

WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

**SUSTAINABLE INTENSIFICATION OF MAIZE –LEGUME CROPPING SYSTEMS FOR FOOD SECURITY IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (SIMLESA-PHASE 2)
SIMLESA-2 SOUTHERN AFRICA EVALUATION AND PLANNING MEETING (MALAWI AND MOZAMBIQUE)-GOLDEN PEACOCK HOTEL-LILONGWE, MALAWI SUNDAY 17TH TO 22ND AUGUST 2014**



1.0 Background information about SIMLESA activities- Dr. Mackson Banda

- 1.1 SIMLESA started in 2009 and official launched in Malawi was in 2010.
- 1.2 The main activity was Capacity Building in Conservation Agriculture.
- 1.3 Since then a lot of Research on Conservation Agriculture has taken place and Data Is available and a lot of professional publications have been produced.
- 1.4 The implementation is in Collaboration with other Countries such as Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Malawi and three other spill-over Countries like Uganda, Rwanda and Botswana.

2.0 Welcome remarks from the South African Agricultural Research Council (ARC) Head Representative Dr George Mburati.

- 2.1 Important stage of SIMLESA, where impact is expected and adoption of the technology to demonstrate to the donor the successfulness of the technologies being promoted by SIMLESA that are meeting the farmers' needs.
- 2.2 The presence of Principal Secretary II for the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development demonstrates and signifies the seriousness the Malawi Government attaches to the SIMLESA interventions.
- 2.3 The ARC Secretariat is pleased with the strides made by SIMLESA to date.

3.0 The Official Opening of the SIMLESA II Southern Africa was graced by the Principal Secretary II (PS II) for the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development.

- 3.1 On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development in Malawi, the PS II extended a warm welcome to all of workshop participants to the launch and planning meeting of the **SUSTAINABLE INTENSIFICATION OF MAIZE –LEGUME CROPPING SYSTEMS FOR FOOD SECURITY IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (SIMLESA-PHASE 2)** for Southern Africa.

3.2 Background information about Malawi's Agriculture was shared as follows:

- 3.2.1 Agriculture is strongly dualistic in structure with commercial estates on private land under freehold or leasehold status and smallholder farms under customary tenure. Smallholders contribute 80% of total agricultural production while the estate sector controls 90% of the export trade.

3.2.2 Malawi's economy is heavily dependent on agriculture. Agriculture contributes about 30-40% of the GDP, 85-96% of the foreign exchange earnings, employs more than 85% of the work force, provides 60-70% of the work force, provides 60-70% of the inputs into the manufacturing industry and dominates the commercial and distribution industry. Agriculture contributes significantly to national and household food security.

3.2.3 However, agriculture in Malawi is characterized by low and stagnant yields, over dependence on rain-fed farming which increases vulnerability to weather related shocks, low level of irrigation development and low uptake of improved farm inputs among others. Low profitability of smallholder agriculture has also been influenced by weak links to markets, high transport costs, few farmer organizations, poor quality control and lack of information on markets and prices. In addition, due to high risks in agricultural production and poor access to credit, investment and re-investment has been poor.

3.2.4 Since Malawi is heavily dependent on agriculture it appreciates the urgency of developing production-increasing, user-friendly and commercially viable agricultural technologies. Thus, the challenge facing Malawi today is how best to harness her abundant natural resources (human, physical and financial) to generate environmental friendly agricultural technologies for use in farming communities. This will ensure food security, poverty reduction and the sustainable utilization of Malawi's natural resources.

3.4 The Malawi Government is very grateful that after hosting the project Formulation workshop in September 2009, the launch of **SIMLESA –Phase 1** was also here in Lilongwe in May, 2010. Now, four years after successfully implementing **Phase 1**, we are gathered here again to launch **SIMLESA -2** and plan activities that will have to be implemented in the next four years up to **2018**. Our experience has been that many projects hardly make it to the final stage. It is gratifying to see **SIMLESA -1** which was approved and launched here in Lilongwe, was successfully implemented and has contributed substantial results in building capacity of farmers and staff through trainings, research equipments, vehicles for easy mobility in conducting research work and above all improving food security of our smallholder farmers in Malawi and across the region in all participating countries.

3.5 The PS II took the opportunity to congratulate those who were involved in the implementation process (CIMMYT, ICRISAT, the NARS from Ethiopia , Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and Malawi, ARC, ASARECA, and Australian institutions) and to the Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) for the financial assistance and their excellent collaborative effort.

- 3.6 **SIMLESA -2** has important elements of technical research in seed systems (crop improvement), agronomy, soil health and conservation agriculture, market linkages with strong emphasis on value chains issues, risk analysis, policy and organizational models; and capacity building. The PS II glad to confirm to you that all these are the cornerstones of Malawi's agricultural research and development strategy. Food Security in Malawi is Government's priority and we welcome partners who can provide support on capacity building technical and resource mobilization in order to achieve food security.
- 3.7 The launch of **SIMLESA-2** has come at the right time when Government of Malawi is geared towards achieving a market oriented agriculture (local and export markets) and the ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and water Development welcomes any partner and The PS II saw this project that it is well aligned to the frame work currently being promoted by the ministry.
- 3.8 The recent success of increased agricultural productivity in Malawi would have not been possible without the strong enabling policy environment put in place by government and support of development partners. The PS II on behalf of the Malawi Government expressed appreciation and gratitude to CIMMYT, CIAT and ICRISAT that have developed many years of strong partnership with our national agricultural research system and contributed to the generation of maize and legume based technologies in Malawi. It is hence expected that **SIMLESA -2** Projects will generate even more market demand driven technological options to improve exports and food security in Malawi and all participating countries.
- 3.9 With the few remarks above PS II declared the **SUSTAINABLE INTENSIFICATION OF MAIZE –LEGUME CROPPING SYSTEMS FOR FOOD SECURITY IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (SIMLESA -2) officially launched.**
- 4.0 What is good, difficult and different in SIMLESA 2-DR MULUGETTA MEKURIA**
- 4.1 The workshop has been convened to Plan for the SIMLESA II for the 2 Countries Malawi and Mozambique together with other partners such as CIMMYT, CIAT and Australian Government.
- 4.2 SIMLESA project implementation is being championed by CIMMYT with financial grant form ACIAR phase 1 -2010 to 2014 and phase 2- 2015 to 2018.
- 4.3 SIMLESA Countries-Tanzania, Kenya, Malawi, Ethiopia and Mozambique and Spill- over Countries Botwana, Uganda, Rwanda.
- 4.4 SIMLESA's Regional and international partners include ICRISAT, QUAAF, ARC, ASARECA, MU and phase 2 has included CCARDESA, ILRI, and CIAT.
- 4.5 SIMLESA I collective experience, mid- term review report- 2012, annual review planning meetings-3rd and 4th, and project steering committee meeting have informed the planning of SIMLESA II.

- 4.6 SIMLESA I has empowered the National Agricultural Research Stations (NARS) in making important decisions regarding the program, build the capacity of the NARS programmatically, scientifically and financially.
- 4.7 SIMLESA is being institutionalized into NARS strategies among others adopting SIMLESA approaches into their operational models such as Value chain analysis, Innovations Platforms, gender mainstreaming and M&E institutionalization.
- 4.8 SIMLESA II foreseen confidence versus challenges areas include; CA related productivity increasing technologies, NARS ownership and Capacity building and challenges includes the following Focus on CA-based SI; with integration (disciplines;), Risk reducing innovations and research designs, Scaling out and business engagement (except maize seed), M&E which supports management.
- 4.9 The Overall Objective of SIMLESA II is the Continuation of original 10-year vision by the year 2023 which is to sustainably improve maize & legume productivity of selected maize-based farming systems in each target country by 30% from the 2009 average and to reduce the expected downside yield risk by 30% on approximately an additional 650,000 farms in the SIMLESA countries.
- 4.10 SIMLESA II has the following elements; Combination of innovations with the aim to; increase productivity & profitability, reduce downside production risks, enhance sustainability and strengthen innovation platforms/systems.
- 4.11 SIMLESA II implementation period is 2014 to 2018 with the following implication: continuation with adjustment to 1st phase (2010-13) to builds on SIMLESA-1 achievements and lessons/feedback with the aim of strengthening multi-disciplinary field teams, targeting, scaling-out; refocus some research & capacity building and phase down on completed research.
- 4.12 Emphasized changes in SIMLESA II includes the following; Broader technological focus and the core thrust: Conservation Agriculture (CA)-based sustainable intensification, System orientation- from plot to farm, impact orientation-adoption, impact pathways, value chain linkages; Partnership & scaling up/out-Competitive & commissioned grants.
- 4.13 There are several capacity building opportunities in the SIMLESA II such as Training of at least 100 professionals on CA-based sustainable intensification, provided to build and enhance capacity of national and regional programs, 50 Trained professionals on Gender mainstreaming, 25 Trained professionals on seed systems, 10 Trained research managers, 50 Trained extension and scaling out professionals, Competitive Australian PhD scholarships and ARC supported MSc. and PhD scholarships.
- 4.14 SIMLESA II will use lessons learnt from SIMLESA I such as Integrate value chains activities with technologies, capacity building and local policy analysis, in

innovation platforms; Consult women during project design and implementation and understand the incentives of all chain members and value chain dynamics within the broader market and trade context.

4.15 In SIMLESA II there some new things that will be implemented different from SIMLESA I based on objective as follows:

4.15.1 Objective 1- Making use of the rich and comprehensive data set, no more a socioeconomics silo but multidisciplinary, typologies to be used for targeting purposes to introduce and evaluate developed SIMLESA options, to use the value chain analysis and market studies for farmer-market linkages and agro business development, use adoption and monitoring results to influence technology development- feed back to objective 2 and 3.

4.15.2 Objective 2- Fine tuning our current options and new areas of research by all not only agronomists; Revisit on station and on farm exploratory trials-numbers and sites; packaging options for scaling out –objectives 1, 3 and 4; case Farms studies; going from plot to farm scale and CIAT and QAAFI to collaborate country specific soil science research.

4.15.3 Objective 3- Making available more new and resilient varieties of maize and legumes; no more breeding as both legumes and maize breeding has a heavy investment by BMGF; refining the seed road maps per country; strengthening seed companies; more emphasis on legumes by strengthening the informal seed sector and capacity building.

4.15.4 Objective 4- A new stand alone objective- no more a refugee under objective 2; Competitive grant to scaling out with current and new scaling out partners, strengthening and using AIPs for scaling out, agribusiness development to facilitate scaling out, measuring and documenting scaling out experiences and lessons and reaching 650,000 households in 5 countries and spill-over countries.

4.15.5 Objective 5-Strengthened capacity building on specific country needs; on the job training including online training by QAAFI; gender Strategy for SIMLESA II; communication Office onboard from 1st Sept 2014; M&E officer under recruitment; two QAAFI scientists based in Harare and Addis; improved Program Management and governance in place for SIMLES II and strict and regular reporting by all partners

4.16 Within SIMLESA II implementation plan, there are some difficult and challenging things that will be undertaken such as: sustaining the achievements of SIMLESA1 with more energy; less resources but more to be done; coordinating a multi stakeholder program; limited capacity of partners to implement new areas of

research; managing competitive grants and commissioned research; getting trust based data access and sharing policy and reaching 650 000 households.

4.17 The programme for the week was highlighted as follow:

4.17.1 Day 1: Reflect on SIMLESA1- insights, lessons and implications for SIMLESA 2; to develop a common understanding and get clarity on SIMLESA 2, identification of challenges and opportunities from SIMLESA 1-to SIMLESA2

4.17.2 Day 2: Fine tuning objectives, priority activities and work plan development by objectives and by country , implementation plan and specific roles and responsibilities

4.17.3 Day 3: Aligning activities to available budget in SIMLESA-2 objectives and country

4.17.4 Day 4: Capacity building, Gender mainstreaming and M&E ; agreeing on responsibilities of team members including new partners; Fine tuning on- station and on farm trails (case study farms) and Communications in SIMLESA 2

4.17.5 Day 5: New ways of learning new skills –QAFFI and Field trip to SIMLESA site- Mitundu to interact and enhance learning with farmers about SIMLESA interventions.

4.18 Official handover of SIMLESA second vehicle to Malawi Government whose purpose was to ease mobility of the SIMLESA Team in Country and it was emphasized that the vehicle is solely and strictly for the SIMLESA activities. Log book should be properly kept and used such that anytime auditors come they should find it in order.

4.19 OFFICIAL PRESENTATION OF SIMLESA VEHICLE TO MALAWI GOVERNMENT



5.0 A 1 minute silence observance in memory of the departed souls of the SIMLESA family members from both in Malawi and Mozambique during the past year.

6.0 Highlights of SIMLESA-1 Achievements in Malawi since 2010 and implication for SIMLESA-2- Cyprian Mwale SIMLESA National Coordinator

6.1 SIMLESA project in Malawi is being implemented in six districts namely Salima, Ntheu and Balaka in the low altitude areas; Lilongwe, Kasungu and Mchinji in the mid altitude area.

6.2 During the SIMLESA I activities planned for each of the four objectives were implemented and some of the results/outcomes were presented as follows:

6.2.1 Survey results come up with five reasons farmers gave for not adopting SIMLESA technologies as follows: lack of skills to implement the technologies, lack of financial resources, lack of seeds, labour shortages and told by fellow farmers that CA technologies are not increasing the yields.

6.2.2 Input and output market constraint such as Low maize breeding capacity, Poor road infrastructure, Poor technology dissemination, Limited

institutional capacity of seed certification institutions, Lack of seed processing and storage facilities by farmer associations and opportunities availability of ADMARC facilities in all areas, well established agro dealers network, A number of national and international institutions supporting maize breeding and High priority given to maize by government

- 6.3 under objective two, exploratory trials were established in all districts where participatory farmer evaluation of maize-legume technologies were also done. Best bet maize-legume technologies were out-scaled and long term trials were established to study the long term effects of Conservation Agriculture. The following were the results obtained from these trials:
- 6.3.1 Yield differences between CA practices and farmer practice varied with season & management and superior yields under CA with dry spells.
 - 6.3.2 There were Depressed maize yields in CA + basins under high rainfall conditions , superior yields in poor rainfall conditions
 - 6.3.3 Maize-legume CA rotation systems performed well & were preferred by most farmers
 - 6.3.4 Differences in extension approaches between Govt and NGOs influences scaling out of technologies
 - 6.3.5 Farmers Exchange visits is an effective tool for scaling out CA technologies
 - 6.3.6 Good soil cover is effective in weed control
- 6.4 SIMLESA Malawi within the past phase implemented Innovations Platform approach where 22 partners were identified in all the six SIMLESA districts some of which International NGO, Farmer Organizations, private Companies, local NGOs.
- 6.4.1 Some of the major achievements of the IP partners include facilitation of the acquisition of farm inputs for Mitundu farmers worth MK1 Million or equivalent to US\$2,439.00 and the identification of the out-scaling farmers.
- 6.5 The total number of out-scaling farmers from all the six SIMLESA districts is 718 composed of 408 male farmers and 310 female farmers. Follower farmers are totaling to 1623 of whom 673 are female farmers and 950 are male farmers.
- 6.6 SIMLESA-Malawi is working with a total of 7 Seed Companies namely: Demeter Agricultural Ltd, FUNWE Farms Ltd, Peacock Investments Ltd, Seed Co Malawi Ltd, CPM Agri-Enterprize Ltd, Panthochi Ltd and Seed Tech Ltd to increase the seed availability of the following maize varieties; ZM309, ZM721, ZM523, ZM623, MH26, MH30 and MH31. The total tonnage produced to date is 1,887 on 900 Ha of land.
- 6.7 Through SIMLESA-Malawi the following groundnut varieties: ICGV-SM01711 ICGV-SM01514, ICGV-SM99551, ICGV-SM99556, ICGV-SM01708 and ICGV-SM01728 have been identified as possible candidates for release. One Soya Bean varieties namely S797-6-55 has also been identified.

- 6.8 There has been an increase in the number of partners working on legumes over the past four years; in total there are 13 partners working/promoting groundnuts, soya beans and pigeon peas; as a result of these partnerships, there has been an increase in the demand for improved seeds.
- 6.9 With financial assistance from SIMLESA Secretariat, Malawi has managed to send 3 students for PhD studies, 3 students for Master of Science studies, received research equipments and 2 vehicles to facilitate SIMLESA activities implementation. SIMLESA has also installed a functional Automated Meteorological Station at Chitala Research Station.
- 6.10 Phase II of SIMLESA will focus on the following areas: Planting window for interplanting p/pea where harness is opted as a weed control option studies, Evaluation maize varieties against different CA systems, Weed diversity studies in different cropping systems, Studies /monitoring soil moisture dynamics in different cropping systems and its implication to crop growth and sustainability of the system, Study N x residues amounts interactions, Compatibility studies on maize-legume CA based systems, Input and output markets, Generation of reports from available data, information and policy issues, Processing & value additions. Seed value chains, Compatibility studies on maize-legume CA based systems, More capacity buildings (short & long term)
- 6.11 **Comments from the participants**
- 6.11.1 It was observed from the presentation that there are different approaches taken by different stakeholders in advisory services of the CA technologies which have an effect on the scaling up of the technology.
- 6.11.1.1 In Malawi the District Advisory Committee system is what is being used to relay agricultural advises at district level to all stakeholders for standardization. NGOs have different interests in an area and promoting different agendas depending on source of funding.
- 6.11.1.2 An NGO is restricted to a particular area while the Government covers the larger area and is resource constrained hence where there is a shortfall of staff, NGO is requested to work in that area since they have the staff on the ground and liquidity of resources.
- 6.12 It was observed that there is a distortion in amounts of residue retention by different organizations. SIMLESA is promoting 2.5 to 3 tons per hectare as the recommendation but since it has been discovered that it is a better way of controlling/suppressing weeds, farmers tends to be over zealous in the application of residues. Participants

recommended the need to have proper message dissemination to the farmers to reduce these discrepancies.

- 6.13 Participants enquired the modalities used to follow up on the follower farmers in Malawi. It was learnt that by the use of different partners with whom SIMLESA is implementing Innovations Platforms and the local Extension Staff on top of the country SIMLESA team, Follower Farmers are kept track of.
- 6.14 The delegates wanted to know the Malawi's experience in terms of Nitrogen dynamics in Conservation Agriculture and if there are any lock up issues. It was mentioned that in Malawi, farmers do apply Nitrogen sparingly so it was felt by the participants that it is necessary to be investigated further as there are still more unanswered questions. Delegates felt also that this could be an area where a PhD student needs to be sought to answer these questions. The task was thrown to the Malawi SIMLESA Team act on these as one of the priority capacity building areas within the SIMLESA II.

7.0 Highlights of SIMLESA-1 ACHIEVEMENTS IN Mozambique since 2010 and implication for SIMLESA 2- Domingos Dias SIMLESA National Coordinator

- 7.1 SIMLESA activities were introduced in Six provinces of Mozambique namely Tete-Angonia, Manica-Manica, Manica-Gondolo, Sofala-Gorongosa, Manica-Sussundenga and Rotande representing the low medium and high altitude areas to address the Food Insecurity problems identified in these areas.
- 7.2 Achievements to date
 - 7.2.1 Characterization of the farming systems and setting up benchmarks for adoption and impact assessment was done in 70 communities where 510 households were interviewed.
 - 7.2.2 there has been an improvement in the adoption of CA technologies such as the use of improved varieties where 18% of the farmers in the targeted areas used PAN 67, 13% used Matumba, 89% retained residues and 68% intercropped maize and legume.
 - 7.2.3 Value Chain Analysis was conducted and established that maize and beans are mostly grown in Central and southern Provinces of Mozambique. There is also challenges in the Extension service delivery where there are only 800,000 Extension Workers to service 25 Million Population and usually Political

programs takes priority which is affecting the SIMLESA's activities implementation and scale out.

7.3 Some of the successes and challenges encountered during the implementation of SIMLESA 1 include: use typology for technology recommendation, increase the uptake of CA, give more ownership of technology to farmer; the challenges included limited number of qualified staff, lack of qualitative data, interdisciplinary team research.

7.4 During the implementation of SIMLESA 1 a number of gaps were identified which have been earmarked for filling in the implementation of SIMLESA II such as promotion of business models, access to information and markets for fertilizer and herbicides, identifying opportunities for participation in the value chains by farmers, identification of opportunities and constraints in herbicides value chain.

7.5 Major achievements under objective 2 include the establishment of 36 exploratory trials in 6 districts, farmer participatory research approach used to create awareness, identify most relevant cropping systems by location and select trial host farmers, on-station trials (long term, Weed & termite control) intensification trials establishment for in-depth studies of CA effects.

7.6 Following the participatory research approached where participatory technology evaluation was done, farmers chose maize planted in basins with a jab planter rotated with cowpeas/beans as their best choice followed by maize-cowpea/beans in basins intercropping.

7.7 From the different research studies conducted under Conservation Agriculture the following major conclusions were made:

7.7.1 Soil moisture results from Angonia suggest the possibility of intensified cropping by relay cropping with legumes to utilize the extra moisture in CA.

7.7.2 Superiority of CA in very wet environments is diminished in high rainfall environments +/- 1000 mm /yr) as found in Angonia district while larger yields gains from CA were realized in lower rainfall environments (+/- 600 mm /yr) as in Sussundenga district.

7.7.3 Study results suggest the need for developing improved CA techniques capable of handling waterlogged conditions in very wet environments

7.7.4 Yield differences between CA and farmer practice was therefore dependent on quality of season and management.

7.7.5 Overall highest maize yields were derived from cereal-legume rotation systems attributed to nitrogen fixation from legumes and disease / pest suppression.

- 7.8 It was reported that termites and weed infestation is a problem in Mozambique and different trials are being conducted to find solutions to these challenges. It was also observed that termites are mainly a problem in drier areas than in wetter areas. Weeds do extract the extra residual moisture as a result of practicing CA.
- 7.9 Trainings, exchange visits, use of glyphosates as herbicide and field days were described as the best means that has helped the scaling out efforts of Conservation Agriculture in Mozambique
- 7.10 Through the implementation of SIMLESA I the capacity of the Mozambique SIMLESA Team have been enhanced through trainings, good collaboration and partnerships between CIMMYT and NARS, joint development of publications, and presentations, leadership skills and data management.
- 7.11 Some of the challenges encountered during the implementation of SIMLESA I include poor management of trials and data collection, lack of financial resources to mobilize extension workers, expectations of farmers for “free hand outs”, lack of basic agronomic knowledge among farmers and some extension staff and poor quality seed
- 7.12 Areas for concentration during the SIMLESA II in Mozambique were highlighted as follows, need for training on trial and data management, introduction of a new maize variety, continuation of research trials and training of lead farmers.
- 7.13 Mozambique suggested the following research areas during the SIMLESA II Continue on-station and on-farm exploratory trials, establish new variety X cropping system trials, weeding, plant spacing, fertilizer, liming demonstrations/trials; developing and testing strategies for using CA in waterlogged soils or soils prone to poor drainage in periods of excess rainfall (eg permanent ridges), integration of pest management on CA trials. evaluation of suitable cover crops during winter, alternatives for residue application in termites prone zones, address mechanization, post harvest management of grains and cereals, in-situ residue and cover crop production from cover crops using fast growing legumes or other such species in livestock and termite prone environments and explore new options for intensification.
- 7.14 The Mozambique SIMLESA Team proposed some important operational thrust that the second phase should concentrate on as follows: more resources to be allocated for trial supervision and quality data collection, continuation of on-station and on farm trials and demonstrations, off-load the data collection burden from extension officers and engage

other partners (NGOs) in the “problem areas” while the extension officers concentrate on scaling-out, training of lead farmers and identifying a focal person to work with seed companies.

7.15 The following technical issues need to be considered introduction of new maize varieties, low soil PH, excessive rainfall versus CA, residue application versus livestock and termites, basic agronomic training to concerned stakeholders, mechanization options and inoculants availability for soya beans.

7.16 Under objective 3, the major achievements include the establishment of 563 legume on-farm trials and training of 563 farmers where 56 varieties of pigeon peas, cowpeas and soya beans over 60 sites spread across the target provinces.

7.16.1 A mother- baby trial approach was adopted and a total of 64 Mother trials and 228 baby trials were established between 2012 and 2014 seasons and yield levels of 4.5 Tons/Ha were realized in some areas.

7.16.2 Maize-legume trials were also established where 183 trials for maize/legume were established with 6 varieties being tested in 24 sites and 15 maize regional trials with 360 varieties being evaluated in 4 sites.

7.17 The suggested research activities under objective 3 include: Continue on-station trials focusing on identification of superior new varieties developed by IIAM and International Research Centres (CIMMYT, TL-2, IITA, ICRISAT); continue on-farm trials (on relevant communities) using new release or in pipeline maize and legume varieties; in collaboration with Objective 2 to select and evaluate specific maize varieties suitable for intercropping with specific legume spice (use students to carry-out the trials in selected sites); In collaboration with specialized institutions to Identify and refine best bet forage/fodder species and varieties suitable for target AEZs for use in maize-legume-forage and to develop and implement the seed production road map for specific variety and for targeted environments.

7.18 The major achievements under objectives 4 and 5 include the following: Production activities spread from 6 communities to 25 Communities by mid-2014. Innovative Platforms establishment (4 Functional IPs to date); Out-scaling protocol developed to guide farmers and support institutions in the selection of appropriate technologies, crop varieties, crop establishment methods and the use of lead farmer approach with each host community working with 1000-1200 farmers.

7.19 Mozambique SIMLESA Team proposed the following capacity building activities during the second phase: Training on market and value chain analysis; 2 Agronomists to visit/train in Brazil (CA); Online course – scientific writing, policy brief, statistics and discussion paper;

Training on statistical analysis for objective 1 and M&E; Seed production and crop management (for all extension workers and selected farmers); CA training for new extension workers; to identify 1 national flagship programmes to partner with (APPSA); 1 institution prioritised for SIMLESA II partnerships- 3 NGOs (ADEM, TLC and PROMAC); 3 private sector (DENGO, IAV and SP) ; 3 other partners (IDEAA, ISPM, SPA/SPER) and identify 1 project (N2Africa) to partner with through SIMLESA II.

7.20 The following publicity/awareness avenues are underway in Mozambique: **2 Radio programmes** – **15 min** program in local and Portuguese languages, run twice a week in Manica, Tete and Sofala. With a FAQ session interviews and SIMLESA feedback; **Booklets** (maize and legume production under CA); **100 posters with diverse themes**; 2 working papers; 2 conference papers and 3 Papers almost ready for peer reviewed journals.

7.21 Comments from the participants

7.21.1 Data collection need to be done with research assistants and extension workers should dealing with trainings as a means of ensuring quality of data being collected. It was suggested that NGOs' participation in management of trials should be considered also.

7.21.2 Radio and mobile programmes, leaflets messaging being done in Mozambique is a good initiative which needs to be encouraged in all SIMLESA Countries as a way of creating awareness of the SIMLESA activities.

7.21.3 Participants wanted to know how the Country SIMLESA Teams have been able to sustain the interest in the Innovation Platforms.

7.21.3.1 Mozambique: They are working with NGOs who are dealing with the whole value chain and have resources to ably support the platforms.

7.21.3.2 Malawi: Mobilizing farmers and service providers to do joint planning through SIMLESA, financing of the meeting is done in turn by the stakeholders, farmers are benefiting from IP by getting subsidized prices since they are getting these inputs as a group.

7.21.3 In other IP there are some challenges. Where the Extension worker is well versed with the IP structures and procedures, the IP turns to be successful and not otherwise.

- 7.22 Members emphasized the need to have a general guide lines in establishing an Innovations Platform to be availed to all members. It was reported that the guidelines were launched last July 2014 but the demand is always very high. Those who do not have a copy were advised to request from the Team Leaders for a copy. The participants observed that there is need for some seed money to kick start the IP establishment and ensure that there is success in the establishing the IP and that setting the IP should respond to the local need.
- 7.23 Participants felt that there is need to continue learning and consolidate what works where and learn from there.
- 7.24 Country teams prioritized top three activities were as follows
- 7.24.1 Mozambique- Promotion of Business Model, Seed road Maps, Increase the number of demonstration in the central and Northern part of the country.
- 7.24.2 Malawi- Seed road map, vibrant seed Company to take on Legume Production.
- 7.25 Participants wanted to know the impact of pilling a stack of residues on a plot where the residues are collected from another field.
- 7.25.1 It impacts negatively on the other plot where the residues are being collected as it leaves the field very bare and prone to soil erosion and degradation.
- 7.26 It was recommended that harmonize the messages on CA need to be developed which should be made available and used by all stakeholders.

8.0 WHAT HAS CHANGED IN SIMLESA-2 (THE NEW LOG FRAME)

8.1 OBJECTIVE 1 TEAM

- 8.1.1 To help us better understand the CA-based intensification options. There are 5 Outputs and 15 Activities to be achieved in 15 Quarters (3.75 Years)
- 8.1.2 The Key principles of CA will be reemphasized which need to be PRAB
P= persistence; R= Resilience; A= Autocracy; B= Benevolence
- 8.1.3 In each of the activities it is being suggested to have responsible officers for accountability purposes.

8.1.4 The Objective 1 Team felt there is need to fully establish the role of Herbicides in the CA.

8.1.5 The Objective Team was of the view that Livestock- residue interaction is more important in Ethiopia since it is livestock based economy.

8.1.1.1 Way Forward for Objective 1 Team

1. Impact Pathways- need to be defined properly
2. Feedback Loops- Farmer-Research-Extension-Agribusiness
3. Public Investments
4. Private sector imperative, business model
5. Diffusion and scaling up modalities
6. Communication and dissemination- need to be simplified to be user friendly.

8.1.1.2. Participants Commented and raised a concern that on communication and dissemination there is need to consider the financial connotations mainly in Mozambique where they will have to translate it into Portuguese as well.

8.2 Objective 2 Team

8.2.1 Approaches that have changed include:

1. Awareness meetings
2. Farmer consultations and agreement on treatment

8.2.2 Possible new research thrusts

1. CA and Varieties
2. Test new options for CA in water logged conditions
3. Soil cover options in termite environments
4. Address basics on crop management
5. Mechanization options and rippers

8.2.2.2 Comments

8.2.2.2.1 Participants observed that the use of graduate students to answer some of the research questions is a good suggestion, but there is need to look the resources to support such innovative ideas.

8.2.2.2.2 Participants wanted to know what steps will be taken to modify the on-farm trials? The objective 2 leader to communicate of the steps to be taken in due course.

8.2.2.2.3 Workshop participants were informed that under Farm mechanization options, Malawi and Mozambique not included but it was wealth-while to note that there are efforts in this direction and that these two countries will benefit eventually.

8.3 Objective 3 Team

8.3.1 The Objective team reported that they have released a number of varieties as follows:

8.3.1.1 In Malawi 20 varieties for maize and 20 varieties for legumes have been released. While in Mozambique 5 varieties for maize and 16 varieties for legumes have been released.

8.3.1.2 In total there are 20 partners involved in the production of certified seeds in the two countries.

8.3.2 What is new? The only new thing under objective 3 is the introduction of Fodder and Forage varieties to cater for the needs of Ethiopia and Kenya where rearing of Livestock is prominent.

8.3.2.1 There are 5 activities planned under Objective 3 some of which are to pursue linkages with ILRI to identify the fodders suitable for different agro ecological zones, linkage with objective 2 to identify varieties suitable for CA based systems and the eventual introduction of legumes and fodder into the CA systems.

8.3.3 Comments from participants

8.3.3.1 Participants enquired Why 20 lines of maize for Malawi and what are the differences?

8.3.3.2 In response the Malawi SIMLESA Team said there is a faster Seed Release Committee, and that in Malawi there are a lot (over 20) of Seed Companies and each one of them with a passion to release a new variety and these varieties are released based on different traits.

8.3.3.3 Participants then queried with so many Seed Companies in Malawi why seed shortage?

8.3.3.3.1 The problem is mainly with legumes since the multiplication ratio is low (number of pods and seeds produced per plant) as compared to maize.

8.4 Objective 4 Team is concerned with the following issues in SIMLESA:

- 1 Policy Options, organizational Models
- 2 Scaling multi-stakeholder interaction mechanization
- 3 Scaling CA-based intensification options
- 4 Knowledge sharing

8.4.1 Objective 4 will prioritize the following:

8.4.1.1 Build on SIMLESA 1- Lessons on AIP for the improvement of the phase 2 and one of the strategies if to identify 1 national leadership per country to champion objective 4 activities.

8.4.1.2 Prioritize and integration of several innovations as developed by SIMLESA activities. It is being recognizant that the more the different intervention approaches are aggregated the better the results on return.

8.4.1.3 Aligning approaches to take in consideration of Gender and Youths friendliness. It has been observed in SIMLESA that 40% of the adopters are women hence the need for such consideration as often times most technologies are not gender sensitive.

8.4.1.4 There are gains and lessons that have been learnt such facilitation of PVA, seed bulking, on-farm CA-based technology testing that are wealth-while noting and take on board during the execution of phase 2 of SIMLESA. Scaling out strategies need to be intensified as well as looking at the sustainability of the interventions and technologies being introduced.

9.0 Business model:

9.1 Participants had a chance to listen to a presentation on a business model which it was felt necessary to instill in farmers and stakeholder alike as CA is being promoted so that all business opportunities existing within the CA value chain

can be fully exploited to the advantage of the stakeholder. This was seen as one way in which interest in the CA can be sustained among the stakeholders.

- 9.2 An example of a business model taking place in Northern Tanzania where Pigeon Peas farmers have a contract of supply with an Indian firm works. The farmer cooperative produces pigeon peas, they don't have transport and storage etc. entered into agreements with different service providers such as the transporters, warehouse operators and fertilizer suppliers that when they hire the trucks to transport pigeon peas to the Indian firm in Darussalam for export when returning it comes with fertilizer for sell to farmers.

10. Understanding the diversity in the household resource endowment

- 10.1 It was explained to the participants that a good understanding of the diversity in household livelihood strategies can help better target R4D Interventions.
- 10.2 Categories in the household resource endowment were described as follows: Stepping up farmer- wealthier farmers and Hanging in farmers-poorer. Such information and categorization is useful in case studies and hanging farmers are of interest to work with.

11.0 General discussion and feedback from participants

- 11.1 Participants suggested that the interaction and sharing of information amongst the objectives should be encouraged as it will reduce the load demanded from the Country teams and save on resources and it will harmonize the information required by the SIMLESA Secretariat.
- 11.2 It was mentioned that there is need for Objective 1 to clearly understand the CA systems for proper articulation of issue as it sometimes demand information that is not readily available or not available at all.
- 11.3 It was observed that Objective 2 has done a lot of data collection and work which could be useful to objective 1 such as showcase of the best bait with the accompanying guide lines and associated benefits (markets, residue retention (30%) etc).
- 11.4 It was reiterated and emphasized that it was very important to be documenting the lessons learnt from other objectives to enhance learning, proper planning and knowledge management.

- 11.5 Business opportunities existing within the CA systems need to be unearthed to all the stakeholders in order to nurture the interest in the CA activities.
- 11.6 Under Objective 4 the following were the comments:
- 11.6.1 There is need to develop the Capacity building of the country teams and farmers alike to enhance proper implementation of the project activities
 - 11.6.2 It was recommended that there is need to properly define the packages to be moved to farmers- seed in a language understood by them.
 - 11.6.3 For objective 4 to properly produce a valid Policy briefs there is need to have an economist in their team.
 - 11.6.4 Under Gender consideration, it was suggested that there is need to articulate women benefits properly
 - 11.6.5 It was mentioned that it is important to note that in essence the other three objectives are summaries of objective 4 activities.
- 11.7 The following were the comments to note for Objectives 3:
- 11.7.1 There is need now to start Targeting of new varieties and get and document the feedback from the farmers to properly guide the research.
 - 11.7.2 Seed systems being promoted under Objective 3 need to utilize the expertise in Objective 2 for proper coordinated implementation.
 - 11.7.3 Participants suggested that the Scaling up of CA activities should be done in collaboration with Objective 4.
 - 11.7.4 It was observed that there is need to modify On- Farm trials and to better do this it was recommended that the topologist and agronomists need to be brought on board in order to inform Phase 2 activities.
 - 11.7.5 There is need for continued interaction among the four objectives and formulation of trial protocols should be a team work at all levels (CIMMYT and NARS)
 - 11.7.6 It was observed that some implementers do not adequately understand the protocol, and it was therefore suggested that there is need to improve the ground/field level by building their capacity and making sure that adequate resources are made available.

- 11.7.7 Participants mentioned that there is too much demand from CIMMYT level of data to be collected. It was therefore suggested that there is need to define the data needs of each of the objectives so as to have a simplified data form that capture all the relevant data. The Objective Leaders should meet to design such a form which will be sent to all Country teams for use during the implementation of Phase 2 activities.
- 11.7.8 The participants felt it necessary that all the Objective Leaders and Country Leaders need to be communicated of all the future programmes in good time ahead of time for their proper planning.
- 11.7.9 Delegates pointed out that there is need to change the organizations' culture by changing the leadership for the betterment of the organization's activities at all levels and it was specifically mentioned that communication is key and information sharing and feed backing can improve things within SIMLESA such as protocols etc.
- 11.7.10 Delegates emphasized on the need for Joint planning among the Objectives as very key in smooth implementation of SIMLESA 2 activities not forgetting the sharing of the responsibilities.

DAY 2

12.0 Day 2 began with recap of Day 1 issue

- 12.1 Delegates reiterated the importance of ensuring that there is Interlinking of objectives for meaningful implementation of SIMLESA 2.
- 12.2 The need to identify and document Case Studies and success stories was encouraged to enhance learning and direct proper planning of activities in SIMLESA 2.
- 12.3 It was emphasized the requirement of multi-disciplinary presences in each objectives in order to have a self-contained package whenever releasing any documentation or field activity.
- 12.4 It was agreed that there is a need for documentation of all technologies at national level that can be disseminated to the target group, which will eventually form extension booklets in the long run. It was observed that as National teams in regard to this area, the performance was not well. It was learnt from the meeting that there is a similar work being done in this regard in other projects by

CIMMYT from where learns can be learnt by the country teams and this work just demonstrates that It is doable.

12.5 It was observed by the delegates that the differences observed in mulching levels in different farmers' fields is a function of communication. To address this problem CA Task force in Malawi is trying to harmonize the CA related messages which stakeholders shall be required to use.

12.6 As delegates were breaking into groups a reminder was echoed that:

12.6.1 In breakaway groups members were to remember to prioritize activities that can be done by looking at the capacity and resource available in year 1 (2014/15 cropping season) of phase 2 but consider also the activities for the subsequent years.

12.6.2 It was announced that the funds for the activities come in tranches; so if there are other activities that needs to be done earlier, movements of funds within the budget is considered at the secretariat level.

13.0 Presentation 6: Gender in SIMLESA II by the Gender Specialist

13.1 The gender Specialist gave a background of the presentation where a Stock taking of Gender in SIMLESA I was done to inform the presentation.

13.2 It was mentioned that previous Gender Issues were led by ASARECA in terms of Capacity Building, Case studies-Posters produced to that effect.

13.3 SIMLESA Secretariat is taking gender issues serious as such the following are to take place in the implementation of SIMLESA II:

13.3.1 Development of a clear and coherent gender strategy

13.3.2 Provision of Technical support in gender wherever necessary

13.3.3 Integration of gender in all objectives

13.3.4 Identification and establishment of Gender gaps at household and community levels

13.3.5 To raise the awareness that not all men and women are not the same in the implementation of SIMLESA II hence there is need to specifically indicate which women and men.

13.4 Gender thrust in each of the Objectives was highlighted as follows:

- 13.4.1 Objective 1: Goal-Commitment to Gender Equity- understanding, documenting experiences, status and preferences of men and women.
 - 13.4.2 Objective 2 Goal- Equitable participation- men and women managed plots
 - 13.4.3 Objective 3 Goal-Equitable participation when establishing and training Community Based Organizations
 - 13.4.4 Objective 4 Goal-understand men and women's status; foster participation in the organizational scaling models.
 - 13.4.5 Objective 5 Goal-Build capacity for gender analysis and M&E by looking at Institutional Arrangements for gender; M&E frame work and institutional capacity.
- 13.5 The participants were informed that there are strategic comparative research studies lined up such as gender and conservation agriculture and gender and innovation platforms to enhance learning in gender issues. Other research studies will include monitoring of graduate students doing research using SIMLESA data and these research studies will be country specific and depend on student's interest.
- 13.6 The technical capacity for gender integration is envisaged to be from regional level and national level where a Gender Focal Person needs to be identified. Both Malawi and Mozambique have identified their focal persons.
- 13.7 Comments on the presentation
- 13.7.1 Randomization in farmer selection, the criteria for objective 1 are good and can stand. There is need to respect the local norms in an area but as we expand the gender balance need to be considered then
 - 13.7.2 Need to consider the objective of the trial when considering the selection of the trial hosts
 - 13.7.3 The real issue here is to ensure equal participation between men and women to avoid universalization of recommendations about a technology.
 - 13.7.4 Trials and demonstrations have different management aspects and this need to be considered critically as we consider gender to ensure quality data collection.
 - 13.7.5 The communication briefs produced on gender by ASARECA need to be used to extract some lessons

- 14.0 The delegates were then given 2 group tasks which were:
- 14.1 Group Task 1
 - 14.1.1 Given your SIMLESA experiences in this region in the last 4 years and the presentation by Objective Leaders. Isolate issues that can be implemented in the SIMLESA II
 - 14.2 Group Task 2
 - 14.2.1 Using the new log frame for your objective and issues raised in Addis, fit your identified activities in the proposed output
 - 14.3 Delegates were requested to discuss and agree on feasibility of the proposed activities on your new log frame by country (why, who, when) and prioritize them at objective level.
 - 14.3.1 Members were encouraged to contribute positively and improve on the log frame of SIMLESA II document.
 - 14.4 Group Presentations were done and the following observations were made:
 - 14.4.1 There is need to also include forage option for the low altitude areas that usually have more livestock as well
 - 14.4.2 Acid soils interventions need to be noted by the Mozambique team
 - 14.4.3 What do we do about soil analysis in Mozambique where they take their samples to Zimbabwe and South Africa. There is need for each country to have their own Soil Analysis Laboratory. Build the capacity of the National levels and harmonize the analysis methodology to avert the variations that do not compare well. Country Teams were encouraged to contact CIMMYT should they need any assistance in this regard
 - 14.4.4 There is need to develop a regional soil data base and on-station trials
 - 14.4.5 Inoculants for legumes needs to be reflected as well in the new Log frame.
 - 14.4.6 Diagnostic tool kits at local level are needed to help the Country Teams deal with the soil analysis issue and these tool kits are available on the market; to that effect Job Kihara was tasked to find out and source these kits on behalf of the SIMLESA.

14.4.7 It was indicated that a Simple soil PH analysis would give an indication of the status of the soil.

14.4.8 It was also suggested that there is need to seriously consider the finalization for once and forget about soil analysis; and categorize which protocol can be done by which set of soil analysis kit.

14.4.9 Country teams were advised to carefully plan to take and analyze soil at points when we expect effective changes in the soil for each particular experiment owing to the fact that soil analysis is cumbersome.

14.4.10 Due to the insight on soil analysis, networks that Job Kihara from CIAT Nairobi showed to possess, the delegates agreed with the suggestion to appoint him as the SIMLESA focal point on Soil analysis.

14.5 Comments for specific Objectives

14.5.1 Objective 1

14.5.1.1 Communication briefs to farmers, policy and NGO and agribusiness to be produced latest by June 2015. It was re-emphasized that all the information and data are available from SIMLESA I reports. Responsible team members have been identified.

14.5.1.2 Use of the data from Agronomy is available which can easily be compiled by Agronomist if a Template for Meta-Analysis is availed to them which can be done within 1 year.

14.5.1.3 There is need to define "RISK" in an inclusive way then zero in on specific risk, sharing of the risk along the value chain (climate, market, global influence). The risks should be agricultural related which the project can address.

14.5.1.4 Risk analysis is a tool that can be used to ensure collaboration among the SIMLESA Objectives

14.5.1.5 Learn from the previous work on risk.

14.5.1.6 Consider joint outputs rather than trying to be extractive

14.5.2 Objective 2

14.5.2.1

14.5.3 Objective 3

14.5.3.1 The members were encouraged to use CIMMYT recognized maize seed.

14.5.3.2 Post harvest management issues needs to be considered as well. There is need for evaluation of new varieties for insect and pest resistance

14.5.3.3 Members agreed to use best/optimum varieties for their ecologies

14.5.4 Objective 4

- 14.5.4.1 Members recommended that there is a need for harmonization of the CA guideline using the TLC Guidelines
- 14.5.4.2 Participants discussed the need to re-define Research areas, intensive study on CA adoption and comprehensive understanding of CA related adoption
- 14.5.4.3 It was reported that there are over 20 Stakeholders identified for CA in both countries.
- 14.5.4.4 It was emphasized that it is important to make sure that all proposed activities are done within the proposed time frame.
- 14.5.4.5 It was observed that promotion of business model through IPs would help to leverage benefit realized by farmers.
- 14.5.4.6 It was proposed that for the IPs to be strengthened there is need to actively involve Governments' Extension Departments at local level as well as provision of refresher training on the role of IP to the new staff in government extension services.

14.6 Food for thought for day were as follows:

- 14.6.1 How do we sustain activities beyond SIMLESA?
- 14.6.2 Will SIMLESA be giving inputs for trial hosting farmers? It is wealth noting that Farmers are encouraged to source their own resource in their own input in their own arrangements.
- 14.6.3 What data do we need from IP activities?
- 14.6.4 How to measure the farmers reached?
- 14.6.5 How do you scale varieties (maize and legumes) and offer SIMLESA technologies-produce roadmaps.
- 14.6.6 Engage the local communication experts to assist us in the preparing the communication briefs.
- 14.6.7 Scaling up issues who are we partnering, what are technologies to be promoted and scaled up?

15.0 The participants were then divided into Country and by objective discussion groups

Day 3

16.0 Scaling up plan was presented by Michae Misiku which was to be used in the Country and Objectives discussion groups. A template was presented and an emphasis on the need to make the technologies dissemination more innovative and interesting was made.

- 16.1 It was reported that SIMLESA pumped in funds for the Country Teams to plan the scaling up activities as such it expected that the develop plan will be used to fill in this formed.
- 17.0 It was announced in the meeting that Competitive grants will start this coming January 2015.
- 18.0 It was felt that all the partners in SIMLESA activity need to meet at one place at Country level for experience sharing and evaluating each other's performance as this will improve the quality of service delivery.
- 18.1 It was suggested that Partners' presence in meetings should be encouraged at all levels wherever possible.
- 19.0 Budget presentation for SIMLESA phase II**
- 19.1 It was announced that there has been a reduction in the budget due to the expansion in stakeholder base such as CIAT and ILRI.
- 19.2 The budget is mainly to be used for operations and for July 2014 to June 2018 no additional funds will be availed. Country should concentrate on activities relevant to them.
- 19.3 Malawi's budget is **AU\$ 796,466.00** for the whole four year period split into operational- **AU\$485, 756.00**, coordination and oversight-**AU\$147,000.00** and competitive grants-**AU\$163,710.00**. The objectives' allocations (1 to 5) are in the ratio of **20%, 30%, 15%, 20% and 15%** of the operational costs. The funds available to be handled by NARS are **AU\$485, 756.00** as operational costs.
- 19.4 Mozambique's budget is **AU\$943,233.00** for the whole four period split into operational costs-**AU\$531,439.00**, Coordination and oversight-**AU\$168,000.00** and competitive grants- **AU\$243,794.00**. The objectives' allocations (1 to 5) are in the ratios of **20%, 30%, 15%, 20% and 15%** of the operational costs. The funds available to be handled by NARS are **AU\$531,439.00** as operational costs.
- 19.5 The SIMLESA Secretariat proposed and requires that there is the need to have a full time SIMLESA Coordinator and discussions are under with NARS management to effect this arrangement.
- 19.6 Competitive Grants will be administered by the SIMLESA Secretariat and the arrangement being proposed is that the funds will be deposited directly into the winning grantees' specially created account. It was advised that these funds

need to be handled with care as it covers so many activities as 60% should go for seed production and 40% for other activities such as trainings.

19.7 It was announced that these funds will be availed to NARS on condition that professional reports and audited reports are timely submitted to the secretariat and the donors.

20.0 Countries then proceeded to make budgeted implementation plans and some of the comments were as follows:

20.1 Comments on Malawi Budgeted Work Plan

20.1.1 Consider looking at Meta analysis. Should it be done for the entire four year period?

20.1.2 The Malawi team was advised to consider reporting risk findings to farmers in form of flyers etc

20.1.3 Malawi's objective 1 to re-define activity 1.5.1 and if the project ends define the continuity of this activity. Why start towards the end of the project span.

20.1.4 It was thought that since much work/research have been done why trials (need for justification).

20.1.5 There is need to Liaise with objective 2 and 4 to decide the best bet for out-scaling through identified partnership.

20.1.6 The Malawi team was advised to consider other ways of promoting best bet technologies in another way e.g. use of champion farmers.

20.1.7 It was observed that Chitala long term trial has been running for the past three years; is there any more new information/data that need to be collected? It was indicated by the CIAT Scientist that the trial is still viable and will be still be in use.

20.1.8 It was recommended that there is need for a publication from the chitala long term trial by December 2014.

20.1.9 The Malawi Team was advised that there is need for the development of seed road maps towards the end of the SIMLESA phase 1 (objective 3) and that there is need to have these road maps with all relevant figures in readiness for the evaluation coming in the near future.

20.1.10 It was observed that Objective 4 Budget for Malawi was well done and well articulated and Mozambique was advised to learn from the same.

21.0 Participants were advised that Gender issues and training need to be encourage among SIMLESA family as SIMLESA Secretariat takes gender issues seriously.

22.0 Participants were advised and informed that capacity building training opportunities should be decided based on the Country needs and priority areas as these scholarships are very competitive.

Day 4

23.0 On line statistic course presentation by Merinda Mortlock from University of Queensland Australia.

23.1 The course's ultimate goal is to improve and enhance quality experimental designing, data collection and analysis, interpretation and reporting.

23.2 Participants were informed that the course is for free and only those with internet connectivity should enroll. It is flexible and there is on-line support as it is interactive and available 24/7.

23.3 It was indicated to the participants that the world is changing scientifically as well as there are new versions of data handling soft-wares every now and again. The latest being R and R Studio which are for free.

23.4 It uses modular approach and some courses are seasonal and tailor made to the clients' needs so the student is free to choose which ever module to learn at a particular time.

23.5 The on-line course materials include the following: Video lectures- as video or slides, screen-casts, on-line tutorials and demonstrations, self assessment items, notes, interactive materials, discussion board and (individual support-suggestions for content need)

23.6 SIMLESA Secretariat indicated that should a National Office experience any problem with internet connectivity let it be brought to their attention; they will ensure that problem is solved.

24.0 Capacity building, training and M&E arrangements- By Gift

24.1 Participants were briefed of the training opportunities existing SIMLESA under Objective 5 as follows:

- 24.1.1 Training of at least 20 professionals on CA-based sustainable intensification, provided to build and enhance capacity of national and regional programs
 - 24.1.2 Training of 10 professionals on Gender mainstreaming
 - 24.1.3 Training of 5 professionals on seed systems
 - 24.1.4 Training of 2 research managers one from each Country
 - 24.1.5 Trained of 10 extension and scaling out professionals
 - 24.1.6 Competitive Australian PhD scholarships
 - 24.1.7 ARC supported MSc. and PhD scholarships
- 24.2 Participants were also informed of the M&E Strategy for the SIMLESA II as follows:
- 24.2.1 That CIMMYT will recruit M&E specialist to effectively monitor program activities
 - 24.2.2 Performance Monitoring Plan (**PMP**) developed by ASARECA will be modified, updated.
 - 24.2.3 M&E focal person will be capacitated as part of enhancing data quality management and M&E system within SIMLESA
 - 24.2.4 PMP to be updated regularly
- 25.0 Communication Science presentation by Gift
- 25.1 Participants were informed that CIMMYT will engage Communication specialist who will be based in Harare, Zimbabwe and is expected to take up the appointment from 1st of September 2014.
 - 25.2 The coming in of the Communication Specialist will try to resolve some of the Communication problems faced in SIMLESA 1 such as: **Late submission of reports:** Progress + financial reports and **Poor quality reports:** under reporting, missing key events like field days, meetings, conferences, story- telling pictures, writing skills, statistics etc.
 - 25.3 The communication Strategy being proposed to be developed in which the communication specialist will take the leading role will achieve the following:
 - 25.3.1 Enhanced visibility of SIMLESA mainly through regular updates of website.
 - 25.3.2 Development of high quality reports, posters, fliers, magazines, bulletins, journal papers etc

- 25.3.3 It is expected that data management will improve by doing the following:
 - 25.3.3.1 Need of prioritizing collection of data of acceptable quality. Minimum data set to be developed.
 - 25.3.3.2 There is need of ensuring that the current organisational information sharing policy is adhered to as a way of strengthening data management system.
 - 25.3.3.3 Collected data to be fully utilized in publication development by NARS and scientists: To be shared with stakeholders and the public after 18 months as stipulated in the ethics in data sharing
 - 25.3.3.4 Sharing need to go with contribution-there are cases where data is published without acknowledgement of data owners: need a win: win arrangement!
 - 25.3.3.5 NARS should provide data to the funding partners. There is great need of sharing data but attributions are very important. It should be clear how and where the data will be used.

26.0 Risk and resilience talk by Michael Misiku

26.1 Risk was defined as the likelihood that the intended output from the initial investment might not be the same.

26.2 Resilience was defined as the ability to survive the “shock”.

26.3 It was therefore impressed upon the participants to know and establish the possible risk a particular technology might bring and develop strategies to survive them

27.0 Revised country budgets presentation for Mozambique by Dias Domingos where it was observed that all the objectives have been revised according to the perceived needs.

28.0 Revised Country Budgets Presentation for Malawi by Sara

28.1 Changes have been effected under objective 1 and under objective 5 where local training opportunities at Masters and PhD levels were added.

29.0 It was tasked to Michael Misiku to develop a template for data collection for out scaling which will be used to by partners. The proposed field days will be run by the identified partners

29.1 It was agreed upon that there is need to develop a scaling out road map to act as a guidance in out-scaling activities.

- 30.0 Country teams were advised to plan to meet the partners to strategize on implementation of SIMLESA II by objectives.
- 30.1 Participants were advised that partnership should be nurtured very well. All members should respect each other with dignity. Any one not ready to adhere with this stand of SIMLESA will not be entertained within the SIMLESA family. To add mileage to the partnerships invite the other multinational partners to attend the SIMLESA activities such as Field days, IPs etc and the result of which might benefit the national SIMLESA
- 30.2 For the partnership to flourish trust and honesty is of prime importance, stick to the agreed time tables. Communicate and share programs, no more surprise visits. Communicate if the countries have connectivity problem, SIMLESA is ready to assist for the value of the data that might be lost if not communicated and the potential frustrations this might cause to partner. Strong interactions with partners should be encouraged by constantly engaging in contact and dialogue.
- 31.0 It was observed that there are no incentives accompanying publication of articles at both National levels. This was done deliberately for the knowledge of the international partners.
- 32.0 It was recommended that there should be developed a Circulation of the contact details of the National Coordinators and Objective leaders. A profile of the same should be developed by the Communication Expert and posted on the website.
- 33.0 Data policy for CIMMYT is that all the data should be distributed and circulated to all members. The data generated by SIMLESA Family should be shared with all partners based on trust. The quality of the data must always be ensured.
- 34.0 Field Visit-Mitundu EPA Chilemere Farmer Field School where they are practicing Conservation Agriculture and are out scaling in a big way and one lead farmer who has 22 other farmers she is helping with CA best bet technologies as shown on the pictures below.

