

Monthly Update – July 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.

FARMERS USE INCREASED INCOME FOR NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Rajabuj Massawe, a smallholder farmer in Jitegemee Farmers Group of Lushoto, produced 5 tons of tomatoes on only 600 meters squared of land using USAID-TAPP's recommended practices, including use of hybrid seeds, starter solution, correct plant spacing, trellising systems, drip irrigation, plastic mulch, selecting plants by size, and live barrier good fertilization programs. From this harvest, Massawe earned TZS 5M (US\$ 3,165), an increase of 900 percent. With this considerable increase, he first paid school fees for his two children. With the remaining income, he was able to purchase a truck to transport not only his produce, but also his neighbor's produce, to market, thereby adding value to his farm business.

Massawe is only one of the 6,292 farmers who received training and technical assistance from USAID-TAPP this month. With the average project beneficiary experiencing a 45 percent yield increase and earning \$1,665 in income (gross margins), the impact of USAID-TAPP's activities reach far beyond the agricultural sector, creating education opportunities, local business development, and improved health and nutrition for smallholder farmers.

HACOCA BRINGS AGRICULTURE TO HIV/AIDS AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Haruma AIDS Concern and Care (HACOCA) provides prevention, care, and support services to those both infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in Mvomero, Morogoro, one of the areas of Tanzania hardest hit by HIV/AIDS. In partnership with USAID-TAPP, HACOCA provides more than 300 orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) with agricultural training to improve food security for themselves and their caregivers.

One of HACOCA's initiatives is the Upendo Children's Club in Tungi, Morogoro, which provides OVCs with gardening skills to help them grow the crops they need to eat balanced, nutritious meals. USAID-TAPP provides the organization with trained agronomists and nutritionists who teach the children production skills for growing vegetables in home plots or sack gardens, including raised beds, seedling trays, drip irrigation, and fertilization. Upendo member Elizabeth Ulazi said, "Upendo Club has taught me how to grow different vegetables, and now I have my own home garden to grow fresh amaranth leaves, Chinese cabbage, and eggplant for my family—now we can eat a balanced meal! My thanks to USAID-TAPP and HACOCA for this training."



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

Tomato plants grown by USAID-TAPP clients using recommended technologies, including improved seed varieties, raised beds, drip irrigation, and trellising.

In addition, HACOCA provides nutrition classes, life skills training, and psychological services to participating children. As a result, not only are the children improving their nutritional status, but many are growing enough produce to sell the surplus and raise the household income. HACOCA's success in incorporating agriculture and nutrition into its HIV/AIDS programs has received nationwide attention, and the organization is expanding its successful model to new districts in the Morogoro region.

COMMERCIAL PARTNER AFRICADO BUILDS THE AVOCADO INDUSTRY

USAID-TAPP partner Africado Ltd. has provided 1,000 smallholder farmers with 30,000 grafted Hass avocado trees, equivalent to 141 new hectares of avocado and enough to produce 3,000 tons of avocados for export through Africado's outgrower scheme. In addition, USAID-TAPP has provided Africado with four agronomists to establish demonstration plots and train farmers to produce Hass avocados to international export standards. As a result of this intervention to supply smallholders with planting material and technical assistance, farmer incomes are expected to increase by 100 percent; and the avocado industry as a whole benefits from increased seedling production, improved grower standards, and more consistent export supply.



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

USAID-TAPP agronomists visit Africado's seedling nursery to assess the avocado seedlings to be distributed to smallholder farmers.

USAID-TAPP LINKS SMALLHOLDER FARMERS TO LOCAL MARKETS

On July 6th, USAID-TAPP hosted a field day for 15 major wholesale traders from the largest markets at Kariakoo, Temeke, and Ilala to see for themselves how much farmers are producing using the project's recommended technologies and the resulting improvement in product quality. In addition, project staff talked with traders about working directly with farmers to plan their production so that they will not have to employ brokers to find product at harvest-time, rather they will know exactly where to go and how much product to expect.

The traders attending the field day recognized this as a win-win situation for both themselves and farmers, and agreed to the following partnership with USAID-TAPP: each trader will nominate a smallholder farmer group with whom to partner, and the project will provide recommended technology inputs, including seed trays, trellising materials, and drip irrigation for up to one acre of production. After the first harvest, the trader will have a clear demonstration of the quantity and quality of the produce supplied, and they will invest an equal amount in the same farmer group. This partnership will connect over 20 farmer groups directly to traders, increasing marketing opportunities for farmers and further developing local market networks in Tanzania. With the harvest now underway, partnerships between traders and farmers are beginning to be established to facilitate sales of tomatoes and peppers.

Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

"Increased food security through enhanced productivity"

USAID-TAPP is a five-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 for more information on upcoming activities and to read more bulletins and success stories.

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