

Monthly Update – September 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.

BUTURI HOSTS SWEET POTATO FIELD DAY

On September 13th, 150 farmer group representatives and 25 stakeholders from organizations including USAID, Tanzanian Ministries of Agriculture and Health, Helen Keller International, SAGCOT, Tanzanian Export Association, and Tanzania Food and Nutrition Center attended an orange flesh sweet potato (OFSP) field day hosted by USAID-TAPP partner Buturi Investments Ltd. The event took place on Buturi's commercial farm in Kimbiji, just outside of Dar es Salaam.

In Tanzania, white flesh sweet potato is a staple crop. USAID-TAPP is working with partners to promote OFSP among both producers and consumers for its improved nutritional qualities, particularly Vitamin A. Farmers compared yields from both orange and white-flesh varieties and saw that the OFSP produced as well as or better than the white-flesh. By the end of the event, the variety performance of OFSP had been demonstrated, farmers were trained in good agricultural practices, and traders were eager to bring the new product to the market.

Buturi began preparing for the field day in April, planting different varieties of both orange and white-flesh sweet potato using USAID-TAPP recommended technologies such as raised beds, starter solution, and proper plant spacing. USAID-TAPP will provide all farmer attendees with enough OFSP vines to plant one-quarter of an acre at the beginning of the planting season in March 2013.



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

Nutritionists from Kibaha Research Station prepare orange-flesh sweet potato chips for attendees to taste at the field day in Kimbiji, Dar es Salaam.

IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES HELP FULFILL LIFELONG DREAMS

Augustino Oluturia, a local farmer and 54-year old father of seven from Otieria, Arusha, can finally build his family their dream home, thanks to simple shifts in his farming techniques. As his household's primary earner, Oluturia has worked hard his entire life to meet his family's everyday needs. After being introduced to and trained in good agricultural practices this past January, Oluturia was determined to significantly raise his income and finally set aside enough money to begin building the new family home.

At the advice of USAID-TAPP agronomists, Oluturia purchased and transplanted 1,400 kilograms of improved potato varieties and 24,000 kilograms of improved cabbage varieties. His investments proved worthy, as his profit from April's and May's harvests were, TZS 490,000 (US\$ 312) and TZS 800,000 (US\$ 510), respectively. Using the extra income, Oluturia was able to branch out to another crop and purchased seedlings, trays, pesticides, and land-preparation materials to boost his onion production.

This September, Oluturia harvested 1,500 kilograms of onions and sold them for TZS 900,000 (US\$ 573), multiplying his income three-fold. With this profit, he purchased bricks to lay the foundation for his new family home. Oluturia's improved practices and extra income are great examples of how USAID-TAPP interventions are not only transforming agriculture in Tanzania, but positively impacting smallholders' incomes and enabling them to fulfill lifelong dreams.

SAGCOT FARMERS INVEST IN DRIP IRRIGATION TECHNOLOGY

As far back as April, USAID-TAPP began working with farmers in the SAGCOT regions of Morogoro, Iringa, and Mbeya, to prepare for the dry season (July–October). Drip irrigation systems and improved crop varieties were introduced to show farmers how they can improve and sustain production during seasons with little rainfall. This month, four farmers in Iringa and three farmers in Mbeya installed drip irrigation systems. Farmers were also provided with improved varieties that will ensure production of high-quality horticultural products. An additional 17 drip systems are scheduled to arrive in the next coming months, and there is a long list of farmers who have already prepared their land and are waiting to purchase drip systems. To meet the growing demand for drip systems, USAID-TAPP is also working with agrodealers throughout these regions.



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

Improved banana varieties in Mbeya planted using drip systems.

Prior to USAID-TAPP's intervention, farmers in these regions experienced hardship during the dry season due to scarce water sources and lack of proper technology. While improved results will not be demonstrated until a few months from now, USAID-TAPP and farmers are confident in the upcoming harvest, largely because of these new investments. In September alone, USAID-TAPP clients invested nearly \$US 37,000 in irrigation infrastructure.

TAHA TO BE AWARDED DIRECT FUNDING UNDER USAID FORWARD

USAID-TAPP's counterpart Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) passed a rigorous pre-award process this month to become the second organization in Tanzania to be awarded direct funding under the USAID Forward Program. Leading up to the assessment, USAID-TAPP worked closely with TAHA staff to ensure that the necessary administrative, operational, and financial systems were in place, and supported individual training for the executive director, program manager, and program accountant to build TAHA's capacity to the required level. By the time the assessment was conducted in August, TAHA was fully prepared to undergo USAID's evaluation of their ability to manage a US\$ 4M award for the development of the horticultural industry in Tanzania. At USAID's request, TAHA will continue to develop its financial management systems in order to ensure compliance with USAID funding regulations, and expects to receive its first financial obligation in November 2012.

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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.

P.O. Box 15035 | Arusha, Tanzania

Tel: 255 (0) 27 2545325

tapp@fintrac.com

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