

Monthly Update – January 2015

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.

FARMERS SEE SIGNIFICANT SALES BOOST FROM MARKETS IN ZANZIBAR



Photo by Fintrac Inc

A horticulture farmer receiving technical and marketing support from USAID-TAPP harvests tomatoes on his farm in Arusha.

Smallholder farmers are increasing their incomes from the sale of horticultural produce such as tomatoes, onions, sweet peppers, and other vegetables in Zanzibar. The crops are primarily imported from the mainland and sold in Unguja's local markets. This gives Zanzibar's farmers a competitive advantage.

Ramadhan Omary Juma has been growing horticultural crops for more than seven years in Zanzibar. Prior to assistance from USAID-TAPP, he used local farming methods and depended on rainfall for irrigation. Juma's harvests typically resulted in earnings of less than TZS 1 million (\$588) on 2.5 acres of land. His limited income did not allow him to repay his loans from financial institutions.

In 2013, Juma met USAID-TAPP agronomist Omar Mohamed and began participating in USAID-TAPP trainings and applying good agriculture practices (GAPs) on his farm. The use of hybrid seeds, raised beds, and other GAPs has given him promise of a brighter future in agriculture.

From the harvests of his tomatoes under drip irrigation, Juma has earned more than TZS 128 million (\$75,294) on his 2.5 acres of land with an investment of just TZS 6 million (\$3,529) from September, 2014. "The prices for the tomato from my farm have been increasing regardless of 15 miles distance from Zanzibar town," said Juma.

"The profit from the sales of tomatoes has made me clear the loan from the financial institutions which makes me stay in peace. I have managed to improve my plot by purchasing a drip system and I have also improved my living standards," added Juma.

USAID-TAPP has been working closely with Zanzibar's smallholder farmers who have been receiving support in agronomy, health, and nutrition from USAID-TAPP technicians. More than 2,000 smallholder farmers have received support from USAID-TAPP.

STUDENTS MAKE THE MOST OF POLICE ACADEMY FARM

Students at the Moshi Police Academy have gained access to fresh vegetables from the academy plot. The vegetables include African eggplant, eggplant, amaranth, Chinese cabbage, tomatoes, and cabbage. The farm has substantially increased their earnings from the harvests of the vegetables and fruits.

The farm, which is the first one that the academy has had since its establishment in 2012, provides nutritional diversity from the crops grown. Julius Manga is in charge of the farm and has expressed his appreciation for the support from USAID-TAPP. “The farm has generated more than TZS 41.4 million (\$24,352) on 0.5 acres of cabbage, TZS 29 million (\$17,058) on 0.25 acres of high density banana, TZS 22.08 million (\$12,988) on 0.25 acres of tomatoes, TZS 13.8 million (\$8,117) on 0.25 acres of African eggplant, whereas Chinese cabbage and amaranth has brought in TZS 9.2 million (\$5,411) on 0.25 acres of land. The remaining 0.25 acres is a plot of high density banana which is not yet ready for harvesting,” said Manga.

“The plot does not only provide income and food security for the academy but it also provides the students with entrepreneurial education. The training on agriculture also makes the students aware of the different sources of income by learning to produce high valued crops under good agricultural practices and uses of hybrid seeds in uplifting the livelihood of smallholder farmers in the country,” added Manga.

Mandera Machumu, a student at the academy, says the farm expanded his knowledge of GAPs, enabling him to share his knowledge with other students. “I had no idea how much an individual can utilize a small plot of land and make so much money from horticulture crops,” said Machumu.

“Every time I get a chance to work at the farm in my free time, I learn new things which I look forward to putting into action when I finish my studies, even though I will be a policeman after graduation, I will not hesitate to grow a few high value crops,” said Datus Kamugisha, another student from Moshi Police Academy.

More than 6,000 students have received practical training since the farm was established.



Photo by Fintrac Inc
Datus Kamugisha (L) and Mandera Machumu (R) stand in a plot of eggplant at the Moshi Police Academy farm. Behind them is a plot of high density banana.

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“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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