

Project Summary

Title	Translating integrated soil fertility management empirical knowledge into action through participatory learning and marketing with farmers in Zimbabwe
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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



	<p>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.</p>
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

