

Monthly Update – May 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.

POSITIVE INTERNATIONAL EXPANDS REACH



Photo by Fintrac Inc
Samson Saria (R) and Yohana Saria (M) display tomatoes harvested from their plot which are sold in Agnes Makoti's (L) shop in Mto wa Mbu Manyara District.

In May, Positive International Ltd (PIL), a partner of USAID-TAPP, gave smallholder farmers in the southern zone improved access to agricultural inputs with the opening of several new shops. The availability of seeds, fertilizers, and other inputs will save farmers money in transportation costs, as the locations of these shops are closer to the villages where they live.

With assistance from USAID-TAPP, PIL has conducted trainings on hybrid seeds, fertigation, record keeping, and integrated pest control, creating awareness of the appropriate products that the smallholder farmers should use. PIL has also identified demo plot locations to assist farmers in practical lessons on good agricultural practices (GAPs) such as the use of raised beds, trellising, and fertilizer application.

Julius Panga, one of the owners of the franchise shops, confirmed an increase in the sale of agricultural products because of the strategic location of the shops near smallholder

farmers. Before working with PIL, Panga experienced a delay in the delivery of inputs which resulted in a scarcity of most products. Panga said that PIL's sophisticated system has assured the availability of inputs in a timely manner.

"There is a very positive response from smallholder farmers; the farmers have adopted the use of hybrid seed as well as pest control inputs. Farmers have also declared an increase in production, especially the use of Sukari FI seeds which have yielded more than two kilograms per watermelon fruit," said Panga.

Yohana Saria, a farmer from Manyara, explained that the increase in access to inputs because of PIL's new shops has had positive effects. "I have been able to succeed especially with the easy access of inputs. I do not need to travel to Arusha when I can buy all the inputs here in Mto wa Mbu. The availability of these products has saved us time and money, I now enjoy a lot of harvests from hybrid seeds and protect my crops from diseases and pests from available products," he said.

USAID-TAPP supports companies such as PIL, enabling them to grow and provide smallholder farmers with agricultural inputs to boost horticulture production and increase their incomes. PIL has a strong record of input sales totaling more than TZS 100 million (approximately \$50,000) from 32 franchise shops.

NUTRITION TRAINING EXPANDED THROUGH KITCHEN GARDENS AND OFSP

A total of 1,358 individuals received nutrition, HIV/AIDS, and kitchen garden establishment training from USAID-TAPP and implementing partners in May in more than 40 villages in Mbeya, Kilimanjaro, and Arusha. This was followed by the distribution of orange-fleshed sweet potato (OFSP) vines, with more than 9,800 vines distributed.

USAID-TAPP partner Rungwe Small Tea Growers Association (RSTGA) received 8,000 vines from Eco-Agri Consult, another project partner. Four multiplication tunnels were established for vine multiplication, and the remaining vines were distributed to 168 smallholder farmers in Rungwe, Mbeya region to be planted for open field multiplication. RSTGA also trained more than 300 individuals on HIV/AIDS prevention, nutrition, and kitchen garden establishment, with more than 100 kitchen gardens established in homesteads of the beneficiaries.

Two additional USAID-TAPP partners saw impressive results in May. Child Reach established an OFSP tunnel and multiplication plot at Ghona Primary School in Kilimanjaro and planted vines for tubers in four other schools. Global Service Corps (GSC) trained 589 farmers on nutrition, agriculture, and HIV/AIDS in Arusha, Tanga, and Manyara, during which 61 kitchen gardens were established. GSC also hosted a field day to create awareness on nutrition and agriculture for Babati residents.

To increase awareness of the benefits and utilization of OFSP, USAID-TAPP has been working closely with the project nutrition team and Eco-Agri Consult to train individuals and groups through cooking demonstrations. Several selling points have been identified and are launching, and progress is being made in the creation of OFSP markets. Fruits and vegetable vendors in local food markets are encouraged to start selling the crop and are assisted with OFSP-branded stalls for the sale of tubers and vines. This will increase the sales and expand the market for OFSP.



Photo by Fintrac Inc
USAID-TAPP technician Eric Joseph (L) teaches members of the New Vision farmers group how to construct a kitchen garden.

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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