

Monthly Update – June 2011

## Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

### U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE VISITS TAPP

USAID-TAPP's strong record of improving smallholder productivity was highlighted in a visit to Tanzania by U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton. Secretary Clinton visited the Upendo Women Farmers Group in Mlandizi, outside of Dar es Salaam. USAID-TAPP has trained this producer group in good agricultural practices and introduced new technologies including a greenhouse, drip irrigation, raised beds, crop spacing and charcoal coolers. During their first cropping cycle under USAID-TAPP assistance, the women of the Upendo Women Farmers Group successfully harvested 1,975 kilograms of high-value green peppers which they sold for a profit of 900,000 Tshs. Secretary Clinton said she was impressed with the impact the USAID-TAPP project is having on nutrition.

USAID-TAPP's work with partner Multiflower Ltd. was also highlighted this month in a visit by United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk. Kirk is a member of President Obama's Cabinet and serves as the President's principal trade advisor, negotiator and spokesperson on trade issues. Multiflower began in 1995 as a small scale producer of flower seeds for Dutch buyers. Since then, the company has grown to become one of the leading producers of vegetable and flower seeds and fresh flower cuttings in Tanzania. Multiflower is already exporting to more than 30 clients throughout Europe, and with assistance from USAID-TAPP, the company has begun to identify potential North American markets for their seeds.

### SMALLHOLDERS BENEFIT FROM REVOLVING CREDIT FACILITIES

Project partner Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) established two new VICOBA groups this quarter in Zanzibar, bringing the total number of groups participating in this TAPP-funded initiative to 17. VICOBA, or village community banks, act as small-scale revolving credit facilities and give participating members access to small loans. USAID-TAPP is pairing the establishment of VICOBA with trainings in business development and recordkeeping to improve the business practices of participating farmers. To date, 3 million shillings have been disbursed through the VICOBA revolving fund to smallholder farmers. Most of these farmers, who are primarily women, use the loans to invest in farming and small businesses, which puts them in a better position to take advantage of USAID-TAPP assistance and training.



***"I was pleased to hear that already the diversity of crops here is making a difference in the nutritional status of your children. And we think that is a very good result. We hope that you will become not only a model for the country, but you will become a model for all of Africa. The women here are pioneers and leaders in taking agriculture across the continent."***

*– Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during a visit to a USAID-TAPP client*

*Photo by Kimberly Flowers/USAID Senior Communications Officer*

**Secretary of State Hillary Clinton with USAID-TAPP Staff Stephen Mruma and Halima Abubakary**

### Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

**"Increased food security through enhanced productivity"**

TAPP is a 5-year program implemented by Fintrac Inc. in conjunction with TAHA, the Tanzania Horticultural Association. It is 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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## HIV/AIDS AFFECTED COMMUNITIES RECEIVE AGRICULTURAL TRAINING ON ZANZIBAR

USAID-TAPP began providing agricultural sector productivity training to members of ZAPHA+, an association of people living with HIV/AIDS, on Zanzibar this quarter. ZAPHA+ is already providing health sector services to their members including home based care, psychological/social support and nutrition counseling. Through a partner fund award with USAID-TAPP, the capacity of the organization to provide agricultural support will be increased. By promoting home and community gardens, USAID-TAPP will assist the members of ZAPHA+ in producing nutrient-rich vegetables for their own consumption and for sale at local markets.

## YOUTH ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE

In Tanga Region, 150 youth advisors were trained through the USAID-TAPP partner fund award with 4-H Tanzania. This partner fund award is working to provide youth with skills to increase agricultural production and improve food security and employment opportunities. The advisors trained this quarter participated in Training of the Trainer (TOT) modules where they learned about agriculture, entrepreneurial skills, marketing, and life skills including nutrition and HIV/AIDS. The advisors will take what they learned in the TOT modules back to their 4-H clubs in Morogoro where they will pass the information on to the community youth. It is expected that, over the next two years, USAID-TAPP will train 680 4-H advisors/trainers who will reach 15,000 youth in Tanga and Morogoro.

## SMALLHOLDERS SELL TO HIGH-END MARKETS FOR THE FIRST TIME ON ZANZIBAR

This quarter, nine more hotels and high-end restaurants have agreed to purchase local smallholder-grown fruit and vegetables through a market hub established by USAID-TAPP through a partner fund award with Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) in Stone Town, Zanzibar. Equipped with a cool-store, smallholder farmers can send their produce to this market hub, managed by a producer association called UWAWIMA, to sell and store. Through the market hub, smallholder farmers are linked to the high-end hospitality trade and many are selling to hotels and restaurants for the first time.

Visit [www.tanzania-agric.org](http://www.tanzania-agric.org) for more information.

## TECHNOLOGY TOOLBOX



*Photos by Fintrac Inc.*

**Due to high temperatures and poor storage conditions, postharvest loss is high in Tanzania. USAID-TAPP is introducing charcoal cool-stores as a means of reducing this postharvest loss and ensuring that farmers receive the highest prices possible for their crops at the market. Charcoal cool-stores use evaporative cooling to maintain a cool interior temperature for refrigeration and food preservation. The cool-stores are built with open timber frames lined with charcoal-filled sides. The charcoal is kept moist, and as warm, dry air passes through, the water on the charcoal evaporates and cools the air. Farmers can store produce in the cool-store for up to three days before taking it to the market, minimizing postharvest losses.**