TITLE: AN EVALUATION OF CONSERVATION FARMING UPTAKE BY SMALL SCALE FARMERS IN UZUMBA MARAMBA PFUNGWE: A CASE OF NYAJINA VILLAGE.

SUBMITTED BY

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ABSTRACT
This study involved an evaluation of conservation farming uptake in UMP District by small holder farmers. Its goal was to establish the trends of uptake of conservation farming techniques. Farmers’ adoption and adaptation to conservation farming techniques were investigated. Studies on demographic characteristics of respondents and how these influence crop production was studied. Qualitative and quantitative approaches were employed in data gathering, data presentation and data analysis. Questionnaires were administered to farmers while key informants underwent face to face interviews. Focus group discussions were conducted to allow all respondents an opportunity to air their perceptions on conservation farming uptake at a local scale. Study findings showed that most farmers were failing to achieve the Millennium Development Goal number one which aims at eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. Food security remained a challenge despite possible interventions by AGRITEX and Community Technology Development Trust. Factors to do with climate change, labour demands and farmers’ were observed to hinder successful implementation of conservation agriculture. However, some farmers managed to reap significant benefits from conservation farming, and even contributed positively to household food security and environmental sustainability. There is need for continuous undertaking of training and retraining of small scale farmers to encourage crop production to sustain livelihoods and to empower farmers with necessary expertise required to perfectly implement conservation farming.