## Project Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Translating integrated soil fertility management empirical knowledge into action through participatory learning and marketing with farmers in Zimbabwe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| PI | Dr. Florence Mtambanengwe  
University of Zimbabwe,  
Faculty of Agriculture,  
Soil Science and Agricultural Engineering Department  
P.O. Box MP 167 Mt. Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe  
Telephone: +263913284063  
Emails: mtamba@agric.uz.ac.zw |
| Co-researchers | Dr. Paul Mapfumo  
SOFECSA Coordinator CIMMYT Zimbabwe  
P.O. Box MP 163 Mt. Pleasant, Harare, ZIMBABWE  
Telephone: +263 913284060  
Emails: pmapfumo@cgiar.org; |
|  | Dr.egis Chikowo  
University of Zimbabwe,  
Soil Science and Agricultural Engineering Department  
P.O. Box MP 167 Mt. Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe  
Telephone: +263 912455838  
Email: rchikowo@agric.uz.ac.zw |
|  | Dr. Shephard Siziba  
University of Zimbabwe,  
Agricultural Economics & Extension Department,  
P.O. Box MP 167 Mt. Pleasant, Harare, ZIMBABWE  
Emails: ssiziba@agric.uz.ac.zw |
|  | Dr. David Dhlawayo,  
Chemistry & Soils Research Institute,  
Ministry of Agriculture,  
P.O. Box CY 550, Causeway, Harare, ZIMBABWE,  
Phone: +264 4704 541,  
Email: csripss@mweb.co.zw |
| Purpose | The overall objective is to build capacity for integrating PAR with farmer-centred learning approaches in translating available empirical knowledge on ISFM into increased crop yield and income benefits for smallholder farmers. |
| Project Summary | Poor soils are driving poverty in much of sub-Saharan Africa, with inappropriate methods of crop production ensuring that communities do not rise out of this 'poverty trap'. Therefore, empirical knowledge that has been generated through decades of research should be put to effective use to better sustain livelihoods of farming communities. To this end, a participatory learning and marketing approach is being used to disseminate available empirical knowledge on ISFM to farmers in Zimbabwe. |
end, this project aims to co-learn with farmers and develop capacity to apply principles and concepts of diverse integrated soil fertility management (ISFM) options with different categories of smallholder farming households seeking to increase food production and generate income. The project will employ participatory action research (PAR) approaches to engage communities towards adoption of context-specific ISFM options that increase resilience of cropping systems to climate change and variability. In line with RUFORUM’s key capacity building objective, two postgraduate students will anchor implementation of the activities, acquiring PAR and cropping systems analysis skills in the process. Other than scientific publications, the project will produce brochures and pamphlets that can be used by communities as well as development agencies working in the districts and beyond.

| Country and Specific Location(s) | Wedza and Makoni districts of Zimbabwe |
| Start Date                     | October, 2009                             |
| End date                       | September, 2011                            |
| Amount of Funding              | US$ 59,966                                 |