

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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JAPANESE AMBASSADOR COMMISSIONS PERMACULTURE PROJECT IN CHIMANIMANI DISTRICT

The Ambassador of Japan to Zimbabwe, H.E. Mr Yonezo Fukuda, today officially commissioned a permaculture project in Chakohwa Ward in Chimanimani District.

In February 2010, the Embassy of Japan extended a grant of forty-eight thousand, five hundred dollars (USD 48,500) to a local NGO, Tsuru Dzechimanmani, for the “Project for Chakohwa Small Farmer Permaculture Programme for Food Security”, which has since been successfully implemented.

As the name implies, the project was aimed at achieving household food security in the said ward which has been hit by a number of natural disasters, including floods and persistent droughts characterized by erratic rainfall patterns. As such, the project focused on permaculture interventions which offered much better alternatives. These included chicken and small livestock rearing, beekeeping, the establishment of appropriate irrigation schemes, rainwater harvesting techniques and farming practices emphasizing soil fertility management, intercropping and the growing of small grains. These activities were reinforced by the holding of workshops where participants engaged in intensive training.

At least 37% of the beneficiaries constitute female headed households and marginalised women, many of whom are undertaking Home-Based Care activities for people living with HIV. Furthermore, OVCs constitute 20% of beneficiaries in the poultry, goat and beekeeping component.

Speaking at the occasion, H.E. Mr Fukuda noted that the Embassy has been extending grants to UN Agencies such as the World Food Programme for the alleviation of immediate household food shortages, adding that “the interventions we have seen here today will result in the intended output – increased food security at household level through your own self-help efforts”.