

Zimbabwe Field Trial: Results Reported by Farmers

This past season, the Monaco Quantum Elements Association worked with the Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers' Forum (ZIMSOFF). We chose ZIMSOFF because we admire what its members do. Despite poor soils and difficult weather, they farm organically and keep their own indigenous seeds, even under pressure to switch to expensive imported genetically modified seeds.

Our quantum technology was applied free of charge across approximately 10,000 hectares, farmed by several thousand families, with a further 5,000 hectares left untreated for comparison.

A DIFFICULT SEASON

The weather was far from favourable. A long drought was followed by excessive rain. In the untreated areas, which lie close to the treated fields and had the same weather, harvests ranged from a loss of a third to a gain of 20%.

Crop	Last season	This season	Change
Sorghum	1.5 t	1.5 t	0%
Finger millet	1 t	0.7 t	-30%
Groundnuts	1.5 t	1 t	-33%
Maize	1 t	1.2 t	+20%

WHAT THE FARMERS REPORTED

In the same conditions, the farmers in the treated areas reported the following, compared with their harvest the previous season:

Farmer	Crop	Last season	This season	Increase
Tafadzwa Matekenya	Maize	3 t	15 t	+400%
Loveness Ducha	Groundnuts	100 kg	1 t	+900%
Loveness Ducha	Sorghum	0.5 t	2 t	+300%
Abmalek	Maize	0.5 t	1 t	+100%
Kudzai Ruzvidzo	Bambara nuts	0.5 t	1 t	+100%
Chris Chinyoka	Sorghum	0.75 t	1.5 t	+100%
Chris Chinyoka	Maize	1 t	2 t	+100%
Onias Murove	Maize (2 ha)	5 t	9 t	+80%
Mark Mabwe	Maize (3 ha)	4 t	7 t	+75%
Tawanda Mudzingwa	Sorghum	1.5 t	2.5 t	+67%
Tawanda Mudzingwa	Maize	2.5 t	3.5 t	+40%

Farmer	Crop	Last season	This season	Increase
Nelson Mudzingwa	Finger millet	0.5 t/ha	1 t/ha	+100%
Nelson Mudzingwa	Sorghum	1 t/ha	1.5 t/ha	+50%

REAL CHANGE IN FARMERS' LIVES

These harvests are already turning into higher living standards. One farmer has moved his children to a better school in town. Another has bought an incubator for his chickens' eggs, and another a motor tricycle to take his produce to market. Some have dug fish ponds, improved their homes or bought farm tools such as maize shellers and water pumps. Families are also installing biogas digesters, which turn cow dung into cooking gas, replace firewood and produce a rich organic fertiliser.

NEXT SEASON

This season we shall activate the farmers' own seeds before planting, and their manure, in keeping with their organic approach. Together with Great Zimbabwe University, we shall also collect harvest data systematically from both treated and control fields.

We thank the farmers of ZIMSOFF for their trust and their hard work.