



# **MULTIPLIER RESEARCH REPORT**

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## Executive summary

### Multiplier Research – Phase 1

Multiplier research was undertaken by SAC with the objective of testing whether the multiplier effect exists and the magnitude thereof. The research was guided by the hypothesis that “far more people benefit from SAC programs than the direct beneficiaries that are recorded and therefore known”. Thus the research greatly tracked secondary beneficiaries to ascertain the “multiplier effect”.

The research process entailed engaging SAC direct farmer beneficiaries in group meetings to elude forms of support accessed, impact realized and individually mentioning the number of non-SAC farmers that had adopted farming practices as a result of learning from SAC direct beneficiaries.

The research was conducted in December 2007 and covered 12 districts involving 14 SAC farmers’ groups comprising of 401 farmers.

The research findings affirm existence of the multiplier effect and the magnitude thereof in different forms as highlighted here below:-

- For every primary beneficiary supported by SAC there is an average of two off-springs of their household that adopt the recommended farming practices.
- An average of seven community farmers (four women and three men) do adopt recommended farming methods as a result of observing the success of SAC farmers
- An average of six community persons is employed<sup>1</sup> by every practicing and productive SAC farmer.
- A community pool of secondary beneficiaries linked to SAC programs are characterized by adoption of recommended practices that include environmental protection, home hygiene, sustainable organic farming, gender positive behaviour, balanced diet feeding, and utilization of HIV-VCT services.

In general, more women than men do adopt recommended farming practices by learning from SAC farmers.

The research also prompts areas for future research to compliment the findings, particularly the magnitude of the multiplier effect in relationship to:- i) the SAC resource input to farmers group, ii) duration of farmers group, iii) and the literacy level factor among the farmers group.

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### Multiplier Research – Phase 2

Validation of Multiplier research was undertaken by SAC with the objective of authenticating the findings of Multiplier research that had been undertaken and concluded in December 2007. The validation research involved only non SAC supported farmers as respondents and these constitute secondary farmer beneficiaries of SAC programs. The rationale to the validation research approach is that the Multiplier research only involved SAC supported farmers as respondents and therefore their responses could be best affirmed by the secondary beneficiaries. Thus the research was designed to validate the multiplier effect or the lack thereof.

The research process entailed interviewing secondary farmer beneficiaries in focus groups followed by selected farm field visits for observation. This enabled corroboration of participants' responses with farm practices.

The research was conducted in May 2008 and covered 8 districts involving 126 secondary beneficiary farmers who were in some form benefiting from the activities of 8 SAC supported farmer groups.

The validation research findings affirmed existence of the multiplier effect through the responses of the secondary beneficiaries who assented to being trained as well as practicing the under mentioned:- Energy/fuel saving stoves, vegetable growing , zero grazing unit shelter construction, planting of animal fodder [calliandra and elephant grass], compost manure and use, tree planting [fruit trees],soil conservation, sack gardening, poultry keeping, home hygiene [ tip-tap, drying rack, rubbish pit, personal hygiene], group formation, family planning, proper spacing/planting in lines, nutrition and children's health, gender, SAC Corner stones and garden contour making.