



Monthly Update – March 2010

Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The big news of the month is the preparation of a National Horticulture Development Strategy for Tanzania. The initiative is based on the ten pillars of 'Kilimo Kwanza' (Agriculture First), Tanzania's own internally funded green revolution, and is a reflection of the partnership between the Government of Tanzania and the private sector. Many groups and individuals have been involved in the preparation of the strategy, and TAPP has had considerable input, representing smallholder growers and the fresh produce export industry. TAHA has also been working closely with the Horticultural Development Council of Tanzania (HODECT) to ensure that all stakeholders have input on industry guidelines. The final draft of the report will be presented to the horticulture industry in late May at a workshop held in Arusha by the prime minister. USAID, through TAPP, will help sponsor this important event. It will be a significant step in the progress of the horticulture industry when the strategy is accepted by all involved in the sector.

*Jim Vernon, Program Director
Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program*

TAHA LEADS MARKETING MISSION TO DUBAI

TAPP sponsored a TAHA marketing mission to Dubai for the "International Plant Expo Middle East." Growers and processors attended the trade show and evaluated market potential for their products in the region. The Tanzanian Embassy in Dubai hosted the trip, and participants made contacts for fresh and processed mango products, and for spices, processed ginger, fresh chilies and avocados. TAPP will work with its partners to increase export and processing capacities to take advantage of these new market linkages.

WOMEN BENEFIT FROM TAPP ACTIVITIES

By the end of March TAPP had initiated field activities with nearly 2,000 farmers, and more than 1,000 were women. TAPP works to increase participation and build leadership among women and youths in producer groups, tracking clients by gender, and actively seeking the participation of women-owned farms and enterprises. The program also designs and delivers gender-appropriate training, and is introducing crops and products that can be cultivated by everyone in the household. TAPP will continue to ensure that staff and program management are equipped with the necessary tools to facilitate women and youth access to training and technical assistance.



Photos by Fintrac Inc.

Women attend a pesticide safety training by TAPP agronomist Omar Mohamed on Ungunja Island.

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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This report is made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The content is the sole responsibility of Fintrac Inc. and does not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

TAPP & TAHA ATTEND HORTEC 2010

Richard Pluke, TAPP environmental specialist, and Manfred Bitala, northern region production manager, attended HORTEC 2010, a regional horticultural trade show in Nairobi at the end of March. Naiga Malilo, TAHA's marketing and information officer, also attended. The group established linkages with key input suppliers, seed distributors and buyers. They also attended training lectures organized by the Dutch Embassy and DLV Plant UK, a Dutch agricultural advisory organization. A potential partnership was formed with the editors of The Organic Farmer, who are looking to publish a Kiswahili version and expand the newsletter's circulation in East Africa.

TAPP IMPROVES COOL CHAIN FOR VEGETABLE EXPORTER

TAPP worked with the vegetable exporter Homeveg (K) Ltd. to improve the cool chain for its products. The program provided technical assistance in the use of data-loggers and forced air cooling. TAPP management met with the two European importers of the company's packed products to discuss quality issues, and has suggested changes to product handling based on a review of the company's Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP).

TROPICAL FRUITS

TAPP has identified the tropical fruit sector as an area where smallholder farmers can increase incomes and contribute significantly to the national economy. Fruit such as mangoes, passion fruit, papayas and bananas all have considerable potential for income generation, and TAPP is working with several international organizations to create new varieties and establish demonstration plots in Tanzania.



Photos by Fintrac Inc.

Products are ready for export at a Homeveg packing facility near Usa River.