

Project Summary

Title	Sustainable crop production using hairy vetch (<i>vicia villosa roth</i>) to enrich soil fertility and conserve soil moisture for maize cropping in smallholder farming systems in Zimbabwe
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Purpose	To evaluate the potential of Hairy vetch (<i>Vicia villosa Roth</i>) as a cover crop in terms of moisture conservation, nitrogen fixation, biomass production and effects on maize yield in different agro-ecological zones in Zimbabwe.
Project Summary	Crop production in smallholder farming systems of Zimbabwe is limited by low inherent soil fertility, particularly N and P and available soil moisture. This study seeks to investigate the effect of the cover crop, Hairy vetch on maize yield, determine its N contribution through biological nitrogen fixation (BNF), characterize its decomposition and nutrients N and P release patterns and its effect on soil and water conservation in smallholder farming systems of Zimbabwe. The expected output from this study is an affordable and alternative way for smallholder farmers to significantly enhance soil fertility and at the same time conserve soil and moisture.

Country and Specific Location(s)	Zimbabwe, Farmers from Goromonzi/Murewa
Start Date	October 2009
End date	October 2011
Amount of Funding	US \$60,000

