

Monthly Update – April 2011

Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

POSITIVE KITCHEN GARDENS IMPROVE NUTRITION

In April, USAID-TAPP established eight "positive kitchen gardens" in locations including Langa la Iruva, Boisha, Sinon, Ekenya, Bashay Primary School, and Arusha Blooms Ltd. USAID-TAPP worked with partner Real IPM to construct these sites. Real IPM is a private, Kenya-based company that provides training and materials to smallholder farmers that emphasize an integrated approach to managing pests and disease without an over-reliance on pesticides. Through the use of positive kitchen gardens, the company also provides training on community nutrition and promotes horticulture as a tool to improving food security.

USAID-TAPP and Real IPM have established 10 community-based positive kitchen gardens in schools, hospitals, orphanages, prisons, and among other vulnerable populations. These gardens will improve nutrition for more than 2,000 individuals and will also be used to transfer knowledge of good agriculture practices (GAPs) and demonstrate new farming technologies. In the gardens already established, targeted farmers are using nurseries to grow seedlings and a vermiculture unit to provide worm compost for the gardens. The beneficiaries appointed site managers to oversee day-to-day operations. Through the gardens, USAID-TAPP will introduce nutritious crops and modern farming techniques, and will train clients on proper harvesting and postharvest handling. This initiative will demonstrate the benefits of positive kitchen gardens to vulnerable community groups and will help increase food security and nutrition levels, particularly among children and those affected by HIV/AIDS.

USAID-TAPP SPONSORS FOOD PROCESSING TRAINING

USAID-TAPP sponsored a training workshop for 30 representatives of more than 20 women's groups. The workshop was conducted by Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) and organized by the Wanawake na Maendeleo (WAMA) foundation. The five-day training focused on food processing and entrepreneurship. The women received training in processing, food hygiene and sanitation, packaging and layout, and legislation and licensing, and they will be able to share their knowledge and experiences with the women in their groups. USAID-TAPP is committed to helping women develop food processing skills and initiatives for the commercial sector, minimize postharvest losses and maximizing value, and improve health and nutrition at home.



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

Women of the Datoga community read a USAID-TAPP flier on the prevention of HIV/AIDS.

Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

"Increased food security through enhanced productivity"

USAID-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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NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Training: This month 7,546 people (4,056 women) directly benefitted from USAID-TAPP support. Program agronomists and partners provided trainings on postharvest handling, processing, on-site preparation, nursery establishment, disease and pest diagnosis, safe use of pesticides, and income generation.

Key visit: US Ambassador to Tanzania Alfonso Lenhardt visited Arusha to meet with USAID-TAPP and TAHA and discuss the future of the country's agriculture sector. Mr. Lenhardt also visited USAID-TAPP client Arusha Blooms Ltd., where he saw how new technologies such as low-cost greenhouses and drip irrigation are improving production. The ambassador was impressed by the enthusiasm of the smallholder farmers and in their commitment to continuing to implement what they have learned on their own farms.

HIV & Nutrition: USAID-TAPP Health & Nutrition Manager Dorothy Magesse held a peer educator meeting in Marangu for 34 peer educators on the topics of nutrition, HIV prevention, and income generating activities. They in turn have trained 5,568 people on HIV/AIDS prevention. USAID-TAPP also trained members of the Wahadzabe and Datoga communities in HIV/AIDS prevention and the benefits of the Moringa tree in boosting the immune systems of those living with HIV/AIDS.

Markets: In collaboration with Volunteer Services Overseas, USAID-TAPP visited hotels in Zanzibar. Six hotels on the island will begin buying produce from the UWAMWIMA farmers group as a result of these new market linkages.



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

Farmers from USAID-TAPP client Arusha Blooms Ltd. pose for a picture with US Ambassador to Tanzania Alfonso Lenhardt (center).

TECHNOLOGY TOOLBOX



USAID-TAPP and partner Real IPM are helping the students at Bashai Primary School construct a positive kitchen garden to grow vegetables for the school's cafeteria. The children are learning how to create compost pits (left) and vermiculture units (center) to produce compost to be spread on the garden (right). The children are also learning how other modern farming techniques such as drip irrigation, hybrid seeds, and integrated pest management will reduce reliance on pesticides and inorganic fertilizers while improving crop yields, quality, and safety.