

Monthly Update – October 2010

Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

SCHOOL CHILDREN LEARN ABOUT HIV/AIDS

USAID-TAPP has trained 100 peer educators in HIV/AIDS prevention. In turn, the educators have trained 2,019 people (964 men, 1,055 women) on HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention, including 741 children (495 boys, 246 girls) from primary and secondary schools.

Dorothy Mageesse, the program's health and nutrition manager, held a peer educator meeting in Marangu this month to review the progress of peer education in the area and address any challenges with implementation. At the meeting peer educators noted that school children are still not receiving enough guidance on sexual reproductive health from their parents or guardians. The program will hold a community meeting in December focusing on adult-child communication, nutrition, and health to help encourage more open discussions.

COMMUNITY BANKS EMPOWER WOMEN

Women in Tanzania have limited access to financing, in part because few of them participate in formal banking systems. USAID-TAPP aims to improve women's participation in the financial sector, which would help them procure agricultural inputs and take advantage of program trainings.

The program works with Volunteer Service Overseas Tanzania (VSO), which is establishing village community banks (VICOBAs) on the isle of Zanzibar. The VICOBAs are group savings schemes that teach individuals the fundamentals of business. VSO has started 6 VICOBAs where more than 140 women are learning to save and borrow money. The project is so successful that VSO is extending the microfinance initiative to Pemba Island.

TAHA PROVIDES A NEW SERVICE TO GROWERS

The Tanzania Horticulture Association (TAHA) will soon be able to collect and share market information with clients and stakeholders. USAID-TAPP signed a six-month agreement with Rural Entrepreneurs Network Tanzania (RENTC) for the company to send daily market information for a full range of crops and vegetables from 13 major markets in Tanzania and Kenya to a central database. A summary of the information will then be made available to a list of subscribers through the TAHA network. The pilot



Photos by Fintrac Inc.

USAID-TAPP Agronomist Simon Loto shows farmers how to improve soil fertility.

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.

P.O. Box 15035 | Arusha, Tanzania
Tel: 255 (0) 27 2545325
tapp@fintrac.com

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

project is part of an initiative to establish a reliable and sustainable information system in the country and strengthen TAHA's market capability.

USAID-TAPP FUNDS BIOGAS PLANT FOR WOMEN'S GROUP

USAID-TAPP is working with JAGEF, a group of women processors in Moshi who process fruits and vegetables into products such as jams, juices and pickles. The women have been using firewood, which is costly and detrimental to the environment, as their only source of fuel, and they were concerned about their energy supply. USAID-TAPP saw the opportunity to turn JAGEF's waste into energy by funding the construction of a biogas plant. Biogas is an inexpensive and efficient source of energy that uses the organic waste materials produced in the course of processing. The plant will help the group maximize profits by eliminating their reliance on firewood. It is being built by The Center for Agricultural Mechanization and Rural Technology (CARMATEC), which develops and disseminates improved technologies suitable for agricultural and rural development.

FARMERS LEARN GAPS

This month USAID-TAPP held 24 training sessions in Arusha and Moshi, where 496 smallholder farmers were trained in good agricultural practices (GAPs) such as land preparation, irrigation, crop rotation, nursery establishment and transplanting, and the safe use of pesticides. 242 of the farmers at these trainings were women, demonstrating USAID-TAPP's success at increasing women's participation in agriculture and rural development in Tanzania.



Fintrac photo by Manfred Bitala

Amaranthus grows in raised beds on this demonstration plot in Arusha.



Fintrac photo by Geoffrey Bakari

This simple shed houses seedling trays before transplant.



Fintrac photo by Geoffrey Bakari

A women's group weeds their seedling bed in Morogoro.