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TAPP
TANZANIA
AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTIVITY PROGRAM
Mapato zaidi kupitia kilimo bora

Monthly Update – March 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. USAID-TAPP is focusing on ten strategic regions and is aligned to the Tanzanian Government's agricultural development initiatives, such as the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT), and the development of the Morogoro, Manyara and Dodoma Regions. Working with our partners and the Government of Tanzania, USAID-TAPP is concentrating its efforts on selected crops and regions, to help transform the country's food security.

FARMERS FROM UNGUJA, ZANZIBAR ISLAND TRAINED ON HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Part of USAID-TAPP's objective is to address health and nutrition of smallholder farmers, particularly among women, youth, and those affected by HIV/AIDS. This month, the project trained peer educators, predominantly women, on health and nutrition so that they can return to their farmer groups to train others. From March 18-23, the project trained 50 participants (45 women and five men) in Zanzibar from 11 different farmer groups on hygiene and sanitation, food safety, the "first 1,000 days concept," and the establishment of kitchen gardens.



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

Zanzibar nutrition peer educators were trained in March on hygiene and sanitation, food safety, the "first 1,000 days concept," and kitchen gardens.

USAID-TAPP also worked with the different farmer groups to increase the number of Moringa trees on the isle. Moringa leaf powder's nutritional benefits include reducing CD4 cell counts, a cell that becomes deficient in HIV/AIDS-infected individuals. Members from project partner ZAPHA+, provided testimony to the training group about the health benefits of the plant. The participants also spoke about the nutritional value of orange-flesh sweet potato (OFSP). Each participating farmer confirmed that she or he has grown at least one bed of OFSP on their farms and others agreed to begin growing the crop on their commercial plots.

THOUSANDS OF LOCAL AVOCADO FARMERS LINK TO INTERNATIONAL MARKET

At the beginning of March, 3,500 smallholder farmers from Rungwe district signed a three-year fixed price contract with USAID-TAPP commercial farm partner Rungwe Avocado Company (RAC). Through an outgrower scheme, the smallholders will supply the company with avocados for the next five years. This activity illustrates USAID-TAPP linking smallholders with commercial partners and building valuable relationships that promote horticulture as a sustainable business and a means to achieve food security.

Since RAC became a partner of USAID-TAPP in early 2012, more than 650 smallholder farmers have joined the outgrower scheme. By the end of the month, 12 containers of avocados were shipped to the UK and at least 50 tons (about 2.5 containers) came from the contracted outgrowers. Their products sold at about Tsh 345,000 per ton (345 Tshs per kg), and from this sale, the smallholders earned more than Tsh 17 million (\$10,600). RAC and smallholders also received certification from GlobalGAP and British Retail Consortium (BRC) this month.

PARTNER SIGNS MOU TO IMPROVE NATURAL EXTRACT INDUSTRY

USAID-TAPP partner Natural Extracts Inc. (NEI) signed an MOU this month with the Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology. The agreement focuses on providing scientific support to formulate desirable flavors from natural extracts; giving advice on the process and methodology by which natural flavors can be made profitably at scale; and publishing findings to solidify the place of natural extract flavoring in the industry. To date, NEI is working with 574 outgrowers, all smallholder farmers from the Kilimanjaro region. The vanilla crop will help these families acquire additional income to support their household expenses.

FARMER GROUP SUPPLIES MARKET WITH HIGH QUALITY TOMATOES

Earlier this month, the Jithada Dumila Farmer Group from Dumila, Morogoro, earned Tsh 5 million (\$3,184) in profits from the 16,620 kg of tomatoes planted in December 2012. Since joining USAID-TAPP in April 2012, the farmers have been trained in good agricultural practices, including the use of starter solution, plant spacing, raised beds, seedling trays, and drip irrigation system — all of which have helped increase their food security.

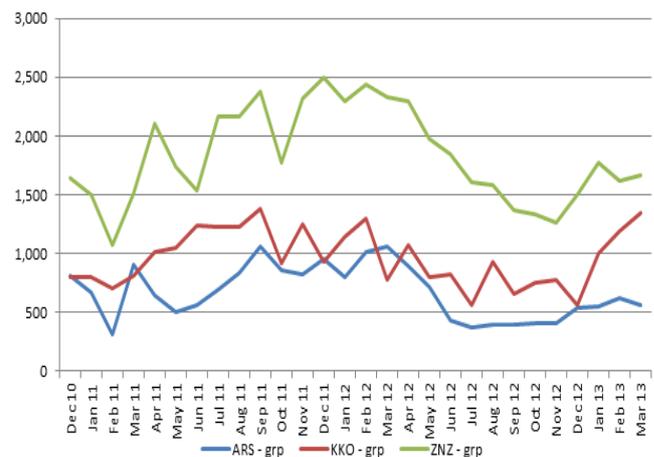
Before their involvement with the project, the group was mainly cultivating tomatoes, green pepper, and onions. Although these crops brought in small profits at a time, they were not enough to fulfill the high demand of quality products in Morogoro, especially in the case of tomatoes, forcing traders to travel as far as Iringa and Dodoma in search of the crop in order to meet market demand. With the introduction of these new technologies, the Jithada Dumila Farmer Group were not only able to increase their productivity level by growing better quality tomatoes, but they also used some of the profits to expand their farm, increasing their current one acre to two. This will allow them to continue growing abundant amounts of high-quality tomatoes to supply the ever-growing market.

MARKET INFORMATION PROVIDES AGRONOMISTS WITH VITAL INFORMATION

USAID-TAPP's marketing team has analyzed the market information being provided by TAHA on price fluctuations for green pepper and other crops where information has been collected since December 2010.

The Arusha, Kariakoo and Zanzibar markets were analyzed. Price trends on how markets have behaved can be seen in a graph (right) from the study. USAID-TAPP's agronomists use these trends and a combination of good agricultural practices to advise farmers on the most profitable crops and which seasons to grow them. By monitoring the prices of green pepper daily, the USAID-TAPP marketing team is able to provide farmers with information on prices and market trends, for when they are ready to harvest.

Green Pepper Prices, December 2010 – March 2013



Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

“Increased food security through enhanced productivity”

USAID-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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