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TAPP
TANZANIA
AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTIVITY PROGRAM
Mapato zaidi kupitia kilimo bora

Monthly Update – January 2013

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 its efforts on selected crops and regions, especially SAGCOT, to help transform the country's food security.

USAID-TAPP SPONSORS MANGO TASTING FESTIVAL

On January 5 - 7, USAID-TAPP welcomed 2013 by supporting a three-day Mango Tasting Festival organized by the Association of Mango Growers (AMAGRO) in Dar es Salaam. The objective of the fourth annual event under the theme, "lima embe bora kwa soko la nnje" ("mango farming for export"), was to create awareness of mango growing as a means of generating income and to explore ways of increasing productivity in the sector.

The event attracted over 3,000 participants to Mnazi Mmoja Grounds to learn about mango production, market opportunities, and irrigation. The guest of honor was Beatus Malema, Assistant Director of Crop and Production from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Cooperation. Over 100 mango growers from mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar participated in the event, where they displayed a variety of mango fruits and juices, which participants had a chance to sample.

According to AMAGRO, since the commencement of the festival, mango growers have improved their mango production, and with AMAGRO's strong regional and international network, local growers will have a wider audience of buyers to export to. Reiterating this point, Malema said, "Understanding the mango value chain in Tanzania is fundamental to developing the industry in the country, but without proper market linkage our buyers are not able to achieve their projected goals."

US AMBASSADOR TO UN ROME VISITS USAID-TAPP FARMER GROUPS

On January 8 and 9, the US Ambassador to UN Rome Mission, David Lane, visited the Jihudi Laki Tatu and Oitera Village farmers' groups in Arusha during his six-day media tour to Tanzania and Malawi. Ambassador Lane witnessed first-hand how USAID-TAPP's work is helping improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers by transferring good agricultural practices, creating market linkage, and providing trainings on health and nutrition.

Made up of 20 members, six males and 14 females, the Jihudi Laki Tatu Farmers Group has been receiving technical assistance from the project since December 2011. With onion seedlings recently planted on their three quarter acre plot, the members will be harvesting their first crop of off-season onions. Prices for onions on local markets are much higher in the off season compared to the traditional onion-growing season, which promises greater revenues for the farmers. The new agricultural practices they learned, such as raised beds, correct spacing, seedling trays, and drip irrigation system, have made this possible.



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

USAID-TAPP Southern Zone Production Manager, Stephen Mruma (right), explains to the Assistant Director of Crop and Production, Beatus Malema (left), about how the project creates market linkages for mango growers in the country.



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

US Ambassador to UN Rome Mission, David Lane (center) with Augustino Olturia (second right) and his family from the Oitera Village Farmers group in his recent media visit to Tanzania.

At Oitera Village Farmers Group, Ambassador Lane's media entourage was met by a young journalist, Flora Laanyuni, who is Augustino Olturia's first born child now working for a local newspaper after completing her first degree last year. Through a continuous flow of income from the sales of his tomatoes, onions, and sweet peppers, Augustino was able to fulfill his daughter's childhood dream and still have enough money to educate his other four children and provide a comfortable life for his family.

Since January 2012, when USAID-TAPP began providing support to the Oitera Village Farmers group, the 39 members have adapted new agricultural technologies and through their hard work, they too have seen an increase in their income and improvement in their diet. The group recently harvested 1,000 kg tomato this month, making a profit of Tsh 450,000 (\$287) from total sales, with more production still underway.

LOCAL FARMER BALANCES ECONOMICS IN SWEET PEPPER MARKET

After facing steep competition in the Dar es Salaam market trying to sell sweet peppers to residents in the big city, this avid farmer from Iringa decided to search for a niche market back in his hometown.

Mwang'anya Maluli is one of many farmers from the southern highlands that are reaping the benefits of good agricultural practices promoted by USAID-TAPP. Under the watchful eye of Emmanuel Hamaro, one of the project's agronomists, Maluli was reintroduced to new farming techniques which he used to transform his former tomato farm in Iringa into a newly established open green field flourishing with healthy peppers.

As of the end of January, Maluli has already harvested four times his previous harvest, achieving a gross profit of Tsh 1,027,000 (\$654) from the sale of 2,740kg of sweet pepper, and it is expected that he will continue generating more income from his pepper production. Maluli has recently opened a savings account with a local bank where he deposits his earnings. He has recently invested some of his profits into the maintenance of his farm, including purchasing agricultural inputs and the completion of his four bedroom house under construction in the village nearby.



Photo by Fintrac Inc..

Mwang'anya Maluli (left) with his wife Upendo Makella and their twins, Glory and Glad Maluli, respectively, in a family photo taken on the verandah of their new house still under construction.

Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

"Increased food security through enhanced productivity"

TAPP is a five-year program implemented by Fintrac Inc. 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 receive copies of monthly bulletins and success stories.

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