<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title:</th>
<th>Strengthening Quality Protein Maize Development and Utilisation for Indigenous Chickens in Zimbabwe</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PI:</td>
<td>Dr. Edmore Gasura</td>
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| Purpose | To enhance quality protein maize utilisation as an alternative feed indigenous chicken farmers |
## Project Summary

Development of sustainable indigenous chicken production systems can alleviate poverty and raise the standards of living of rural farmers. However, the prohibitive cost of chicken feed threatens the productivity of rural indigenous chicken. This calls for nutritious and cheaper feeds that can be grown by farmers to enhance the growth and quality of indigenous chickens such as quality protein maize (QPM). To make QPM readily available and adopted by farmers there is need to introgress the opaque 2 gene into the background of farmer preferred varieties. Furthermore, there is need to formulate feed rations using QPM maize and measure the growth rate and carcass quality. The knowledge and technologies generated from this project will feed into the national maize breeding and livestock production system for final packaging to the ultimate end users, the farmers. Key outputs of the research will include farmers preferred varieties with the elevated levels of lysine and tryptophan, indigenous breeds that respond well to QPM identified, the formulation of a diet with a positive growth response and human capital. In addition, the study will train 2 MSc and four BSc students.

## Country and Specific Location(s)

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<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe: Lupane District in Matebeleland North Province and Gokwe South District in Midlands Province.</td>
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## Participating Institutions

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<tr>
<td>1. Department of Crop Science, University of Zimbabwe</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Department of Crop Science and Soil Sciences, Lupane State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Department of Animal and Rangeland Management, Lupane State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Matopos Research Station, Livestock</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Department of Animal and Rangeland Management, Lupane State University</td>
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## Start Date

1st July 2015

## End Date

30th JULY 2017

## Amount of Funding

US$ 59,928
Edmore Gasura (PhD)

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Dr Edmore Gasura, is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Crop Science, University of Zimbabwe where is a Plant Biotechnology and Quantitative Genetics specialist. He holds a PhD and MSc from Makerere University (Uganda) and a BSc. (Hons) degree from the University of Zimbabwe. Dr. Gasura has widely published in peer reviewed journals. He has close working relations with government and non-governmental organisations in an effort to contribute to the better livelihoods of smallholder farmers. He represents University of Zimbabwe at the national variety release committee and is a board at African Farmers Organic Research and Training; a non-governmental organization that deals with organic farming. He has also trained several farmers in oyster and button mushroom production. Dr Gasura has supervised 15 MSc students and 18 BSc students. He is the second prize winner of the 2009 African-wide Young Professional in Science competition AWARD. Dr. Gasura is currently undertaking research aimed at improving maize for resistance to Striga asiatica, a parasitic weed. Dr. Gasura also works with the German Agro-Action in promoting quality protein maize and orange-fleshed sweet potato for the inhabitants of Gokwe South district of Zimbabwe. He is a recipient of the current RUFORUM graduate competitive grant and the principal investigator of the project entitled “Strengthening quality protein maize development and utilisation for indigenous chickens in zimbabwe”.

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)
Selected Publications


SELECTED FUNDED PROJECTS

- **2015-2017**: Strengthening quality protein maize development and utilisation for indigenous chickens in Zimbabwe. Grant amount $59,928. Principal Investigator
- **2015-2016**: Multiplication and promotion of orange fleshy sweet potatoes. Grant amount $7,000. Principal Investigator.
- **2014-2017**: Promotion of quality protein maize in Gokwe south district of Zimbabwe. Grant amount $32,000. Principal Investigator.
- **2012-2014**: Enhancing Cleome gynandra production and utilization in Zimbabwe. Grant amount $11,600. Principal Investigator
- **2009-2011**: Developing selection criteria for improving the yield of early maturing maize. Grant amount $12,000. Principal Investigator