

Monthly Update – August 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 efforts on selected crops and regions to help transform the country's food security.

## NANE NANE TRADE SHOW PROVIDES FARMERS ACCESS TO MARKETS



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

USAID-TAPP Marketing specialist, Thomas Kibwana (2nd from right) training visitors and farmers alike on accessing markets and vital information on market opportunities, during the Nane Nane trade show in Dodoma region.

Earlier this month, USAID-TAPP took place in the Nane Nane trade show in three zones—Arusha, Dodoma, and Morogoro. USAID-TAPP was invited this year to develop two 200 meter squared demonstration plots in both Arusha and Morogoro, where field staff grew a variety of fruits and vegetables to showcase the project's new technologies, such as raised beds; drip irrigation; correct spacing; use of seedling trays; and trellising. With this year's theme focusing on market needs for agricultural and livestock products, USAID-TAPP was well placed on the ground and played a key role in providing access to market information for farmers and visitors alike that visited their pavillions in each of three regions.

During the trade show, USAID-TAPP had representation from marketing, health and nutrition, business development, and production teams. With trainings focused on sustainable agriculture, small producers are achieving better prices through expanded access to domestic and international markets, which is

in turn boosting productivity, increasing incomes, and improving nutrition.

USAID-TAPP's marketing specialists continue to develop relationships with reputable buyers from local markets in Tanzania by improving access to domestic markets and assisting farmers in making direct links to buyers. In this month alone, 10 farmer groups were linked to local markets including Morogoro, Zanzibar, and the coastal region. Initial sales to these buyers totaled over Tsh 16,000,150 (\$10,195) from more than 40,558 tons of produce. Strong links to markets for poor rural producers are essential to increasing agricultural production, generating economic growth in rural areas, and reducing hunger and poverty.

## INCREASED TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Increased technology adoption, such as the use of drip kits, has resulted in increased hectares under improved technologies. Most project assisted farmers are adopting a number of new technologies on their farms. These include land preparations, raised beds, planting of live barriers, use of hybrid seeds, seedling tray technology, plant spacing, starter solution, improved fertilization methods, trellising, weeding, pest and disease management, and adequate harvest and postharvest practices.

Before joining USAID-TAPP in April 2013, members of the Umoja Nguvu Farmers Group in Morogoro, were making an average profit of Tsh 1,000,000 (\$637) from the chilies and tomatoes that they cultivated through traditional

farming. Under the wings of Elisha Morris, USAID-TAPP's field agronomist, the group turned their attention to sweet pepper, a crop in high demand and very marketable for the region. To give them a head start, USAID-TAPP supported the Umoja Nguvu Farmers Group with high level technical assistance, one acre of drip kits, and select agricultural inputs. The members contributed Tsh 2,700,000 (\$1,800) from their previous profits in a water pump, drip system accessories, fuel for the generator, and additional agricultural inputs. With an abundance of water from the river nearby, sweet peppers seedlings were able to be planted in June. After three months of tender care, the group members were rewarded with a hefty gross profit of Tsh 8,000,000 (\$5,096) when they harvested this month, four times the profit made from their previous chili pepper and tomato sales. The successes of farmers' harvests in other regions are due to the exposure of USAID-TAPP's new technologies. For example, in Zanzibar the Fikira Zetu Farmers Group produced a significant harvest of tomatoes that generated total sales of Tsh 3,469,700 (\$2,210) from a quarter of an acre plot under drip irrigation. Meanwhile, the Kiwauucha Farmers Group in Pwani region harvested 3,150 kg of cucumber on one acre of land, also utilizing drip irrigation with raised beds.

## COMBINED EFFORTS TO INCREASE OUTREACH ON NUTRITION ACTIVITIES

During the month of August, 428 farmers from the Northern zone were provided with core trainings in health and nutrition by USAID-TAPP, both directly and through partners and local government integration programs. The project's health and nutrition specialist, Alice Mwambambale, conducted several meetings with local government authorities and clinical officers in order to implement strategic health and nutrition education programs at the village level. The aim of the meetings was to initiate joint collaboration for more maternal child health clinic and health and nutrition education trainings for village communities.



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

USAID-TAPP Health & Nutrition specialist, Alice Mwambambale (center left) conducting a community based training on health and nutrition during a public village meeting in Shiboro village in Arusha.

At the end of the month, villagers from Shiboro village were visited by Ms. Mwambambale and were trained on how to best procure healthy food items. They were also trained on the cultivation of home gardens for the improvement of family food supplies and utilizing available food.

Further health education workshops were conducted to women at public village meetings and maternal child care clinics in Mbuguni, Shambarai, and Sambasha villages in Arusha, where attendees were taught the basics of health care and nutrition. Proper nutrition for healthy growth in early life—during pregnancy, infancy, and childhood—can lower the chance of chronic diseases in adulthood. In order to empower women and improve on the population health, USAID-TAPP has taken steps to increase access to healthy foods and nutritional knowledge. Empowering women by mobilizing public and private resources, not only advances their health, but also their financial standing and social status.

### 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](http://www.tanzania-agric.org) for more information on upcoming activities and to receive copies of monthly bulletins and success stories.

P.O. Box 15035 | Arusha, Tanzania  
Tel: 255 27 2545325  
[tapp@fintrac.com](mailto:tapp@fintrac.com)

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