

Monthly Update – June 2010

## Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

### USAID-TAPP WORKS TO ENGAGE YOUTH

USAID-TAPP recently established a demonstration plot at the Shukilai School in Lushoto, where students planted garlic and are learning the business skills associated with farming. Within two days of the initial training, parents started asking if they could take part in future TAPP activities. By working with youths, the program can present agriculture as a viable career option for future generations and reach out to adults in the community through their children.

### MEET OUR NEW PARTNER: MULTIFLOWER LTD.

Multiflower Ltd. started in 1995 and is one of Tanzania's leading producers of vegetable and flower seeds and fresh flower cuttings. The company is based in Arusha and contracts more than 3,000 smallholder farmers, who are responsible for seed production. They have clients throughout Europe and have seen steady increases in demand and profit in the last five years, despite the global economic downturn and competition from other producer countries.

Multiflower plans to expand its flower and vegetable seed outgrower program to new regions of Tanzania, specifically Manyara, Kilimanjaro and Morogoro. USAID-TAPP will help integrate hundreds of new farmers into Multiflower's production programs, improving the farmers' agronomic skills and providing them with consistent income. USAID-TAPP will also help identify potential North American markets for Multiflower to ensure the company's continuing success.

### GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Two gender specialists from Fintrac's home office conducted an in-depth study of group dynamics and gender attitudes among program beneficiaries and USAID-TAPP staff. They incorporated their findings into a program-specific gender mainstreaming strategy and trained field staff on techniques and technologies that will ensure that the project is actively incorporating women, youths and other disenfranchised groups at all levels. These include tracking clients by gender, purposefully building leadership among women and youth in producer groups, emphasizing participation of women-owned farms and enterprises, designing and delivering gender-appropriate training, and introducing crops and other products specifically tailored to the strengths of each productive member of the household.



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

A seedling sprouts at Shukilai School in Lushoto.

### Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

**“Increased food security through enhanced productivity”**

TAPP is a 5-year program designed to increase smallholder incomes and rural food security through enhanced productivity, crop diversification and improved market access.

Visit [www.tanzania-agric.org](http://www.tanzania-agric.org) for more information on upcoming activities and to receive copies of monthly bulletins and success stories.

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*Photo by Fintrac Inc.*

**A smallholder is growing Cosmos flowers to supply Multiflower with seeds.**

More than 50 percent of USAID-TAPP smallholder clients are women.

#### **TANZANIA HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (TAHA)**

TAHA is USAID-TAPP's primary counterpart and a leading industry advocate for lowering freight costs and taxes on agricultural inputs. TAHA recently made presentations to Parliament on challenges in the horticulture industry, and ways that the government can support it, including a proposed incentive package to boost production. Earlier this year, TAHA successfully lobbied against an 18 percent tax on airfreight for horticultural exports.

#### **DEMONSTRATION PLOTS SHOWCASE TECHNOLOGIES**

More than 3,000 farmers are receiving training on 40 established demonstration plots in Arusha, Moshi, Morogoro, Lushoto, the Coast and Zanzibar. The demonstration plots showcase technologies such as drip irrigation, nutrition programs, live barriers, raised beds and mulching.

#### **CROP DIVERSIFICATION IN MOSHI**

Ten smallholder groups in Moshi Rural district have planted fine beans, peas and baby corn for the first time under a USAID-TAPP partnership with Floresta. Recent technical assistance included a three-day training in integrated pest management (IPM), provided by Crop Production Specialist Wilfred Mushobozi.

#### **POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIP TO STOP FUSARIUM WILT**

USAID-TAPP is involved in partnership discussions with the Nigeria-based International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) to slow the spread of Fusarium Wilt in the banana growing areas of Northern Tanzania. Potential areas of collaboration include introduction of tolerant varieties and improved farm management practices, improved inter-cropping of banana and coffee and extension activities.

#### **HELPING FARMERS MANAGE WATER RESOURCES**

Treadle pumps and low-cost drip irrigation systems are two important technologies that can help farmers improve yields and manage water. USAID-TAPP is providing drip irrigation training and equipment to farmer groups throughout the country, and is also collaborating with US-based NGO KickStart to make their low-cost manual pumps available to farmers.

#### **KITCHEN GARDENS INITIATIVE**

USAID-TAPP met with the chairman of the Kenya-based organization, Real IPM to discuss a partnership that would launch a "positive kitchen gardens" initiative to establish 10 community gardens in locations throughout the country aimed at improving the nutrition of children and HIV/AIDS-affected clients.