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Monthly Update – February 2010

Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

This month was a period of consolidation, as our new team settled into their positions and made contact with the many farmer groups and business enterprises that TAPP will be assisting. The program will work with fruit and vegetable processors, helping them to establish a link with smallholder growers. The aim is to provide reliable outlets for the growers, who have difficulty finding markets for their crops. The connection will help transform produce into products that add value and increase profits for both growers and processors. Already we have arranged for a group of growers and processors to travel to Dubai on a trade mission that will coincide with a major international fair, providing an opportunity to evaluate exciting new markets.

The World Vegetable Center (AVRDC) held a field day to showcase the many seed varieties available through resellers in Tanzania. TAPP was able to offer a group of growers from the Kilimanjaro Region the opportunity to attend. The guest of honor was Mercy Sillas, the commissioner of the Arumeru District. The director general of AVRDC, Dr. Dyno Keatinge from Taiwan, also made a special visit. Dr. Keatinge met with TAPP staff to determine the best way to help growers obtain AVRDC seeds that have been developed in Tanzania in recent years.

Visit www.tanzania-agric.org for more information.

*Jim Vernon, Program Director
Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program*

MEET OUR PARTNER: TAHA

The Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) was registered in 2004 and acts as a representative for the horticulture and floriculture industry in Tanzania. It is a member-based organization composed of corporations and individual growers.

TAHA works to promote the production and export of flowers, vegetable, fruits and seed and serves as the primary catalyst for action and growth in Tanzania's horticulture sector. They play a key role in supporting the industry by lobbying the Government to assist growers and exporters. For instance, TAHA has begun negotiating with the government over the 18% VAT, which in December was added to the cost of freight for export. This increase in the cost of freight is an additional strain on growers who are already struggling with the global financial crisis. It puts thousands of jobs at risk in businesses that are fighting to achieve profitability. TAHA has written to all major government



Photo by Dr. Richard Pluke/Fintrac Inc.

Farmers attend a field day held by the AVRDC. The field day showcased seed varieties that are available through resellers in Tanzania.

Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

Increased incomes through enhanced productivity

TAPP is a 5-year program to increase smallholder farmer incomes through enhanced productivity and improved domestic and export marketing of agricultural products.

Visit www.tanzania-agric.org for more information on upcoming activities and to receive copies of monthly bulletins and success stories.

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departments concerned with this tax and held meetings with ministers and senior public servants. TAPP has assisted in these efforts, providing financial assistance to TAHA when the Executive Director and Chairman traveled to Dar es Salaam to meet with government officials. As a result, the tax is currently under review. We hope to report that it has been waived in our next bulletin.

TAPP will provide operational support to TAHA, thereby enabling the TAHA Secretariat to continue to manage projects and provide services to its increasing membership. In doing so, TAPP hopes to strengthen the institutional capacity of the horticulture industry in Tanzania, which is one of the primary goals of TAPP.

TAPP FURTHERS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

TAPP continued its focus on environmental protection in Tanzania by undertaking an Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) in February. The goal of this examination was to ensure that any agricultural development interventions promoted under the TAPP program are implemented following responsible environmental practices and that the health of rural communities is safeguarded. The examination was completed by the Environmental Programs Manager, Dr. Richard Pluke, who identified potential problem areas and established environmental practices to minimize and monitor the impact.



Photos by Fintrac Inc.

TAPP continues its commitment to environmental protection by teaching responsible environmental practices such as those related to land preparation, as shown at this field near USA River, Arusha.