

Monthly Update – January 2011

Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Karibu! We are happy to launch the New Year with the kick-off of the Rural Entrepreneurs Network Tanzania (RENTC) information network that has seen the distribution of market information to subscribers. Consolidated price lists are already being disseminated to smallholders as part of a new Tanzanian market information system by TAHA.

In the last quarter USAID-TAPP made commendable strides towards reaching our goal of achieving food security by boosting agricultural productivity for food consumption and income generation. USAID-TAPP agronomists conducted over 300 technical advisory visits to farmer groups and processors, where 8,997 beneficiaries were trained, 51 farmer groups were strengthened, and 8 new partner organizations are now providing improved extension services to smallholders. In addition, peer educators trained 2,910 people in HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention, including 741 youths.

USAID-TAPP aims at helping small farmers improve agricultural practices, productivity and market share. The goal is to increase rural incomes and transform Tanzania's agriculture sector. Happy New Year!

Jim Vernon, Program Director
Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

TOMATO WORKSHOP IN ARUSHA

USAID-TAPP facilitated a tomato workshop at the New Arusha hotel. The meeting brought together over 107 tomato growers from the tomato growing regions of Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Morogoro and Lushoto. It was an opportunity for tomato farmers, seed companies, researchers, and processors to meet, exchange ideas, and foster good working relationships with an aim of strengthening the sector. Darsh Industries are a major buyer of tomatoes in the country and have seen a significant increase in orders due to their superior product lines. As a result, Darsh Industries has undertaken an initiative to source more fruit and vegetables from local producers to meet the increased demand. At the workshop farmers were also sensitized on the use of good seeds as well as market standards on varieties and quality of tomatoes needed for processing.

The workshop enabled USAID-TAPP the chance to train farmers on tomato production and marketing skills, and provided a forum where challenges and



Photos by Fintrac Inc.

TAPP staff overlook rows of Hass Avocado Trees with our new partners at Africado Ltd.

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 2549325
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.

opportunities were discussed. Furthermore, the farmers were able to visit Darsh Industries and see first hand how tomatoes are graded and processed.

MEET OUR NEW PARTNER AFRICADO LTD. TANZANIA

USAID-TAPP signed a partner fund award with Africado Ltd. to supply more than 50,000 avocado trees to smallholder farmers in order to establish a significant out-grower scheme utilizing grafted plants. Africado Ltd. grows Hass avocados for exports to the EU. They have a 74 hectare orchard in Sanya Juu as well as a pilot small-scale farmer outgrower scheme on West Kilimanjaro. The partner award will facilitate building the capacity of 1,600 avocado farmers in the production and export of Hass avocados. Included in the partnership is the establishment of demonstration plots and nurseries for grafted seedlings as well as training on proper post harvest handling. Through our new partnership, the revenues of thousands of small scale farmers will be significantly increased due to the introduction of a high value variety of avocados with widespread export market opportunities.

TRAININGS

This month USAID-TAPP held a total of 33 training events where 599 smallholder farmers, including 383 women. Areas of emphasis included production, business skills, entrepreneurship, and record-keeping. Some of the highlights were:

Zanzibar - A VSO USAID-TAPP partnership facilitated the training of the UWAMWIMA board and management. USAID-TAPP consultant Rose Mwaniki trained the group on vegetable value-chain review, business group establishment and leadership. The UWAMWIMA association provides a range of agronomy and business development services to smallholder farmers through their respective farmer groups.

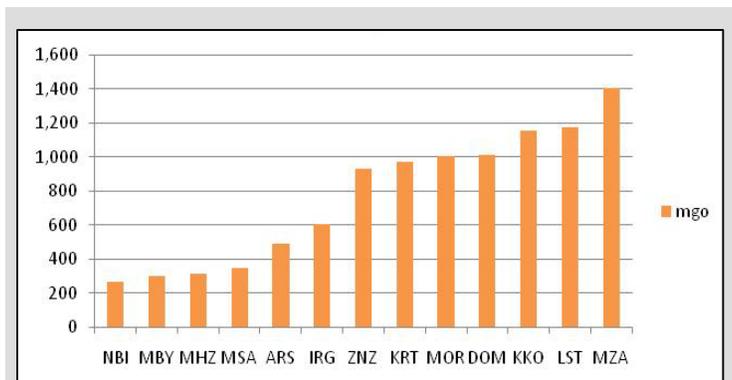
Tanga - USAID-TAPP provided training to twenty seven 4-H District advisors on agriculture practices and entrepreneurship. 4-H is an organization that supports agriculture and entrepreneurship development to primary and secondary school students. USAID-TAPP has a partnership agreement with the 4-H organization to train its members on horticulture as a business and a means of food security.

Pwani – Thanks to the recent scientific conference and presentation on proper mango tree pruning given by Dr. Tom Davenport of the United States, our partners, the Association of Mango Growers (AMAGRO), are busy spreading the knowledge throughout the area. Trainings on the importance of pruning and the three methods of mango pruning were held in Mkuranga district where over 70 AMAGRO members were in attendance. The training included demonstrations on Tip pruning, Shape pruning and Severe pruning.

MARKET INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION

The first phase of RENTC information network has already begun and information from the market has started streaming in from the thirteen market-based information officers. 11 of the markets are in Tanzania and two are in Mombasa and Nairobi, Kenya. RENTC is a USAID-TAPP/TAHA joint program to provide market and pricing information for growers via mobile phones and email. Consolidated price lists were distributed in December, with the telephone distribution system for prices starting earlier this month. Daily market prices for certain commodities in the 13 markets and weekly average market prices are now available to the growing network.

January marks the middle of the mango harvest, with the season beginning in November and ending in March. While mangoes are generally plentiful, there are marked differences in wholesale prices depending on areas of production, distances to markets, and the ability to fulfill market demand.



Example of average wholesale price (per kilogram) for mangoes in the 13 markets

MARKET CODES:

ARS – Arusha	LST – Lushoto	MSA – Mombasa
DOM – Dodoma	MBY – Mbeya	MZA – Mwanza
KRT – Karatu	MHZ – Muheza	NBI – Nairobi
KKO – Kariakoo	MOR – Morogoro	ZNZ – Zanzibar