

Monthly Update – August 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.

## USAID-TAPP COLLECTS AWARDS AT NANE NANE

Recently, USAID-TAPP participated in the Nane Nane agricultural exhibition in several different locations around the country. Also known as Farmer's Day, the fair is held every year on the eighth day of the eighth month. The event gives farmers and institutions the opportunity to discuss their activities and production technologies with the public.

This year, USAID-TAPP and lead farmers working with USAID-TAPP collected three trophies for the top position in three zones. In the northern zone, USAID-TAPP received the first place trophy for the best nongovernmental institution, while in the central and southern zones the farmers working with USAID-TAPP received certificates as the best farmers in their respective zones.



*Photo by Fintrac Inc*  
USAID-TAPP staff pose with the trophy won during the Nane Nane agriculture exhibition in Arusha.

Since the start of the program, more than 17,000 hectares of land has been cultivated using good agricultural practices (GAPs). This has led farmers to increase their yields by more than 30 percent. More than 30,000 smallholder farmers have been actively implementing modern production technologies and at least 100,000 people have benefited from USAID-TAPP's technical trainings.

Juma Saidi Kambaga is a farmer who won first prize at Nane Nane edging out seven other individuals in the northern zone. USAID-TAPP's assistance has made a major impact on not only his farm, but those living nearby as well. "The technology and technical support I received from USAID-TAPP has given me the confidence to explain the benefits of greenhouses and its components to others. I am very happy and I appreciate what you do for the farmers." Said Kambaga.

The Nane Nane exhibition in Morogoro helped connect Kambaga to markets for his broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, and tomatoes. Kambaga earned approximately Tsh 500,000 (\$312) in sales of his produce during that week of the exhibition and was linked to markets in Morogoro and Dodoma regions.

Another farmer who won first place in the exhibition in the southern zone was Mary Tagalile, CEO of Mululumo Farm in Iringa. "We extend our sincere appreciation for the technical support, advice, time, resource, and efforts USAID-TAPP provided to the farm since 2012. It's with that we have reached this far," said Tagalile.

## MWANGAZA FARMERS GROUP BUMPS UP PRODUCTION FROM AGRICULTURAL LOAN

The Mwangaza farmers group from Mbuguni ward, Arusha region, was recently given an agricultural loan worth more than Tsh 26 million (\$16,250). This is one of the groups of more than 8 farmer groups which have obtained the loans from the Meru community bank.

The group's income before implementing GAPs was less than Tsh 1 million (\$625) per acre but with the support from USAID-TAPP's technical team the group has managed to earn more than Tsh 6 million (\$3,750) on just one acre. With the profits from the sales of their farm produce, the group was able to buy drip kits for their one acre plot. Going forward, the group plans to grow cabbage and sweet pepper which they hope will fetch high prices in the coming months.

The loan has resulted in 12.5 acres of watermelon and cabbage, fully managed by group members of Mwangaza farmers group. This has motivated other smallholder farmers who are thinking of becoming independent farmers to do the same. Through USAID-TAPP's access to finance program, increasing numbers of smallholder farmers are linked to financial institutions to acquire loans to increase production. As of this month, more than 20 farmer groups have qualified for agricultural loans totaling more than Tsh 150 million (\$93,750).

## US SENATORS VISIT USAID-TAPP OPERATIONS IN ZANZIBAR

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of August, five United States Senators visited Zanzibar, where they met the USAID-TAPP assisted CBR Kisauni farmers group.

Before USAID-TAPP support, the farmers grew crops for their own consumption but now they have sold 1,100 kgs of tomatoes earning them Tsh 1.5 million (\$937) from just 600 square meters. The use of hybrid seeds, raised beds, proper spacing, and other GAPs were well demonstrated.

Similar support has been given to 2,089 households on both Unguja and Pemba islands. The Senators were pleased to learn about the results obtained by CBR Kisauni farmers group and the overall impact of USAID-TAPP in Zanzibar.



*Photo by Fintrac Inc*  
The US Senators, USAID-Tanzania Mission representatives, and farmers attend a presentation at a farm in Unguja, Zanzibar.

### 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.

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