

# INTEGRATING CROP AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION FOR IMPROVED FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS IN RURAL ZIMBABWE (ZIMCLIFS)

An ACIAR funded project led by ILRI, CIMMYT and  
ICRISAT

An example of climate smart agriculture

Bruce Pengelly



## Rainfall (Bulawayo)

Mean annual 575mm/highly variable

System – Cropping and livestock

Crops- Sorghum, Maize and Groundnut and HIGH RISK

Livestock – Cattle and goats

ZIMCLIFS OPERATED IN MASHONALAND & MATABELELAND ZIMBABWE (only discussing Matabeleland here)

- ▶ Considering alternatives to cropping – more focus on livestock
- ▶ Adopting a forage crop legume that is adapted to the environment and resistant to many pests (velvet bean)
- ▶ Basing year-long production on conserved feed
- ▶ Feeding animals for market demands



# OPTIONS

- ▶ Researchers who had focused on options for change for 10 years
- ▶ Smallholders using the past knowledge of cropping to grow maize and velvet bean for forage
- ▶ Smallholders having skills in animal production
- ▶ Using innovation platforms led to establishing market options



## THE HOW

- ▶ Many producers switched to livestock
- ▶ Built infrastructure to enable preferential feeding
- ▶ Livestock markets became established events in the regional calendar used by farmers and traders and those marketing agrochemicals etc.
- ▶ The most successful farmers no longer cropping (for grain) and had incomes far in excess of crop income.



## OUTCOMES

- ▶ Change can sometimes be transformational rather than incremental (but it won't work for all)
- ▶ Demonstrates what can be achieved with innovative long term research teams
- ▶ Demonstrates the power of IPs



## LESSONS

THANK YOU

photos from Dr Andre van Rooyen (ICRISAT Bulawayo)