (2011) reports alludes that women produce 80 percent of the continents food. The report further reveals that women most do part of the hoeing and weeding hence the variations in rainfall patterns put women on a disadvantage because most of them do not have the

financial muscle to find irrigation equipment. Furthermore, these women would prefer to rely on other sources of food and water sources rather than to put time and effort in large scale maize production.

Therefore, this means that though the women would have received the input but due to climate change there would be the need to provide the whole package of the inputs which includes maize seed, tractors, irrigation equipment and other necessities. The research study noted that in Gutu district women mostly experience the negative effects of climate changes due to multiple duties that will be at hand.

4.9 Sustainable Livelihood Capital Analysis on Sampled Farmers

- **Human capital**

Human capital in agriculture is of paramount importance because it is the human capital that contributes to the success of agricultural output. Merriman (2017) defines human capital as the useful skills and knowledge individuals acquire to increase individual productivity and produce economic value. In this context the A1 and A2 farmers mostly depended on human capital which was funded from their pockets. In an interview conducted by the researcher, the A1 and A2 farmers mostly invested about US\$1 500 in relation of human capital from the beginning of the farming season up until the end of the farming season. Whereas the communal farmers use the family members as their human capital. Results of the research showed people who do communal farming usual have a minimum number of 6 people in their family therefore it becomes less of an effort to find finances to cater for human capital. Nonetheless, it takes a certain amount of time to plough the land and plant the maize inputs for communal farmers as

compared to the A1 and A2 farmers who mostly have farming equipment which include tractors and other forms of machinery.

- **Financial Capital**

Financial capital can be defined as any form of resource or measure which can be converted to accelerate economic development. It is important for any entrepreneur to grasp the concept of the importance of financial capital. According to Kesavan (2005), financial capital is important because it affects profitability of any form business. The study showed that the A1 and A2 farmers in Gutu district had the financial muscle to supplement on other inputs that the government did not put as part and parcel of the programme input benefits.

These supplements include weed chemicals, pesticides and other necessary agricultural products. Whereas the communal farmers depended on their households to remove weeds from the land. The communal farmers also depended on natural supplements for fertilizers such as cow dung and other forms of manure. Hence they required less no capital to supplement their agriculture products.

- **Natural capital**

This form of capital mainly focuses on the natural resources available for any form of business activity. The farmers mainly owned land as well as animal. According to the Zimbabwe Land Reform summary (2011) there are variations in the sizes of farms in Zimbabwe, the average size of the A1 farms is 37 hectares and the A2 farms are at an estimated 318 hectares. The study discovered that the farmers used natural capital in form of cattle to plough their lands as compared to the A1 and A2 farmers who used machinery for farming. The research further discovered that only 30% of the A1

farmers depend do not have natural capital except land this means from ploughing up to harvesting they depended on machinery and in some cases they had to hire the machinery.

4.10 Comparison of maize production levels in Gutu district

Table shows different variations in two different agricultural seasons in Gutu district with the same government but with different economic policies. The farming season of 2015/2016 was mainly characterized by unsuccessful agricultural policies which saw low maize production in Gutu district. This can be evidenced by the Drought Mitigation and resuscitation policies which were established by the RBZ in 2005. According to the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (2005) agriculture was at the heart of Zimbabwe's economy contributing to as much as 18% of the GDP though the country had 150 000 ha of irrigable land and 12 000 ha which had operational irrigation facilities and a budget which was set aside of Z\$1 trillion for the schemes the country still experienced low maize production. Other factors which contributed to the agricultural schemes of 2015/2016 farming season were the issues of economic polies which caused cash crisis as well as corruption hence resulting in low production of maize in the country.

Nevertheless, the above table shows a massive increase in maize production this was because of functional economic policies such the multicurrency system which attracted investors, dam projects such as Tokwe Mukosi in Masvingo, as well as multiple functional agriculture input schemes such as the Command Agriculture programme.

4.11 Maize Production and Food Security in Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe the communal farmers and the A1 farmers mainly produce maize for food self-sufficient purposes as compared to the A2 farmers who mainly practice maize production for business purposes. The Ministry of Agriculture assumes that an average adult has a consumption of 110 Kgs of maize per annum and in Zimbabwe a household is estimated to

have an average of 6 members according to the CSO (2014). This automatically means that a family can consume up to 660 Kgs of grain per annum.

In an estimated population of 203083 people using the formula $n = \frac{N}{1} + Ne^2$ and 95% confidence level, the sample size was 399 respondents removing the 60 farmers who had land. The households were systematically randomly sampled in 5 random wards. Interviews were carried out to determine the families which were in need of food assistance with 2 various key informants on food assistance.

The survey selected one village systematically randomly in 5 wards in Gutu district. The final sample size of the families was at 339 families (with the omission of the 60 farmers) in Gutu district that represents the households who were in need of food assistances. The tonnage output of Gutu district under the Enhanced Maize Production was to feed these 339 households in counting. The tonnage output was estimated at 875.6 metric tonnes hence using calculations from the Ministry of Agriculture 339 food insecure families in Gutu district consumes 223.74 metric tonnes per annum which leaves surplus tonnage of 651.86 metric tonnes which the government was to use to assure the continuation of programmes such as the Presidential Emergency School Feeding Programme and other economic boosting projects.

4.12 Sustainability of maize production

Maize production input schemes can only be efficient and sustainable if they are strictly monitored and these programmes should also be accompanied with transparency. Most input schemes do not last long because of several factors which make these programmes short term. The variations in the levels of maize production from season to season shows that much work is needed to be done to put the country in a food secure zone especially in rural areas. Without strict monitoring of these programmes corruption is prone to happen due to the politicization of these inputs. The study discovered that in some parts of Gutu district most people who

wanted to enroll for the Enhanced Maize Production input scheme did not join not because they were not capable but because some of spear headers of these input schemes supplied these inputs conferring to political parties.

Broad and effective measures were not put in place by the government to ensure that these programmes are long lasting and effective. Strategic agricultural policies have always been an issue when it came to the government hence the moment the government stops handing out these inputs agricultural production will be affected. The interviews conducted by the study showed that most farmers depend on these programmes for maize production. This is a result of the unavailability of long lasting economic policies which in turn affect agriculture in a negative way for instance the cash crisis issue. Henceforth developing countries import maize rather than export for foreign currency even though they have on going agricultural input schemes programmes.

Permanent programmes can be put in place if the government addresses the issue of transparency in these input scheme programmes. The failure to regulate agricultural markets has been one of the most challenging issues in agricultural programmes in developing countries. These issues can be solved by improving and adjusting economic policies which causes fluctuation in the prices of the maize on the international market.

4.13 Chapter summary

The chapter gave a scrutiny of the finding from the field. The finding from the survey showed that the enhanced maize production input scheme managed to put Gutu district in a food self-sufficient zone for the 2016/2017 farming season as compared to the previous farming season. The results from the research study also showed that the input scheme was effective though some parts of the district had little rainfall. However, the programme only managed to feed the district for a short period due to the failure of sustainable maize production in the country. Also,

the distribution of inputs was not transparent enough and other issues which has to with economic policies that needs to be addressed.

CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The chapter is going to give a detailed summary of the substantial findings of the study and produce recommendation for both the government and the beneficiaries of the Enhance Maize Production input scheme. First and foremost, the chapter will summarize the objectives of the research study as well as the findings. Recommendations and will be drawn from the major finding of the research study.

5.2 Summary

The research study looked at the measures that can be put forward to ensure food security in Gutu district and the nation as a whole. The research obtained its analytical data from the 5 randomly selected wards of the Gutu district and the 60 randomly selected farmers including communal farmers, A1 and the A2 to determine if the Enhanced Maize Production ensured food security in Gutu district. The research study was done to find out if the Enhanced Maize Production programme can be used as a tool to facilitate sustainable economic growth in Zimbabwe. The research study made use of both primary and secondary data to produce a meaningful research study. The primary data was obtained from a survey which was conducted on the A1, A2 and the communal farmers and the sampled wards of Gutu district. The aim was to compare the maize production trends of the farming activities from the previous seasons and agricultural policies and how they affected in food security in Gutu as well as to find out if the maize production output of the 2016/17 farming season provided food for the food insecure households of Gutu district.

The study correspondingly looked at measures that can be introduced to improve the input scheme programmes. Random sampling was used to target the respondents of the questionnaires and the interviews. Secondary data was also used to support the research study with the help of the Zimbabwe's 2016 National Budget and the Agricultural data from the Ministry of Agriculture Mechanization Irrigation Development. The research study showed that the farmers in Gutu district managed to produce maize that managed to feed the district with surplus which sustained the presidential Emergency School Feeding programme.

The research was centered on the sustainable livelihood approach thus the relationship between livelihoods and food security. The study showed that the Enhanced Maize Production programme improved the lives of the Zimbabwean people using land as an asset for production and the inputs as resources. The study also showed the role played by women in the input scheme programme as well as maize production in Zimbabwe.

5.3 Conclusion

The research study on the significance of the Enhanced Maize Production in ensuring food self-sufficiency in Zimbabwe showed that the programme managed to ensure food security in Zimbabwe. The study also showed that the beneficiaries of the programme thus the A1, A2 and the Communal farmers managed to enhance maize production through the input scheme programme. The study disclosed that there were variations between the maize production of the A1, A2 and the communal farmers. The study proved that the variations were due to different factors such as climate change and politicization of inputs which affected maize production of the communal farmers as compared to the A1 and the A2 farmers which were only affected by the cash crisis and fluctuating prices of agricultural inputs on the local market which was in the country.

The targeting criteria of the Enhanced Maize Production input scheme was mainly based on the farmers who could access resources such as dams to facilitate irrigation and those farmers who had irrigating equipment. This means that the mostly targeted group of farmers were the A1 and A2 farmers as compared to the communal farmers who depended on rainfall patterns. The research study also showed that the politicization of the inputs mostly affected the communal farmers. However, though there were some hindrances which were affecting the programme the 2016/2017 agricultural season was successful in terms of ensuring food self-sufficiency in the country.

5.4 Recommendations

5.5 Recommendation to the farmers

- farmers should work hand in glove with the government to maximize maize production thus the farmers should make sure that they do not only practice maize production for food only but for economic growth
- The communal farmers should work on ways to provide themselves with inputs such as irrigation equipment through forming financial organizations. The financial organizations improve as the farming seasons unfolds which means even if the rains do not come as anticipated they will have the capital to buy their own irrigation equipment
- Farmers should be skilled in terms of improving agricultural methods. The study disclosed that most farmers are not diverse when it comes to agricultural methods.

5.6 Recommendations to the government

- The government should improve on the inputs they give to the beneficiaries especially the communal farmers because most of them end up practicing agricultural maize production only for family consumption rather than economic growth.

- **Monitoring and evaluation** – the government should engage in exercises of monitoring and evaluating the input scheme programmes in a bid to ensure sustainability of maize production. The monitoring and evaluation should go advance to the distributors of the inputs to avoid corruption and politicization of the inputs. The government can further implement agricultural research facilitates not only to rely on the already existing techniques but to enhance these techniques as well.
- **Sustainability of maize production** – the government should involve other investors in the input scheme programmes to put forward measures that will ensure continuation of these agricultural programmes as well as funding of the input schemes and to guarantee long term effectiveness of the programmes. The government should also embark on rural electrification in order to facilitate maize off season production. This is also done to make sure that maize production will not be limited to rainfall seasons alone but all year round.
- **Inputs and outputs** – the government should loan inputs to farmers with a certain percentage this is done in order to share the cost of the programme between the government and the farmers as well as to do away with dependency of farmers on these programmes. The government is also encouraged to reduce import rates especially on farm equipment and parts that are not locally manufactured this is done to speed up the process of maize production as well as to compliment the input scheme that the government would have established.

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Appendix: Questionnaire

**THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ENHANCED MAIZE PRODUCTION PROGRAMME IN
ENSURING FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN ZIMBABWE BETWEEN THE PERIOD
2016-2017. A CASE STUDY OF GUTU DISTRICT
HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE**

Introduction

How are you sir/madam? My name is Nyasha Matundu, 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 significance of Enhanced Maize Production Programme in ensuring food self-sufficiency in Zimbabwe between the period 2016-2017. A case study of Gutu District”. 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.