



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

# Drought and Impact on Food Security

17 September 2020

---

Constance Pepukai



# Drought in Zimbabwe

- **Increased frequency of drought**
- **Most agriculture systems are rain fed therefore -increased vulnerability to drought**
- **Small holder farmers in rural areas are most at risk**
- **Reverses gains in food security, reducing poverty and heightens tensions and social conflict**



# Impact of Drought on Rural Livelihoods

- **Reduced agricultural production and productivity**
  - **Reduced income generating opportunities**
  - **Loss of productive assets**
  - **Negative coping mechanisms**
- 
- A woman wearing a pink short-sleeved shirt and a colorful patterned skirt is sitting on a sandy, cracked ground. She is holding a metal bowl in her hands. The background shows a dry, arid landscape with sparse trees and a clear blue sky. The overall scene conveys the harsh conditions of a drought.



# National Laws, Policies and Strategies

- The National Agriculture Policy Framework
- The Food and Nutrition Security Policy
- National Policy on Drought Management
- National Climate Change Response Strategy
- The Zimbabwe Drought Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan
- The Civil Protection Act



# **FAO Response to 2015/16 El Nino Induced Drought**



# FAO Country Programming Framework

## Priority Areas

- Strengthening Policy & Institutional Frameworks
- Enhancing Agricultural Productivity & Competitiveness
- Increasing resilience to agricultural threats and crisis & uptake of  
Climate Smart Agriculture



# Drought Response Plan





## Objectives

- Assist rapid recovery of agricultural production
- Safeguard agriculture-based livelihoods

## Targets





- 486 000 drought affected households
- 12 districts

# Response Pillars


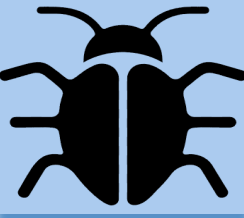


|   |          |   |
|---|----------|---|
|    | <b>1</b> | <b>Safeguard agriculture-based livelihoods</b>                      |
|    | <b>2</b> | <b>Manage crop pests and livestock diseases</b>                     |
|   | <b>3</b> | <b>Enhance Access to water for agricultural production</b>          |
|  | <b>4</b> | <b>Enhance Early warning Information systems &amp; coordination</b> |









|   |   |
|---|---|
|    | <b>1 Safeguard agriculture-based livelihoods</b>                      |
|    | <b>2 Manage crop pests and livestock diseases</b>                     |
|   | <b>3 Enhance Access to water for agricultural production</b>          |
|  | <b>4 Enhance Early warning Information systems &amp; coordination</b> |







|   |          |   |
|---|----------|---|
|    | <b>1</b> | <b>Safeguard agriculture-based livelihoods</b>                      |
|    | <b>2</b> | <b>Manage crop pests and livestock diseases</b>                     |
|    | <b>3</b> | <b>Enhance Access to water for agricultural production</b>          |
|  | <b>4</b> | <b>Enhance Early warning Information systems &amp; coordination</b> |

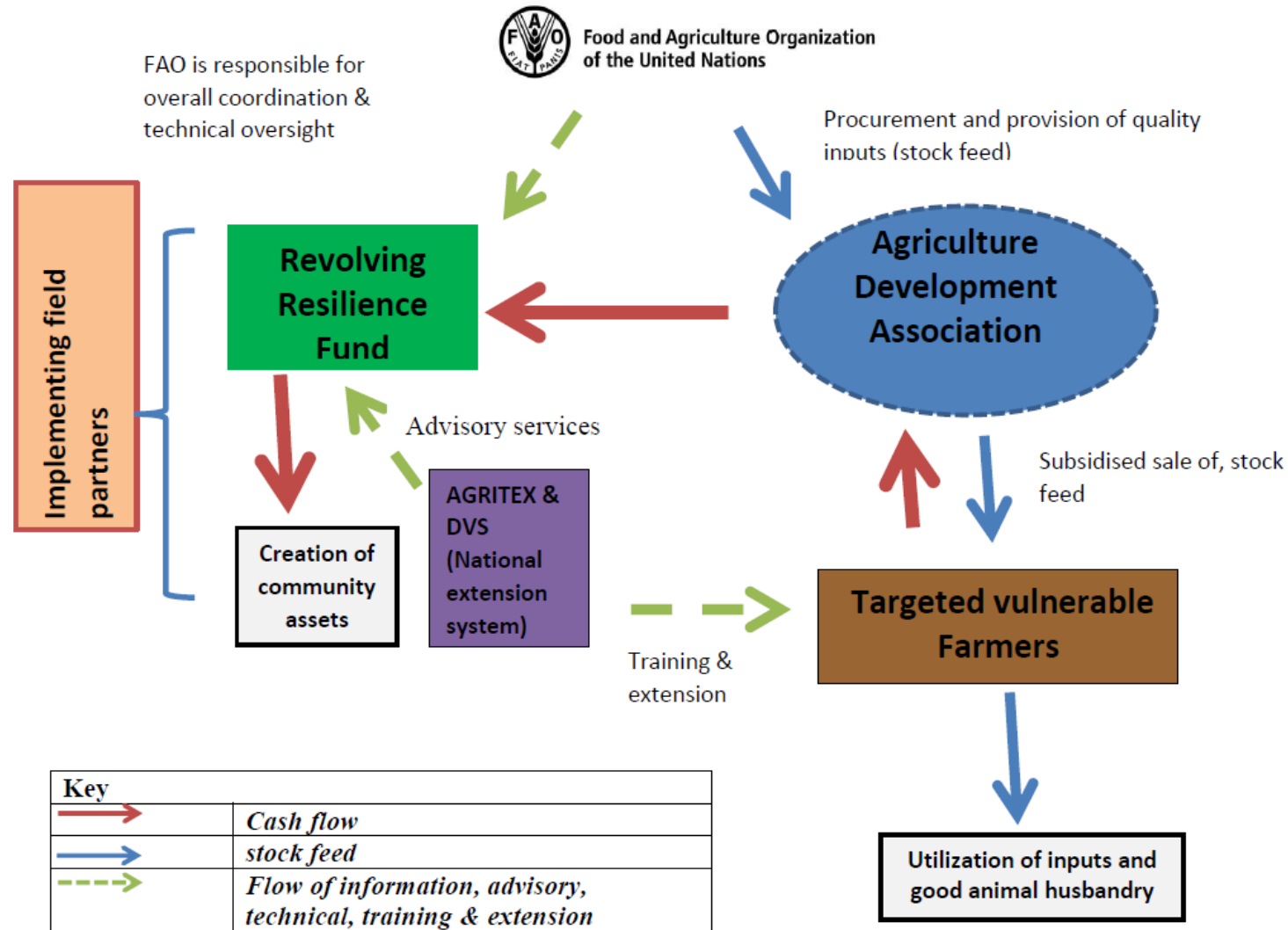


|   |  |
|---|--|
|    | <b>1</b> <b>Safeguard agriculture-based livelihoods</b>                      |
|    | <b>2</b> <b>Manage crop pests and livestock diseases</b>                     |
|    | <b>3</b> <b>Access to water for agricultural production</b>                  |
|  | <b>4</b> <b>Enhance Early warning Information systems &amp; coordination</b> |



|   |  |
|---|--|
|    | <b>1</b> <b>Safeguard agriculture-based livelihoods</b>              |
|    | <b>2</b> <b>Manage crop pests and livestock diseases</b>             |
|    | <b>3</b> <b>Enhance Access to water for agricultural production</b>  |
|  | <b>4</b> <b>Early warning information systems &amp; coordination</b> |

# Safeguarding livelihoods- subsidised crop and livestock Inputs



# Enhanced Access to water for agricultural production



- Rehabilitation and solarisation of community boreholes
- Community gardens with drip irrigation
- Livestock drinking troughs



# Enhance early warning Information systems and coordination

- First and Second Round National Crop Assessments
- Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) Rural Assessment
- Integrated Food Security Phase classification





# Challenges

- Limited diversification - maize centric policies and socio cultural norms
- Over reliance on rain fed agriculture systems
- Donor funding cycles not in sync with agricultural production cycles
- Limited early warning information





# What needs to be done

- Early warning and early action is critical: save lives and protects livelihoods, protects longer term development gains
- Climate smart crop and livestock production
- Reduce dependence on rain fed agriculture – increase investment in irrigation.
- Diversification – balance staples and cash crops/livestock support
- Input support for early maturing drought tolerant crop varieties
- Capacitation of farmers for good post-harvest practices (to minimise and avoid further losses)



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

Thank you