

Dear Friends of FSNZ

This newsletter comes at a very interesting (albeit trying) time for Zimbabwe. We have again began to experience the reincarnation of 2008 and its demons which include cash shortages, no electricity, price hikes and long fuel lines amongst other things.

This in itself creates major problems for programming however that has not deterred us from doing the work that we are doing under the NAK project and other partnerships that we are exploring,.

For many years I have done trainings primarily in the sun. I was presently surprised when the Makoni farmers completed their shed and roofed it and we conducted our first training in the shed. This is currently being hired out by the Makoni association for meetings and allows them to stay afloat for other activities



This year has not only been a drought year for Zimbabwe but it has also be a tough year economically for the farmers. As part of the pillars of Fairtrade the Social pillar is there to represent and assist in social issues. Farmers used part of their premium of the year for drought relief and food packs that were to support the farmers who in most houses no longer had sufficient food to eat. We participated in the distribution to ensure that there was no political connotations tied to the distribution.



As the NAK project is around Peer Guaranteed System (PGS) we have been partnering with Zimbabwe Organic producers and promoters Association in Juru and Svosve to get their PGS system working for the Horticultural crops that are grown. Traditionally they have sold their horticulture produce to local markets such as Mbare (a local market situated in the community of Mbare) without differentiating between organic and non-organic and we have been working with them to secure markets in local shops such as SPAR and Pick and Pay. Negotiations between FSNZ and the potential market was stalled by the change in monetary policy. However we have continued to train farmers as the issue of consistency in Supply, this was a hard negotiating point that the trust was having with the potential market.

In the past quarter we have been working with ZOPPA (Zimbabwe Organic Producers and Promoters Association) through the NAK project we have a mandate to promote Peer Guaranteed Certification (PGS) and ZOPPA as the custodians of the certification scheme together with FSNZ have partnered to promote local markets for farmers and to ensure that farmers are organized into formal groups that gives them a greater voice on the market.

Trainings were conducted in Juru and Svosve with a total of four hundred farmers in the areas.



Training in Juru on PGS



Field demonstrations on planting vegetables



certificate of attendance

The laws of engaging communities continue to change due to the political climate in the country and as an organization that interfaces with the community, we often have to validate our presence in communities by giving the relevant authorities information that they might require of the organization. It is not uncommon that mid training, you might be stopped because there is a vetting taking place. All words in trainings have to be chosen deliberately so that there is no risk of misunderstandings that can lead to suspension of operations by the authorities.



Restoring dignity to small scale producers in Zimbabwe

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However, we continue to solidify and serve the communities to the best of our abilities. We still believe that Zimbabwe can be changed through sustainable agriculture. We also believe that given the right tools communities can bring relevant change in their communities. In our life time we seek to contribute to a better Zimbabwe.

Whats next,

This coming quarter we will be meeting with the KAITE Verein for a strategic planning and plan our way forward.

We are looking forward to continue sharing our journey with you.

All the best

Shamiso Mungwashu

For Fairtrade Support Network Zimbabwe