

Monthly Update – April 2012

Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

OVERVIEW

USAID-TAPP is **increasing incomes for smallholder farmers, improving nutrition, and expanding markets** through agricultural innovation and commercialization. The program is part of Feed the Future, the US government's global hunger and food security initiative to break the cycle of hunger and poverty in the developing world. Feed the Future is focusing on the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor (SAGCOT), a region the Tanzanian government has identified as the most conducive for agricultural growth. Working with our partners and the Government of Tanzania, USAID-TAPP is concentrating our efforts on selected crops and regions, especially SAGCOT, to help transform the country's food security.

GRANDMOTHER ADAPTS TECHNOLOGY TO FIGHT HUNGER

Aziza Mataula, a 58-year-old grandmother and caretaker, found that one solution to fight hunger and poverty and the **best way to improve nutrition** for her two grandchildren was by adapting **good agricultural practices (GAPs)**.

She learned the new skills through a USAID-TAPP partnership with Huruma AIDS Concern and Care (HACOCA), which supports vulnerable youth and their caretakers by teaching them horticulture skills. Mataula, who lives in Kauzeni village in Morogoro region, is one of 31 caretakers enrolled in the project, supporting 40 orphans and vulnerable children (23 boys and 17 girls) in the village. Her grandchildren, Zaituni and Zulia, both 9 years old, are also part of the HACOCA's youth group receiving support.

Through close supervision by USAID-TAPP and HACOCA, Mataula and her family were introduced to **sack garden technology**, provided with **agricultural equipment, vegetable seeds, and fertilizers**, and given **trainings** on successful **vegetable production**. Mataula learned how to set sack gardens at her home in her backyard. She established four sack gardens with different varieties of vegetables such as amaranthus, Ethiopian mustard (figiri), eggplant, African eggplant, cow pea leaves, pumpkin leaves, and Chinese spinach.

Before USAID-TAPP intervention, Mataula and her grandchildren used to have one unbalanced meal per day which made them weak. Mataula's husband is 73 years old and, due to his age, is unable to farm anymore and unable to help provide for his family.

"Our grandmother can now afford to provide us with three meals per day and we can easily concentrate on our education because we get energy from the vegetables," Zaituni, the grandchild, said.

Mataula has vowed to continue growing vegetables in sack gardens by adding more in her backyard not only to improve the nutrition of her family but also to sell any surplus vegetables to her neighbors to generate income.



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

Aziza Mataula prepares stiff porridge with Ethiopian Mustard (figiri) vegetable as a nutritious lunch for her family.



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

Zaituni Abdallah, 9 years old, stands next to a sack garden, a simple, efficient way to grow nutritious vegetables anywhere.

GREAT HARVEST FROM GREENHOUSE IMPRESSES DUTCH SEED COMPANY

Idd Seif is a successful smallholder farmer who, with USAID-TAPP's support, has shown **great harvest results** from his greenhouse plot. His successes have impressed many, including a Dutch vegetable breeding company.

Seif, 51 years old and from Lukozi village, Lushoto district in Tanga region, was one of the farmers assisted by USAID-TAPP with agricultural training in greenhouse technology. In 2011, USAID-TAPP selected Seif as one of the smallholder farmers in his village whose land would be used as a demonstration plot to show others how to grow hybrid tomatoes using greenhouse technology.

Seif started harvesting hybrid tomatoes in February of this year; by April he harvested a total of 4,840 kilograms (about 5 tons). He sold the produce in a nearby local market and transported some of the harvest to markets in the Dar es Salaam region. A kilogram of tomato was sold for Tshs. 1,000 (US \$0.65). After his most recent harvest in April, Seif will continue harvesting his tomatoes for the next four months. He expects to harvest more than 6,500 kilogram worth Tshs. 6,453,333 (US \$4,059) for the remainder of the season. After recouping his initial investment of Tshs 2,500,000 (US \$1,572), Seif will have **earned himself an impressive profit**.



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

Idd Seif holding clusters of tomatoes inside his greenhouse.

USAID-TAPP northern zonal manager, Manfred Bitala, said the representative from **Rijk Zwaan, a Dutch company** which has an office in Arusha, was impressed by Seif's successful harvest results and **promised to assist him with tomato hybrid seeds** for his next planting season. Rijk Zwaan specializes in breeding and supplying vegetable seeds for commercial cultivation in greenhouses, tunnels, and outdoors. The company will also provide a variety of hybrid seeds (i.e., cabbages, lettuces, broccoli, cauliflower, and carrots) for other farmers in the village.

MEET OUR NEW PARTNER: BUSINESS PLANET

Business Planet, a local agribusiness established in 2007, is currently exporting chilies to European markets and supplying high-value vegetables to markets in Dar es Salaam. With assistance from USAID-TAPP, Business Planet will **scale-up the size** of its operation by expanding both its **production** and **customer base**. There is a strong interest for Tanzanian-produced fresh chilies in international markets, and USAID-TAPP will assist in **improving the capacity** of Business Planet to meet this demand.

To increase Business Planets' production base, USAID-TAPP will work with the company **to integrate 255 new growers** into a chili and vegetable outgrower scheme. The farmers will be trained in **GAPs and appropriate planting schedules** and will **receive, on credit, hybrid seedlings** and **appropriate agricultural inputs**. Access to these trainings and **quality planting materials** will enable smallholders to comply with European food safety requirements, such as GLOBALGAP, and benefit from the higher-value export market. As a result, the farmers are expected to increase their yields by 60 percent and earn collective profit of \$211,000. Business Planet will grade and pack the smallholder-produced crops at Mailer Farm, which was previously supported under the USAID-SHOP program and has been underused for many months. Business Planet and its farmer-suppliers expect to make \$155,000 of investments into agricultural infrastructure like Mailer Farm, as a means of improving both efficiency and profitability among farmers and enterprises throughout Tanzania.

Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program "Increased food security through enhanced productivity"

Visit www.Tanzania-Agric.org for more information on upcoming activities and to read monthly bulletins and success stories.

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