

Monthly Update – October 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 CONDUCTS NUTRITION TRAINING TO MORE THAN 200 PARTICIPANTS IN ZANZIBAR

USAID-TAPP conducted multiple trainings for more than 200 local government leaders and extension officers in the northern region of Zanzibar this month.

The trainings were requested by the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, following a request from the director of policy and planning, Maryam Saadala. The training provided support to 12 Shehia (ward) nutrition committees from North A and B districts in Zanzibar.

The participants received training on nutrition at the family level, including demonstrations on vegetable preparation and cooking, the uses of moringa, and orange fleshed sweet potato (OFSP) utilization and recipes.

USAID-TAPP nutrition specialists taught the participants how to make kitchen gardens to increase the availability of nutritious vegetables and improve dietary diversity while reducing the time and money spent buying vegetables from the market. The training disproved the belief that a balanced diet is expensive.

Prior to receiving nutrition training, Mwachani Juma Silima from Uvivini Shehia did not know the proper way to prepare and cook vegetables without losing nutritional value. "This training has helped a lot in reminding us how to conserve all nutrients in the vegetables, I also did not know OFSP can be used in making chapati/tortillas" said Silima.

The trainings will continue in the remaining regions of Unguja and Pemba islands where the Shehia health and nutrition committees and agriculture extension officers will be trained to adopt the USAID-TAPP health and nutrition program. Those who are trained will be able to share the newly learned practices to improve nutrition in their own communities.

ONION SALES REINVESTED IN IRRIGATION TECHNOLOGY

USAID-TAPP beneficiary farmer Mbagi Fred, a member of the Juhudi farmers group, has seen positive returns from his onion sales after adopting USAID-TAPP techniques. Before USAID-TAPP support, Mbagi produced 17 crates of tomatoes on 0.3 acres which earned him Tsh 289,000 (\$180). The sales from his tomatoes did not support investment and development to his farm which led him to try something new and adopt USAID-TAPP's techniques.



Photo by Fintrac Inc

Participants prepare dough for maandazi using OFSP and wheat flour at the training in Zanzibar under supervision of USAID-TAPP health and nutrition staff Immaculata Chitanda and Dorothy Magesse (not pictured).

As a result, Mbaga earned more than Tsh 3,000,000 (\$1,800) from the sale of 43 bags of onions harvested from 0.5 acres of land. From these sales, Mbaga invested the profits in his farm by purchasing a pump and digging a shallow well for irrigation for use during the next farming season.

“The support we receive from USAID-TAPP has made us to increase our production from the little we made earlier to the millions we made recently, we really appreciate the support,” said Mbaga. He added that he has invested some of his profit into the construction of a new house.

Before USAID-TAPP’s intervention, our onion farmers typically produced up to 3.1 tons of onions annually, however farmers have produced more than 17 tons of onions with an average of Tsh 6.4 million (\$4,000) per acre to date under USAID-TAPP technology.

17 GREEN HOUSES BUILT TO INCREASE INCOME FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN MOSHI

USAID-TAPP partner Vasso Agroventures Limited has planted four varieties of flowers in 17 of 25 greenhouses constructed with the support of USAID-TAPP in order to provide smallholder farmers in Moshi with an attractive income generating opportunity. The greenhouses have been set up in four villages and are benefiting more than 25 smallholder farmers to date.

The farmers, who mainly grew maize and bananas for an income of less than TSh 300,000 (\$190) per season, have begun growing flowers in the greenhouses for export.

The varieties being grown are coleus, tropaeolum, mattiola, viola, and pachyptum. The farmers are expected to earn Tsh 150,000 to 220,000 (\$93-\$137) per week from the sale of flowers, increasing their income more than 50 percent in just a few months of harvesting.



Photo by Fintrac Inc

James Mwanga (left), one of the flower growers in front of a greenhouse constructed with support from USAID-TAPP, after receiving technical support on disease control and pest management from Vasso agronomist Melvin Ngarason (right).

USAID-TAPP works with Vasso to enable farmers to receive technical support and increase their knowledge on pest management, good agricultural practices (GAPs), and disease control. USAID-TAPP and Vasso aim to expand the production of flower cuttings by increasing the number of wooden greenhouses from 25 to 74. These greenhouses are built next to the farmers’ homes, allowing them to care for their plants on a flexible schedule so that they can work on other income generating activities at the same time. Through this partnership, more than 100 farmers will be trained on GAPs and recommended technologies for improved production of high quality cut flowers.

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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