

Monthly Update – August 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.

USAID-TAPP NAMED WINNER AT NATIONAL NANE NANE AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION

The Annual Nane Nane Farmers Day Exhibitions were held this month in Arusha, Morogoro, Mbeya, and Dodoma to highlight the rich contribution farmers make to Tanzanian society and culture. Each year, up to a half million people celebrate this national holiday by attending Nane Nane's agricultural fairs, farm demonstrations, and agribusiness trade shows not only to honor the country's farmers, but also to provide those farmers with critical information for improving their livelihoods.

This year, USAID-TAPP was invited to develop two 200 meter squared demonstration plots in both Arusha and Morogoro where field staff grew a variety of ten fruits and vegetables using the project's recommended technologies and good agricultural practices, including production using hybrid seeds, starter solution, seedling trays, raised beds, drip irrigation, correct plant spacing, and trellising.

As a result of their efforts, USAID-TAPP was awarded Nane Nane's First Prize in Technology Transfer for the second year in a row, establishing an exciting record of excellence at Tanzania's leading agricultural event. In addition, potential commercial partners, including Monsanto, East African Seeds, Balton, and Rijk Zwaan approached staff about partnering to provide affordable seeds and other inputs to smallholder farmers participating in USAID-TAPP.



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

Award-winning tomato plants grown by USAID-TAPP farmer clients demonstrated good agricultural practices at the Nane Nane Exhibition area in Morogoro.

PROJECT BENEFICIARIES SEE BIG HARVEST RETURNS

Chumi Hussein of the Twiyawe Farmers Group has a one-acre farm in Mikumi, Morogoro with fertile soil, available water, and easy access to the road. In spite of this, he still struggled to make sufficient income for him and his family. After learning about good agricultural practices from a USAID-TAPP field day, he obtained a loan and invested TZS 10M (US\$ 6,330) in improved seeds, drip irrigation, and trellising materials for tomato production on his one acre plot. By using these technologies, Hussein has increased his production by 400 percent and his income has increased from TZS 8M (US\$ 5,065) to TZS 30M (US\$ 18,985). Because his farm is visible from the road, Hussein's neighbors frequently stop by to ask him about the new technology he is using.



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

Farmer Chumi Hussein discusses his tomato crop with USAID-TAPP agronomist Stephen Mruma.

Hussein's experience is characteristic of the kinds of returns smallholder farmers can expect by implementing USAID-TAPP's package of recommended technologies and good agricultural practices. Project beneficiaries have invested over US\$ 2M of their own money putting an additional 11,800 hectares under production using recommended technologies, and average yields have increased 46 percent resulting in average farmer incomes of \$1,665.

BUILDING INPUT SUPPLY NETWORKS FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS

On August 22nd, USAID-TAPP hosted a workshop in partnership with international input supply companies Seed Co. and Triachem to discuss smallholder farmers' critical lack of access to inputs, technical assistance, and finance with 25 key actors from Tanzania and throughout East Africa. Participants included international supply companies Bayer, Syngenta, Monsanto, and RijkZwaan; potential finance providers National Microfinance Bank, CRDB, and Vodacom; and development agencies USAID, DFID, and Oxfam.

The outcome was a formal partnership with both companies to develop a chain of farm service centers for smallholder farmers in unserved areas, concentrating in the SAGOT area. These centers will provide access to inputs, finance, crop insurance, and marketing opportunities for farmers in some of the most rural, yet potentially productive areas of Tanzania by building on a number of initiatives already on the ground, including the market collection points

introduced in 2010. By placing input suppliers, agronomists, and demonstration areas at these sites, USAID-TAPP will add value to a previously funded program, and formal partnerships with Seed Co. and Triachem are being prepared in order to move this program forward.

COMMERCIAL PARTNER RUNGWE AVOCADO INCREASES EXPORT CAPACITY

USAID-TAPP continues to develop the capacity of local exporters to identify and access appropriate markets for Tanzanian goods in Europe, Middle East, and the US. In particular, commercial partner Rungwe Avocado Company Ltd. is expected to train 5,000 smallholder farmers in Mbeya and Njombe in good agricultural practices and add 510 hectares to production using USAID-TAPP's technology package. Rungwe has already trained 2,000 of those farmers, 1,000 of whom are now Global GAP certified for export production. This month, Rungwe translated these investments into market success when they increased their avocado exports to European markets from one shipping container last year, to six containers in March, representing 133 tons of avocados exported to UK buyer Mack Multiples, with a projection of 30 containers in 2013.

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"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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