

Monthly Update – November 2010

# Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

## NOVEMBER TRAININGS

This month USAID-TAPP held 67 training events in the seven regions where we work. 1,660 smallholder farmers (752 women and 908 men) received training on production and postharvest handling, HIV/AIDS and nutrition, and business and marketing skills.

## USAID-TAPP OFFICE MOVES

USAID-TAPP has expanded a great deal since the program started a year ago, and to accommodate that growth we have relocated to a bigger office in the PPF-AGM area of Arusha. The staff was sad to leave the office the program shared with the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA), but we had simply outgrown the available space.

The program recently hired a business development manager, a grants manager and an office manager. Other new staff include two agronomists in Moshi and Pemba, an accounting assistant and an M&E assistant.

## MEET OUR NEW PARTNER: KICKSTART

Kickstart International is a US-based nonprofit social enterprise in Tanzania. They are a leading provider of appropriate technologies in Africa, with an emphasis on irrigation techniques. USAID-TAPP signed a partner fund award with Kickstart, which will provide trainings to smallholder farmers to help them enhance their productivity using irrigation. The organization will also install “money-maker” pumps in 20 demonstration plots.

## WOMEN'S GROUPS GROW MORINGA

USAID-TAPP has trained three farmer groups on Unguja Island (Zanzibar) on the nutritional benefits of the moringa tree. 81 people (67 women, 14 men) learned how the tree can help those affected by HIV/AIDS. The Dada group, a women's group from Zanzibar, has started processing moringa leaf powder as a result of these trainings, and they have asked for a moringa oil pressing machine. Other farmers on the island are also planting moringa.

## GARDENS HELP HIV/AIDS GROUPS

The Langa la Iruva HIV/AIDS group near Usa River is benefitting from the garden that USAID-TAPP helped them establish. The Usa River Catholic Church allocated the land for the group, and now twice a week the 56 members harvest enough vegetables for the whole group. USAID-TAPP plans to turn the garden into a positive kitchen garden demonstration plot to show others how to grow nutritious vegetables. The program will calendarize plantings to ensure a year-round supply of vegetables for the group.



Photos by Fintrac Inc.

**USAID-TAPP Agronomist Simon Lotto shows a farmer how to identify pests and disease.**

## 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](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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The UMATU HIV/AIDS group in Karatu is also benefitting from health and nutrition trainings provided by the program. They are growing nutritious vegetables for themselves in sack gardens and selling the surplus to generate income.

## USAID-TAPP AND AMAGRO PREPARE FOR ANNUAL MANGO FESTIVAL

USAID-TAPP has signed a new partner fund award with the Association of Mango Growers (AMAGRO), which represents more than 100 small and medium farmers. AMAGRO aims to improve the quality of life of mango growers by promoting the sustainable development of mango industry in Tanzania. USAID-TAPP will fund a series of field visits and discussions with stakeholders, provide support and training and help complete the AMAGRO mango production manual, which incorporates recommendations from local and international consultants.

The program is preparing for AMAGRO's annual mango festival, which will include a scientific conference and a day-long farmer's workshop where mango researchers, Ministry of Agriculture representatives and farmers will meet to assess the needs and shortcomings of the Tanzanian mango industry. A number of international consultants were also invited to contribute to the industry evaluation.

## TAHA HOLDS HORTICULTURAL FORUM

This month the Tanzania Horticulture Association (TAHA) held a two-day horticultural stakeholders forum in Arusha for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). At the meeting, 134 industry stakeholders – including farmers, processors, financial institutions, government representatives and scientists – discussed how to create an enabling environment for horticulture in Tanzania. They addressed issues such as the role of government in supporting horticultural development, financial support for horticultural SME's, market access and market requirements.

## REGIONAL CONFERENCE COVERS CHALLENGES TO SMALL FARMERS

USAID-TAPP was part of a regional video conference titled "How to involve small scale farmers in commercial horticulture." The conference was organized by TAHA and included representatives from seven countries: Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Madagascar. It provided a forum to discuss the challenges smallholders face in the industry, and participants shared experiences on the opportunities, challenges and solutions that had been encountered in the various countries. Farmers and government and nongovernmental stakeholders such as researchers and project managers were involved in the meeting.

Participants agreed that small farmers face challenges in accessing finance, postharvest handling, quality improvement, marketing strategies, and quality standards. To improve this situation, there must be improvements in the system for collecting and disseminating information to smallholder farmers. Smallholders must also be more active in forming groups and formalizing participation with contractual arrangements. This will enhance their access to finances and help them improve compliance to market standards. USAID-TAPP will mobilize more smallholder farmers into farmer groups, link the farmers to markets, and engage them in contractual arrangements, which will give the farmers more confidence in the group system.



Photos by Fintrac Inc./Flora Mrindoko

**The UMATU HIV/AIDS group is growing plants in sacks near homes to make garden care easier for those affected by HIV/AIDS.**



Photo by Fintrac Inc./Geoffrey Bakari

**A young man proudly displays his tomato harvest.**