

Monthly Update – November 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.

IMPROVED FARMING INCREASES FRUIT BASKET IN ZANZIBAR

Despite favorable conditions, productivity in Zanzibar is generally low due to poor technologies and weak management. While many of the island's high value crops are imported from the mainland, there is significant potential to scale up production to meet local demand. To date, USAID-TAPP is working with more than 800 smallholders to implement improved technologies and good agricultural practices (GAPs).

At a field day earlier this month, Salum Seif, a local pineapple farmer, spoke to 100 participants about the rising demand of pineapples on the island and how USAID-TAPP's improved cultivation methods have motivated him and should motivate other farmers to change the spectrum of pineapple supply in the market. Seif invested a total of Tsh 3,000,000 (\$1,911) and planted 13,500 pineapples on a 0.10 hectare plot using GAPs such as raised beds, proper spacing, and size selection during transplanting. He expects a gross profit of Tsh 13,500,000 (\$8,599) when he harvests in August 2013. Compared to his last harvest at the beginning 2012, where he made a gross profit of Tsh 5,000,000 (\$3,185) using traditional farming methods, it is evident that GAPs adapted to local conditions can raise incomes and expand markets for Zanzibari farmers.



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

Salum Seif explains the cultivation methods he learned from USAID-TAPP to more than 100 participants at a recent field day.

ARUSHA BLOOMS LTD INAUGURATES NEW VEGETABLE PRE-PACK FACILITY

Arusha Blooms Ltd. recently inaugurated its new vegetable pre-pack facility to export French beans, baby corn, red peppers, and herbs to Europe, South Africa, and Kenya. The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Honorable Marcel Escure, the French Ambassador to Tanzania, representatives from USAID, the Tanzanian Investment Bank (TIB), Finlays Horticulture, the Tanzanian Horticultural Association (TAHA), USAID-TAPP, and smallholder farmers.

The facility will be used for grading and packing produce grown on their farm and will serve as a central hub for smallholder outgrowers from Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions. The pre-pack facility works in collaboration with Finlays Horticulture, one of East African's main fresh vegetable exporters, adding value to locally produced vegetables. Arusha Blooms plans to incorporate produce from SAGCOT, with initial concentration on baby corn.

"Today we are not only making a difference to the lives of many, but are also contributing to the development of the country," said Joseph Giovinazzo, the Managing Director of Arusha Blooms Ltd.



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

Arusha Blooms' new facility is raising incomes for outgrowers in Arusha and Kilimanjaro, and will soon incorporate outgrowers from SAGCOT.

In July 2010, Arusha Blooms was in a derelict state, but under Giovinazzo's leadership, the company shifted its focus from flowers to vegetable and seed production, including maize. With financial assistance from USAID-TAPP, Arusha Blooms has increased smallholder incomes, improved nutrition, and expanded markets.

With additional financial support from TIB, as well as technical assistance from USAID-TAPP, Arusha Blooms established cold storage, a grading shed, more than three hectares of rehabilitated greenhouses, drip irrigation technology, and a rain-water harvesting system. USAID-TAPP also assisted in connecting Arusha Blooms with European, South African, and Kenyan markets, and soon the company will export to other international markets. Arusha Blooms currently employs 203 people, including 68 permanent staff and 135 day laborers, most of whom are women.

USAID HOSTS FEED THE FUTURE STAKEHOLDERS MEETING IN DAR ES SALAAM

At the end of this month, USAID/Tanzania hosted a three-day, semi-annual stakeholders meeting in Dar es Salaam. The meeting brought together more than 150 local agencies, Government of Tanzania representatives, private groups, and Feed the Future (FTF) core partners who gave presentations on their respective projects. The presentations included information about the importance of women farmers, improved nutrition for children, innovative technologies, policy and trade, as well as expanding involvement in SAGCOT, a major FTF focus region.

Tom Hobgood, USAID/Tanzania Director for FTF activities, shed light on the impact of FTF after a year of implementation, emphasizing that: "Our horticulture project is working with smallholder farmers who have cultivated nearly 12,000 hectares of farmland with improved technologies, where more than 72,000 horticulture farmers have benefited from trainings on improved agronomic practice, nutrition, and business management."

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS PASSION FRUIT FARMERS

The Mkuranga District Office is helping passion fruit farmers boost production in the Coastal Region. Omari Saidi, Chairman of the Irrigation Project in Mfurumwambo village, spoke to a group of smallholder farmers from the Kiwauucha Farmers Group during a USAID-TAPP training, stating that his organization will install drip irrigation systems for about 11 hectares of land and will construct a water well on the farm early next year. He added that the assistance comes from the Tanzanian Government's initiative to combat poverty through improved agriculture production.

The Kiwauucha Farmers Group has planted 458 passion fruit seedlings on about 0.405 hectares using technical assistance from USAID-TAPP. They were trained on using starter solution, drip irrigation, trellising, correct spacing for transplanting, and the use of raised beds. The 27 member group expects a profit of Tsh 8,060,800 (\$5,134) from sales of 10,076 kg of passion fruit from their first harvest in July 2013.

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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