MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL WELFARE

FOOD SECURITY PACK PROGRAMME

"Exploring the linkages and strengthening coordination between social protection and agriculture"
INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS FOOD SECURITY PACK?

- Food Security Pack is a Social Safety Net programme part of the Social Protection Policy targeting the Poor and Vulnerable but Viable farming households, especially female-headed households with agricultural inputs and related social services to ensure household food security and nutrition at household and community level.

- The programme is implemented through the Department of Community Development.

- The programme was initiated by Government in November, 2000 in order to assist vulnerable small scale farming households that suffered the negative effects of reduced access to inputs and market due to economic liberalization and erosion of resource base as a result of recurrent droughts and floods. The programme was designed to target about 20% of these households in all the districts of Zambia. At programme design, this translated into assisting 200,000 beneficiary households annually.
OVERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE PROGRAMME

- The overall objective of the Programme is to empower the targeted poor and vulnerable but viable farming households to be self sustaining through improved productivity, nutrition and household food security and thereby contribute to poverty reduction.
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the Food Security Pack are:

1. To increase food and nutritional security at household and community level,
2. Increase agriculture output and productivity,
3. Promote conservation of scarce agricultural and land resources for future generations, and
4. To increase incomes at households level mainly through sale of agricultural related produce and services.
COMPLIMENTARY COMPONENTS OF FOOD SECURITY PACK

1. Crop Diversification and Conservation Farming:
   ✓ Promotes diversity of improved seed and planting materials for adaptive food security and cash crops to meet socio-economic and ecological conditions,
   ✓ Promotes conservation tillage,
   ✓ Promotes soil fertility improvement, erosion control practices and sustainable irrigation methods,
   ✓ Facilitates training in Conservation Farming and sustainable technologies,
   ✓ Facilitates training in Post Harvest technologies such as processing, preservation and utilization to improve household food and nutrition security.

2. Market Entrepreneurship, Seed and Cereal Bank Development:
   ✓ Promotes surplus production,
   ✓ Presents opportunities for beneficiaries on the programme to be linked to value chain services,
   ✓ Facilitates harvest banks development and management through pay backs or recoveries as stipulated in the guidelines,
   ✓ Prepares beneficiaries to be self reliant and for exit on the programme,
   ✓ Presents preventive service opportunities to others who graduate from supportive social protection services or who suffered from prolonged economic loss.
3. Alternative Livelihood Interventions

- Promotes integrated agricultural systems such as small livestock production (e.g. goats, pigs, poultry, rabbits), fish farming, bee keeping and crafts,
- Promotes nutrition,
- Promotes entrepreneurial growth and income generation,
- Presents livelihood opportunities in drought prone areas where other forms of livelihoods have a comparative advantage over crop production.
COMPLIMENTARY COMPONENTS OF FOOD SECURITY PACK Cont’d

4. Programme Management and Coordination

✓ The management of the programme involves the Department of Community Development Structure as highlighted below;

✓ On collaboration it involves the Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries on technical service provision and also other relevant institutions for referrals
SUPPORTING STRUCTURES OF FOOD SECURITY PACK PROGRAMME

The programme is also supported by established structures from National to community sub-structure levels

The following are the supporting structures as highlighted below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Role of the committee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Steering Committee</td>
<td>Permanent Secretaries from MCDSW, MOF, MoNPD, MAL and OVP.</td>
<td>Provision of Policy Guidelines and overseeing the overall implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Technical Committee</td>
<td>Technocrats from Government and Agro Institutions.</td>
<td>Provision of technical guidance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provincial Food Security Committee</td>
<td>Provincial heads from line Ministries and civil society.</td>
<td>Correctional advice and data collection on matters surrounding the programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Food Security Committee</td>
<td>District heads from line Ministries and civil society organizations.</td>
<td>Implementation, correctional advise, generation of data on matters surrounding the programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area Food Security Committee</td>
<td>Government Officers at Sub-structure level and community members of high standing</td>
<td>Implementation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE PACK’ COMPOSITION OF THE FOOD SECURITY PACK CROPPING PROGRAMME

The empowerment ‘Pack’ consists of a Cereal, Legume and Root or Tuber Crop. The Pack may also include other crops depending on the agro-ecological area as shown in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Type of Seed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cereals</td>
<td>Sorghum, maize, millet, rice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legumes</td>
<td>Cowpeas, Soya beans, groundnuts, Sugar Beans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Root and Tuber Crops</td>
<td>Cassava Cuttings, Sweet potatoes Vines and other crops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertilizers</td>
<td>Compound ‘D’ and Urea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other inputs</td>
<td>Agricultural Lime in some high acidity soils</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TARGETING

- BENEFICIARY ELIGIBILITY
  - The beneficiary household is expected to meet the Primary Selection Criteria first, and thereafter pass the Secondary Eligibility Criteria
  - Primary Selection Criteria:
    - The household should be able to provide own labor, have access to arable land, experiencing food insecurity over a prolonged period or suffered negative effects of reduced access to farming inputs over long periods or experienced droughts and floods, and not in any gainful employment.
TARGETING Cont’d

Secondary Eligibility Criteria
Should either be a;

1. Female Headed Household (Window or Single mother),
2. Child Headed,
3. Disabled headed,
4. Household keeping orphans or abandoned children,
5. Chronically ill headed,
6. Unemployed youth Headed or
7. Aged Headed.
Which part of the population is the programme taping from?

It is estimated that the population of Zambia is now 16 452 896 ‘quoted from the latest Living Conditions Monitoring Survey’

The Zambian population is estimated to have reached 16 452 896 ‘Quoted from the Living conditions Monitoring Survey of 2015’

The scenario that follows explain where the programme taps the beneficiaries:

45.6% of the people live above the poverty datum line

54.4% of the people live below the poverty datum line

13.6% are moderately poor

40.8% are extremely poor

Upper poverty spectrum (part of target for FSP)

Middle poverty spectrum (target for FSP)

Lower poverty spectrum
How is the targeting done?

- Targeting is facilitated by the sub-structure created by the department at community level called Area Food Security Committee. The structure comprises Government workers from line Ministries operating at community level and community members of high standing.

- The preliminary identification of possible beneficiaries is done by the Satellite Committees or Community Welfare Assistance Committees. These committees are recognized community structures for social service programmes in all operating areas.

- The AFSC then scrutinizes the selection using the identification matrix tool
What is the period of receiving social service for the target under this programme?

- The eligible beneficiaries remain on the programme for two consecutive years before graduation.
  - While on the programme beneficiaries are supported with capacity building trainings on crop diversification, conservation farming, entrepreneurship, food processing, preservation and nutrition, seed and cereal bank development, alternative livelihood interventions and management, and supported with functional literacy services,
  - The beneficiaries are also encouraged through the guidelines of the programme to contribute at most 10% of their overall harvest or production to the community recovery bank or seed bank for that community receiving the services for others to benefit who may not have been supported directly by the department due to limited resources.
GRADUATION

- Beneficiaries are assessed based on their developed capacity to sustain their livelihoods. Those that meet the assessment are graduated from the programme and advised or linked to other social protection services.

- Beneficiaries that fail to meet the assessment because of issues beyond their control are returned on the programme.
STRENGTHS OF FSP

- Well targeted (vulnerable but viable farmers).
- Exit strategy (2 years on the programme).
- Provides opportunity to engage private sector through e-voucher system.
- Provides training opportunity to beneficiaries to be self reliant.
- Provides a linkage with other agro service providers.
- Promotes nutrition through composition of the pack.
CHALLENGES OF THE PROGRAMME

- The programme is by far meeting its target of 20% of the people living in extreme poverty as was in the first years of implementation. (in the past 3 years the programme has only reached out to about 0.6% of the people living in extreme poverty).

- Non availability of a Linkage Frame Work to coordinate and sustain linkage of graduating beneficiaries to other social protection service providers.

- Un guaranteed momentum of capacity building for graduating beneficiaries to the upper spectrum of poverty and beyond. This is because a good number of graduated clients fail to tap into other social protection programmes, and after 2 or more years slip back into the lower spectrum of extreme poverty creating a likelihood of recycling the same clients.

- Limited resources for complimentary services and assessment activities e.g. capacity building, coordination, monitoring and evaluation.
CONCLUSION

- Food Security Pack programme is the only agricultural programme with a weaning off strategy. Besides that, it is a conduit pipe programme with two openings, an inlet and outlet.

- The inlet is the entry point for beneficiaries who gained or have gained a bit of capacity and potential built by supportive social protection services or suffered economic loss over prolonged periods.

- The outlet is the exit point for beneficiaries who have graduated from preventive social protection services and qualify for services where they can make a contribution.
CONCLUSION Cont’d

- Food Security Pack programme should be seen as a programme about food security and nutrition at household and community level.

- It should be seen as a Social and Economic Investment which can generate stable income for the beneficiaries and above all contribute to the growth of the Zambian economy.

- It should be seen as a vehicle that can get the Poor and Vulnerable out of extreme poverty with minimum investment.
Thank you for listening