

KAHAMA DISTRICT COUNCIL
DISTRICT AGRICULTURE SECTOR INVESTMENT PROJECT
SEMI ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT JULY – DECEMBER 2008

INTRODUCTION

For the past six month, project implementation in Kahama district focused on farmers' capacity building and implementation of village micro-projects done by groups as well as communities. In farmers' capacity building, trainings have been conducted to both extension staff and farmers themselves. The staff attended workshops on participatory methodologies and report writing. Farmers were trained on crop and animal husbandry through a formal training provided to farmers' facilitators and also they have started a season long training on crop production through farmer field schools. This year the district has 180 farmer field schools whereby there are six groups in each village. The speed of project implementation is a bit slow due to delays in community contributions. This has contributed to delays in completion of many projects even those in which its implementation started last financial year. However the district is still sensitizing farmers on the importance of implementing the projects on time.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The district planned to implement the following activities:

- Implementation of the carried forward projects which include construction of storage structures, shallow wells, chaco dams, procurement of grain hulling machines, ox ploughs, and rehabilitation of two feeder roads in Malito and Sabasabini villages.
- Implementation of this years' micro projects which are construction of four storage structures, construction of five chaco dams, one cattle dip tank, and procurement of four hulling machines.
- Training of 30 farmer facilitators one from each village under the project area
- Formation of 180 participatory farmer groups which will be involved in training through farmer field schools
- Season long training of farmers in 180 PFGs
- Facilitating the implementation of mini projects to be carried out by last year's PFGs

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

The status of implementation of the above mentioned projects/activities is shown in the table below as follows:

A SUMMARY OF PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL STATUS OF PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED FOR THE YEAR 2007/08 PROJECTS

No.	PLANNED ACTIVITY	IMPLEMENTATION STATUS	AMOUNT DISBURSED ('000)	AMOUNT SPENT ('000)	BALANCE ('000)	REMARKS
1	Construction of 3 storage structures at Wendele, Kakebe and Shininga villages	Construction is completed in Kakebe and Shininga, Construction at Wendele is at roofing stage	68,000	46,455	21,545	
2	Construction of 10 shallow wells at Iponyanholo, Makongolo, Nyabusalu, Nyamtengera, Banhi, Wendele, Igunda, Kundikili, Sabasabini and Butibu	Construction in 3 villages is completed, it is in different stages in different villages	43,200	12,266	30,934	
3	Construction of 2 chaco dams at Itebele and Masabi villages	Not yet started	32,000	0	32,000	
4	Procurement of 8 hulling machines for Mondo, Bunasani, Mwakuhenga, Kabondo, Itebele, Igunda, Nyamtengera and Shininga	Tendering processes are in progress. Machine houses at Mondo, Bunasani, Mwakuhenga Shininga and kabondo villages are at roofing stage	34,000	0	34,000	
5	Procurement of ox-ploughs for 7 villages of Kitwana, Nyashimbi, Wame, Butibu, mwakata Kabondo and Manungu	Tender has already been awarded. The supplier is yet to deliver the products.	3,850	0	3,850	
6	Rehabilitation of a 5.5km feeder road at Sabasabini village	Rehabilitation is completed	12,000	12,000	0	
7	Rehabilitation of 8.5km feeder road at Malito village	Rehabilitation is in progress, 4 culverts have	14,000	0	14,000	

		already been laid down				
TOTAL			207,050	70,721	136,329	

A SUMMARY OF PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL STATUS FOR PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED FOR YEAR 2008/09 PROJECTS

No.	PLANNED ACTIVITY	IMPLEMENTATION STATUS	AMOUNT DISBURSED ('000)	AMOUNT SPENT ('000)	BALANCE ('000)	REMARKS
1	Procurement of 4 hulling machines for Iponyanholo, Sabasabini, Buyange and Butibu	Tendering processes are in progress. Buyange village have started building a machine house	11,000	0	11,000	
2	Construction of 4 storage structures in Iponyanholo, Bunasani, Mondo, and Ngulu	Not yet started	90,176	0	90,176	Awaiting the community to open bank accounts
3	Rehabilitation of 1 cattle dip tank at Igunda village	Not yet started	7,112	0	7,112	Awaiting the community to open bank accounts
4	Construction of 5 chaco dams at Kundikili, Mwakuhenga, Kitwana Nyashimbi and wame	Not yet started	225,182	0	225,182	Awaiting the community to open bank accounts
5	Training needs assessment for 180 PFGs	Done	4,505	4,505	0	
6	Implementation of participatory farmers' groups mini projects (2007/08 PFGs)	It has already started. Some villages have drawn money for buying inputs	23,200	2,553	20,647	
7	Training of 30 farmer facilitators from 30 villages under the project area	Phase 1 training have been done	10,042	3,400	6,642	
8	Season long training of farmers through farmer field school	Training is in progress, inputs and stationeries have already been supplied, farming	90,000	33,663	56,337	

		activities are different stages				
9	Procurement of office stationeries	Stationeries have been procured	1,350	1,350	0	
10	Follow up visits and monitoring of project activities	Done	5,020	5,020	0	
TOTAL			467,387	50,491	417,096	

ACHIEVEMENTS

With the implementation on DASIP in the district, a number of achievements have been experienced. The following are some of the tangible achievements:

- A good number of farmers came up with the aim of joining participatory farmer groups. The district is expecting to have about 4500 graduated farmers at the end of this training season
- The yield harvested in the last training season has increased to almost double the amount that farmers used to harvest. For example, maize reached up to 24 bags per acre compared to previous where people were harvesting between 4 and six bags per acre
- Farmers who happened to implement micro projects have gained experience in project management, financial management and procurement procedures
- Through the project the district has increased its number of infrastructures. A 5km feeder road is now working, and 3 storage structures are in place ready to be used this year during harvesting

PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

Apart from achievements, there are also problems and challenges which the district is facing. The following are the problems/challenges:

- Slow pace of implementing the project. This is mostly due to low speed of community contributions. Some are hesitating due to their past experiences where they were given promises which were not fulfilled, and some have low incomes.
- Sometimes delays occur due to financial processes at the district level the requests may take up to 3 weeks for the money to be released.
- Lack of skills in procurement procedures which sometimes causes villagers to get false contractors
- There are difficulties in doing follow ups due to the type of transport available (motorbikes) especially during rain season where there are downpours and roads became very rough. Travelling long distances become difficult
- Some contractors are not trustworthy. During application they provide all the necessary documents and past evidences of their capability of performing the tasks, but when it comes to implementation problems such as lack of working tools and delays arises
- Lack of some technical personnel causes delays in implementing some projects. For example construction of chaco dams have not yet started because up to now the exercise of preparing BOQs is not through.

WAY FORWARD

In future the district is planning to do the following:

- Continue facilitating the implementation of village micro projects. The district will be working hand in hand with farmers, sensitizing them and trying to finish the projects in time
- Working closely to farmers and helping them identify false contractors to avoid delays in implementation of their projects.
- Make internal discussions about the importance of releasing funds in time to make sure that activities are done on time
- Continue with season long training of participatory farmer groups in farmer field schools
- Continue making follow ups and monitoring to all project activities in villages and at the district level
- Making arrangements to get some of technical personnel outside the district to do some of the tasks that cannot be done with available staff.
- Since late opening of bank account contributes to late implementation of micro projects, the village is planning to use the disbursed fund to open bank accounts for farmers. The requests have already been submitted for the funded micro projects

RECOMMENDATIONS

The district recommends that farmers should be given enough skills especially for procurement activities and enough backstopping. This will be made possible if close supervision is applied. Thus district staff as well as WTFs has to be facilitated in terms of reliable transport and funds to make close supervision.

CONCLUSION

The project is helpful and the beneficiaries have experienced that. But they are facing a problem of contributing early because of their low incomes, been unsure that their goals will be achieved, and sometimes difficulties in organizing the groups. However with time they will be full involved and motivated after seeing the already completed projects. This have been observed in areas where projects are completed, farmers living in the neighboring villages under project, have gained morale and this pushes them to want to achieve too.