

Monthly Update – February 2011

## Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

### LOCAL FARMERS LEARN ABOUT GREENHOUSE TECHNOLOGY

Last year, in collaboration with the National Bank of Commerce, USAID-TAPP built a greenhouse in Mlandizi for the Upendo Women’s Group. Since then, the women have harvested 1,975 kilograms of green peppers from the greenhouse. They can now grow the crop year round and have better control in preventing diseases and pests. The program is working to expand greenhouse technology to other areas of the country.

USAID-TAPP advocates the use of greenhouses to improve agricultural productivity and increase incomes. Similar USAID-funded programs in Central America, the Caribbean, and Kenya have had significant positive results from greenhouses, as they allow farmers to produce relatively large quantities of vegetables out of season, when prices are higher and open field producers are unable to compete. Greenhouses also help to use resources more efficiently.

Greenhouse specialist Melvin Medina recently visited Tanzania to help identify future construction sites and target farmer groups and companies. Medina also trained local agronomists in greenhouse planning, construction and crop management, and has identified local seed and greenhouse material suppliers. By increasing the capacity of local farmers to construct and operate greenhouses, USAID-TAPP is contributing to the sustainability of Tanzania’s agriculture sector well into the future.

So far, two greenhouses have been set up at the Lushoto Resource Center. They will be operated by women’s groups in the area. A wooden greenhouse has been established at Marurani Vocational School in the Arusha region, and it will be used to grow tomatoes, bell peppers and cucumbers as part of the school’s nutrition and income generation program. The Mamus Farmers’ Group in the area will manage the crops, and the school will provide water for irrigation. All produce will be shared between the school and the group.

In February, USAID-TAPP began working with the agriculture company Monsanto and Irrico, a greenhouse supply company, to promote greenhouse technology around the country. The partners are establishing demonstration greenhouses at strategic locations in program areas and are using them to promote high-quality seeds from Seminis (owned by Monsanto) and proper greenhouse management.



*Photo by Fintrac Inc.*

**This greenhouse in Marurani will benefit school children and a local producer group. USAID-TAPP is promoting greenhouse technology throughout Tanzania.**

### 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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## TAHA MARKETS TANZANIA'S APPEAL

The Tanzania Horticulture Association (TAHA) and USAID-TAPP represented Tanzania at the international Fruit Logistica fresh produce trade show in Berlin from February 8-10. This is the world's leading trade fair for the fresh produce and vegetable industry, with more than 2,400 companies and key industry players in attendance. The fair provided an excellent opportunity for TAHA to showcase Tanzania to the rest of the world and to assess market needs for future international business deals. TAHA reported very positive feedback and said there was a high interest in developing Tanzania's fresh produce export market as an alternative to the Kenyan market, which is by far the largest export market in East Africa.

## RUNDUGAI

Program technician Milton Chitanda led a two-day training event for the members of the Rundugai Vegetable Growers Association on the safe use of pesticides. Protecting farmers and the environment are core components of USAID-TAPP activities. Before the training, farmers consistently sprayed pesticides without using any protective gear, and they had poor pesticide storage and disposal practices, which were potentially contaminating local rivers. The program hopes the intervention will improve these practices.

## PROGRAMS RECEIVE PEPFAR TRAINING IN HIV/AIDS EDUCATION

This quarter, USAID-TAPP sponsored representatives from organizations in Dar es Salaam to attend a PEPFAR-funded workshop designed to provide training for local HIV/AIDS associations. These trainings covered monitoring and evaluation, PEPFAR Next Generation Indicators (NGIs), HIV integration models and technical strategies. The participants developed work plans that will lead to a comprehensive training and education program to help youth and vulnerable populations in their areas.

## USAID-TAPP REACHES OUT TO MENTAL HEALTH HOSPITAL IN ZANZIBAR

USAID-TAPP is collaborating with Barclays Bank Tanzania to help fund a horticultural program at the Zanzibar Mental Hospital that will provide highly nutritious vegetables for the hospital kitchen and excellent occupational therapy for patients. The program will establish a formal nursery at the hospital that will grow seedlings of Moringa and fruit trees. Barclays Bank has agreed to contribute Tsh 4 million for a greenhouse and a drip irrigation system, and USAID-TAPP will provide staff training on vegetable production as well as provide the necessary inputs to ensure that the garden and seedling nursery are prosperous. The project will also serve as a demonstration site where surrounding communities can learn about horticulture while also being sensitized to the needs and difficulties of those with mental health problems. USAID-TAPP is excited to be able to support the patients of Zanzibar Mental Hospital and will have more to report on this unique initiative in the coming months.



*Photos by Fintrac Inc.*

**TAHA's booth at the Fruit Logistica Trade Show in Germany showcased Tanzania's fresh produce and production capabilities.**



**TAHA representatives spoke to key decision makers in the fresh produce industry with the goal of expanding Tanzania's fresh produce trade with Europe.**