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Adoption of conservation farming in Matobo District: challenges and opportunities for enhancing food security in ward 11

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ABSTRACT

Zimbabwe government introduced extensive agricultural technology which was basically aimed at boosting agricultural productivity through provision of conservation farming trainings to different farmers. This research project therefore aimed at investigating the challenges and opportunities of conservation farming in relation to food security especially in region V, focusing on farmers in Matobo district of Zimbabwe which benefited from trainings on conservation farming. Food security and efficiency in agricultural productivity are assumed to be the drivers of the conservation farming program. It is likely that these key issues constitute an important consideration in determining the sustainability of agricultural technology that was introduced. A purposive sampling technique was used to randomly select 72 farmers in the study area. Questionnaires, focus Group Discussion (FGDs) and in-depth interviews were used as instruments for collecting data presentation. Tables and graphs were mainly used to analyze data obtained from the respondents. Results revealed that conservation farming has a positive impact in food security because it increases the crop yields, but on condition that there are adequate environmental conditions like enough rainfall. The farmers’ adoption to conservation farming is determined by the availability of conservation farming packaging or incentives like inputs, availability of rainfall, cultural factors and community projects or activities. The efficiency estimate of adopter and non-adopters of conservation farming showed little difference in their level of efficiency in agricultural productivity because of poor rains due to climatic changes. It is recommended that government and other non-governmental organisations (NGOs) departments to introduce programmes that will reduce climatic changes and capacitance farmers on the coping strategies from this climatic change, to enhance their agricultural productivity.