

Monthly Update – July 2010

Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

MEET OUR NEW PARTNER: HOMEVEG

HomeVeg promotes the production and export of high-value horticulture crops in Tanzania. The company is located near Usa River, and since 2009 they have been buying produce for export from smallholders in Arusha and Kilimanjaro. HomeVeg has developed market linkages with European buyers who want greater quantities and varieties of Tanzania products.

USAID-TAPP will work with HomeVeg to train farmer groups in vegetable production and provide access to credit so farmers can buy seeds and fertilizers. The partnership will increase farmers' abilities to grade, pack and store fresh produce. These improvements are expected to increase exports by 100 percent over 2009 numbers. Program management specialists will also help develop a business, implementation and expansion plan for HomeVeg to ensure the company's continuing success.

USAID-TAPP VISITS KENYAN GREENHOUSES

USAID-TAPP promotes greenhouse technology because greenhouses can produce high yields in a relatively small area, increasing profits while requiring fewer inputs. USAID-TAPP staff traveled to Kenya to look at greenhouse designs and begin selecting potential Kenyan suppliers. Staff looked at low-cost greenhouses made of wood, polyethylene plastic and insect netting, and they familiarized themselves with the construction of these greenhouses. They also learned about appropriate production practices related to greenhouses, such as choosing the right crops, irrigation and nutrition programs, crop management and crop protection practices.

TEAM CONDUCTS TRAINING ASSESSMENT

In July, USAID-TAPP conducted a training needs assessment to identify gaps in current trainings and ensure that the project is meeting the needs of its beneficiary farmers. The assessment found that the program was already covering a wide range of essential agronomic and postharvest issues. USAID-TAPP still however needs to focus on variety selection, crop establishment, plant populations and harvesting methods as well as alternative water saving techniques such as drip irrigation and conservation farming. The assessment emphasized the need for specific trainings on the safe use of pesticides, and food safety and crop protection principles, including scouting and insect and disease identification. USAID-TAPP will integrate the



Photos by Fintrac Inc.

USAID-TAPP agronomist Simon Loto conducts training on root development.

Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

"Increased food security through enhanced productivity"

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

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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findings of the needs assessment into its training schedule to ensure that beneficiary farmers get every tool they need for sustainable success.

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

TAPP-Supported Training, July 2010				
Subject	Men	Women	Total	# Events
Business Skills	129	207	336	18
GLOBALGAP	38	28	66	3
Crop Rotation	33	12	45	2
HIV/AIDS	119	255	374	10
Farm Chemical Safety	105	79	184	9
Irrigation	163	120	283	14
Nursery Establishment	46	48	94	5
Transplanting	6	5	11	2



Photos by Fintrac Inc.

USAID-TAPP staff visited this low-cost greenhouse on their visit to Kenya.