

Monthly Update – June 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.

NEW EQUIPMENT INCREASES PROCESSING CAPACITY

Mariet Natural Foods Co. Ltd (Mariet) based in Njombe is a processing business owned by Mariet Putika that has been working with smallholder farmers throughout the region for several years. The company has been purchasing tomatoes and chilies from a network of more than 3,000 outgrowers.

Previously, the business lacked adequate facilities, equipment, and working capital to process efficiently and become profitable. Given the company's exclusive focus on smallholder suppliers and the value added services that it provides to the agricultural sector in the region, USAID-TAPP invested \$63,329 in equipment, technical support and logistics to expand their processing capability. The upgrades are expected to boost Mariet's monthly processing of tomatoes from 6-8MT to 96MT per month.



Photo by Fintrac Inc

Mariet Putika stands beside a newly installed pulp cooker which has increased tomato pulp processing.

The new equipment includes a tomato pulp cooker that will increase production by over 100 percent, and is expected to elevate the demand for tomatoes. The farmers will be assured of the available market for their produce by working with Mariet. The support from USAID-TAPP will result in Mariet supplying additional value added products in both Tanzania and in the world market.

"With this support from USAID-TAPP, my company will grow and increase employment in my area. There will be more employment opportunities not only in the company but also in the marketing sector. This will improve the quality of our local products to compete with the foreign products," said Putika.

PRACTICAL TRAINING CENTERS DEVELOPED THROUGH PRIVATE SECTOR

USAID-TAPP recently announced a partnership with a number of companies in Tanzania to provide valuable training to farmers through Practical Training Centers (PTCs). The PTCs are helping connect the private sector with smallholder farmers, agriculture institutions, food processors, and local markets. The curriculum development focuses on a learn-by-doing approach in practical field trainings.

The partnership brings together eight institutions and four agribusiness companies. Recently, the participants from various sectors visited a number of sites in Kilimanjaro and Arusha where training took place. The participants learned about initiatives related to horticulture training, smallholder farmer engagement, and partnerships with the private sector. The event included 15 facilitators and more than 20 students from Horti Tengeru.

Participants gained insight on how the best practices from all of these initiatives can be integrated to maximize the impact/effectiveness of the PTCs and compensate for gaps and missed opportunities of existing resources. This will ensure the skills transferred to the smallholder farmers maximize their production and knowledge on crops they produce.

The Deputy Director of Training in the Ministry of Agriculture, Food security and Cooperatives, Adam Gabriel Pyuza, spoke to the ministry's training activities and impact to date. His comments reinforce the government's involvement in supporting the horticulture sector and smallholder farmers in Tanzania.

MOTORBIKE PURCHASE MOTIVATES SMALLHOLDER FARMERS

In June, Ramadhani Nuru from the Maweninjoro Farmers Group in Babati, provided some inspiration to his fellow farmers after buying a motorbike from his recent sales of sweet pepper and tomatoes.

After several group members left the group, Nuru continued to harvest with the support of his family. The group sold 60 crates of tomato for Tsh 1,200,000 (\$750) and 15 sacks of sweet pepper for Tsh 675,000 (\$421). The sales were generated from the harvests of only 0.25 acres of sweet pepper and 0.25 acres of tomato. The new motorbike will be used for transportation and as an income generator for his family. After seeing his success; many of the other farmers have asked Ramadhan to allow them to join the group again.

The group is looking forward to expanding their land for additional production to increase their income and assist their community in overcoming poverty through horticulture.



Photo by Fintrac Inc

Ramadhani showcases his new motorbike, purchased with extra income from sales of sweet pepper and tomatoes.

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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