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**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

**DISSERTATION ON:**

**IMPACT OF NGOs INTERVENTION ON CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL SCALE FARMERS: A CASE OF WARD 5 OF MUTASA DISTRICT.**

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**DECLARATION**

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## ***ABSTRACT.***

NGOs have played a pivotal role towards capacity development of small scale farmers through provision of agricultural information. This study assesses the impact of NGOs intervention on capacity development of small scale farmers in ward 5 of Mutasa district in Manicaland province. The objectives of this study were to assess the capacity needs of farmers, evaluate contribution made by NGOs to enhance capacity of farmers in ward 5 of Mutasa District as well as to assess the challenges faced by NGOs in capacity development of farmers in ward 5 of Mutasa district. The study was located in mixed research paradigm. For qualitative research method key informant interviews, purposive sampling, focused group discussion were used to solicit data from key informants. For quantitative research paradigm cluster sampling techniques and simple random sampling was used to select respondent from small scale farmers. The study revealed that a number of NGOs are involved in capacity development of small scale farmers. These include Plan International, Practical Action, SNV as well as Zim AIED. The study noted that NGOs have contributed significantly towards improvement of livelihoods of farmers in ward 5 of Mutasa District of Manicaland Province of Zimbabwe. Agriculture production increased significantly as well household income as a result of NGOs intervention. Be that as it may, the contribution of NGOs lacked sustainability. This is due to both exogenous and endogenous problems which NGOs were facing. Recommendations were highlighted and key among them include that, small scale farmers should capitalize on practicing banana production as a crop of specialty due favorable climate suitable for banana production. Mutasa Rural District Council should also provide a conducive environment for NGOs operations.

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## **DEDICATION**

To my mother and father, and all my family members. All this was done so that they may learn the meaning of the adage: “If one of us is honored, we are honored together”.

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## **ACRONYMS**

AGRITEX	Agricultural Technical Extension
FAVCO	Fruit and Vegetable Company.
M.O.U	Memorandum of Understanding
MRDC	Mutasa Rural District Council
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
SNV	Stichting Nederlandse Vrijwilligers
Zim AIED	Zimbabwe Agricultural Incomes and Employment Development

## **CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.0 Introduction**

The research assesses the impact of NGOs intervention on capacity development of small scale farmers in ward 5 of Mutasa District. NGOs have played a highly pivotal role in the capacity development of small scale farmers through providing agriculture extension services. Agriculture extension services typically include capacity development through training, strengthening innovation process, building linkage between farmers and other agencies and helping to strengthen farmers bargaining position through appropriate institution and organizational development (Salaman and Hall, 2002). Moyo (2011) explained that there is a strong demand of generic extension services where the vast majority (70%) farmers are small semi commercial producers. In Zimbabwe, Agritex is the largest public rural intervention agency with representative at the national, provincial, district and village level. The section of this study outlines the problem statement, aim of the study, objectives of the study, research questions, and delimitation of the study, justification of the study, study limitation and chapter breakdown.

### **1.1 Background to the study**

Capacity development has emerged as a major point of focus for development facilities. It has been noted that in addition to production increase, human resources development is vital towards poverty alleviation (World Bank, 2001). For third world countries, improving capacity of people particularly the poor is important since they own little resources. In the context of agriculture, capacity development is vital for improvement of livelihoods and this is mainly done through providing agricultural information. Given the challenges faced by colonial government in funding agricultural extension services, NGOs have played a critical role towards capacity development of small scale farmers in developing countries. In Africa for instance, the growth in the number of NGOs was to mitigate the social impacts of structural adjustment policies that was implemented by governments. NGOs as facilitators in the field of development act as providers of basic services to vulnerable individuals and communities in response to inadequacies in the public delivery of such services.

In this vain they invariably complement the roles of governments and the collective efforts of individuals towards human development. In an attempt by NGOs to complement the activities of governments in basic service delivery, they come in the form of charities, foundations, associations, nonprofit corporations, and voluntary organizations. In Zimbabwe, there are considerable NGO activities where they are engaged in varying interventions aimed to better the lot of beneficiaries who are generally considered in the country as deprived.

Focusing on Zimbabwe, capacity building for small holder farmers has been implemented over the years to empower the smallholder farmers to adapt appropriate technologies and research findings to improve their production practices. A more widely adapted approach was the Master Farmer Training Scheme which originated in 1930 as a way to develop competent farmers (Pazvakarambwa 1994). In pre-independence Zimbabwe, most extension agents' efforts to improve small holder farmers followed this approach. In the post-independence era AGRITEX upgraded the master farmer training scheme to include advanced farmer training programs. However only progressive farmers benefited from this approach leaving the bulk of small holder especially in rural areas farmers incapacitated. In this context NGOs intervened with different types of capacity development strategies to complement government's efforts.

A number of NGOs have intervened in Mutasa District, particularly Honde Valley where small scale farmers are facing production challenges. Mutasa district is one of the seven districts found in Manicaland province and it has a total population of 168 747 and 51% are smallholder farmers (Zimstat, 2012). The climate of Honde valley in Mutasa District falls within Savannah Sub tropics within average range altitude of 900m, from late October to around April the weather is wet and humid promoting the growing of variety crops such as beans, coffee, bananas, maize, peas and tuber crops such as yams. The terrain of Honde Valley is mountainous and this promotes free gravitational flow of water for farmers doing irrigation for example Mupenga Irrigation Scheme. Practicing irrigation proved to be difficult in face of climate change and this was compounded by lack of technology to harness water sources.

Banana farming is the main agriculture activity practiced in Honde Valley. This has been further confirmed by SNV Netherlands Development Organization (2011) which explained that more than 40% of people depend on banana for more than a third of their income. Banana farming on sustainable bases at minimum cost is vital to improve farmer's welfare. Since banana farming is

vital to poverty reduction and food security there is need for concerted efforts to improve production. Of importance is the introduction of biotechnology which involves the use of tissue cultured (tc) plantlets. This technology is aimed at improving yields as compared to the traditional way of propagating bananas.

In Zimbabwe, the technology biotechnology which involved the use of tissue cultured plantlets was implemented in Honde valley in Mutasa district as well as Chibuwe in Chipinge. Banana farming occupies a distinct place in the national as well as the household economy in Zimbabwe. This has been further confirmed by the Herald (2016) which reported banana farming as changing the lives of rural people in Chipinge ([www.herald.co.zw](http://www.herald.co.zw), 2016). The same can be said again with the small scale banana producers where farmers are practicing banana production as a livelihood strategy.

Small scale farmers in Honde Valley of Mutasa have been facing a number of challenges in farming. Access to market is one of the challenges faced by small scale farmers. Without sustainable market it remained an uphill task for small scale farmers to realize production increase. The bulk of small scale producers sold their produce at lower price through informal market either by taking the crops to urban market or by selling to local small scale consolidators who then sold the crop in whole sale consolidators ([www.fintrack.co](http://www.fintrack.co), 2014). In this regard some of the farmers sold their produce to market places such as Sakubva Musika in Mutare as well as Mbare in Harare which proved to be difficult for the bulk of farmers to access these market places. The farmers had little experience when it comes to banana marketing yet formal markets that require large quantities cannot work with individual small scale farmer.

Also, accessing credit facilities is one of the challenges faced by small scale farmers. Due to lack of collateral security, it remained difficult for small scale farmers to access financial resources. It has been noted that for production increase to be realized financial resource is the pre requisite. Micro finance institutions have been charging high interest rates so it remained an albatross on the neck of small scale farmers to access credit facilities. The problem had proved to be worse during the period of dollarization, whereby farmers could not access adequate inputs, therefore production was also affected. Traditional way of planting bananas using propagating has proved to be ineffective as far as production is concerned since it promotes spreading of diseases.

Extension services Mutasa district proved to be inadequate. As a result of mountainous nature of the district, some farmers could not access extension services and most of extension officers remained immobile due to shortage of resources. As a result of this situation, NGOs have been regarded as the main vehicle earmarked on providing agricultural information through capacity development.

However it should be taken into cognizant that for effective implementation of future development projects that are externally and sustained by donor funding, it is critical to accurately assess the impact of previous projects to improve the design of future projects. A number donor funded projects have been reportedly to add no values of farmers and in some instances caused dependency syndrome especially the food aid type projects. Many NGOs have been reported to impact skills and knowledge whilst there are still in touch with project personnel. It is in the interest of project managers, designers and development agencies to have projects that have long lasting objectives that are sustainable and meaningful impact even beyond project life. This study seeks to assess the impact NGOs activities on capacity development of small scale farmers in ward 5 of Mutasa, Manicaland Province of Zimbabwe.

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

Horticulture, among other crops such as tea and coffee is a dominant agriculture sector practiced in Honde Valley in Mutasa district of Zimbabwe. Lack of extension services is a major challenge faced by small scale farmers in Mutasa District. Current state-run extensions services are often centralized and do not adequately cover many rural smallholder farmers who need training and technical assistance as noted by high extension farmers' ratio. Personnel at the ward level do not have the capacity to support every area that needs attention, particularly irrigation, farm machinery, and natural resource management. Without a basic understanding of good agricultural practices, most smallholder farmers cannot grow sufficient crops to move past subsistence farming. Extension services are important in supporting agriculture as the backbone of rural economy and enabling small scale farmers to meet new challenges such as accessing export markets and adapting environmentally sustainable production technique and other challenges that affect agriculture. Capacity development through providing agricultural information remains one of the common aims of NGOs operating within the district. Therefore given their involvement in capacity building, this research assesses the impact of NGOs on capacity development of small scale farmer.

## **1.3 Aim**

The aim of the study is to assess the impact of NGOs in achieving capacity development for small scale farmers in Mutasa District.

## **1.4 Objectives**

- To assess capacity needs of farmers in ward 5 of Mutasa District.
- To evaluate the contribution made by NGOs to enhance capacity of farmers in ward 5 of Mutasa District.
- To assess the challenges faced by NGOs incapacity development of farmers in ward 5 of Mutasa District.



## **1.5 Research questions**

- What are the capacity needs of farmers in ward 5 of Mutasa District?
- What is the contribution made by NGOs to enhance capacity of farmers?
- What are the challenges faced by NGOs in capacitating the farmers in ward 5 of Mutasa District.

## **1.6 Delimitation of the study.**

Delimitation is a geographical outline of the area to be covered. The study only focused on small scale farmers who were capacitated by NGOs in ward 5 Muparutsa area of Mutasa district in Manicaland province of Zimbabwe. Geographically, Mupararutsa ward 5 is located in Mutasa North Constituency. According to Zimstat (2012) ward 5 has a population of 3368 of which 45, % are males and 54, 2 are female.

## **1.7 The significance of the study**

There has been a wide scholarship on the discourse of small scale farmers and the push for capacity development through provision of agriculture extension services. Small scale farmers still face the challenge of lack of knowledge to sustain themselves in agriculture. This research will be of immense value to the NGOs in Zimbabwe which are building capacity of small scale farmers through provision of extension services. The African Development Bank (2005) notes that there are very good empowerment policies in Zimbabwe, however they lack proper implementation and proper evaluation. Therefore this research is therefore envisioned to be valuable to policy implementers on what needs to be done in order to realize development. In addition, findings in this research will also provide a broader understanding of impact of NGOs in capacity development of small scale farmers.

## **1.8 Study limitations.**

Given the mountainous nature of Mutasa, poor roads network was one of the major challenge faced in this research. Some of the households were inaccessible and only a small sample of population was interviewed. Resource shortage was also a major constrain faced in this research. Time and money proved to be limited and this delayed process of data collection. The researcher also worked for the International Rescue Committee (IRC), an NGO which is implementing a

project called Youth and Community Action which is meant to improve the livelihoods of the youth and the community in general thus there was the risk that respondents may have exaggerated the situation on ground linking the research to other base line survey done by IRC.

### **1.9 Chapter breakdown.**

To attain chronicled impact of NGOs intervention on capacity development of small scale farmers, considerable number of themes deserved attention. These were articulated in the following order.

**Chapter 1** outlines the introduction and the problem statement was also articulated in this chapter. Research objectives and research question were also highlighted. Justification of the study was also articulated in this chapter.

**Chapter 2** is the outline literature review. The researcher explored relevant literature on what has so far been researched on problem under investigation.

**Chapter 3** is the outline of the research methodology to be used. In this context both qualitative and quantitative research paradigms were explored.

**Chapter 4** is devoted to data presentation, analysis and interpretation. Results are then presented in form of tables, graphs and other charts. This was done based on research questions

**Chapter 5** comprises of conclusion and recommendations.

## **CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.0 Introduction**

In this chapter literature relevant to the study is reviewed. Key areas that are at the center in this chapter include capacity needs of small scale farmers, contribution of NGOs on capacity development of small scale farmers as well as challenges faced by NGOs on capacity development. This study further put in context the conceptual/theoretical framework of the study. It should be also noted that capacity development and capacity building will be used interchangeably in this study.

### **2.1 Capacity needs of small scale farmers**

Transition from low productivity, semi subsistence agriculture to high productivity, commercialized agriculture is the core theme of development and agricultural economies for developing countries (Timer, 1988). As a result, for production increase to be noted, capacity development of small scale farmers to innovate and adapt new technology is a prerequisite element. Local knowledge is crucial survival but for poor people to be agents of their own development, it is not enough (Asenso-Okyere, 2009). Capacity needs for small scale farmers are dynamic and heterogeneous in nature, however common agricultural needs of small holder may include access to sustainable markets, access to financial institutions, production and resource management, group management skills, technological expertise and production and resource management among other.

#### **2.1.1 Access to sustainable markets**

Over the past 20 years, most African governments have carried out reforms to deregulate agricultural markets and reduce the role of the state enterprise (Juma and Pizzario, 2008). This has been further confirmed by Deininger (1997) who explained that adoption of Structural Adjustment Programs had a tremendous effect on Agriculture production. Although the reforms have had many favorable results, their effect has however, been muted by partial implementation and structural constraints. Public marketing are dismantled, wholesale market are losing space and supermarket chains are spreading in Latin America, East Africa and South East Asia, Central Europe and Southern Africa (Readon etal, 2003). Small scale farmers generally lack

the knowledge, information and resources to meet quality standards and formal market specifications (Juma and Pizarrio, 2008).

Market can be defined as the outlet of goods and services. In traditional sense, it is a collection of stalls where buyers and sellers exchange goods or services usually for cash. It is envisaged that the process of agricultural and rural transformation will not only usher an increased in productivity and commercialization in agriculture but will involve economic diversification and accelerated rural economic growth and share of employment through agricultural market development (Chesoli, 2013).

To reach the poorest people in large numbers requires formation of farmers group and association that are enabled to engage successfully in markets and hence contribute significantly in reduction of poverty. In this regard trainings on market skills are an integral part in sustaining many enterprises that draw sustenance on agriculture. Without a well-functioning and established market it would be difficult for small scale farmers to move past subsistence farming, Henceforth accessibility to market has remained one of the outstanding capacity need of small scale farmers.

### **2.1.2 Access to credit**

Financing small holder farmers becomes an important undertaking for poverty reduction in developing countries especially those in sub Saharan Africa (Made, 2000). Ozowe(2007) articulated that agricultural credit encompass all loans and advances to borrowers to finance and service the production activities relating to agriculture, fisheries, and forestry and also for processing, marketing, storage of products resulting from these activities. Due lack of access to credit and savings, it is an uphill task for farmers to build up a resource base.

A study in Uganda has shown that failure of formal banks to serve the poor is due to a combination of high risk and high cost and consequently low return associated with such business (Okrut, etal, 2004). This study has been also confirmed by Made (2010) who articulated that government agencies are constrained by inadequate resources to meet the financial requirement of small holder sector. He noted that commercial financial institution such as banks cannot efficiently serve small scale farmers due to high interest rates and other limiting factors such as collateral (Made, ibd).

Accessibility of credit for small scale farmers has remained one of the outstanding capacity needs. Capacity development of small scale farmers should also aimed at empowering small scale farmers to access credit facilities. It is beyond reasonable doubt that credit services play a highly paramount role in commercialization of small scale farmers as evidenced by the case in Zimbabwe during 1990 whereby small scale farmers doubled maize and cotton when finance, extension and marketing services were provided. Henceforth provision of training and financial services through credit is important to increase efficiency of resource poor farmers (Mashunje and Beleta, 2011)

### **2.1.3 Accessibility of inputs**

Accessibility of inputs is also another capacity need of small scale famers. This has been further confirmed by Vink (1998) who explained that the fact that small scale farmers are generally poor means that they lack access to inputs such as fertilizers, herbicides, chemicals and farm machinery. As a result small scale farmers rely on family labor to increase production. In Zimbabwe efforts to help small scale farmers with inputs have proved to be inadequate and politicized. This is further supported Hahlani (2010) who explained that subsidy regime which was meant to capacitate small scale farmers has suffered from portfolio contamination. This has been noticed in rural areas of Zimbabwe whereby presidential inputs scheme has been politicized, those who are politically connected are the ones who benefited from input scheme. Therefore, capacity building on inputs access is essential for small scale farmers to increase production.

The adaption of US dollar in Zimbabwe during the period of 2008 further compounded the problem in many rural parts of Zimbabwe and this has worsened rural life in Zimbabwe as most rural dwellers had resorted on barter trade. Therefore cash shortages challenges in the country have a means a failing capacity to buy inputs required to produce food in rural areas and this has resulted to food insecurity. Henceforth capacity building of small scale farmers on inputs accessibility is indispensable for production increase.

### **2.1.4 Climate change adaptation strategies**

The effects of climate change have called for the need to adapt certain adaptation technologies to cope with its harmful effects. Intergovernmental Panel Convention on Climate Change (IPCC, 2001) defined adaptation to climate change as an adjustment in national or human

systems in response to an actual or expected climate stimuli or their effects which moderates harm so as to take advantage of opportunities. Farmers can achieve food security, high income and livelihood security objectives if they adapt to climate change (Hassan and Nhemachena, 2008)

Generally, the common adaptation strategies to climate change in crop production which are documented by literature are crop diversification, irrigation, change plant dates and mixed cropping. The adaptation technologies that a farmer adapts depends mostly on the type of crop cultivated (Dixon et al, 2007). According to Nyong (2005) farmers in Sub Saharan Africa are vulnerable to climate change because they lack the capacity to adapt. Evidence of climate change has been already felt in Zimbabwe with huge impact on agriculture which has proved to be the backbone of the rural economy. Change in rainfall seasons and decrease in rainfall intensity has resulted to the decrease of yields. Banana production has been also affected due to change in rainfall patterns. Also the projection of less rainfall can even affect irrigated banana plantations due to decrease in rainfall intensity. According to the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ, 2013), Zimbabwe has one of the highest degrees of rainfall variability in the world and climate is frequent drought and occasional floods events. Most farmers have limited technology to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Henceforth there is need for capacity development of small scale farmers in face of climate change. Fig 1 below is a diagrammatic representation of capacity building within a project. In this vein capacity needs are articulated.

**2.1.5 Fig 1 shows summary of capacity needs of farmers**

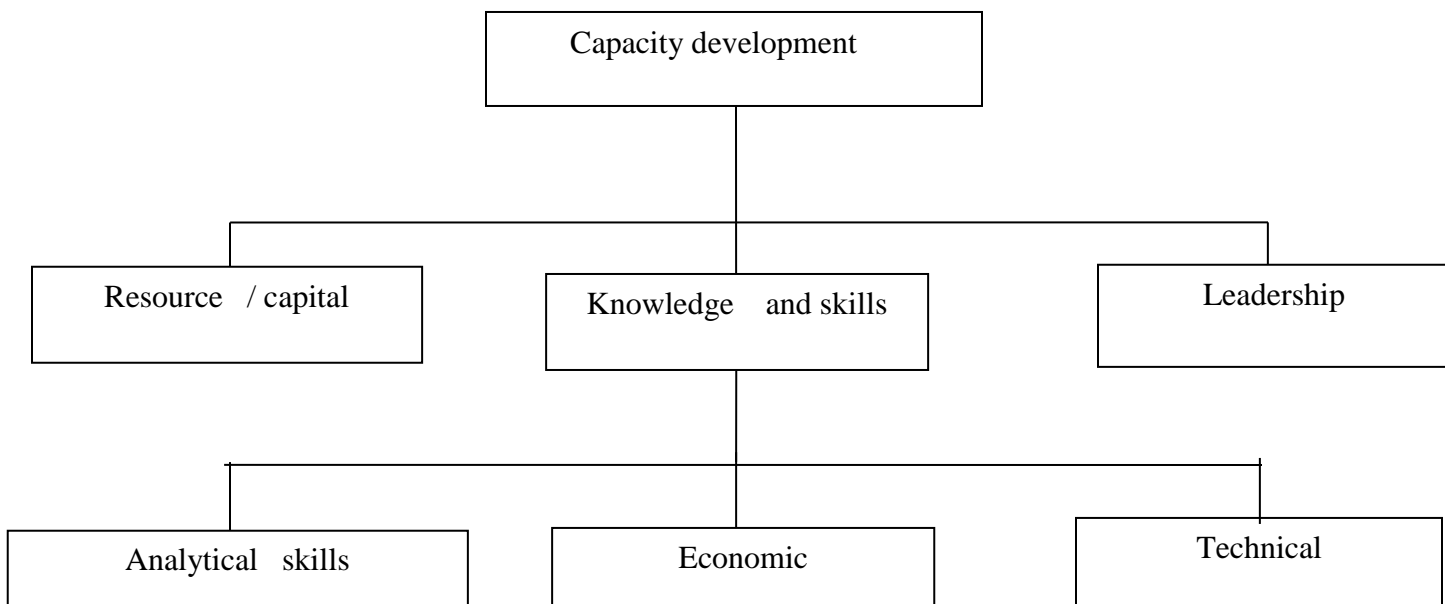


Fig 1 is a summary of capacity needs of small scale farmers. Under knowledge and skills, there are further areas of farmers' capacity building. These include analytical skills, economic skills and technical skills. RolaRubzen and Gabanada (2013)

Resource/ capital formation is one of the capacity needs of small scale farmers. The notion that small scale farmers are generally poor means that there is need to build their resource base and increase their access to micro finance institutions. Therefore, capacity building of small scale farmers on capital formation through exposing them to lending institution is vital for increase in production to be realized.

Knowledge and skills is also another is another capacity need of small scale farmers as epitomized on shown in fig 1. There are three areas for skills enhancement and these include analytical skills, economic skills as well as technical skills. Skills and knowledge is vital towards achievement of sustainable rural livelihoods. Analytical skills include assessing the viability of farming as business. This involves record keeping as well as basic accounting. Economic skills enhancement is also vital. This involves the use economic evaluation skills such partial budgeting which determine whether the farming as a business is profitable or loss. In involves the use of Gross Margin Analysis which measure the difference between Gross Value of production and variable cost of the activity. Capacity building on technical skills is also another aspect of knowledge and skills enhancement. Technical skills include skills related to farming production and marketing. Training on maintenance of irrigation equipment is important and it is also another technical need therefore capacity building on technical skills should also involve use and maintenance of irrigation equipment given the new modus operandi of climate change.

Capacity building of small scale farmers on leadership is also important. There is need for formation of groups when marketing produce. Formation of groups in small scale farming is vital given the problem of market. Therefore there capacity building should also enhance leadership skills.

## **2.2 Contribution of NGOs on Capacity development of small scale farmers**

NGOs have played a crucial role on capacity building of small scale farmers through providing agricultural information to small scale farmers. Commercialization of small farmers is important in realizing higher productivity, greater specialization and higher incomes in rural

areas (Timmer, 1997). Those outcomes in turn contribute significantly to improved household food security, poverty reduction, agricultural development and general national economic growth (Fafchamps, 2005). In this context NGOs have used a number of methods in building capacity farmers and this include workshops, training, demonstration plots, coaching and mentoring. NGOs through capacity development play a pivotal role in assisting rural communities to sustain community development. However in some instances NGOs have accelerated dependency syndrome through food aid and this is a challenge to sustainable development.

In recent years capacity development has emerged as a major focus of development institutions. It has been recognized that in addition to productivity increase, technological developments, infrastructure and good economic policies, human resources development plays a pivotal role in poverty alleviation (World Bank, 2001). Human resources development entails improving the capacity of people through improved education, better health and skills enhancement. In the context of Agriculture enhancing capacity of farmers through provision of agricultural information will have a major impact on their livelihoods.

Increasing agricultural productivity requires building the capacity of small scale farmers to innovate and adapt new technologies. Indigenous knowledge is important for survival but for the poor people to be the agents of their own development, it is not enough (Asenso-Okyere, 2009). The rapid economic growth archived by certain Asian countries in the 1990s can be partially attributed to rapid generation of knowledge many of which found their way to farmers who adapted it (Asenso-Okyere, ibd). In this context NGOs have played a crucial role in building capacity of small scale farmers innovate and adapt new technologies.

The Government of Zimbabwe made some tremendous efforts on capacity development of small scale farmers to the extent that between 1980 and 1985 peasant delivery accounted for 45% of total maize delivery to government owned Grain Marketing Board. (GoZ, 1986 quoted in Hahlani 2010). The Great Leap Forward in production is mainly attributable to increased budget support through provision of properly designed and direct subsidized credit, input packs, increased extension services and facilitation of market access to farmers (Hahlani, 2010). However this proved to be a piece meal intervention of the government in capacity development of small scale farmers through provision of extension services as it soon abandoned its support to small scale farmers and this resulted to intervention of NGOs.



It should be taken into cognizant that capacity development is a dynamic process which involves dimensions. In this context Frankish (2003) chronicled a number of dimension for community capacity development. Accordingly, this includes financial capacity (resources, opportunities and knowledge), human resources (skills, motivation, confidence and trust) and social resources (networks, participation structures, shared trust and bonding). UNDP (1997) further chronicled the notion of capacity development as a process by which individuals, groups and organization increase their abilities to perform core functions, solve problems and understand and deal with their development needs in a broad context and in a sustainable manner. Therefore, the intervention of NGOs on capacity building of small scale farmers is meant to increase agriculture production.

### **2.3 Challenges Faced by NGOs on Capacity building.**

NGOs have played a pivotal role towards community development through capacity building. Be that as it may, they have faced a lot of challenges in attempting to initiate capacity development. These challenges include lack of funding, internal conflicts, competition and poor networking with the government as well as politically harsh environment. Braton (1993 ) articulated that in third world countries, NGOs are unable to contribute to service delivery due to among other things internal conflicts, secrecy, fragmentation, competition and poor networking with the government. Concomitant to challenges faced by NGOs in their operation revolve around the question of poor coordination and sustainability of projects to the community level (Edwards and Hulme, 1995). Therefore while it is plausible to label NGOs as drivers of community development, it has been noted that NGOs have faced a number of challenges towards promoting sustainable development.

Donor funding has remained one of the outstanding challenge faced by NGOs. The common impact of financial reliance on donor funding is that once donors pull their financial support, NGOs will cease to operate. Due to lack of financial resources, NGOs are forced to scale down their operation in line with their budget. This has been further supported by Viravaidya and Hayssen (2000) who articulated that the shortage of financial resources limit the quality and quantity of NGO work, hence dependency on grants and donation are accepted. The donor funds

have condition to be satisfied which would undermine the autonomy of NGOs to choose a program.

Shortage of resources has immensely affected the efforts of NGOs to initiate effective capacity development in a sustainable manner. Capacity building is process which requires a lot of resources for desired results to be realized therefore it is a means to achieve the end rather than a means to an end. Therefore it can be noted that shortages of resources among other factors have remained one of challenges impeding effective capacity building in a more sustainable manner.

While there is mounting literature demonstrating NGOs as agents of community development through implementing projects which are earmarked to stimulate development, sustainability of these projects have remained under researched. It has been noted that many NGOs activities have been reported to impact skills and knowledge that would only be implemented by farmers whilst they are still in touch with the project personnel.

#### **2.4 Theoretical Framework/ Conceptual Framework**

This research was premised on modernization paradigm which was supported by sustainable development approach in shading light on the concept of NGOs intervention on capacity development of small scale farmers. Willis (2011) defines modernity to mean “being modern, new or up to date”; she goes on to elaborate that modernity is often used to discuss certain forms of the economy and society. Modernization of agriculture involves the application and transfer of science and technology from experts to farmers (uni-directional) as understood in the developed world in pursuit of increased production and productivity (Harrison, 2001). It has been recognized that in addition to productivity increase, technological development, infrastructure and good economic policies, human resources development play an important role in poverty alleviation (ADB, 1991, World Bank, 2001, World Bank 2002).

Human resources development entails improving the capacity of people through education, better health and skill enhancement (Rola-Rubzen and Gabunada, 2003). In the context of small scale farmers, capacity development has been defined as the process that transform small scale traditional farmers into commercially market oriented modern farming. Small scale farmers have been basically defined as those with limited factor production including land and capital skills. Therefore education and training raises productivity and enhances the capacity to earn.

The transfer of knowledge and technology is one important aspects of modernization paradigm. In this regard biotechnology which was introduced in banana production involves the use of tissue culture banana plantlets with the aim of increasing production. Traditional way of propagating bananas proved to be vulnerable to diseases which resulted to loss in yields, therefore the introduction of tissue cultured bananas was meant to boost production. In Zimbabwe the technology was adapted by communities in Honde valley and there was boom in yields as compared to traditional means of planting bananas using suckers ([www.fintrack.com](http://www.fintrack.com), 2016)

Overall, the modernization theory can be summed up to be viewing development as a process driven through mobilizing technology and utilizing natural resources in more efficient ways. The modernization paradigm places emphasis on mechanization of production and industrialization (Willis 2011). NGOs intervention on capacity development of small scale farmers is meant to enable small holders farmers to meet new challenges such as accessing export markets, adopting environmentally sustainable production technique and coping with HIV and AIDS and other challenges that affect agriculture. In this study NGOs have been defined as independent, private nonprofit organization that are aiming at improving the quality of life for disadvantaged people. It has been noted that NGOs through provision of services such as education and skill and knowledge develop the capacity of community towards archiving sustainable development.

The modernization theory holds that, traditional communal life which is dominated by primitive tools of production, production for personal consumption and subsistence, dependence on family labor, as well as traditional and superstitious beliefs which makes the society to be static and conservative are the causes of underdevelopment (So, 1990). Local practices in Malawi such as those that include leaving weeds in some crops as nutrient recycling and soil protection mechanism thus denotes society's ignorance and backwardness (Moyo, 2008). Therefore, the intervention of NGOs on capacity development of small scale farming is geared towards agricultural production.

Traditional practices in agriculture production are also denoted by low output and traditional tools (Weitz, 1971:15-28). According to him capital investment is minimal while land and labor are the principal factors of production (Weitz ibd). On the other hand, societies which focus on

large scale commercial production through utilization of technology like those utilized in developed countries have higher chances of escaping poverty and underdevelopment (So, 1990). This has been further confirmed by Weitz (1971) who articulated the notion that in modern commercial farming which is found in the industrialized countries, capital formation, technological progress and scientific research and development play a major role in stimulating higher levels of output and productivity. Therefore capacity development is vital for small scale farmers to transform from traditional subsistence farming to modern commercial farming

Willis (2011) argued that, developing countries have a greater chance of attaining development if they imitate the manner through which developed countries achieved their development. She argued that developing countries are blessed as their road to development is not a solitary one; they always have a frame of reference of those who experienced it before them, all they need is to copy, import their inventions and follow their policies. Kuhn (1987) observes that to change the state of underdevelopment in traditional societies, there is need to change the values, attitudes and perceptions and other indigenous factors which blocks development strategies.

In the context of agriculture, enhancing the capacity of farmers will have a major impact on their ability to improve livelihoods of farmers. Increasing the skills and knowledge base of farmers even beyond schooling will increase productivity, raising output, enhancing household incomes and reducing poverty. This has been further confirmed by Todaro (1982:237) who articulated that evidence from such diverse countries as Cambodia, Mexico, Nigeria, Ghana, Pakistan, Thailand and the Philippines supports the notion that under proper conditions small farmers are responsive to incentives and opportunities and will make a radical change in what and how they produce.

Kuhn (1987) further postulates that extension of technological services to traditional societies can effectively address the challenges of development in these areas or societies. It is thus apparent that there is need to modernize production apparatus, by adapting efficient technology which in many instances is symbolized and enabled by modern services. Not only will this lead to increased productivity but will also result in improved livelihoods. The improvement of small scale farming practices that will not only raise farm income and average yields but also effectively absorb underutilized rural labor through adaptation of effective labor intensive farming offers their major immediate avenue towards achievement of real people oriented

rural development (Todaro,1979:238). However as a result of shortcomings of the modernization theory in articulating the concept of development, this theory was supported by sustainable livelihood approach.

#### **2.4.1 Sustainable livelihood approach**

The concept of 'sustainable development' has become a buzzword in the domain of development (Hammond et, al, 1995). The sustainable development approach came into being in the late 1980s and gained prominence in the 1990s and eventually gave birth to the MDGs at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> millennium. The sustainable development approach takes as its point of departure the view that the natural environment and resources are the basis of development, hence it should be protected and promoted to ensure that all humanity both current and in the future would be able to meet their own needs (Tietenberg and Lewis, 2010). Scope (2005) argues that while economic growth is a positive development in any society, such a development is not worth if it upsets the balance of nature from which all life derived. In this research, sustainable livelihood was used because it gives emphasis on interconnectedness between the livelihood and the environment.

More so, Chambers (2009) mentions that, the sustainable development approach emulates the transformation of natural resources in ways which benefit local communities. Wisner (2005) argues that the approach has a more orientation towards the empowerment of people to make the most out of their own natural resources. Similarly, Chambers (2009) views that sustainable development emphasizes the ability of indigenous societies to make use of their natural resources, being in charge and not being dependent upon external resources and skills to assist them in developing themselves. As the focus of this study is at the operational NGO project level, sustainable development projects are defined by Eckman (1993) as those with beneficial impacts enduring beyond the original time frame of the project, and that may be diffused beyond the original spatial limits of the project. Therefore this approach is vital on exploring the sustainability of NGOs intervention on capacity development of small scale farmers in ward 5 of Mutasa District in Manicaland province.

In this view, Matthews and Hammill (2009) views that once people have mastered the process of making the most out of their environments, then they can start to develop in other spheres of

their lives. Furthermore, Estes (1993) mentions that in the context of sustainable development, the well-being of the environment, economies and people's welfare is inextricably linked. She goes on to elaborate that sustainable development emphasizes global partnerships for development. In this light, sustainable development is viewed as change which benefits a range of sectors, across borders and even between generations (Estes 1993). Therefore a combination of modernization theory and sustainable livelihood approach was used in this research to provide a comprehensive and favorable framework towards intended goals and objectives of this research.

## **2.5 Conclusion**

It was noted that, there is a general consensus among scholars that capacity development is the engine of community development. Since agriculture has proved to be the backbone of rural economy, NGOs efforts towards capacity development of small scale farmers are vital not only for rise in productivity but for the improvement of livelihoods. It should be noted that common capacity needs of farmers include access to credit, access to affordable inputs as well as access to sustainable markets.

## **CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **3.0 Introduction**

This research is interested in the generation of knowledge concerning the impact of NGOs on capacity development of small scale farmers in ward 5 of Mutasa district of Zimbabwe. Therefore a multi prolonged approach was used to achieve objectives of the study. This involves the mixture of both qualitative and quantitative research paradigm. A desk review of existing data was conducted before field data collection to gain appreciation on NGOs intervention on capacity development of small scale farmers in Mutasa district. Such reviews helped to guide the direction of primary research and cross checking the information collected in the field (Holzmann and Boudreau, 2008).

### **3.1 Research Design**

In this research qualitative research was used before quantitative research so as to quantify data inform of tables, graphs as well as charts. According to Creswell (1998), qualitative research provides a rich source of information leading to theories, patterns or policies that help to explain and inform the phenomenon under study. Therefore what and how questions are answered in-depth by qualitative research. Contrastingly, Creswell (1994) argues that quantitative research refers to a type of inquiry which explains phenomena through collecting and analyzing numerical data using mathematical methods. The quantitative paradigm sees research as a process of verification and it seeks to explain phenomena from an objective point of view.

### **3.2 Data Sources**

Primary data was gathered from small scale producers, MRDC, DA's Office, department of Social Welfare where NGOs performance report were submitted to. AGRITEX officers as well as traditional leaders constituted also primary sources. Secondary data sources were used essentially concerning the information on size of the ward. The District Agriculture and Extension Officer and Mutasa Rural District Council reports were the major secondary data sources consulted in this research. Ward 5 of Mutasa district has a population of 3368 households of which 45, 5% are men and 54, 2% are women (ZIMSTAT, 2012).

### 3.3 Study Population

The population in this study was small scale farmers who have benefited from agricultural support provided by NGOs. Therefore in this regard the study population comprised of small scale farmers who were capacitated by NGOs and NGOs who have been working in ward 5 not less than 5 years or NGOs who have exited some intervention. Farmers were grouped into three clusters of about 30 to 60 farmers per clusters. The clusters were formed in the research area with a total of 126 farmers. The study area comprised of 67 males and 59 females.

**Table 1 shows composition of farmers in the study area**

NAME OF CLUSTER / Village	GENDER		TOTAL
	MALES	FEMALES	
MUKUPE	35	22	57
BUWU	12	18	30
DAMBANDA	20	19	39
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>126</b>

### 3.4 Sample size

Sampling is defined as selecting a given number of subjects from a defined population as representative of the population. A sample size of 30% was used for each cluster that is for Buwu, 17 farmers will be sampled, 9 farmers for Mukupe, and 12 farmers for Dambanda. Simple random sampling was then used to select farmers from each clusters from which respondents were identified. In this regard study covered 38 farmers, from a total of 126 farmers. As a result of weakness of both qualitative and quantitative research methods, mixing of the two research paradigms will enhance validity of data.



**Table 2 Cluster sample composition and size in study area**

<b>NAME OF CLUSTER</b>	<b>MALE</b>	<b>FEMALE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
MUKUPE	9	8	<b>17</b>
BUWU	5	4	<b>9</b>
DAMBANDA	7	5	<b>12</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>38</b>

### **3.5 Sampling Procedure.**

Small scale farmers who benefited from NGOs project were grouped into clusters and this was based on villages within ward 5. Farmers in each cluster were sampled using simple random sampling to come with households from which informants were to be selected. Purposive sampling was also used in selecting NGOs which were involved in capacity building of small scale farmers in the Mutasa District. The sampled individuals included those who had particular expertise in capacity development of small scale farmers.

### **3.6 Data collection procedure.**

This study mainly used questionnaires as a data collecting instrument. Questionnaires were designed and administered in both close and open ended format and were administered to farmers who were beneficiaries of agricultural support provided by NGOs. To enhance validity of data collected other instruments were also used to complement major instruments which happened to be questionnaires for this study. These include interviews, focus group discussion and field observation. Interviews were used to gain views from staff who work with local people and these include AGRITEX officers as well as MRDC officials. Due to weaknesses associated with interviews in collecting data, focus group discussion were also partially

important in gaining views of small scale farmers who had benefited from agricultural support provided by NGOs. Field observation were also carried out to gain appreciation concerning the impact of NGOs on small farmers in ward 5 of Honde valley. They were also important in validating data collected using the above instruments.

### **3.7 Data Analyses**

The collected quantitative data was presented and analyzed to make inferences through a series of operation involving editing to eliminate inconsistency, clarification on the bases of similarities and tabulation to relate variables. Tables, charts and graphs were used to give clear picture of the condition which prevailed in the study area.

### **3.8 Ethical Consideration**

The researcher pledged to ensure maximum possible precaution in handling matters of the research including safety, human treatment, and freedom of participation on participants. Participation in interviews was done through a written informed consent such that the participant would feel declining from interview at any given moment without any fear.

In this regard the researcher had a responsibility to ensure maximum security. As a measure of security, participants were not asked to disclose their full names as they participated anonymously and code names were used. More so, people's right and freedom implies that they are not made part of the process in which they are involved in deception (Churchhill, 1991: 1039). Therefore deception in this research was not used. All information relating to nature, goals, and possible implication of the research was made available.

### **3.9 Conclusion**

This study was located in mixed research paradigm to produce comprehensive and detailed information on the impact of NGOs intervention on capacity development of small scale farmers in ward 5 of Mutasa district of Zimbabwe. Due to loopholes of both qualitative and quantitative research methods, mixed research paradigm enhances data authenticity.

## CHAPTER 4: DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS

### 4.0 Introduction

In this chapter research findings were analyzed and presented in form of table, pie charts and graphs. This section also covers capacity needs of small scale farmers, contribution made by NGOs to enhance capacity of farmers as well as challenges faced by NGOs in capacitating small scale farmers. Therefore presentation of findings in this chapter was based on research questions. The main thrust of this chapter was to explore research findings on the impact of NGOs on capacity development of small scale farmers.

### 4.1 Background of informants

**Table 3 Age distribution of respondent**

Interval	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Below 25	10	10
25- 30	40	40
31-35	30	30
36-40	14	14
40-50	3	3
Above 50	3	3
Total	100	100

The majority of respondents in research area were youth who accounted for 80% of the respondents. The respondents were sampled from three villages or clusters in Muparutsa ward 5 of Mutasa district. Additionally respondents were largely females than males. It was noted that females accounted for 60% whilst men accounted only 40%.

**Table 4 Sex distribution**

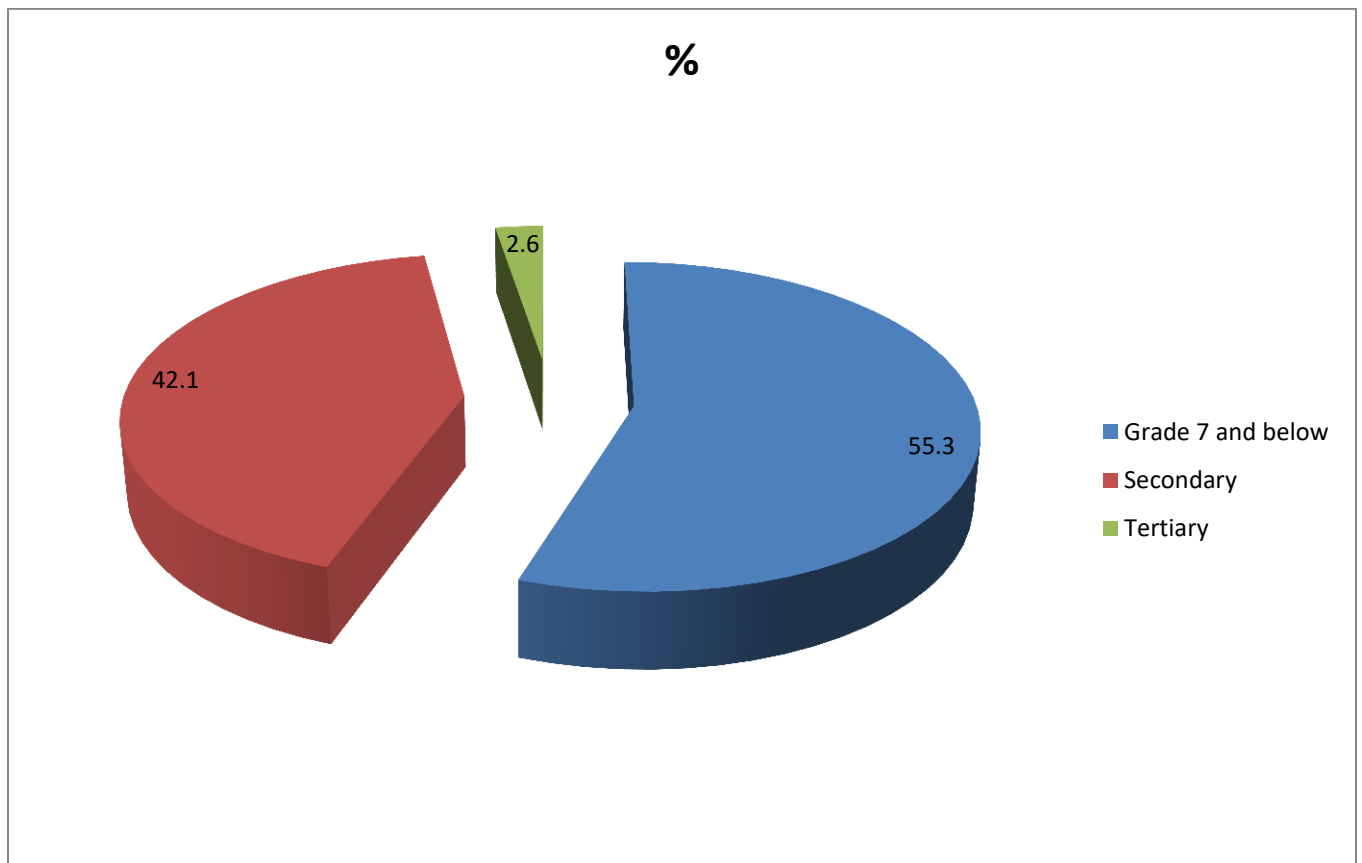
Sex	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Males	40	40
Females	60	60
Total	100	100

**4.1.1 Educational level**

The educational level of the household heads ranged from grade 7 to post graduate. About 55.3 % of household heads had reached grade 7 or less (i.e. non-formal education). 42.1 % had completed secondary level which includes ZJC,'O'level and 'A'level and 2.6 % had reached tertiary level, which includes certificate, diploma, and degree and post graduate.

The above results show that most household heads reached grade 7 and below educational level. Education as a measure of human development index is a basic requirement in improvement of welfare of households since it enables access to information and when some proportion of households were illiterate as has been observed, then one anticipates a high incidences of poverty among such households due to lack of empowerment (UNDP,2002).

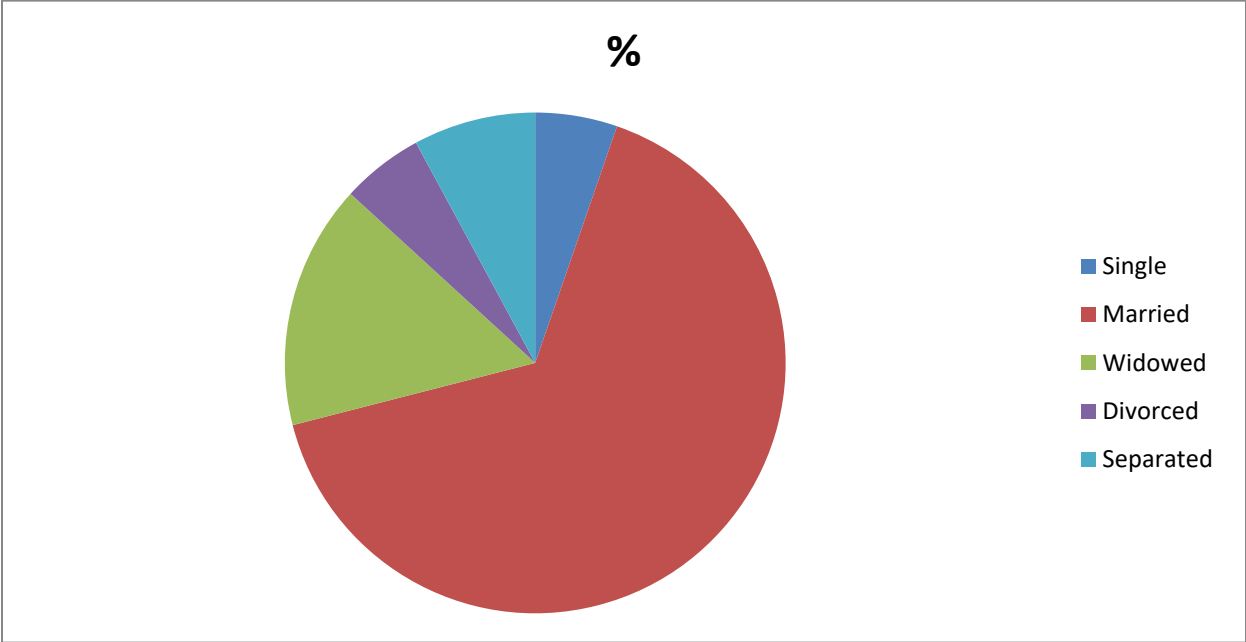
**Fig 2:** Pie chart showing educational level of household heads



#### **4.1.2 Marital status of households**

From the results, it was shown that most household heads are married with a few who are widowed, single, divorced or separated. About 66% of household heads are married and about 16 % are widowed. This has shown that the project has actually empowered some of the vulnerable groups (widows) in the community of Muparutsa.

**Fig 3 shows marital status of respondents**



**Table 5 shows capacity need of small scale farmers**

<b>Capacity need</b>	<b>%</b>
Lack of affordable inputs	95%
Lack of capital	90%
Lack of irrigation equipment	50%
lack of agricultural information	50%
Climate change	40%
Poor road network	80%
Market constraints	85%
Inaccessibility to financial institution.	75%
Limited labour force	20%

#### **4.1.3 Lack of affordable inputs**

The study revealed that lack of affordable inputs is one of the outstanding capacity need. From the Table 3 it can be noted that about 95% of respondents noted lack affordable inputs as a main challenges bedeviling production increase. These inputs include fertilizers, seeds as well as chemical needed in agricultural production. At Hauna growth point farming inputs have proved to be expensive and this has remained an uphill task for farmers to access cheap and affordable inputs. At Hauna Growth Point, 50kg Compound D fertilizer cost \$26, 00, 10kg bag of beans seed costs 34.00 and 50kg of ammonium fertilizer cost \$31.00. It was noted that price of farming inputs higher than price of agricultural outputs. Therefore the study noted availability of inputs is very crucial for production increase.

#### **4.1.4 Lack of Capital**

This study also revealed lack of capital is also another capacity need of small scale farmers. Without adequate financial resources, it proved to be difficult for small scale farmers to increase

production. Capital in farming production is needed for purchasing inputs such as fertilizers and other chemical needed in agricultural production. Due to lack of collateral security, it has remained difficult for small holder farmers to access loans from banks. Micro Finance Institutions such as Virl has been charging exorbitant interest rate of 4% per month. The number of farmers who had accessed the loan in November 2013 was 54% farmers and the number had decreased to 40% farmers in August 2014. Not all farmers had access to loans unveiled by AGRI-bank due to lack of collateral security. Some of micro finance institution at Hauna Growth also charged punitive interests of about 20% per month. Therefore this study also unravel that lack of capital is also another capacity need.

#### **4.1.5 Lack of irrigation equipment**

Lack of irrigation equipment is also another challenge which was identified by small scale farmers in the research area. Hone Valley has a mountainous terrain and this has promoted gravitational irrigation method. It was also observed that there are abundance water resources in Muparutsa ward 5 of Mutasa district as evidenced by perennial water sources. However, the study revealed that most farmers have no capacity to harness water from water bodies. Given the new modus operandi of climate change which is characterized by high temperatures most nearby water sources dried up leaving the bulk of small scale farmers without sufficient water supply. About 50% of farmers noted that shortage of irrigation equipment is one of the capacity need.

#### **4.1.6 Lack of agricultural information.**

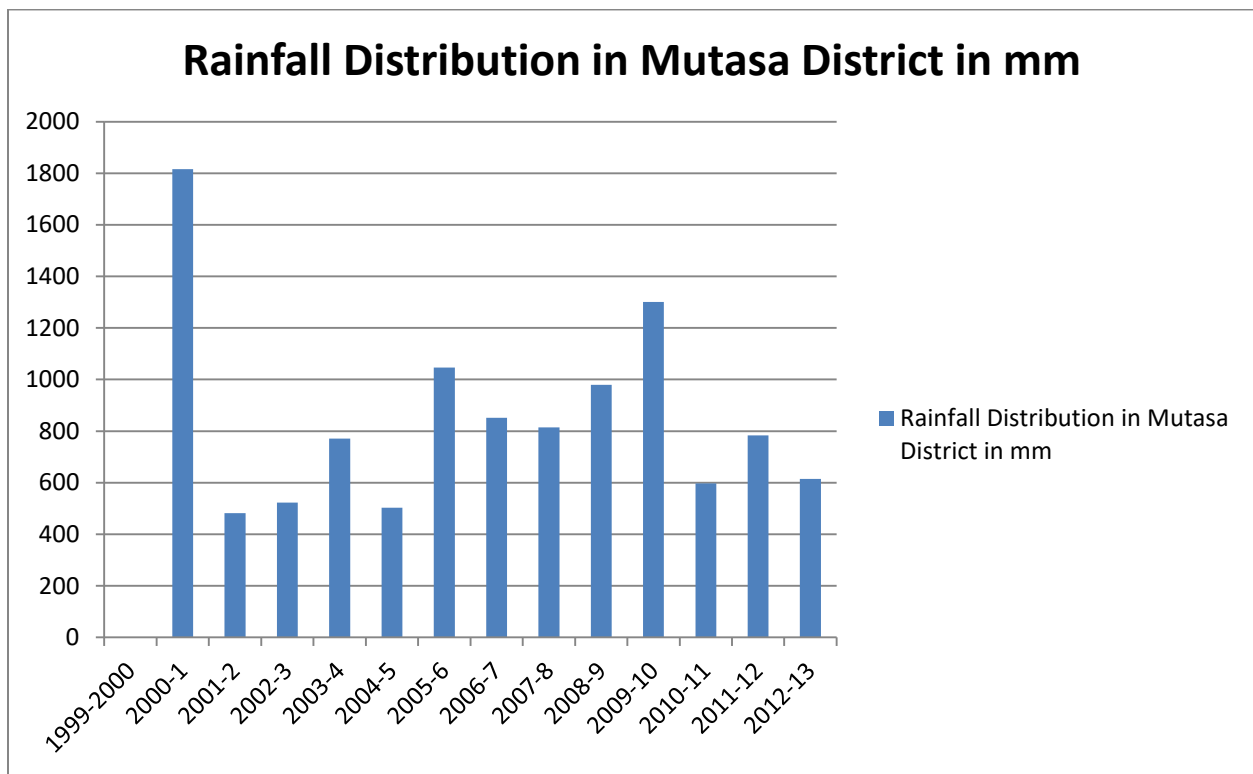
The survey also showed that lack of agricultural information is also another capacity need of small scale farmers. Most villages in Mupararutsa ward 5 of Honde Valley are inaccessible and these villages include Dambanda and Buwu. This has proved to be difficult for extension officers to cover all areas which need extension support. The study revealed that extension officers do not have the capacity to reach all farmers within the ward due to shortage of resources. This problem has been compounded by poor road network within the ward. It was noted that 50% of farmers had no access to agricultural knowledge and they relied on indigenous knowledge. Since all farmers in the area practice banana farming as the main agriculture activity, agriculture information has proved to a need. This includes information pertaining planting, bunch management, weeding, as well as harvesting.



#### 4.1.7 Climate Change

Approximately 40% of farmers mentioned that there is the need of climate change adaptive strategies as in dealing with climate change. Crops such as banana requires high amount of water and in this regard farmers mentioned that climate change has remained a drawback towards production increase. Farmers mentioned that yields were affected as a result of high temperatures experienced in rain season of 2015.

**Fig 4 shows rainfall distribution in Mutasa District.**



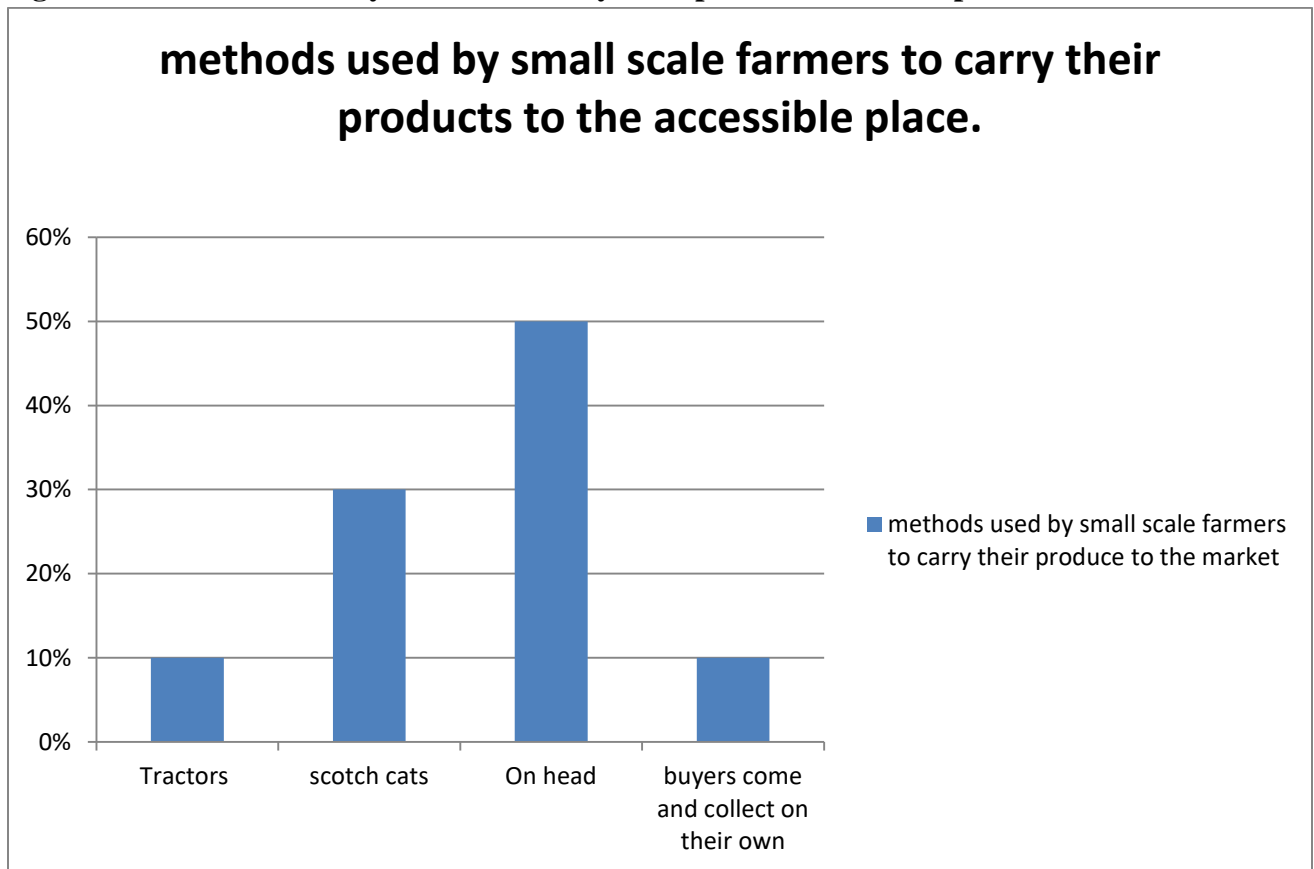
From fig 4 it can be noted that rainfall has proved to be erratic since the turn of new millennium hence there is need for communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Communities have noted that with the advent of climate change agricultural production was negatively affected.

#### 4.1.8 Lack good road network

Approximately 80% of farmers mentioned poor road network has remained one of the challenges faced by small scale farmers. Mutasa District Development Fund and Mutasa District Council

have long been undercapitalized to carry its prerogative duties of road maintenance. Given the mountainous nature of Honde valley it has remained difficult for small scale farmers to transport their produce to the nearest market place. Fig 5 shows method used by farmers to carry their products to the accessible point. As a result of poor road network approximately 50% of farmers have relied on using their heads in carrying their produce to the market place such as Hauna Growth point, 30% of farmers indicated that they use scotch cats in ferrying their products, 10% of farmers mentioned that they use tractors and other farmers also mentioned that buyers come on their own

**Fig 5 shows method used by farmers to ferry their product to market place**

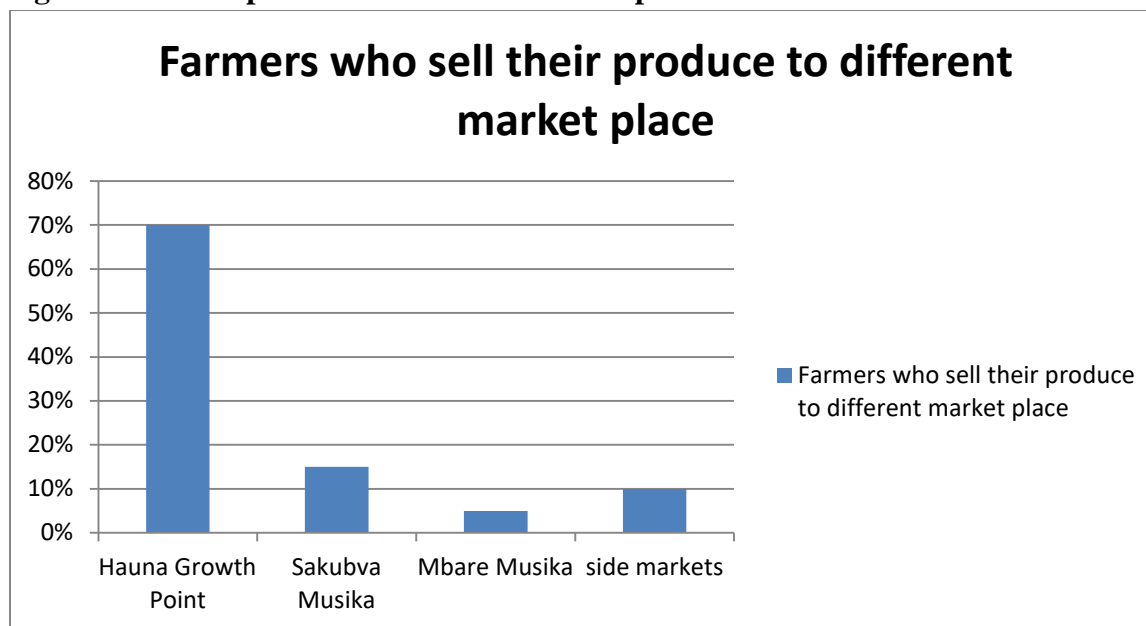


#### **4.1.9 Market Constraints**

Approximately 80% of farmers pointed out that shortage of market proved to be another capacity need. It was observed that most agricultural produce are being sold at informal markets whereby

price are being negotiated. In Ward 5, it was observed that there is a side market at Murara whereby various crops such as yams, bananas, cucumbers and beans are being sold at cheaper price. Other crops are being sold at Hauna Growth Point. Farmers pointed out that due lack market, some farmers would opt to sell their produce in Mutare at Sakubva Musika as well as in Harare at Mbare Musika. Approximately 10% of farmers sell their produce to side markets, 70% of farmers pointed out that they sell their produce to Hauna GrowthPoint to the companies such as FAVCO now Brand fresh, 20% of farmers also pointed out that their produce is being sold at market place in urban areas. Farmers pointed out that without establishment of sustainable market, it would remain difficult for increase in production to be realized.

**Fig 6 shows their produce to different market place.**

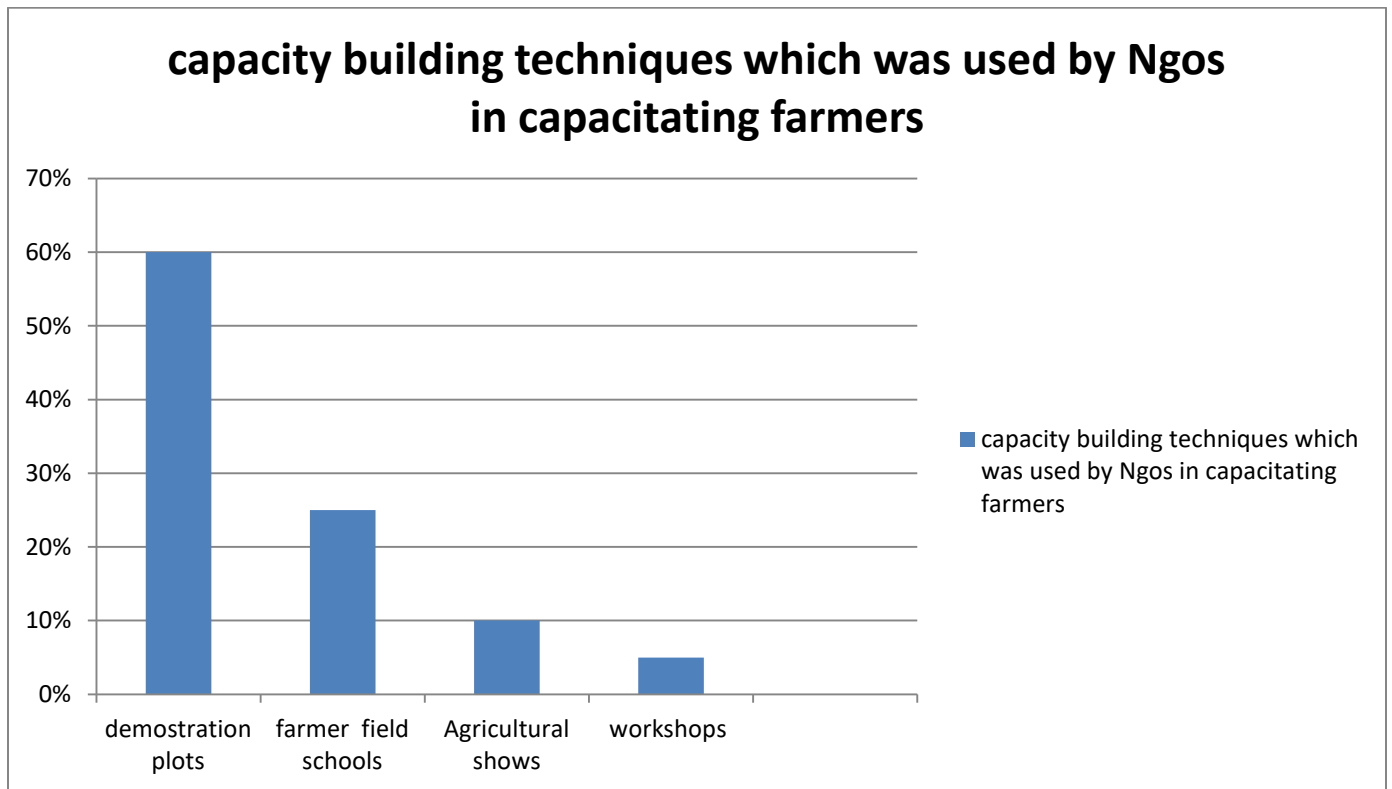


#### **4.2 Contribution made by NGOs to enhance capacity of farmers.**

This section of the study covers the contribution made by NGOs on capacity building of small scale farmers. The study revealed that NGOs which have implemented projects which were earmarked for the capacity building of small scale farmers include World Vision, Practical Action, Zim AIED, SNV as well as Plan International. These NGOs contributed on addressing small holder farmers’ needs. Capacity building techniques which were used in capacitating farmers include demonstration plots, workshops, agricultural shows and farmer field schools. Key informants (KI) interviewed however mentioned that demonstration plots were the most

capacity building techniques used by NGOs in capacitating small holder farmers. Demonstration sites were established in each village. The majority of respondents (50%) agreed that they have benefited from demonstration plots, 30% of respondents noted that they have benefited farmers field schools, 5% of respondents noted that they have benefited from workshops, 10% benefited from agricultural shows.

Fig 7 shows capacity building techniques which have been used by different NGOs on capacity building of small scale farmers



#### 4.2.1 Capacity building on inputs accessibility.

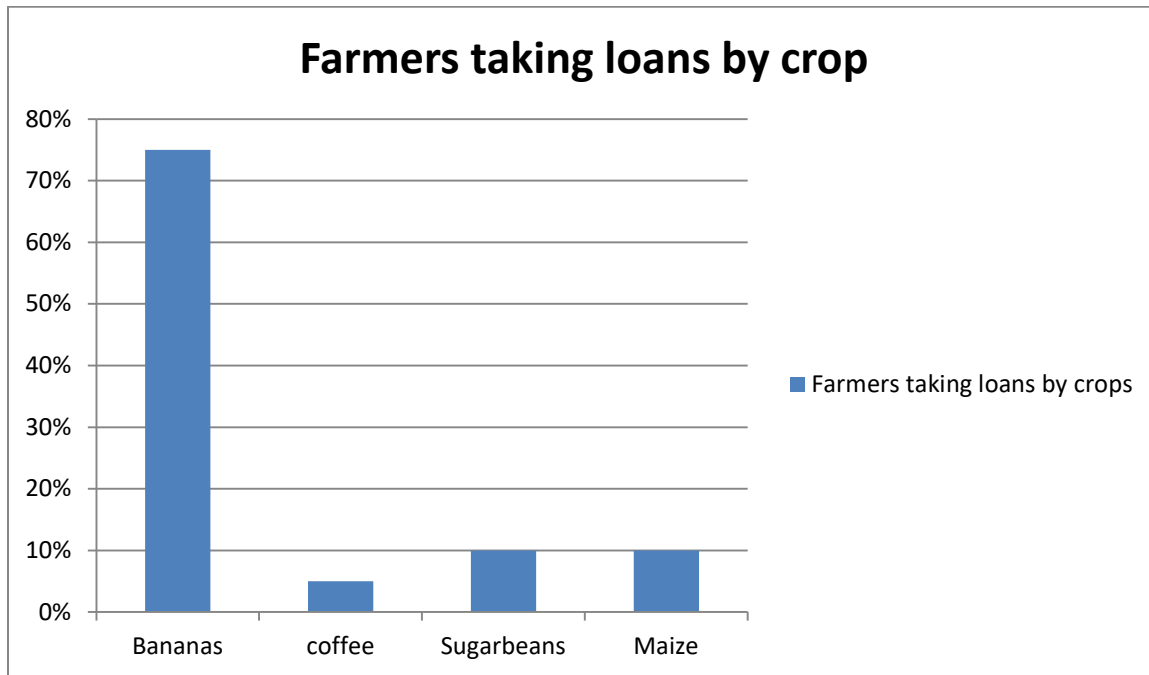
Lack of affordable inputs has long been a challenge faced by small scale farmers. These inputs include fertilizers, chemicals as well as seeds. Given this scenario World Vision through its project entitled Revitalization of Small Holder Agricultural production in Zimbabwe which started from 2010-2012 in partnership with SNV offered inputs to coffee growers, Zim AIED in partnership with FAVCO also distributed tissue cultured banana plantlets, lime, Compound C, Ammonium Nitrate and compound J to farmers. Bio technology was introduced in the research area and this involved the use of tissue cultured banana seedlings. Traditional method of

propagating banana had proved to be vulnerable to diseases; therefore the introduction of tissue cultured seedlings resulted in boom in banana production. Also area under cultivation had increased from 0, 7 hato 0, 8ha. The land which was abandoned by coffee growers due to lack of inputs was brought to use. Practical Action also distributed inputs to lead farmers with the intention that benefits will trickle down to other farmers. All farmers benefited from inputs provided by NGOs however 20% of respondents noted that the input provision by Practical Action is only meant to capacitate progressive farmers at the expense of farmers. Be that as it may respondent strongly agreed that capacity building on inputs provision has resulted to increase in production.

#### **4.2.2 Accessibility to financial institution.**

Since access to financial houses has proved to be difficult for small scale farmers, NGOs linked farmers to micro finance institutions such as VIRL and HIVOS. However, the study revealed that interests proved to punitive for small scale farmers. The study also noted that farmers who were trained on group formation were able to access loans from Agribank in Mutare. Zim AIED also engaged farmers into contract farming with FAVCO and in this regard farmers were given loans on contract bases. Approximately 80% of respondents noted that they were able to access loans from financial institution though interest rates were very high for example VIRL which was charging interest rate of 8% per month. For coffee and banana producers, SNV and Zim AIED organized farmers into groups respectively. Group mechanism was designed to act as guarantee initiative for defaulters.

**Fig 8** below shows percentage of farmers taking loans by crop.



#### **4.2.3 Market Accessibility**

NGOs have also played a fundamental role in linking farmers to formal markets. Small farmers who practice banana farming were linked by ZIM-AIED to FAVCO which engaged farmers into contract farming. In this regard, market would be established as a result of contract farming. The price of Banana has increased from 0, 30/kg from 0, 10kg. Farmers used to sell their bananas to middlemen (commonly known as makoronyera) and open markets such as Sakubva and Mbare musika. This practice left farmers with very little disposable income because they incurred heavy losses and spend much time at the market place which resulted in less time to monitor their fields. For coffee growers World Vision together with SNV engaged Zimbabwe Coffee Millers as a market for coffee produced by small scale farmers. Approximately 80% of small scale farmers who grow coffee sold their coffee through ZCM at an average price \$3, 40/kg. Previously coffee growers had abandoned their plantation due to lack fixed market place. As a result of intervention of World Vision and SNV, production increase in coffee was realized.

#### 4.2.4 Contribution of NGOs in dealing climate change

NGOs have intervened with various strategies in dealing with climate change. It is beyond reasonable doubt that climate change has left small holder farmers incapacitated. Evidence of climate change such as rise in temperature has negatively affected agriculture production. Conservative agriculture was introduced by NGOs with support from extension Officers working in the ward. The majority of respondents noted that conservative agriculture has proved to be beneficial in face of climate change. Key informants interviewed mentioned that given the fact that small scale farmers are undercapitalized, conservative agriculture is only way forward. In an attempt to reduce the impacts of climate on agriculture production World Vision, Practical Action and Plan International have revitalized irrigation schemes found in Muparutsa. Small Scale farmers were also trained maintaining irrigation equipments. Table 6 shows name of irrigation scheme, number of beneficiaries, area in hectares and crops grown.

**Table 6 irrigation scheme**

<b>Name of irrigation scheme</b>	<b>Number of Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Area (Ha)</b>	<b>Major crops grown</b>
Makuwaza	60	30	Maize, banana, and sugar beans
Dambanda	41	13	Maize, banana and sugar beans
Manyumwa	89	17,8	Maize, banana, sugar beans
Buwu	42	19,5	Maize, banana, sugar beans
Murara	30	60	Maize, banana, sugar beans

#### 4.2.5 Provision of Agricultural information.

The study revealed that NGOs have contributed immensely in providing agricultural information to small scale farmers. Extension officers which are working in ward 5 pointed out that shortage

of resources is the major challenge in their attempt to deliver extension services. In this regard the bulk of small scale farmers are being left at their own at a time they badly need support. Approximately 60% of small holder farmers pointed out that they have benefited from extension services provided by NGOs in the area. Information provided by NGOs was centered on good agricultural practices, climate smart agriculture, marketing information as well post harvesting information. Zim AIED in partnership with FAVCO delivered extension services to the farmers in ward 5. Practical Action also trained extension officers with the intension that they will deliver information to the farmers. The study revealed that there is high adaption of conservative farming. As a result of climate change which was noted, conservative agriculture has resulted to increase in agriculture yields.

#### **4.2.6 Group formation**

Small scale farmers were also trained on group formation. Formation of groups is vital for small scale farmers to access financial houses as well as in selling their produce. For coffee growers SNV facilitated the organization of farmers into groups of 10. For Banana producers Zim AIED in partnership also facilitated group formation. The group approach was a good strategy to enhance access to financial institutions in an environment where small scale farmers had been sidelined by financial houses due to lack of collateral security. The study revealed that small scale farmers in groups were able to access inputs from Agribank and the conventional wisdom was that group mechanism would act a guarantee mechanism for defaulters. Before the intervention of NGOs, farmers had little experience when it comes to banana marketing yet formal markets that require large quantities of fruits cannot work with individual small scale farmer. The study revealed that farmers were mobilized in groups using geographical location as the main criterion. An important factor in the operation of a group is leadership and in this regard capacity building on leadership was facilitated by NGOs.

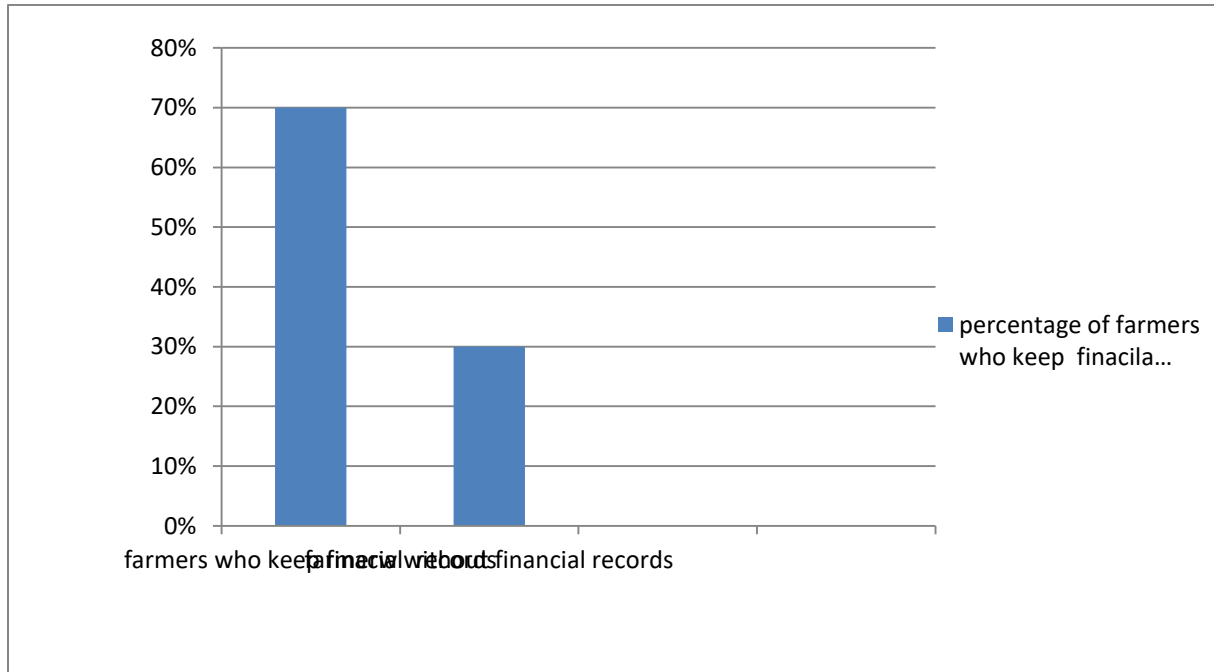
#### **4.2.7 Farming as a business**

The study has also revealed that small scale farmers were trained on farming as business. Farming as a business trainings were done by SNV to all coffee farmers. Zim AIED also trained farmers who are practicing banana production. These trainings focused on product costing, profit and loss calculations, credit management and contract farming. The study also revealed that banana farmers were also trained on record keeping, banana budget and cash flows. When asked about financial record keeping it was revealed that 70% of farmers with primary and secondary



education revealed that they keep financial records. However, 30% of farmers mentioned that the absence of record keeping due to illiteracy. Record keeping is vital element and this would determine the viability of business operation.

**Fig 9** below show percentage of farmers who kept their financial records



### 4.3 Impact of NGOs intervention

This section of the study reveals the impact on NGOs contribution on livelihoods of small scale farmers. This include the impact on food security, access to support networks, health standards, children education, family savings, housing qualities as well as income of small scale farmers. This section also reveals whether there is an improvement on the livelihoods of farmers as a result of NGOs interventions.

**Table 7** below shows the level of impact of NGOs intervention of livelihoods of farmers

	<b>Level of impact</b>
Family food security	Improved
Family's Health	Improved
Family's Access to support networks	Improved
Family's capacity to cope with social issues such as unemployment.	Improved
Children education.	Improved
Family income	Improved
Housing qualities	Improved
Quality of family diet	Improved
Agricultural production	improved
Employment creation	improved

#### **4.3.1 Improved income from farming production**

The study revealed that income of small scale farmers has improved drastically as a result of NGOs intervention on capacity building of small scale farmers. Respondents pointed out that prior to Zim AIED, yields were low and it was approximately 1, 74 tons per hectare. It was noted that biotechnology which was introduced by Zim AIED in partnership with FAVCO resulted to increase in production and also resulted in the increase in expansion of area under cultivation. One beneficiary in Murara village pointed out that as a result of NGOs intervention 80 tons per hectare are being realized. In this regard biotechnology introduced was centered tissue cultured banana plantlets. On comparison note, beneficiaries of tissue cultured bananas had more income as compared to farmers who had not adapted biotechnology. Mean income value of tissue culture bananas was \$ 300/month whereas the average for traditional varieties was \$ 85/month. Thus the difference in income levels between tissue culture bananas and traditional varieties is significant and is attributed by yield levels, uniformity of bunches and the ultimate quality of the banana fingers.

**Table 8:** Difference in Productivity and Incomes between Tissue Culture and Traditional Bananas.

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Tissue culture mean</b>	<b>Traditional banana mean</b>
Production (t)/ annum	25t	5
Gross Income (USD)/ annum	7 500-00	1 500-00

Mean annual values of output produced under tissue culture bananas (25t) were higher than those of traditional bananas (5 t). Additionally, mean gross income values of households from tissue culture bananas (USD \$ 7 500-00) were higher than those from traditional varieties (USD \$1 500-00). The study also revealed that for coffee growers income generation also improved. Most farmers sold their through ZCM at an average market price of \$3.40/kg. Therefore income generation of small scale farmers improved as a result of capacity building projects implemented by NGOs. One beneficiary noted that.

*“I managed to build a new modern kitchen and start up banana project using coffee proceeds. I am now harvesting 1000 kilograms of bananas after every two months worth \$320. Coffee farming has increased my financial viability and improved dietary diversity. I am also using coffee proceeds to pay school fees and purchase school supplies for my children.”*

#### **4.3.2 Improved Housing qualities**

Capacity building of small scale farmers by NGOs has also resulted to improved housing qualities. As a result of income from farming, respondent pointed out that they have managed to improve their housing qualities. Most farmers managed to improve their homesteads by building new houses, installing irrigation equipment, buying residential stands in Hauna growth point.

One beneficiary noted that

*“Coffee farming has changed my life because I managed to build a new house and I’m planning to build a new Blair toilet using coffee proceeds. My standard of living has been improved through coffee farming as I’m now able to buy agricultural inputs for maize production as well as eating a balanced diet”*

### 4.3.3 Improved yields

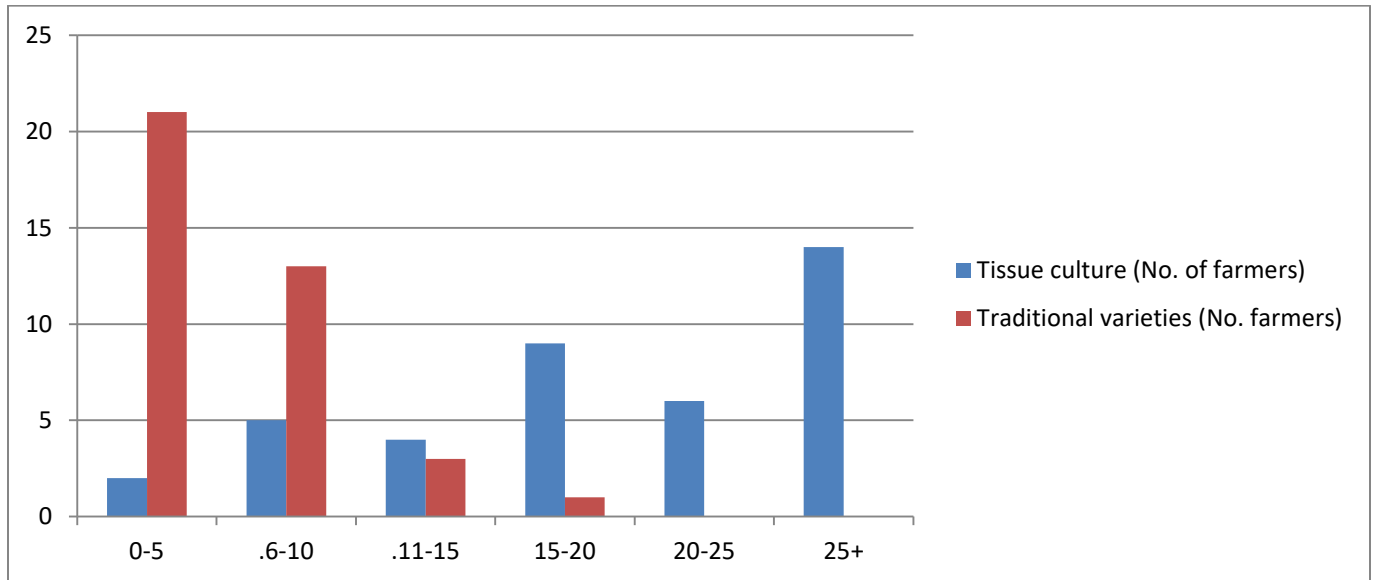
Research findings also showed that production increased as a result of NGOs intervention on capacity building of small scale farmers. Key informant interviewed pointed that in 2008 most small scale farmers had abandoned their banana and coffee field due shortage of resources such as inputs. Given this scenario small scale farmers who were provided with inputs such as tissue cultured banana seedlings, coffee seedlings as well sugar beans seeds. Production increase was realized as a result of support from NGOs. On a comparable note farmers who were supported by tissue cultured banana plantlets had outstanding yields as compared to non-beneficial farmers who used traditional way of propagating bananas.

According to literature review tissue culture bananas produce higher yields, better quality and more uniform bananas than traditional varieties. They also produce bunches earlier than traditional banana varieties. This was ascertained by the findings of this study. On average farmers are getting 25t/ha from tissue culture bananas and used to get about 5t/ha from traditional varieties.

**Table 9 Comparison of yield levels between tissue culture varieties and traditional varieties from the sampled farmers**

<b>Yield range (t/ha)</b>	<b>Tissue culture (No. of farmers)</b>	<b>Traditional varieties (No. farmers)</b>
0-5	2	21
6-10	5	13
11-15	4	3
15-20	9	1
20-25	6	0
25+	14	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>

**Fig 10 below is a comparison of yields between tissue cultured varieties and traditional varieties.**



#### **4.3.4 Household food security**

The study revealed also that household food security was also enhanced as a result of NGOs intervention. Approximately 30% of respondents pointed out the intervention of NGOs have resulted to improved food availability. However Key informant interviewed mentioned that food utilization has proved to be poor. The researcher observed that small scale farmers are driven by the desire to maximize their profits and little is being reserved for human consumption. This was also confirmed by Zimbabwe 2010 National Nutrition Survey which indicated that 40.1% of the children under the age five were stunted, 7% of the children 6-23 months received minimum acceptable diet. Therefore the study revealed though food is accessible and available for farmers' food utilization has proved to be poor.

#### **4.3.5 Employment Creation**

NGOs intervention on capacity building of small scale farmers also resulted in creation of employment. Farming is now perceived as a source of income. One NGO representative clarified that Honde valley was characterized massive exodus of the youth in search of employment. Migration was internal whereby the youth migrated to urban areas and external where youth migrated to nearby countries such as South Africa. NGOs intervention resulted to increase in income from banana farmers and coffee growers and this lured people back home. Respondent

pointed out a significant number in the ward that were involved in cross border trading have returned back to farming. Key informant interviewed confirmed that people are returning from urban areas and abroad to establish banana and coffee plantations. It was observed that casual labor is paid \$5 per day. In contrast, people who had migrated to work in nearby estates such as Eastern Highlands Tea Plantation were paid \$3, 50 per day. However employment was seasonal whereby people were employed to work during harvesting of crops.

#### **4.4 Challenges faced NGOs in capacitating small scale farmers**

Representatives from four sampled NGOs revealed that they encounter a number of challenges on capacity development of small scale farmers in Mutasa district. These challenges include inaccessibility of other areas, community resistance, donor funding, cultural values and norms, political interferences, farmers' characteristics as well as government extension workers who are unwilling to cooperate with NGOs.

##### **4.4.1 Inaccessibility of other areas**

NGOs operating in ward 5 of Mutasa district could not cover all areas due to poor road network in the ward. Representative from Practical Action pointed out that inaccessibility of other villages is difficult during rain seasons when the ground is wet. Even extension does not have the capacity to reach all farmers in the ward due to the problem of remoteness therefore it has remained difficult for NGOs to capacitate farmers residing in remote areas. The researcher also observed that the terrain of Honde valley is mountainous and road networks are also poor. Efforts made by Mutasa Rural District Council to improve networks have remained elusive goal. Representative from World Vision further pointed out that good road network is pivotal for market accessibility and transportation of inputs. As a result of poor road networks NGOs could not implement capacity development projects effectively.

##### **4.4.2 Characteristics of farmers.**

Representatives from World Vision, Zim AIED and SNV pointed out that they are challenged by characteristics of farmers. Most farmers in rural areas are haphazardly scattered. The same can be said about small holder farmers in Mutasa District. NGOs expressed mentioned that capacity building on group formation is difficult given the characteristics of farmers. NGOs also are supposed to facilitate organization of farmers into groups so that they can access credit as well as

inputs using group mechanism as a form of collateral security. Economically, organization of farmers into groups has multiplier effects as compared to individual farmer. The study revealed NGOs are challenged by characteristics of farmers in the ward.

#### **4.4.3 Community resistance**

Findings of the research also revealed that NGOs are challenged by community resistance in their attempt to enhance capacity of small scale farmers. Representative from World Vision pointed out that, dependency syndrome has proved to be a problem in the sense that farmers are always anticipating food handouts. Key informant interviewed pointed out that some farmers are unwilling to attend trainings facilitated by NGOs. During the period of 2008, NGOs such as Care International embarked on distribution of food handouts as a drought mitigation measure and this has resulted to the problem of dependency syndrome. Representative of Practical Action mentioned that farmers only attend workshops in anticipation of incentives. Henceforth resistance from farmers to be capacitated by NGOs has proved to be another challenge faced by NGOs in an attempt to facilitate effective capacity building.

#### **4.4.4 Political interferences**

The study also revealed that NGOs are challenged by political interference. According to views from Key informants some farmers have used meetings as a platform to pursue their political motives. Some projects which have been earmarked for capacity building have been stopped as a result of political interference in Mutasa District. NGOs representatives further pointed out that they have no freedom of participation and expression when conducting training of farmers due to presents of President's Office. Even participation of farmers is a challenge in the presents of President's Office. It was also further pointed out that some farmers politicize meetings and workshops through wearing part regalia. Therefore political interferences have remained one of the challenges faced by NGOs as revealed by the study.

#### **4.4.5 Donor funding**

The study also revealed that donor funding is another challenge faced by NGOs and this has resulted to incomplete process of capacity building. It should be noted that the process of capacity development is resource intensive and in this regard lack of funding has a negative impact on the process of capacity building. Key informant from Practical Action whose funding

is from United Kingdom Department for International Development pointed that ideas are being imposed by donor and this would result to change of project objectives. It was noted that NGOs working in the research area work with high degree of uncertainty due unstable funding. In this line NGOs could not cover much area due to shortage of funding. Due to donor dependency syndrome, NGOs expressed that there is no flexibility in carrying the process of capacity building. Therefore sustainability of NGOs intervention has remained an elusive goal.

#### **4.5 Conclusion**

The use of two approaches for the study helped to produce a holistic view of the impact of NGOs of NGOs on capacity development of small scale farmers in the area. Qualitative research provided a general analysis of the opinions, beliefs, feelings, attitudes and impressions of the farmers and other agricultural stakeholders. On the other hand quantitative research provided a scientific analysis to quantify perceptions from qualitative research and note the main impediments to agriculture.



## **CHAPTER: CONCLUSION**

### **5.0 Introduction**

This section of the study provides brief summary of research findings. It should be noted that NGOs have contributed significantly towards enhancing the capacity needs of farmers. This was noted through the improvement of livelihoods of farmers. Conclusion and also recommendations are also made.

### **5.1 Summary of Research findings**

The research findings revealed that agriculture production is the backbone of communities in Mutasa District. Crops grown for sale include bananas, coffee, maize and sugar beans. It was also noted that capacity needs of small scale farmers include lack of sustainable market, lack of agricultural information and lack of inputs. Small scale farmers pointed out that lack inputs is the major capacity need. Research findings also revealed that NGOs have played a pivotal role in capacity building of small scale farmers. Different capacity building techniques have been employed by NGOs in their attempt to enhance capacities of farmers. Research findings showed that farmer field schools, demonstration plots were effective in capacitating farmers. The findings of the research further pointed out that NGOs implemented building on group formation, market accessibility, financial accessibility, inputs accessibility as well as capacity building on climate change adaptive strategies. The impact of NGOs intervention resulted to increase in revenue from agribusiness, food security also improved and housing qualities also improved. Projects implemented by NGOs further resulted in boom production for example the introduction of biotechnology in banana farming which resulted in production increase. Henceforth the intervention of NGOs on capacity development improved significantly the lives of small scale farmers in Mutasa District.

### **5.2 Recommendations**

There is need for small scale farmers to specialize on Banana farming as revealed in research findings. There is the potential high income generation from specializing in banana farming. NGOs have also linked small scale farmers to private companies where market is well established. The climate of Honde Valley is well suitable for banana farming. Therefore concentration on banana farming will result to rapid income generation. Trainings conducted by

NGOs on banana farming had proved to bear dividends as evidenced by production increase realized by small holder farmers.

There is need for NGOs to employ diversified capacity building techniques on enhancing capacities of farmers. Basing on the research findings of the study, demonstration plots, and farmer field schools proved to be most appropriate. The research findings reviewed that there are farmers with primary and secondary education and also farmers without education. While farmer field schools are the most effective for farmers with primary and secondary education, for farmers without basic education it might not appropriate. Therefore, there is need for NGOs to employ a holistic approach in capacitating small holder farmers.

There is also need for Mutasa Rural District Council to work harmoniously with NGOs operating in the district through granting them Memorandum of Understanding. Mutasa RDC should also improve road networks so that all areas will be accessible. Good road networks are vital for the transportation of produce to the market therefore Mutasa RDC should work together with NGOs in various dimensions.

There is also need for establishment of sustainable market for agricultural produce. There is price monopoly by private companies operating in the research area. Price of market produce is being imposed on farmers without their consent. Without a well established market, production increase would remain difficult to reach. The study revealed that the price of inputs is higher as compared to produce. Henceforth NGOs should link farmers to sustainable markets

### **5.3 Conclusion**

The intervention of NGOs on capacity development of small scale farmers has changed the lives of small scale farmers positively. However efforts made by NGOs to enhance capacity of farmers lacked the idea of sustainability. In some instances, interventions proved to be a piece meal as farmers do not have the capacity to continue on their own after the exit of the projects. Be that as it may farmers had benefited from seminars, workshops, demonstration plots and trainings. Since extension officers are incapacitated items of resources NGOs were regarded as the major vehicle meant to deliver agricultural knowledge to small scale farmers. As a result of capacity building, boom in yields was realized especially in banana production and this was

catalyzed by the introduction of bio technology in banana farming. The study showed that farmers with primary and secondary education benefited from seminars and workshops, those with no education benefited from demonstration plots and agriculture shows. Therefore the holistic approach to capacity building proved to be inclusive as it incorporates all farmers. However NGOs were challenged in their attempt to intervene on capacity building of small scale farmers. Challenges faced include Donor dependency syndrome, characteristics of small scale farmers, as well remoteness of other areas. Be that as it may capacity building of small scale farmers had proved to be vital since it resulted to improvement of livelihood of small scale farmers in Mutasa district.

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## **APPENDIX 1: HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRES**

### **Introduction**

My name Cephas Mandirahwe and iam a student at Midlands State University pursuing honors degree in Development studies. Iam doing a research on the **IMPACT OF NGOs INTERVENTION ON CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL SCALE FARMERS IN WARD 5 OF MUTASA DISTRICT**. The information obtained is only for academic purposes and our responses will remain confidential. Please note that there is no any material benefits accrued as a result participating in this research now or in future. Should you wish to decline to be interviewed, you are at liberty of doing so without hesitation.

**Shall I go ahead with the interview?      Yes/                  No**

**Part A: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

Put a tick in the appropriate box and provide brief answers in the space provided.

**Sex**                                  Male                                    Female                 

**Marital Status**                  Single                                    Married                                    Widowed                 

**Age Range**                  under 25 years                                    26-30 years                                    31-40                                    Above 40 years                 

**Number of years in farming.**

0-2 years                   3-5 years                   6 – 8year                   9-10years

**Academic Qualifications**

No qualifications  O' Level  A' Level  Degree

**Section B**

B1. How many hectares of land do you own?.....H



B2. As a farmer which crops do you grow in your farm?.....

B3. Do you keep livestock? 1=Yes 2= No

B4. If yes what livestock do you keep on your farm.....

B5. Do you have adequate source of water? 1=Yes. 2 = No

B6. If no what is the water source.....

1= Irrigation 2 = Rainfall.

B7. What is the main purpose of farming?.

1= home consumption

2= For sale

3=home consumption and excess for sale

Others specify.....

B8. Is Banana Farming main source of income. YES ...NO....

Others specify.....

### **SECTION C: Training and support.**

C1 What skills do you have in Farming?.....

C2 Do you receive support in farming? Yes.....No.....

C3 How many extension visits do you receive per month?

1=once per month 2= twice per month 3= 3 times 4= 4times

C4 From whom have you received extension support?

1= NGOs 2=AGRTITEX 3= Private companies

C5. List NGOs involved in capacity building in your area?.....

C5 Indicate by ticking the most appropriate answer to each of the following statements stating that you:

Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A) Neutral (N), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD).

	Statement	S	A	N	D	S
		A				D
<b>Capacity building method: All households have benefited from the following</b>						
1	Workshops					
2	seminars					
3	farmer field schools					
4	Agriculture show.					
5	Demonstration Plots					

C6 Which are other way used in capacity building.....

1=educational method 2= Internet 3= print media 3 =mobile phones (Ecofarmer).

C7. Were you trained farming production?

C8. If yes what were you trained on?

C9

who supplies you with this information	Name
--	------

Farming as a business approach	
Group formation and leadership role	
budget and cash flow	
Record keeping	
Access to loan from banks, micro finance institution	
Marketing of produce.	
Irrigation and equipment maintenance.	
Help to access inputs like fertilisers, chemicals, etc	

1=AGRITEX OFFICERS 2= NGOs (name ) 3= Others Specify.....

**Section D Market linkages.**

D1. Where do you sell your produce?

1=Contract buying 2=farmer to farmer 3= side markets. 4= growth point 5= cities

D2. Do you sell your produce as a group? 1= Yes 2=NO....

D3. If yes when was the group formed?

1=2011 2=2012 3=2013 4=2014 5= 2015

D4. How is the produce carried to the market?

1=trucks 2=buses 3=scotch carts 4=buyers provided transport.

D5. Do you receive information about market for your products? YES.....NO....

D6. If yes who supplies you with information?

1=NGOs 2=AGRITEX

Other specify.....

D7. What was the quantity of crops sold to area name on D1?

Year	Name of the crop	Quantity of crop	Market place or company	Amount obtained in \$
2011				
2012				
2013				

### Section E Financial Support

E1 Have you received financial support 1= Yes 2= NO

E2 If yes which are lending institution?

Crop type (1=maize, 2=bananas 3=Sugar beans)	Value	Year (1=2011 2=2012 3=2013 4=2014 5=2015)	Lending institution (1=Agribank, 2=CABS 3=Micro finance institution (HIVOS etc))	Interest rates per month or per annum

E3. Do you keep records for financial transaction? Yes....NO....

### Section K: Challenges faced in farming production.

Constrain	Tick	Rank with the degree of seriousness

Financial challenge.		
Climate change		
Lack of inputs		
Lack of knowledge		
Market constraints		

Others specify.....

E4.

	Level of impact
Family food security	
Family's Health	
Family's Access to support networks	
Your Family's capacity to cope with social issues such as unemployment.	
Children education.	
Family Savings	
Housing qualities	
Quality of family diet	

1= improved 2 = deteriorated 3=No effect

Comments.....  
 .....

Thank you.

**APPENDIX 2: INTERVIEW GUIDE WITH NGOs**

- 1 How long have your NGO been operating in ward 5 Mutasa District.
- 2 What intervention is the NGO you are working with carrying out in the ward.
- 3 What are the major sources of your funds?
- 4 What are your objectives in agricultural communities?
- 5 Do you have role to play in capacity building of small scale farmers? Explain.
- 6 What methods have you used in capacitating small scale farmers
- 7 Have they been successful? Explain
- 8 Are you challenged in capacitating small scale farmers? Explain
- 9 Which NGOs are working in the ward in the field of agricultural development?
- 10 To what extent have they managed to address the capacity needs of farmers?
- 11 What is the impact of NGOs capacity building strategies had on the following?

	<b>Level of impact</b>
Family food security	
Family's Health	
Family's Access to support networks	
Family's capacity to cope with social issues such as unemployment.	
Children education.	
Family Savings	
Housing qualities	
Quality of family diet	

1= improved 2 = deteriorated 3=No effect

Thank you

**APPENDIX 3: MAP OF MUTASA DISTRICT**

# Mutasa District

