

Monthly Update – September 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.

PEMBA AND MPWAPWA CELEBRATE AGRICULTURAL SUCCESS

Earlier this month, Pemba and Mpwapwa held their first field days to celebrate their successes under good agricultural practices (GAPs). Both field days were honored with the presence of prominent government employees. In Pemba the regional and district commissioner and ten extension officers were present and in Mpwapwa the district commissioner was in attendance, accompanied by administrative and agricultural officers.

More than 350 smallholder farmers from across Pemba attended the field day. The farmers were able to observe how a drip irrigation system works which motivated them to improve their production so they can purchase their own drip kits.

Prior to USAID-TAPP assistance, the host of the field day the Kilimo Ajira Vitongoji farmers group from the Chake Chake district in Pemba had been planting tomatoes under rain fed irrigation and were earning less than Tsh 800,000 (\$500) from sales of their produce. Since receiving support from USAID-TAPP, the group has earned more than Tsh 1.59 million (\$994) from 0.5 acre of land after just four harvests, and are expecting additional returns from continued harvests.

On the 10th of September, the Ebenezer Ving'awe farmers group held a field day in Mpwapwa, Dodoma to demonstrate the success of their sweet pepper and hot/chili pepper plots under drip irrigation, and their tomato plot under furrow irrigation. The group had previously been farming on more than five acres and was earning Tsh 5 million (\$3,125). Since implementing GAPs, the group has earned more than Tsh 1.8 million (\$1,125) on just one acre of sweet pepper with harvest still ongoing. This increase has motivated additional farmers to adopt USAID-TAPP technologies. Participants at the field days learned about health and nutrition, sampled orange fleshed sweet potato (OFSP) juice, and learned about creative methods of preparing OFSP.

MORE SMALLHOLDERS TO BENEFIT IN HEALTH AND NUTRITION TRAINING

This month, the USAID-TAPP nutrition team and nutrition partners trained 2,675 participants (1,319 men and 1,356 women) on nutrition, HIV/AIDS, and kitchen garden establishment in 82 groups/villages across the country.

As a result, more than 6,705 OFSP vines were distributed to 79 individuals and one school. More than 12 farmer groups harvested OFSP tubers, and cooking demonstrations increased the participant's knowledge on different ways of cooking and preparing OFSP.



Photo by Fintrac Inc
At left, USAID-TAPP staff Praygod Mushi and Suleiman Mohamed, explain the uses and benefits of the drip irrigation technology as the South Region Commissioner Mwajuma Majid looks on.

In order to increase the consumption of nutritious vegetables, 115 kitchen gardens and 16 demo plots have been established with goals of providing access to nutritious vegetables at the lowest cost for beneficiaries and their community.

As requested by the director and the deputy principal secretary for the Zanzibar Ministry of Agriculture, USAID-TAPP's health and nutrition team is planning to support nutrition trainings for 12 Shehia (wards) Nutrition Committees. The aim of these trainings is to increase awareness and knowledge of nutrition among smallholder farmers and their families in Zanzibar.

In September, the Mwandege Boys School in Mkuranga, Pwani and the Sungaji Secondary School in Turiani, Morogoro have started feeding their students vegetables and OFSP from their school gardens, which they established after receiving training from USAID-TAPP.

ECO-AGRI CONSULT HOLDS ITS FIRST FIELD DAY

On the 12th of September, Eco-Agri Consult one of USAID-TAPP's prime partners held its first field day in Moshi, Kilimanjaro, where Domana Joram Meta was harvesting her first generation OFSPs distributed by Eco-Agri Consult.

Three types of OFSP were planted—Kabode, Ejumla, and Jewel, all which did very well on her plot. The field day was attended by representatives from USAID-TAPP partners Kibo Trading, Balton Tanzania, and Yara.

Speaking at the field day, Meta said the performance of the OFSP and tissue culture banana from Eco-Agri Consult has motivated her to cultivate additional land in Kilimanjaro for banana and OFSP production.

“In this field day, I managed to sell more than 30 kilograms of OFSP tubers which earned me Tsh 60,000 (\$37.50) and Tsh 300,000 (\$187) for OFSP plantlets. The OFSP sells at Tsh 3,500 (\$2) a kilo at the super markets which motivates me to keep producing,” said Meta.

Smallholder farmers from different parts of Kilimanjaro and Arusha regions were also inspired to start growing OFSP on their plots. In total, more than 300 bundles of ten vines each were sold for transplanting.

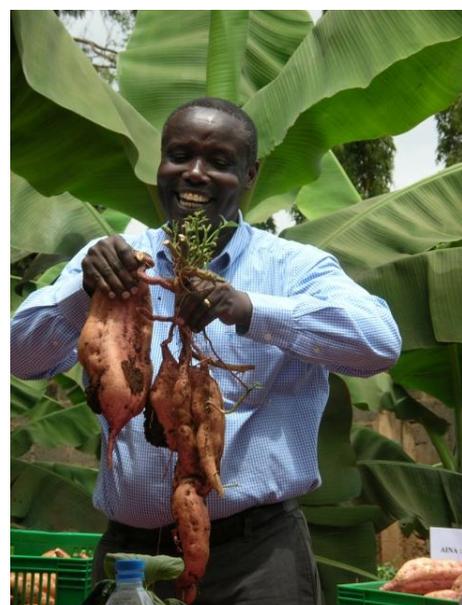


Photo by Fintrac Inc
Director of Eco-Agri Consult, Wilfred Mushobozi, holds OFSP harvested at a field day in Moshi, Kilimanjaro region.

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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