



## PROMOTING FOOD SECURITY IN ZIMBABWE BY ADDRESSING ADOPTION CHALLENGES FOR FEMALE FARMERS: PFUMVUDZA AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

- Zimbabwe launched the **Pfumvudza/Intwasa** program targeting smallholder farmers.
- It promotes **planting basins**; often incorporated with improved seed varieties and mulching.
- The initiative encourages novel **sustainable agriculture**, crop diversification, and conservation practices.
- The goal is to **enhance food security and agricultural productivity**.
- Female farmers face challenges in adopting the program due to:
  - Limited credit and extension services.
  - Societal paradigms and cultural norms.
- The program's full potential is yet to be realized due to these barriers.

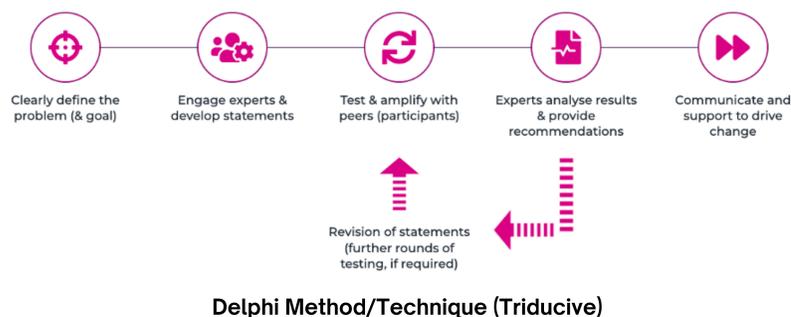
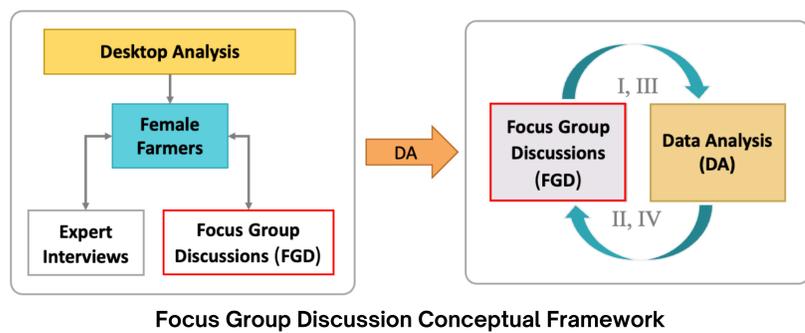
### 2. AIMS

To **enhance the adoption and impact** of the **Pfumvudza/Intwasa agricultural program** among female smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe.

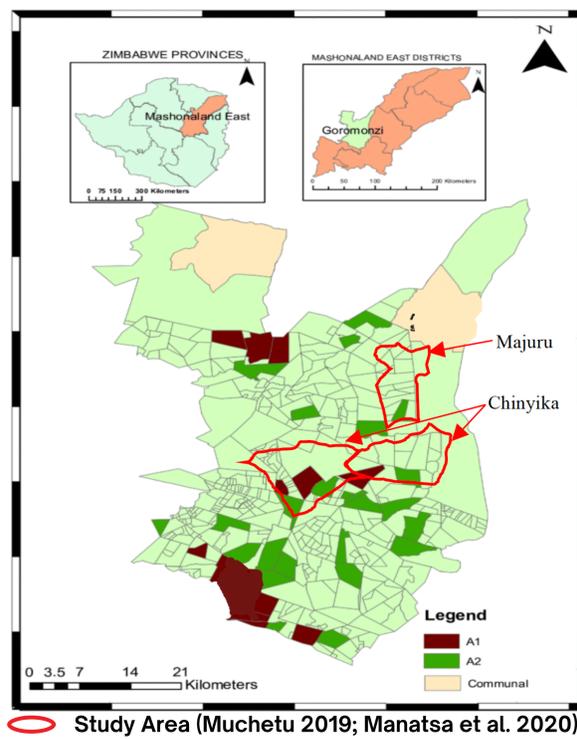
### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. **Assess** female farmers' access to vital resources such as land, finance, extension services, and agricultural inputs.
2. **Examine** the perception of the effectiveness and relevance of training sessions tailored for female participants in the Pfumvudza program.
3. **Explore** the role of cultural norms and gender biases affecting female farmers' engagement with the program.

### 3. RESEARCH DESIGN



### 4. STUDY AREA



The Pfumvudza/Intwasa agricultural program (amongst others) is implemented in the Goromonzi District, hence, the reason for selecting it as the study site.

- Goromonzi District is 50km from Harare, covering 3500 square kilometers at 1100m altitude.
- It experiences a subtropical climate with temperatures between 23-27°C.
- The area has distinct wet (November-April) and dry seasons (May-October).
- The district prioritizes mixed crop-livestock farming, mainly maize and soybean.
- The average landholding size is 0.5ha, with prevalent large-scale and communal farming.
- Despite its agricultural capacity, 70% face food insecurity due to droughts.



Planting Basins (Mabika 2022)

### 5. METHODOLOGY

- A **Multistage sampling** method will be employed.
- 1. The study will assess the Pfumvudza program's impact on female farmers in - purposively selected - Goromonzi using a stratified sample of **180 participants**.
- 2. **FGDs** will capture qualitative data on resource access and farming techniques.
- 3. The **Delphi Technique** will identify core factors in Pfumvudza's adoption.
- 4. A semi-structured questionnaire, informed by FGDs and Delphi, will gauge farmers' perceptions at a household level.
- 5. Statistical analysis will elucidate participant consensus and agricultural knowledge depth.

### 6. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Preliminary observations indicate that while the Pfumvudza program is replete with potential, female farmers confront substantial impediments.
- Limitations in accessibility to resources and technical know-how, combined with societal and cultural norms, have hamstrung their effective participation.

### 7. CONCLUSION

1. Female smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe face challenges that highlight profound disparities in the agricultural sector.
2. Addressing barriers faced by female smallholder farmers is crucial for the success of the Pfumvudza/Intwasa program and for sustainable agricultural development in Zimbabwe.

### 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Policies should be aimed at ensuring equal access to resources, enhancing technical proficiency, and dismantling sociocultural barriers that impede female farmers.
- Efforts must be concentrated on training and awareness initiatives, facilitating resource accessibility, and fostering an environment that champions gender equality in the agricultural domain.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The study appreciates the support of the Faculty of Tropical AgriScience, Czech University of Life Science Prague - Internal Grant Agency (Grant number: 20233102)

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