



中國國際扶貧中心
International Poverty Reduction Center in China

ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT



ORGANISATION DE
COOPÉRATION ET
DE DÉVELOPPEMENT
ÉCONOMIQUES

China-DAC Study Group

Effective Support for Agricultural Development

Joint Study Visit to Zimbabwe

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The **China-DAC Study Group** was formed in 2009 to share knowledge and exchange experiences on promoting growth and reducing poverty in developing countries, including how international assistance can be effective in supporting this objective. Facilitating mutual learning on poverty reduction is the Study Group’s key principle. The Study Group comprises experts and officials from China and members/observers of the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee (DAC) with detailed knowledge and operational experience of DAC donor support as well as of China’s aid to foreign countries. The Study Group is supported by the International Poverty Reduction Centre in China (IPRCC) and the OECD, which form a joint secretariat. The Study Group seeks to involve African institutions in its activities.

Further information on the China-DAC Study Group and its activities is available on the Internet at: www.iprcc.org or www.oecd.org/dac/cdsg

Overview

The China-DAC Study Group's current work programme focuses on facilitating mutual learning between China and the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) on how to deliver quality aid to support more effective development and poverty reduction in developing countries. Improving the quality of foreign assistance is an objective for both China and the DAC. As highlighted in its 2011 *White Paper on Foreign Aid*, China is working actively to optimise the country's foreign aid structure and improve the quality of its foreign aid. As part of its mandate, the DAC seeks to enhance the quality and effectiveness of development assistance, particularly regarding pro-poor economic growth and poverty reduction.

As a component of its work programme for 2011-12, the Study Group is preparing a Roundtable discussion, to take place in Beijing in June 2013, on "Effective Development Co-operation: Drawing Lessons from Agricultural Development in Africa". The purpose of this knowledge and experience-sharing exercise is to identify, promote and align DAC members' and China's activities that support national efforts to achieve agricultural sector growth and poverty reduction goals. In order to provide an evidence-based input for the Roundtable, a joint study visit to Zimbabwe took place from 19 to 23 November 2012. The team from China and some DAC members in the Study Group (see Annex 1) had a series of meetings with government officials from national to local levels as well as development partners and their implementing agencies. The team also made site visits to projects supported by China and some DAC member countries (see Annex 2 for the visit programme). This visit followed a similar mission to Tanzania in October 2011.

This report presents the background for the joint study visit, key information about Zimbabwe's agriculture and development context, an overview of the activities visited and the main findings from the visit, focusing particularly on three challenges facing international assistance: conditionality, sustainability and the management of external aid. The main findings are derived from the observations and discussions among the joint study team members and do not necessarily represent the opinions of any team member, nor the position of any of the team members' organisation.

In general, the visit to Zimbabwe enabled the joint study team to learn more about and better understand different approaches to supporting economic growth and poverty reduction through agricultural development in the Zimbabwean context. Zimbabwe is a country in transition. In March 2013, Constitutional reforms were adopted and many countries are reviewing their sanctions. Communication between the government and international partners is improving, with several technical groups focused on specific sectors now meeting, chaired by the relevant sector ministry. Zimbabwe has the potential to become a middle-income country and the evolving context favours greater self reliance. DAC members are conscious of the importance of not encouraging a dependence on aid during this transition period. Promoting self reliance is a corner stone of China's approach to providing aid to foreign countries as well.

At the same time, the joint study team noted some important dilemmas related to harmonisation, sustainability, co-ordination, ownership, conditionality and management of Zimbabwe's external assistance (see pages 20 to 21).

Based on its visit, the joint study team also formulated some suggestions for consideration of possible future actions to expand collaboration and increase co-ordination among Zimbabwe, China and DAC members, as well as Zimbabwe's other development partners (see pages 22 to 23).

The Context for Agricultural Development in Zimbabwe

Since 2009, Zimbabwe's economy has started to recover from a decade-long crisis that saw economic output decline every year during the period 1999 to 2008, making a cumulative decline of more than 45%. Supported by a strong recovery in domestic demand and government consumption, real gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 20% between 2009 and 2011. GDP growth was led by strong growth in mining (107%), agriculture (35%) and services (51%). According to the World Bank, in 2011, Zimbabwe's GDP (in purchasing power parity terms) was estimated at USD 9.6 billion with an annual growth of 9.4%. GDP per capita was USD 757 for a population of 12.8 million. Recovery in the manufacturing sector (22%) has been markedly less vigorous. Strong external demand for primary commodities (platinum, gold, cotton and tobacco) has supported higher production levels, which have recovered to pre-2000 levels in value terms. The value of mineral exports increased by 230% during the 2009-11 period, while the value of agricultural exports increased by 101% over the same period. Since production levels of tobacco, cotton and gold have not yet recovered to their year-2000 levels, Zimbabwe has been unable to fully exploit the benefits of high international prices to boost exports further.

After a long period of economic decline, marked by hyperinflation, high rates of unemployment and steep drops in agricultural production, Zimbabwe's economy is beginning to bounce back. Still, over one million people suffer from food insecurity and many communities are in need of assistance as the country transitions from a period of crisis to a development phase. Around 70% of the population lives in rural areas and relies on agriculture for their livelihood, which is why the agriculture sector is so crucial to Zimbabwe's economic recovery.

Traditionally, Zimbabwe's agriculture sector was dualistic - on the one hand, there was the commercial sub-sector comprised of large-scale farms producing cash crops such as tobacco and grain; on the other, there were small-scale producers who grew food crops, especially maize. These food crops fed the country and there was even a surplus for export to other countries in the region. The government's land reforms dismantled the existing system of land distribution and severely affected the commercial farming sector, which was an important source of exports and foreign exchange, and which provided employment for about 400 000 people in rural areas. The old system was geared to large-scale production and the transition to smallholder production has been slow and painful.

The agricultural sector is pivotal to the economy of Zimbabwe and contributes 14 to 18% of GDP, 40% of export earnings and provides 60% of raw materials for industry. Most agriculture is dependent on rainfall rather than irrigation and production fluctuates in response to the amount of rain. The overall economic decline increased household vulnerability in rural areas. The decline in productive labour; the unavailability of, or inaccessibility to, key inputs, such as seeds and fertilizer; weak market linkages coupled with the dismantling of the farming sector; and the effects of climate change compound the deterioration of agricultural productivity and production. All these factors resulted in nearly seven million Zimbabweans being dependant on food aid in the first quarter of 2009. Three relatively successful maize harvests - 1.27 million tonnes in June 2009 (a two-fold increase over the previous year), 1.35 million tonnes in 2010 and a 4% increase during the 2011/12 season - brought optimism that the country was turning the corner on its food insecurity. Food security conditions are generally stable across most of the country, however, the increased cost of living combined with slightly higher maize prices could affect the food security of low-income households, particularly as households shift to market purchases to satisfy their food requirements during the peak lean period.

The agricultural sector has been re-configured by the land reform programme. The country needs to develop alternative institutional arrangements to serve the changed agricultural setting since the set-up that existed prior to the land reform programme is no longer appropriate. There is no national strategy for agricultural development; there should be a mechanism in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development to ensure synergies between different external projects in line with the priorities recognised by the Zimbabwean authorities.

As the joint study team observed, most of the programmes/projects in the agricultural sector supported by China and DAC members are to some extent following the principles of the Comprehensive African Sector Development Programme (CAADP), which is the African initiative to reach a higher path of economic growth through agriculture-led development. The work of CAADP falls under 4 pillars, each dealing with key issues: Pillar 1: land and water management (which is supported by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit - GIZ and the Japan International Cooperation Agency - JICA); Pillar 2: market access (which is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation - SDC and the United States Agency for International Development - USAID); Pillar 3: food supply and hunger (which is supported by USAID and China); and Pillar 4: agricultural research (which is supported by SDC and China). Both SDC and China not only support agricultural research and extension in Zimbabwe but also Africa-wide, while GIZ and JICA, as well as Britain's Department for International Development - DFID, are all strongly involved in the water sector. In Zimbabwe, the SDC programme operates at both the national level and through its regional programme for Southern Africa.

International Support for Zimbabwe – the examples of China and Switzerland

China and Switzerland are important international partners in Zimbabwe's development. As part of the joint study visit, the team received a briefing on support for Tanzania from the diplomatic missions of China and Switzerland, which had the main responsibility for arranging the joint study visit.

China

China is a major partner in Zimbabwe's development. The Chinese government provides technical co-operation as well as a range of grants and soft loans to Zimbabwe to support its development.

There are various bilateral agreements between China and Zimbabwe including economic and technical, trade and investment protection. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties, China has built in Harare a National Stadium, a hospital, a school, a dam and a textile factory with the support of the Export-Import Bank of China (China EXIM Bank) and Capital Steel of China helped Zimbabwe Steel restore its operations. China Construction Materials Limited developed a cement factory using credit and a subsidised loan from the China EXIM Bank. Bilateral trade reached USD 569 million in 2010. Aid programmes planned, underway and completed between Zimbabwe and China in agriculture include the Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centre, emergency food aid -a loan agreement with the China ExIm Bank - a grant of agricultural machinery by the Sichuan Provincial Government, and the training of key staff in the government of Zimbabwe's Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development.

The USD 30 million Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centre funded by China has been commissioned at Gwebi Agricultural College, about 40km north-west of Harare. The Centre is in a prime farming area and presents an ideal setting for experimentation, training and demonstration.

In 2011, the China ExIm Bank extended a loan to Zimbabwe of USD 334.7 million to procure tractors and support the mechanisation programme for Zimbabwe's agricultural sector. Despite the loan agreement being subsequently ratified by the Parliament of Zimbabwe, it is yet to be disbursed. Among the "sticking" points are the stipulation of a 10% down-payment to activate the loan and that the debt has to be fully amortised in five years using agricultural produce.

In February 2012, China made a USD 14 million donation of 4 910 tonnes of rice and 9 723 tonnes of wheat to Zimbabwe as emergency food aid, leaving the distribution modalities to the Zimbabwean government. The donation constituted 40% and 3% respectively of the annual rice and wheat requirements for the country.

The Sichuan Provincial Government of China donated a consignment of agricultural machinery to Zimbabwe comprising 10 farm trucks, 30 walking (two wheel) tractors and 50 water pumps.

With the suspension of government-to-government co-operation programmes with many DAC members, China stepped in to partly fill the void with study tours and short courses for key personnel at Zimbabwe's Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development. In parallel to that programme, China has seconded some of its agricultural experts to the Department of Agricultural, Technical and Extension Services (AGRITEX), the Zimbabwean public extension service. Zimbabwe has specified the preferred skills of the staff to be seconded. Ten experts come for a one-year assignment, with the first batch completing

their tour of duty in 2011 and 10 more expected in 2013. The experts were seconded to AGRITEX Head Office and their responsibilities included building the capacity of the host institution in areas of land-use planning, horticulture and agribusiness. The experts developed training programmes and accompanied AGRITEX staff on field visits. The Chinese government provides a stipend and is responsible for the general welfare of the experts.

Switzerland

Swiss aid to developing countries is mainly provided through three SDC programmes: Humanitarian Aid, Development Co-operation and a Global Programme on Food Security. Switzerland is supporting Zimbabwe's development through both its Southern Africa Regional Programme (RPSA) and a national humanitarian aid programme, previously focused on providing humanitarian assistance but now evolving into a programme promoting sustainable development, in line with the transition needs of the country.

The humanitarian and development assistance provided by SDC supports the Zimbabwean population with operations to combat HIV/AIDS and prevent cholera epidemics. In addition, funds are available to support the public delivery of health services and to improve water and sanitation. The programme also comprises emergency and early recovery aid in food and agricultural goods, including measures aimed at sustainably enhancing agricultural production. Another feature is its protection activities which address the needs of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Returnees, Refugees and Stateless as well as vulnerable children. SDC has provided funding to secure food distributed through the United Nations (UN) World Food Programme (WFP) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The major thrust of the SDC Food Security Programme is to improve the access and availability of agricultural inputs as well as to support the development and propagation of improved agricultural technologies. As in all SDC-funded projects, disaster prevention and dissemination of information are mainstreamed into the Food Security Programme.

A well balanced mix of expertise and instruments of development co-operation and humanitarian assistance, as well as the presence of SDC in Masvingo Province, allows the Swiss to engage solidly in supporting the transition in Zimbabwe. The programme focuses on regional food security and health (HIV/AIDS) as well as Zimbabwe-specific activities in water and sanitation, as reflected in the strategy for the Southern Africa Regional Programme for 2013-16. Specific humanitarian concerns, such as protection, are also integrated as a cross-cutting issue in the new regional strategy. The programme covers a range of activities from emergency aid to sustainable development. The SDC operation consists of direct, bilateral, multilateral and pooled-funding interventions with deployed experts on site as well as activities channeled through NGOs.

In 2011, SDC allocated CHF 7.6 million to the health sector. Two Swiss NGOs active in the fight against HIV/AIDS received financial contributions. "SolidarMed" raises community awareness on HIV/AIDS and builds capacity in rural health services to support a decentralised delivery of anti-retroviral treatment (ART). "Swiss Aids Care International" provides ART to 3 000 patients in a clinic in Harare. Altogether, these two organisations receive CHF 1.5 million annually. SDC also initiated in 2011 a directly implemented project to prevent a cholera epidemic by rehabilitating the water and sanitation infrastructure of 46 district hospitals and health centres which are part of the SolidarMed network in the districts of Bikita and Zaka.

In 2011, SDC allocated about CHF 2.3 million for food assistance. In 2012, some CHF 1 million went to WFP so that it could distribute cash and food products to poor and destitute people. Switzerland mostly

provides cash, rather than in-kind food aid, so that beneficiaries can support local production and markets by purchasing their food locally. In co-operation with Swiss relief agencies, milk products amounting to more than CHF 0.5 million are also distributed to hospitals and associations assisting children. In the south of Zimbabwe, SDC implemented, up until June 2011, a project supplying seeds and fertilizer to 12 200 small-scale farmers on a voucher basis. This project is continuing with a contribution from the Southern Africa Regional Programme for the rehabilitation of small irrigation schemes and support to input and output markets. Since the end of 2011, SDC supports, with CHF 0.3 million, a project from the International Office for Migrations (IOM) aimed at developing and implementing Community-Based Plans to facilitate the sustainable integration of Internally Displaced Persons. Gender is integrated into all SDC projects. SDC also participates in financing the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross, with a CHF 1 million contribution, and of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), with a contribution of CHF 0.5 million.

Support for Agricultural Development in Zimbabwe

As part of the visit to Zimbabwe, the joint study team visited activities supported by China, Switzerland and a range of other DAC members working in collaboration with SDC in Zimbabwe. These visits took place in two different parts of the country: i) the fertile agriculture area around Harare, where there was previously much commercial farming, and ii) Masvingo and the surrounding region in the south of Zimbabwe, a semi-arid area with minimal and uncertain rainfall which is generally unfit for agriculture, apart from cattle ranching.

Activities visited in Harare and the surrounding region

New Seed Initiative for Maize in Southern Africa

SDC has been active in supporting international partners such as the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) located near Harare to promote greater production of quality seeds of improved varieties. The "New Seed Initiative for Maize in Southern Africa" (NSIMA) was launched to conduct research into drought-tolerant maize varieties that can generate bigger harvests than conventional varieties, even in less fertile soil. The ultimate aim is to achieve greater food security. At the same time, NSIMA activities involve co-operation with government and private-sector stakeholders in the maize sector to encourage seed production and trade (also for small-scale producers).

The overall goal of NSIMA's third phase (2011-14) is to improve the food security of farmers in selected countries by developing and promoting new seed varieties. This is being done by stimulating the production, marketing and use of improved maize varieties with increased productivity, nutritional value and resistance to the conditions faced by resource-poor farmers in countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), particularly Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Lesotho, Swaziland and South Africa. "NSIMA III" is pursuing the following two main objectives:

- i) Multiply the varieties of maize developed and released through NSIMA Phases I and II, through the market mechanism and other agencies that are pro-active and responsive to the needs of resource-poor farmers.
- ii) Establish market-based network co-operation and cross-border transmission of benefits amongst project countries for maize seed variety development, registration and dissemination, seed-related initiatives (such as the SADC Seed System), and public-private partnerships, that will stimulate these varieties.

By 2016, the drought-tolerant maize programme is expected to boost maize yields by as much as 30%, benefiting up to 40 million people in 13 Sub-Saharan African countries and improving the food security of the region. By the end of 2014, retailers and agro dealers will be stocking and distributing different types of quality seeds that are adapted to climate change, giving farmers access to new varieties of maize better suited to the local climate. Poor farming households will thus have sufficient food for their family as well as the ability to earn an income for their other needs.

Chinese Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centre

The Demonstration Centre is an agricultural project resulting from the 3rd Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Co-operation (FOCAC) which was held in Beijing in 2006. The centre was established by Menoble Co. Ltd., a subsidiary of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Mechanization Sciences (CAAMS), and operates as a joint venture with the Zimbabwean government, represented by the neighbouring Gwebi Agriculture College. The rationale behind the formation of an agribusiness lies in the experience of applied agricultural research and reform that has taken place in China since the 1990s. Developing public and mixed-market mechanisms for agricultural research and extension services was a key component of China's agricultural reform. This project consequently applies the same model, with the project components focusing on achieving sustainability from the beginning of the project.

The centre in Zimbabwe, which is located near Harare, was built with a grant from the Chinese government of USD 30 million and aims to become commercially viable. It was designed to go through three phases to reach sustainability:

1. The construction phase.
2. The technical co-operation phase, with 3 years to test how to become sustainable, fully financed by the Chinese government.
3. The sustainable development phase, which might last for 5-12 years.

During the sustainable development phase, the centre will be expected to generate income to finance its own operations as well as research, training and extension programmes. The centre will be absorbed as one of the Zimbabwean Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development's centres of excellence in research and extension that also include research stations, farmer training centres and agricultural colleges.

Construction of the centre started in 2009 and was completed, by both Chinese and Zimbabwean workers, at the end of 2011. The Chinese Vice Premier, Hui Liangyu, officially handed the centre over to Zimbabwe's Vice President, Joyce Mujuru, on 5 April 2012.

Today, the centre is run by ten resident technicians from China. It covers a total area of 109 ha and includes three sections:

- i) **Experimental Study and Demonstration:** Showcasing successful technology and production methods from China including varieties of maize, wheat and vegetables and the development of high-yield production technology. The centre focuses especially on technological development such as water-saving and dry-land farming technology. The centre presents new seed varieties, production technology and farm machinery as integrated high-yield technology for demonstration. The main contents of the research and demonstration are the following:
 - a) Scientific fertilizer based on soil and plant nutrition conditions, rational plant density and integrated pest management for maize and wheat.
 - b) Precision planting, conservation farming for maize and wheat.
 - c) Vegetable variety selection.

- ii) **Technical Training:** Providing all-round training for agricultural personnel, students and farmers in two areas: new seed varieties and production technology; and use, maintenance and repair of large-scale farm machinery. 120 people are expected to be trained through lectures, demonstrations, field visits and expert coaching.
- iii) **Sustainable Development:** The centre will commercialise its activities to support research and training as well as its operating costs.

Health and Nutrition Programme

The joint study team visited the WFP Zimbabwe office located in Harare and observed the operation of its Health and Nutrition Programme, which is supported by Switzerland and several other countries. WFP provided food assistance to 1.5 million Zimbabweans in 2012. This operation consolidates the activities of its predecessor and aims to achieve sustainable responses to food insecurity and inadequate nutrition. Those without food security are assisted through:

- i) **Seasonal Targeted Assistance** to protect lives and livelihoods and enhance the self-reliance of vulnerable households in response to seasonal food shortages. Households dependent on rain-fed production and affected by seasonal food shortages are assisted during the lean season (January to March). Targeting is based on recommendations from the seasonal food security assessment reports and field verifications. Beneficiaries receive a combination of in-kind food distribution and cash transfers to purchase maize as part of the Cash-for-Cereals initiative.
- ii) **Health and Nutrition** to improve the well-being of chronically ill adults with a view to boost productive recovery. WFP Zimbabwe has adopted a clinical care approach based on nutritional rehabilitation for people living with HIV and tuberculosis patients. Assistance is also provided to malnourished pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers, as well as to children under five. This intervention is part of a comprehensive approach involving nutritional assessment, education and counselling. The Health and Nutrition Programme distributes commodities through a combination of in-kind distributions and electronic vouchers with a cash transfer component. Electronic vouchers are used in urban areas where network connectivity is available and more reliable.
- iii) **Social Safety Nets** to promote food access and consumption among vulnerable people. Support is provided to extremely poor, food-insecure households with little or no assets, as well as to households hosting Internally Displaced Persons and returnees from neighbouring countries. Food or cash assistance is provided throughout the year, and households with able-bodied members are encouraged to participate in livelihood promotion projects.

Since 2008, WFP has also been implementing a Nutrition Support for Anti-Retroviral Treatment (NSART) Programme in the Harare Metropolitan Province. The support is extended mainly to ART and tuberculosis patients. Deserving patients are referred to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) by health personnel and the patient's household is assessed for food insecurity. If the patient and the household meet the criteria, they are registered in an online database and the beneficiaries are issued with a voucher which can be used as a food basket at eight selected retail shops. The benefits of using vouchers include supporting existing market mechanisms, improved tracking and auditing of food delivery and reduced logistic and operating overheads. Support is provided for a maximum of six months (except tuberculosis patients who are supported for the whole period of treatment, 6-8 months). The programme has well-defined admission and discharge criteria. Beneficiaries can be discharged before six

months if their nutrition status improves, based on two consecutive measurements against the set criteria. Redan Mobile Transactions monitors the electronic system which manages the supply chain that provides food rations to WFP beneficiaries through redemption of electronic vouchers in participating retail shops; it maintains and updates the database and contacts and makes payments to the retailers.

Zimbabwe Agricultural Income and Employment Development Programme

The objective of USAID/Zimbabwe's Agricultural Income and Employment Development Programme (Zim-AIED) is to increase the income and food security of agricultural producers and to generate more income and rural employment in agro-business through increased agricultural production, productivity, agro-processing and investment. Throughout the project (from October 2010 to February 2015), Zim-AIED will help 180 000 rural households to increase yields and raise income by focusing on building capacity of small-scale agricultural producers; developing market linkages between small-scale agricultural producers and buyers; and improving small-holders' access to credit.

The focus will be on market demand and value chains with markets that offer the highest returns to producers and agribusiness. Sub-sectors will include cash crops such as high-value vegetables, fruits and flowers; perennials such as coffee, tea, bananas, cotton and sugar; livestock; oilseeds and pulses; and staple food crops such as tubers, maize, cassava and others. Areas where Zimbabwe may possess a long-term competitive advantage will be emphasised, offering prospects of high-growth potential and producing domestic, regional and international market linkages; these advances would result in significant increases in producer and rural incomes, private investment, sales, employment, exports and import substitution, as well as improved availability, access to and utilisation of food.

In addition, Zim-AIED supports a credit facility established within three local banks. The banks match USAID funding dollar for dollar and on-lend to traders, processors and consolidators, providing liquidity within the value chain and enabling these businesses to purchase large amounts of produce from small-scale farmers. More than USD 10 million has been disbursed from the facility since its start in July 2011. USAID also maintains a credit guarantee agreement directly with Standard Chartered Bank that lends to large-scale packhouses, exporters and other buyers in exchange for commitments to extend their outgrower networks to greater numbers of smallholder farmers.

The joint study team visited O'Enem Meat Products in the outskirts of Harare, an abattoir benefitting from the Zim-AIED Programme. By implementing such projects, USAID's assistance in the agricultural sector is helping to jump-start the process of sustainable, private sector-driven agricultural recovery. These interventions enhance income and food security at the household level, contribute to a more prosperous, peaceful and stable country, and enable food aid to be phased out over the coming years. USAID's assistance, in tandem with other donor efforts, is helping to revive agricultural productivity and restore the agricultural value chain, contributing to the United States Government foreign policy objective of advancing transformational diplomacy by promoting a market-based economy.

Activities visited in Masvingo

The Seeds and Markets Project and the Harmonised Seed Security Project

The Zaka district of Masvingo is one of the drier districts of Zimbabwe with an average annual rainfall of less than 450 mm. SDC provided agricultural inputs and training in conservation agriculture to smallholder farmers in this district. The aim was to increase the positive impact of humanitarian aid received and enhance farmers' resilience to external shocks, thus promoting greater food sufficiency.

Adapted seeds, improved farming techniques and market linkages need to be created or restored as early as possible after a crisis and be linked to efforts aimed at kick-starting input and output markets. This project is tackling supply and demand aspects of food security simultaneously to allow market mechanisms to develop rapidly.

SDC also directly supports food and seed production. Starting from 2009, up to June 2011, it implemented a project supplying seeds and fertilizer to 12 200 small-scale farmers on a voucher basis. The farmers also benefited from technical support to enable them to shift from large-scale to household-level farming and to eventually produce enough quality food and seeds to sustain their own needs and to commercialise their surplus. Sustainable Agricultural Trust, a local NGO, is SDC's implementing partner. In 2011, SDC provided 698 households in the Zaka district with an assortment of summer cropping inputs and trained them in conservation agriculture. The input pack included 50kg of basal fertilizer, 50kg of top dressing fertilizer, 5kg of sun hemp and 7kg of maize seed (with options for 5kg of cowpeas or 5kg of sorghum or hand tools). This project is continuing with a contribution from SDC's Southern Africa Regional Programme for the rehabilitation of small irrigation schemes and support to input and output markets.

The joint study team visited a site supported by SDC, the "Seeds and Markets Project", which supports the small-scale seed production initiative with products by Zaka Super Seeds. The project receives technical support from CIMMYT amongst others and is being implemented through a private project management company, GRM International Private Limited. The training ensured that both the personnel and farmers are knowledgeable about seed production standards. Payments are made through a revolving account, funded by the sale of processed seeds. This ensures sustainability beyond the project's lifespan. There are 454 smallholder seed growers who enjoy a higher market price for their produce and early payment. It also makes seeds available locally at reduced prices through agro dealers who get increased sales during the seed marketing season. It is expected that food security will increase as farmers get more quality seeds.

Munjanganja Irrigation Scheme

The joint study team visited an irrigation project, the "Munjanganja Irrigation Scheme", in the Gutu District, Masvingo Province, supported by JICA. The scheme started operating in 1997 under a partnership between the Japanese and Zimbabwean governments. The Japanese government financed the construction of Munjanganja Dam, a supply canal and a night storage dam while the Zimbabwean government financed construction of infield infrastructure. The scheme operates using a surface irrigation method, covering an area of 51 ha with 175 plot beneficiary holders. The 1 969 000 m³ Munjanganja dam is the source of the water which is conveyed through a 6 km canal to the night storage dam close to the site. 584 000 m³ of water is available for irrigation from this dam. The irrigation functions under a gravitational system which has rendered it functional for more than a decade. It is managed by an irrigation management committee that has a binding constitution, written in the vernacular, and supported by the Department of Irrigation for the maintenance of canals and watering schedules. AGRITEX provides agronomy training to the farmers while the Zimbabwean National Water Authority monitors the use of water by billing the community. The water is mainly used unrefined for laundry and livestock drinking. The irrigation scheme is still in use and farmers have a healthy crop yield of maize, groundnuts and vegetables. Major crops grown in Munjanganja's clay loam soil include maize, wheat, groundnuts, beans and cotton. Farmers grow some horticultural crops on a small scale. The irrigation scheme is under communal control: irrigation plot holders do not own title deeds for land that is targeted for irrigation in communal areas. Despite this, they have a strong sense of ownership of the scheme. For maintenance, the scheme members pay USD 3 per month per 0.2 ha for water bills. 44% of

the irrigators do not have rain-fed fields, so they rely on the irrigation scheme as a source of food. The irrigators confirmed that they rely more on the irrigation enterprise than on rain-fed crops because they have high yields all year with a good harvest if water is available. However, the neighbourhood market is about 30 km away and there remains a need to create market linkage for farmers.

Protracted Relief Programme (PRP)

The Protracted Relief Programme Phase 2 (PRP 2) began in 2008 and ended in late 2012. It was a multi-donor funded programme: DFID, the Australian Agency for International Development - AusAID, the European Union, the Netherlands and Danida contributed to a total budget of GBP 68 million, of which GBP 48 million came from DFID. PRP was managed by GRM International and implemented by 27 international and local non-governmental organisations.

PRP has contributed to reducing food insecurity and to boosting agricultural production, through the provision of inputs, relevant skills and training for poor farmers. The programme has succeeded in lifting 250 000 people above the food poverty line and has ensured that a further 1.7 million people did not fall back into food insecurity during a turbulent period of economic and political crisis in Zimbabwe. It has also contributed to increased access to safe water and sanitation by building and repairing water points and latrines in communities, participatory health and hygiene education (PHHE) and promoting village and school-based health clubs. PRP has also provided safety nets for the poorest and most vulnerable households in both rural and urban areas of Zimbabwe, and enabled poor people to start up small businesses through access to finance as parts of savings and loans schemes (ISALs).

During the visit to Masvingo, the joint study team visited a finished PRP project, Tashinga Garden, implemented by CARE International. The garden was established in 2009 and benefited from the PRP project through improved water conveyance as well as training. It has a total of 91 beneficiaries from 12 surrounding villages, of which 21 are widows, 11 are elderly and 23 are living with HIV/AIDS. The garden produces market-oriented horticultural products such as tomatoes, cabbages, onions, sweet potatoes, lettuces and butternut that are served in the university, hotels and restaurants in and around Masvingo. Small livestock, sweet potato processing, nutrition and PHHE training allow the beneficiaries to acquire the maximum benefit: the project not only increases income through product sales but also helps improve health nutrition through diversified food and improved hygiene. The beneficiaries have continued to maintain the garden and to service local markets beyond the lifetime of the programme.

Zimbabwean Government Views on Development Partnerships in Zimbabwe

The Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development, the Grain Marketing Board and local government representatives in Masvingo and the surrounding area briefed the joint study team on the development context in Zimbabwe.

Country strategy with respect to donors

Zimbabwe has both bilateral and multilateral arrangements through which aid and development finance is channelled. Relationships with donors are discussed and agreed at Cabinet level. The Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Finance, Economic Planning and Investment Promotion are more involved in negotiations with external partners than other Ministries. Sector Ministries (agriculture, education, health, social welfare) are heavily involved in negotiations and implementation of programmes that fall within their ambit.

Many DAC members significantly downgraded their government-to-government links with Zimbabwe after the national government embarked on the last phase of the land reform programme. By 2003, legal instruments confirming such a downgrading of relations were in place through sanctions on named individuals and state institutions, trade restrictions and vetoing of loan applications made by Zimbabwe to the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the African Development Bank. To respond to the escalating humanitarian crises in Zimbabwe, several DAC members by-passed the national government and provided aid directly to communities or channelled it through local and international NGOs.

Working with and through NGOs

Most donors (including DFID, USAID, AUSAID, the Canadian International Development Agency - CIDA and SDC) either have very little or no representation at Provincial level and opt instead for a visible footprint at District level where most of their activities take place. They contract registered local and international NGOs to implement their projects and programmes with communities. All NGOs (local and international) have to be registered with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and each has to specify the nature of the activities it will engage in, as well as the geographical extent of its activities, i.e. operational Districts. Registered donor agencies have to specify the source(s) of their funds and their activities (including finances) are periodically reviewed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare through its Department of Social Welfare. Donor agencies are exempted from paying taxes and are not allowed to engage in commercial activities. At the Provincial level, NGOs have to liaise closely with the sector Ministries in planning and implementing programmes, i.e. NGOs with health programmes have to liaise with the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare, and agriculture and food security NGOs have to liaise with the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development. At the Provincial level, NGOs are part of the Provincial planning structures and are represented in relevant committees (Agriculture and Natural Resources, Health, Education, Social Welfare, etc). The regulatory framework for NGOs at Provincial level is replicated at District level.

At the national level, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) provides a secretariat for co-ordinating activities of NGOs undertaking activities in agriculture and food security through the Agricultural Coordination Working Group (ACWG) (see next section).

Agriculture Cluster in Zimbabwe

The Agriculture Cluster brings together stakeholders working in the agricultural sector in Zimbabwe. Through an active partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development, AGRITEX, UN agencies, NGOs, research institutes, the private sector and other stakeholders, the Cluster is an important mechanism for co-ordinating activities among stakeholders with the aim of improving the livelihoods of vulnerable farming households.

- One facet of the co-ordination role of the Cluster is the provision and exchange of information through monthly meetings of the Agriculture Coordination Working Group (ACWG), which provides a platform for the co-ordination of all the humanitarian assistance in the agricultural sector.
- Falling under the auspice of the ACWG are various technical sub-groups covering seeds and fertiliser, gardens, livestock, conservation agriculture and market linkages. These groups are tasked with producing technical guidelines, project models, standardisation of agricultural practices and promoting new ideas for uptake.
- FAO is the lead agency of the Cluster, co-ordinating and monitoring humanitarian interventions in the agricultural sector and chairs monthly agriculture meetings, bringing together the key actors in the sector.
- Co-ordination activities of the Agriculture Cluster are funded by FAO, the European Union and USAID.

Joint Study Team's Findings and Observations

All members of the joint study team found the visit to Zimbabwe useful as it enabled them to learn more about and better understand different approaches to supporting growth and reducing poverty in Zimbabwe through agricultural development.

In particular, the members of the joint study team found that:

- Agricultural development is critical for both food security and income generation for smallholders in Zimbabwe. The contrast between large-scale commercial farms seen around the Chinese Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centre and the poor, smallholder farmers seen in Masvingo Province was striking. Developing smallholder-based farming systems and agricultural technology are essential for reducing poverty in Zimbabwe. China has a large, dry land subsistence farming area in the Northwest region which has similar conditions to those found in Masvingo Province. A system of conservation agriculture based on smallholders has been developed there over time. This Chinese experience is highly relevant and the Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centre is usefully starting activities to transfer water-saving and conservation agricultural technology, but needs to ensure that this work addresses the problems and responds to the needs of smallholders across the country, as well those of the large-scale commercial farms in the vicinity of the demonstration centre. The team found that many DAC members are also supporting conservation agriculture. There is a potential for closer collaboration between China, DAC members and Zimbabwe in this area, including through triangular co-operation.
- Many DAC members' interventions were at grassroots level. The mechanism for working with rural communities largely relies on both international and local NGOs and partly on local government. The advantage of working with NGOs is that projects can get close to the needs of rural communities. The team also found that communities' overall capacity is enhanced via this approach, for instance: i) enhanced management capacity for a small irrigation programme with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), funded by SDC; ii) enhanced marketing capacity with the partnership of Zim-AiED, funded by USAID; iii) enhanced technology capacity via agricultural extension services, funded by GIZ; and iv) enhanced local management capacity for irrigation, funded by JICA. Enhanced local capacity development improves ownership which leads to greater sustainability. The team considered that China's foreign aid programme could learn from DAC members on reaching the grassroots level. At the same time, enhancing the overall state capacity via development projects remains critical; without this capacity, successes at the grassroots level cannot be scaled up.
- Co-ordination among different donors - within the UN system and among DAC members - works well in Zimbabwe. However, central-level co-ordination by the Zimbabwean government is currently weak in agriculture, a sector for which there is no approved national policy. Donors work with different ministries, sometimes through an international agency or NGO, as well as local government due to the sanctions on the Zimbabwean government. There is a Ministry of International Co-operation but it hardly co-ordinates with other ministries and donors because most donors' activities by-pass it. It is consequently difficult to gauge the aggregate contribution of external partners to Zimbabwe's development, both in agriculture and overall. China has a

comprehensive development programme including aid, economic co-operation and humanitarian food assistance in Zimbabwe, however, there is currently no communication and co-ordination between China and DAC members. Some members of the team considered that strong donor co-ordination can reduce duplication of interventions but might create strong collective pressure on the side of the partner country and also affect the comparative advantage of each donor.

- All DAC members visited by the team demonstrated a high level of professional capacity in implementing development activities, including programme development, planning and monitoring and evaluation. Programme management is done by the country office with well-trained international and local staff, while projects are managed by contracted agencies including NGOs. The country office takes responsibility for programme planning and monitoring while implementation agencies take responsibility for daily operations. There has been an increasing interest from the Chinese foreign aid system in improving its level of professional performance. For example, the China-DAC Study Group is supporting CAITEC to improve evaluation capacities in China. There is an opportunity for DAC members to go further in helping China to develop efficient programme and project management systems. There appears to be a lack of communication between how donors' work in China with how China's foreign aid is implemented abroad. It seems that donors' work in China over the last 30 years has had little impact on China's own foreign aid system. There is also an issue of the cost of efficient and well-established management systems. The Chinese Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centre and SDC's irrigation project are two very different types of intervention, with different objectives and different target populations. It was estimated that the Chinese project had less than 20% management and technical costs. These costs represented 60% of the SDC project, which is exceptionally high because the project is still in a pilot phase and has a considerable budget for research to develop viable models for farmer-based management; overhead costs will be considerably lower in subsequent phases. It is important to underline that the high initial high costs are linked to concerns about ensuring sustainability of the project. There has been a debate in China whether it should invest more in management, even though management costs have been increasing over the last decade.
- DAC members and China have different approaches to promoting sustainability. China applies a business model to make its project financially sustainable. Taking the Chinese Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centre as an example, China has learnt from its past failures in similar projects and designed a different approach in order to promote financial sustainability. The Chinese government cannot finance the project over the long term, nor can the Zimbabwean government. The Centre was therefore contracted to a Chinese agro-company which works in partnership with the neighbouring Gwebi Agriculture College. The company runs the centre as a market entity. The Chinese government will finance 3 years of transition from the time construction is completed. During these 3 years, the centre should develop its business operation strategy and prove to be financially viable. There are parallels between this and the approach taken with the Zim-AIED programme supported by USAID. In this later programme, full cost recovery is required, meaning that no full or even partial subsidy is provided to farmers, financial institutions or other value chain players. This focuses USAID's attention on an exit strategy and sustainability, even if a deadline for phasing out is not set at the beginning. More generally, DAC members' projects have shifted from dependence on government to strengthening local community capacity as a means of enhancing social, environmental and financial sustainability.

The joint study team also noted some important dilemmas related to supporting Zimbabwe's development:

- **Harmonisation:** The political conditions in Zimbabwe in recent years have made aid harmonisation difficult to achieve, especially in agriculture, a sector for which there is no approved national policy. DAC members have nevertheless harmonised their aid activities based on humanitarian and developmental needs while China's assistance integrates both development aid and economic co-operation as well as humanitarian assistance, according to Zimbabwe's overall development strategy.
- **Sustainability:** This is a long-standing issue for all foreign aid programmes that can be viewed at two levels: programme and project sustainability. Most donors' efforts in Zimbabwe to improve sustainability in the agriculture sector are at the project level. Building community capacity is critical to these approaches and can lead to a higher degree of sustainability. For example, the irrigation schemes supported by SDC, JICA and GIZ as well as the Tashinga Garden project showed that project interventions can be sustained as long as they are built on the basis of local ownership. However, to improve sustainability at a programme level, even up to strategy level, requires capacity development at a national level. The visit to Zimbabwe showed that national capacity for development is very weak. In addition, the cost of projects is also an issue affecting sustainability. For DAC members, sustainability encompasses social and environmental dimensions as well as financial sustainability.
- **Co-ordination:** Co-ordination with government is more important than co-ordination among donors because the former is critical for ownership and sustainability. Despite well co-ordinated work among donors in Zimbabwe, co-ordination between donors and the Zimbabwean government is weak in the agriculture sector, due to the international sanctions and other policy restrictions in place. This raises the issue of how project-level interventions can be guided by the country's overall development strategy, even though Zimbabwe is still in transition from humanitarian to development assistance from DAC members. Without greater co-ordination with central government, development interventions from outside the country can be more costly and less effective. The difficulty encountered when distributing food assistance provided by China shows that central-level capacity and co-ordination is critical to implementing an aid programme effectively. The CAADP process and an agreement on a strategic framework, governance structure and implementation plan for CAADP should also lead to improvements in co-ordination and in the government's capacity to play its co-ordination role in the agriculture sector.
- **Ownership:** Political conditions imposed by international sanctions and other policy restrictions mean that many DAC members' development activities in support of agricultural development by-pass the central government. This limits ownership within the national government but enhances ownership by the local government and the local community. Building local community ownership is the positive outcome from on-going interventions by DAC members. Almost all projects visited by the team worked directly with local government and communities.
- **Conditionality:** The situation in Zimbabwe shows how conditionality can heavily affect aid effectiveness. Due to international sanctions, the government does not have control over donor resources, the aid provided is not well co-ordinated by the central government and so its capacity is not enhanced through the aid programmes in Zimbabwe. Although humanitarian aid helps people in the short term, such investments rarely support long-term development.

- **Management:** Both DAC members and China manage their programmes at two levels, programme and project. DAC members' programme management capacity is much stronger than China's because China has a very limited number of experienced development staff in the field. DAC members have country strategies while China's foreign aid is based on requests from the government. Regarding project management, both China and DAC members contract their project implementation to independent third parties under different market-based systems. DAC members' services are untied while China's projects are still contracted to Chinese companies. Regarding management processes, taking the Chinese agricultural centre as the example, it is managed by a Chinese agro-company, but monitored by the Foreign Economic Cooperation Centre of China's Ministry of Agriculture. Evaluation is done by an independent consultant.

Suggestions for Possible Future Action

Based on its visit to Zimbabwe and observations within a single sector, the joint study team formulated some suggestions for possible future actions, for consideration by Zimbabwe, China and DAC members:

- **For Zimbabwe:** Given the critical role of agricultural development, it is essential to finalise a national strategy for agricultural development. Transforming Zimbabwe's large commercial agriculture-based system to smallholder agriculture after the land reforms should be a key objective. The agricultural development strategy should also aim to build capacities, from the national government through to individual farmers. The CAADP process can help focus attention on priorities and the strategic use of resources in the agriculture sector.

To respond to the challenges faced by increasing agricultural production, the way forward for Zimbabwe could be to intensify its agriculture through the higher use of improved seeds, fertilizer and crop protection chemicals and irrigation. Likewise, there is tremendous scope for intensified production systems for livestock, unlike presently where livestock is reared on rangeland. Increased production could lead to the setting up of agro-processing and value-addition enterprises which could absorb a significant proportion of young school and college graduates who are presently unemployed. Adequate environmental safeguards also need to be put in place as the country embarks on the intensification of farming systems. There is also a need to create other livelihood options outside agriculture. Both DAC members and China are providing assistance to Zimbabwe's agriculture with different comparative advantages. The Zimbabwean government should co-ordinate with its external partners to see how they can work together to promote the country's agricultural development. As the Chinese Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centre is planning to set up a sub-centre in the southern part of the country where several DAC members have agricultural projects, it would be an opportunity for the Zimbabwean government to co-ordinate those efforts by setting up a government-led joint programme.

- **For China:** Improving aid effectiveness is becoming an important objective for China's foreign aid programme. Based on the joint study visit to Zimbabwe, the team suggests that:
 1. China and DAC members with appropriate experience and expertise discuss possible joint activities. Like several other DAC members, SDC has a long tradition of supporting agricultural development in Africa and has significant experience in dry and semi-dry land agricultural development. The Chinese Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centre in Zimbabwe is giving priority to dry land agricultural and the development of conservation agriculture. There is, for example, an opportunity for closer collaboration and mutual learning in the Masvingo Region, an area visited by the joint study team, through the planned work of the sub-centre of the Chinese Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centre.
 2. China learns more about how DAC members work with local NGOs and rural communities because all the projects visited gave the impression that this approach leads to greater sustainability.

3. Joint capacity development programmes in development co-operation management be developed, building on the bilateral agreements in place between China and some DAC members based in China.
4. Project-level communication between Chinese and DAC members' projects in developing countries be encouraged, to promote a sharing of experiences and lessons learnt by both sides. This requires a clear policy message from China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) to its offices in developing countries.

- **For DAC members:**

1. DAC members should recognise that China's foreign aid is largely based on the needs expressed by the government of the recipient country and that China only deals with national governments. Without a request from the recipient country, China is not able to initiate co-operation, including any possible triangular co-operation. China's foreign aid follows different procedures which can lead to technical difficulties when it comes to working with DAC members. There are also some perceptions that do not help closer collaboration. For example, there is an impression that DAC members try to impose ideas on China and Africa, including promoting more triangular co-operation. There is also the impression that China is economically successful and so should now be an equal partner with DAC members. In the end, such misconceptions create barriers and constrain possible co-operation. More communication and dialogue between the representatives of China and DAC members stationed in developing countries could help dispel such misconceptions.
2. DAC members should discuss how to support China in improving its foreign aid programme. Currently, there is little co-ordination among donors on how this support could be more efficient and effective, or a division of labour. The visit to Zimbabwe indicates clearly that China can usefully learn more about how to plan, monitor and evaluate its aid projects. DAC members have long-standing experiences in this area.
3. The high cost of aid deliver by DAC members has long been discussed, including within DAC. The aid effectiveness work has been more focussed on reducing transaction costs for partner countries, rather than reducing the costs of delivering and managing development co-operation. It is suggested that reducing such costs should be put on the agenda for improving the effectiveness of development co-operation.

Annex 1: The Joint Study Team

Twelve people formed the core group for the joint study visit, while several people based in Zimbabwe joined the group for some parts of the programme (notably the field visit to Masvingo).

The core group comprised:

- Kang Bingjian, Ministry of Commerce, Beijing
- Tsunehiro Kawakita, JICA, Harare
- Michael Laird, OECD, Paris
- Li Jiali, Ministry of Agriculture, Beijing
- Li Linyi, International Poverty Reduction Centre in China (IPRCC), Beijing
- Li Xiaoyun, China Agricultural University, Beijing
- Liu Qianqian, IPRCC, Beijing
- Ulrich Mueller, SDC, Harare (represented on occasions by Lawrence Musa Lewis or Mkhululi Ngwenya from SDC Harare)
- Patrizia Palmiero, SDC, Beijing
- Wang Hongyi, China Institute of International Studies (CIIS), Beijing
- Wang Yucai, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Beijing
- Reto Wieser, SDC Regional Office, Pretoria

Annex 2: Programme

Sunday, 18 November 2012	
16:00	Delegation Briefing
Monday, 19 November 2012	
08:30	Meeting with H.E Mr. Lin Lin, Ambassador of the PR China Briefing on China's support to Zimbabwe
10:00	Meeting with H.E Mr. Luciano Lavizzari, Ambassador of Switzerland Briefing on SDC's support to Zimbabwe
11:30	Meeting with Hon. Dr. Joseph Mtakwese Made, Minister of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development (MAMID) Exchange on priorities, policies, best practices and donor support
14:00	Meeting with Mr. Han Gaoju, Resident Representative FAO Overview on agriculture/livestock programmes in Zimbabwe and related donor support
16:00	Visit CGIAR programme Discussion on CGIAR supported CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre) programme – New Seed Initiative for Maize in Southern Africa (NSIMA) and other projects
19:30	Buffet dinner hosted by DFID
Tuesday, 20 November 2012	
08:00	Meeting with Jiang Xiaohui, Director of the Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centre, Gwebi Presentation and discussion on centre; exchange on experience
12:30	Buffet offered by the Fishmongers Exchange with donors on support to Zimbabwe
14:00	Visit of partners' project sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group 1 - Visit WFP project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SPLASH (Sustainable Programme for Livelihoods and Solutions for Hunger) – Nutrition Support to Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) patients Group 2 - Visit USAID project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commercial partnership between Zim-AIED (Zimbabwe Agriculture and Income Employment Development) programme and O'Enem Meat Products ▪ Irrigation scheme; marketing, vegetable contract farmers
Wednesday, 21 November 2012	
10:00	Courtesy Visit, Masvingo Provincial Government Briefing on the mission's purpose; discussion with Provincial Government and District Authorities – priorities, strategies, co-ordination, best practices and donor support

14:00	<p>Field visit (GIZ, SDC)</p> <p>Group 1 – Visit GIZ project sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AISP (Agriculture Input Support Programme), conservation farming. Focus on farmers, extension workers and group leaders. Implementing partner SAT (Sustainable Agriculture Trust) and GIZ <p>Group 2 – Visit SDC project sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SAMP (Seeds and Markets Project) – HaSSP (Harmonised Seed Security Project). Community seed processing plant (Implementing partner: GRM) <p>Group 3 – Visit SDC project sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rehabilitation of small irrigation schemes (implementing partner: IWMI; donor: SDC) ▪ Tabasco Chilli contract farming (Implementing partners: Better Agriculture and GRM)
Thursday, 22 November 2012	
08:00	<p>Field visit (DFID, AusAID, NL, Danish Aid, EU)</p> <p>Group 1 & Group 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aquaculture project <p>Group 1 – Marketing; vegetable production and small livestock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tazvida Garden – community garden production, marketing, small livestock <p>Group 2 – marketing and livestock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Runde Project Dip Tank – livestock management <p>Group 3 – Visit project in Renco</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Visit Dombodema Garden – small livestock, community garden production, marketing, gully reclamation
11:00	Debriefing and lunch with provincial/district authorities and partners
14:00	<p>Visit JICA project site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Munjanganja small scale irrigation scheme; dam construction funded by JICA 1993-95; handed over to ZINWA, MAMID and community
Friday, 23 November 2012	
08:30	<p>Meeting with Grain Marketing Board (GMB) officials</p> <p>Discussion on partnership with Chinese company and China's grain loan scheme to alleviate food insecurity.</p>
10:30	<p>China-DAC Study Group meeting</p> <p>Lessons learnt and main findings from the visit</p>
14:30	<p>Debriefing with Zimbabwean Authorities</p> <p>Feedback and comments</p>
19:00	Dinner hosted by Mr. Han Bing, Counselor, Economic and Commercial Counselor's Office of the Embassy of the PR China in Zimbabwe