

Monthly Update – January 2014

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.

INCREASE IN IRISH POTATO YIELDS THROUGH CLEAN SEED

In late December 2013 and throughout January 2014, USAID-TAPP has assisted in the planting and cultivation of over 50 acres of clean Irish potato seeds. These were distributed and planted in six regions of the country, including Mbeya, Njombe, Iringa, Tanga, Kilimanjaro, and Arusha. Mtanga Farms, the producer of the clean planting material, has provided 20 acres of planting material to USAID-TAPP assisted farmers to promote. The seeds were planted with good agricultural practices, thanks to high quality technical assistance the farmers received.



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

Patric Kialawa, one of USAID-TAPP's agronomists, training farmers on the protection of crops against diseases and pests in Limage village, Njombe.

By disseminating clean potato seeds throughout these regions, farmers have increased the availability of higher yielding planting material and learned more about the benefits of clean seeds, including higher resistance to diseases. So far, six farmer groups have started harvesting and the yields are over five million shillings per group.

Since USAID-TAPP intervention, the Mwelekeo Farmers Group in Mbeya has been able to increase their harvest from 45 bags to 92 bags of 120-150 kgs in the season. The Nguvukazi Farmers Group increased from 40 bags to 75 bags, while the Muungano Wanguvu Farmers Group in Njombe harvested 38 bags from 15 bags. These improvements have stimulated additional farmers to adopt USAID-TAPP's new farming practices.

USAID-TAPP has been following up with regular technical assistance and training farmers, to show them the proper technologies for planting potatoes. This includes the establishment of raised beds, plant spacing, seed selection, fertilization and pest and management.

ADDITIONAL PARTNERS STRENGTHEN USAID-TAPP GOALS

USAID-TAPP has recently announced partnerships with two organizations aimed at adding value to smallholder-produced horticulture crops. These partners will contribute extensively to USAID-TAPP's high level indicators and overall project goals.



Iringa-based Cheetah Development will accelerate the introduction, promotion, and sale of its drying technology to 540 smallholder farmers and strengthen market demand for the dried products manufactured by the dryer owners. These farmers are expected to buy 390 drying racks, effectively establishing their own micro-processing enterprises. Initial sales of sun dried tomatoes to Cheetah are expected to exceed \$90,000.

Serengeti Fresh Ltd (SFL) is one of Tanzania's leading exporters of value-added fresh vegetables. The company has 13 years of experience in growing, processing, and exporting fresh produce to Europe, South Africa, and the Middle East. The grant with SFL will make technologies available to farmers in remote areas where USAID-TAPP is working. It will mobilize farmers in Arusha and Kilimanjaro to produce high quality orange-flesh sweet potatoes, peas, and French beans for export.

KITCHEN GARDENS FOR HEALTHIER HOUSEHOLDS

In January, the USAID-TAPP nutrition team continued to train farmers on strategies for improving their health and livelihoods. A total of 57 farmer groups were visited and 768 participants were trained on nutrition and kitchen gardens establishments.

51 kitchen gardens have been established as demo plots for the local communities to increase access to nutritious food. Common crops have included tomatoes, carrots, kale, and Chinese cabbage. Another 30 keyhole gardens and 22 tree nurseries have been established across four villages. 128 women and 63 men have been trained on HIV/AIDS, including transmission, development of HIV, prevention, decision-making, and cultural practices related to nutrition.

Rungwe Smallholder Tea Growers Association (RSTGA), one of USAID-TAPP's nutritional partners in Mbeya, works with 475 smallholder farmers from 77 villages. Participants have been receiving consistent support through trainings and information on establishing home gardens.

The integration of nutritional crops into commercial farming helps improve farmers' livelihoods, along with improving the health of whole households.



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

A farmer inspects his Chinese cabbage garden to remove weeds.

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.

P.O. Box 15035 | Arusha, Tanzania

Tel: 255 27 2545325

tapp@fintrac.com

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