



The Politics of Seed Relief in Zimbabwe

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Introduction

- Over the last decade Zimbabwe went through a socio-economic crisis , characterized by:
 - Negative GDP growth rate
 - Price controls in a hyperinflation environment
 - Shortage of basic commodities
- The crisis had a dramatic impact on the seed system
 - Reduction in the supply of quality seeds
 - Undermined regulatory authority
- As a result agricultural productivity declined

Historical Overview

- Maize seed production and demand was dominated by large scale commercial farmers
- Adoption of hybrid seed was as high as 90% among small holder farmers even in marginal areas
- A well regulated Seed Industry through the (Seed ACT) administered by a well functioning Seed Services
- A well established agro-dealer network (rural traders)
 - In 2000 , 374 wholesalers and 2 057 agro dealers were registered with Seed Services

Current Seed System

Local Seed production was rapidly transformed following land reform and the socio economic crisis.

- New network of seed growers on small-scale plots
- Increased costs of supervision and quality control
- In 2010, less than 100 wholesalers were registered , and only 300 agro-dealers
- For a number of years prior to 2010, seed production was depressed.

Maize Seed Production Trends

Season	Seed produced/sales (Tonnes)
2002/03	45 000
2003/04	22 000
2006/07	43 000
2007/08	50 000
2008/09	32 000
2009/10	22 672
2010/11	55 263

- Area planted averaged around 1.6 million Ha an indication that farmers accessed seed from informal seed system
- An effective seed production system is emerging

Narratives



- The overbidding narrative was that of scarcity and failure of alternative seed systems
- However narratives changed depending on the situation
 - Responding to food insecurity
 - Supporting viable farmers
 - Focusing on humanitarian assistance (social protection)
- The current dominant narrative is the need to support the resuscitation of the input market

Overview of Past Gvt Programme

- Government Summer/Winter Crop Input Scheme beginning 2000
- The Productive Sector Facility (PSF)
- The Agricultural Sector Productivity Enhancement Facility (ASPEF)
- Operation Maguta/Inala
- The Champion Farmer Programme
- SADC Agricultural Inputs Support Programme
- Subsidized input programme implemented through Grain Marketing Board (GMB)
- The Presidential Well Wishers Input Programme

Key Characteristics of State Programmes

- Central procurement and distribution through parastatals.
- Majority of inputs were imported
- Heavy subsidies which distorted the market
 - A 10kg seed pack at 20 USD on the open market was being sold US\$ 5
- Leakages
- Focus on all the farming community including newly resettled farmers
- Limited coordination with NGO programmes

Overview of Past NGO Programmes

Proportion of households and quantity of inputs distributed by NGOs 2004 -2010

Year	Households Supported(%)	OPV	Hybrid	Small Grains	Fertilizers
2003/04	65	3,304	3,061	2,835	7,737
2004/05	28	1,972	291	847	5,828
2005/06	24	1,605	31	771	5,828
2006/07	21	696	175	981	9,049
2007/08	15	307	138	1,119	8,598
2008/09	20	1,282	54	939	15,509
2009/10	48	5,877	641	1,157	51,356

The dominant strategy used to deliver inputs to beneficiary households during this period was direct distribution

Key Characteristics of NGO programmes

- Central procurement and distribution through NGOs
- Majority of inputs were imported
- Inputs were distributed for free
- The desire to support as many farmers as possible therefore compromising the quality of the support
- Limited coordination with state programmes

2010/11 Input Programmes

- Government persisted with non market friendly programmes (free and subsidized programmes through parastatals)
- NGO experimented with a combination of market and direct distribution
 - Commodity and value based vouchers redeemable at agro dealers
 - Direct distribution
- In 2010/11 season, 68% of the beneficiaries were supported through market friendly mechanisms - compared to less than 5% in 2009-10 season

Summary of Input Packages

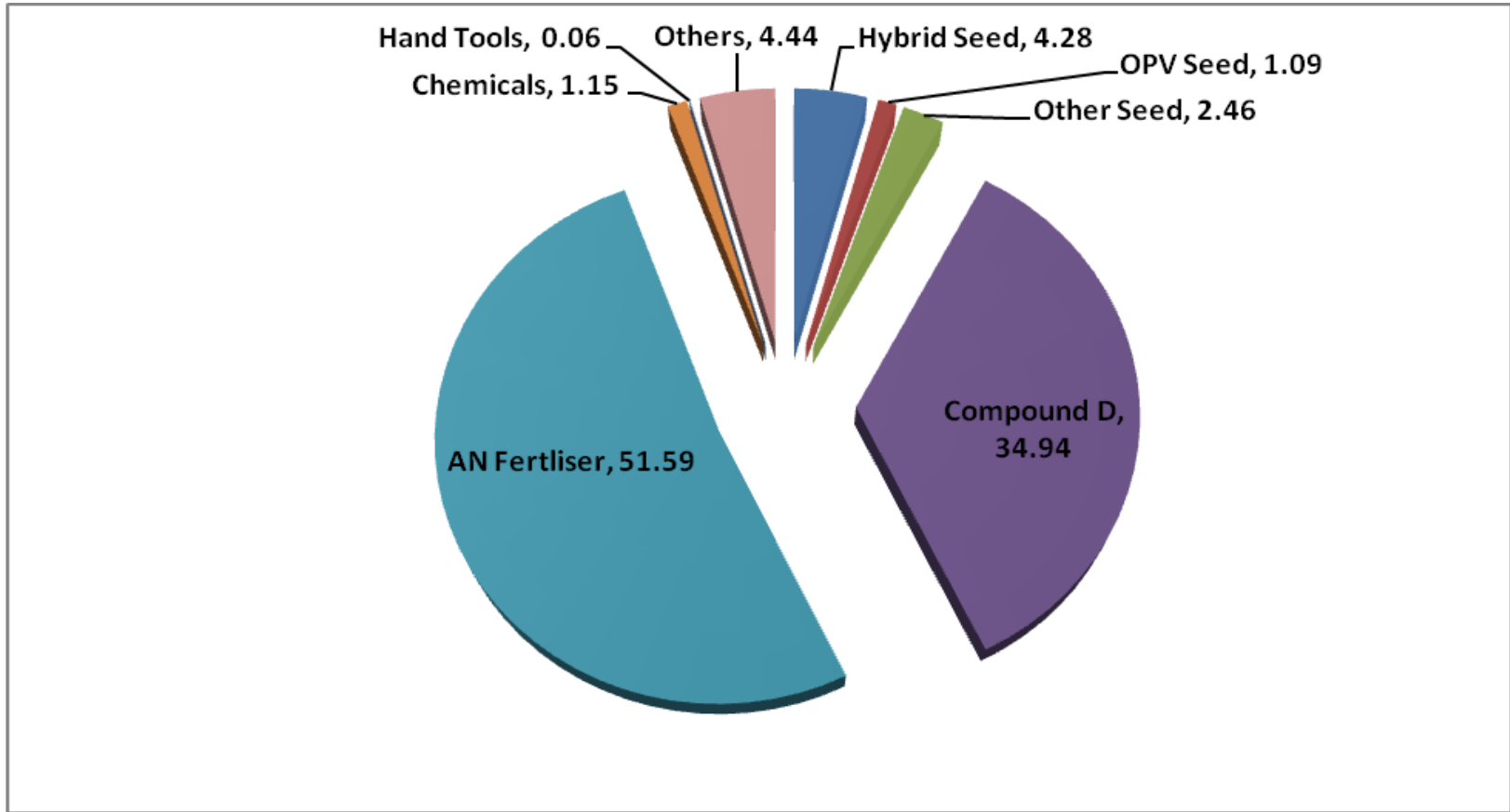
Input Programme	Package or Potential Package
Government Vulnerable Farmer Free Input Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 kg of maize/ 5 kg of sorghum seed • 50 kg of Compound D and 50 kg AN Fertiliser
Government Subsidized Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 kg of maize/ 5 kg of sorghum seed (USD 5) • 50 kg of Compound D and AN Fertiliser each (US15)
Presidential Input Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The programme was fluid, the input pack changed from time to time. • 10 kg of maize/ 5 kg of sorghum seed • 50 kg of Compound D and 50 kg AN Fertiliser
NGO Voucher Scheme (USD60)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10kg of maize seed • 50kg of Fertiliser (AN or Compound D)
NGO Voucher Scheme (USD70)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10kg of OPV maize seed • 50 kg of Compound D and 50 kg AN Fertiliser
NGO Direct Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5kg sorghum, 5kg groundnuts 3kg cowpeas, 2kg millet, 12.5kg AN and 12.5kg Compound D • 50kg AN + 10 Kg Maize+ 25kg Basal, 3kg cowpeas • 50kg AN, 25kg basal, 5kg sorghum, 10kg G/Nuts

Proportion of Household Which Accessed Inputs By Source

District	Purchases (%)	NGO (%)	Government (%)	NGO or Government (%)
Beitbridge	38.3		41.1	41.1
Chivi	64.2	47.5	22.5	58.3
Gokwe South	62.7	28.7	57.3	74
Goromonzi	54.7	60.7	28	74
Overall	55.8	36.4	37.8	64

Agro dealers can play a role in delivering inputs to small holder farmers

Purchasing Patterns of Value Based Beneficiaries in High Potential Areas



Lessons Learnt

- Value based vouchers were the most efficient
 - Farmers purchased inputs of their choice
 - Due to competition inputs were made available timely
- Commodity Based vouchers
 - Reconnected small holder farmers with agro dealers
- Need for coordination
- Timely planning – agricultural window is small
- Lack of trust and power relations between agro-dealers and rural agro-dealers.

What factors are influencing seed policy in Zimbabwe

- Restrictive measures : hence humanitarian funding is the only source of funding
- Short term planning horizons
- Influence of patronage politics
- A focus on techno fixes
- Limited regulatory capacity
- Restricted policy debate

Consequences of seed policy

- Constraints on rural agro dealers
- Dependence on public and donor subsidies
- Rise in rent-seeking and elite capture
- Ill conceived input programmes
- Market distortions.

Conclusion

- There is merit in government and aid agencies implementing market based programmes.
 - However
 - Overlapping objectives
 - Limited coordination
 - Mistrust among key stakeholders
- is compromising the effectiveness of the input programmes.



Thank You

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