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NAFAKA

STAPLES VALUE CHAIN ACTIVITY

TASK ORDER NO. AID-623-I-10-00001

QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT
(January 1, 2013 – March 31, 2013)

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DISCLAIMER

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The NAFKA Staples Value Chain Activity is a five year Task Order issued by USAID under the Tanzania Feed the Future (FtF) Initiative and administered by ACDI/VOCA. NAFKA integrates agricultural, gender, environment and nutritional development efforts to improve smallholder farmer productivity and profitability within the rice and maize value chains in Morogoro (Kilombero and Mvomero Districts), Dodoma (Kongwa district) and Manyara (Kiteto District). NAFKA is sustainably reducing poverty and food insecurity by increasing incomes for smallholder farmers, including men, women and youth.

This Quarterly Performance Report for the period January 1 - March 31, 2013 contains the following sections consistent with the quarterly reporting format requested by USAID/Tanzania: (1) this Executive Summary; (2) Introduction; (3) Implementation Progress; (4) Activities Implemented in Zanzibar; (5) Key Achievements/ Results; (6) Problems/Challenges; (7) Planned Activities for the Next Quarter; (7) Special Issues; and (8) Cross-Cutting Issues. Annex One of this report includes quantitative information on performance against PMP Indicators, while Annex Two includes Success Stories submitted to the Mission during this reporting period. Financial information for the reporting period is submitted under separate cover in the Quarterly Financial Report as per requirements detailed in Section F.6(e) of our Task Order.

The following is a summary of highlights of this reporting period:

Operations and Management

During this quarter, Market Linkages Specialist ██████████ assumed the role of Deputy Chief of Party. ██████████ is now overseeing the technical team based in Morogoro, Tanzania. She takes over for former-DCOP ██████████, who has transitioned to a senior technical advisor on the program. ██████████ launched activities in Zanzibar this past quarter, and will be moving to an intermittent role on the project beginning next quarter.

Scale-up and Outreach

NAFAKA saw increased scale up in of activities and beneficiary outreach during the quarter under review, NAFKA reached a total of 5,785 new beneficiaries, out of whom 2,587 are females. NAFKA has now reached a cumulative total of more than 18,000, with significant scale-up taking place in the maize-growing areas during this reporting period. This number is expected to increase to a cumulative total of approximately 25,000 beneficiaries by the end of this growing season as we continue to validate data collected in both the rice and maize-growing areas. NAFKA also launched activities in Zanzibar this quarter.

Table I: Number of Beneficiaries Reached

Districts	Performance during the reporting period (Jan-March 2013)			Cumulative (Oct 2011 to March 2013)		
	Women	Men	Quarterly Total	Women	Men	Cumulative Total
Kilombero	258	177	435	4,598	5,372	9,970
Kiteto	605	846	1,451	623	874	1,497
Kongwa	1,307	1,842	3,149	1,445	2,143	3,588
Mvomero	193	157	350	1,325	1,574	2,899
Zanzibar	224	176	400	224	176	400
Overall	2,587	3,198	5,785	8,215	10,139	18,354

Source: March 2013 NAFKA Field Data

Improved Value Chain Productivity

- **Training:** NAFKA has reached a total of 18,354 producers since project inception, of which 45% are women. Ninety-seven percent of these beneficiaries have received training on good agricultural practices and various production technologies, including practical GAP training on more than 500 demonstration plots as training platforms.
- **Private Sector Engagement:** Input supply companies contributed approximately \$27,000 in in-kind products and services. Participating companies include Yara, Syngenta, ByTrade, SeedCo, AgriSeeds Tech, Highland Seeds, Minjingu, TANSEED, and Export Trading Group. Demonstration plots were established in partnership with these companies, whose agronomists participated in training sessions on the plots to demonstrate the effectiveness of their inputs.
- **KPL Outgrowers:** The KPL-NAFKA partnership has expanded its efforts to include 4,000 outgrowers trained in SRI production technology and other Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), formed into ten now legally-registered associations. Of these 4,000 outgrowers, 612 qualified for production loans from both YOSEFO and NMB during this reporting period. This number is expected to grow significantly in the next growing season.
- **Village-Based Extension:** NAFKA's now has a network of 137 Village Based Agricultural Advisors (VBAs) offer farmer-to-farmer extension services. The VBAs promote the use of improved seed varieties and fertilizers by distributing "starter packs" to farmers for application on their adoption plots accompanied by training on good agricultural practices and appropriate application of the distributed inputs. Each of these VBAs reach between 100- 250 farmers, representing a significant project scale-up in beneficiaries reached.
- **Irrigated Agriculture:** NAFKA's Irrigated Agriculture specialist continues to provide productivity training to the 954 members of the Uwawakuda Water Users Cooperative.
- **Progressive Farmer Program:** grants were issued during this reporting period to 48 carefully-screened producers demonstrating potential to become commercial farmers. In addition to grants enabling them to expand and upgrade their land under production, each of these progressive farmers receives training on good agricultural practices, access to finance, financial management, and marketing. These farmers then extends training to an average of 20 neighboring farmers on GAPs. A total of fifty-six farmers have received grants since project inception, more than half of whom are women.

Expanding Markets and Trade

- **Marketing:** The project established and reinforced contacts between traders, including Mtenda Kyela, Fraho Enterprises, Export Trading and various others, and NAFKA-supported producer associations in both the rice and maize regions to facilitate buyer relationships and develop forward contracting mechanisms.
- **Association Development:** NAFKA builds the capacity of 48 producer associations to practice collective storage and marketing, trading, negotiating and purchase of inputs. We are also currently assisting two large apex associations, AKIRIGO and Kongwa Cereal Growers Association (KCGA) to enable farmer-members to collectively supply high quality rice and maize to local traders and NFRA.
- **Institutional Capacity Development:** NAFKA is building the institutional capacity of the Uwawakuda Water User's Cooperative through a grant that upgrades its financial management capacity and provides essential equipment to modernize its record-keeping.
- **Warehouse Upgrading:** NAFKA worked with EAGC to train warehouse operators in target regions and continues to administer 4 warehouse upgrading grants.
- **Access to Finance:** Project Activities attracted a second credit provider, the National Microfinance Bank, to the outgrower scheme of Kilombero Rice Plantations (KPL). The KPL-NAFKA partnership has been successful at facilitating the entry of two major micro-finance institutions to this outgrower scheme where none existed previously. Both these MFIs have indicated their commitment to establish a permanent presence in the area to serve these outgrowers.

- **Micro-Insurance:** NAFKA and the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Development have joined forces to develop a pilot weather-based, scalable crop insurance activity with KPL outgrowers. During this reporting period, Syngenta Foundation engaged in a “dry-run protocol” at the KPL outgrower scheme using satellite imagery and on-the-ground data collection on stages of crop development and farm inputs used by outgrowers. The purpose of this dry-run protocol is to perfect the insurance index and test the viability of using satellite data.

Increased Private Investment in Agriculture

- **Input Suppliers:** NAFKA facilitated the contribution of \$27,000 in private investment in extension and input marketing, through 9 private sector input suppliers (highlighted above).
- The Syngenta Foundation is investing its own resources for conducting the dry-run protocols for micro-insurance, with NAFKA’s contribution being staff time for data collection purposes.
- **Outgrower Schemes:** NAFKA continues to conduct joint activities with Kilombero Plantation Limited (KPL) and recently launched activities to develop an outgrower program with Kilombero Valley Teak Company (KVTC), for both employees and local farmers.
- **Innovation Grants:** NAFKA has issued grants over this past quarter, which require partner cost share to ensure commitment towards the activity and towards sustainability. Grant recipients this quarter include:
 - Progressive farmer’s development grant: 48 micro-grants have been issued to develop the capacity of these potential commercial farmers.
 - TANSEED International: This \$130,000 grant has been issued to assist in the development of a certified seed outgrowers’ program, with farmers in Mvomero, and included an approximately \$70,000 match.
 - Warehouse upgrading grants: 4 Associations were selected for this grant. The grants cover upgrades of office and warehouse equipment i.e. computers, furniture, warehouse equipment among other items.
 - The agro dealer grants program, commenced its second milestone this quarter. This involved the grantees conducting field training on Good Agricultural Practice and Land Preparation to NAFKA beneficiaries.

Increased Income for Vulnerable Communities and Households

To increase resiliency in NAFKA focused villages this quarter, 28 new savings and internal lending communities (SILCs) were formed during this reporting period, using the model developed by NAFKA subcontractor CRS. To date we have mobilized 79 SILC groups; 64 of them are in a saving phase. These 79 SILC’s are comprised of 1,497 individuals who are members of vulnerable groups in Kilombero District. The cumulative value of savings has reached USD 55,564, with the value of loans exceeding USD 48,101. Members of SILC groups use their loans for income generating activities, including family gardens to improve nutritional intake, and to finance critical family needs through the increase of assets.

Increased access to diverse and quality foods

Working with other Feed the Future partners (Tuboreshe Chakula, Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program (TAPP) and Mwanzo Bora), millers have been trained on proper maintenance of mills as well as proper milling and storage of food to reduce spoilage, insect and rodent infestation, and ensure high quality food. NAFKA producers in Kilombero district have benefitted from this, particularly producers comprising the membership of those associations using the USAID-Compete mills. TAPP has also involved producers within NAFKA clusters on alternative crops, including highly-nutritious vegetables. In addition, in collaboration with Mwanzo Bora, NAFKA has introduced alternative crops with producer-members of the Uwawakuda Water Users Cooperative, who are primarily paddy farmers but who now have been introduced to highly-nutritious alternative legume and vegetable crops.

Improved Enabling Policy Environment for both Agriculture and Nutrition

NAFAKA continues to work closely with the FtF Sera Activity on policy initiatives. During this reporting period, we developed a Scope of Work for NAFKA subcontractor AIRD to conduct a study on the role of the National Food Reserve Agency, scheduled for next reporting period. This is in follow-up to the policy study on alternatives to export bans for ensuring food security conducted by NAFKA in mid-2012.

II. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Description

The project aligns with the Feed the Future (FtF) goal to harmonize regional hunger- and poverty-fighting efforts in countries with chronic food insecurity and insufficient production of staple crops. NAFKA works with rural communities and the Government of Tanzania to analyze the local rice and maize value chains and develop strategies to strengthen them. NAFKA represents a commitment to Tanzania's country-led Kilimo Kwanza initiative to reinvigorate agricultural growth emerging from the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) process.

The NAFKA team is composed of a consortium of subcontractors that include:

- ACDI/VOCA—overall project management, operations and technical leadership
- Rural and Urban Development Initiative (RUDI) and Mtandao WaVikund VyaWakulima Tanzania (MVIWATA) – local organizations focused on developing farmer's associations in target locations.
- Farm Input Promotions-Africa (FIPS) – East African organization developing village based extension.
- IFDC providing technical expertise in rice production, irrigation and agro-dealer networks.
- Danya International – providing technical expertise in behavior change communications
- Kimetrica – supporting the monitoring and evaluation team and IT development.
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS) – addressing the needs of the most vulnerable in target regions.
- Short-term technical support from MatchMaker Associates, Crown Agents and Associates for International Resources and Development (AIRD).

2.2 Goals and objectives

The goal of NAFKA is to sustainably reduce poverty and hunger by improving the productivity and competitiveness of value chains that offer job and income opportunities for rural households. The goal aligns with the Feed the Future Initiative (FtF) overall goal, “to sustainably reduce poverty and hunger.” NAFKA promotes growth by facilitating competitiveness of the smallholder-based rice value chain, and balances these impacts on growth and broader effects to reduce poverty through investments aimed at improving the competitiveness and productivity of the maize value chain.

To sustainably reduce hunger and poverty, NAFKA will:

- Improve the competitiveness and productivity of the rice and maize value chains;
- Facilitate improved domestic and regional trade in rice and maize;
- Expand the depth and breadth of benefits from the growth of the rice and maize subsectors, including increased benefits to women and youth; and
- Enhance rural household nutrition by promoting women-focused value chain development and improved consumption of a quality diet.

III. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

This section presents NAFKA’s progress in implementing activities according to the key areas of the Feed the Future Results Framework. The key result areas of NAFKA are:

- Improved Value Chain Productivity.
- Expanding Markets and Trade.
- Increased private investment in agriculture.
- Increased Income for Vulnerable Smallholders.

Cross-cutting issues are addressed in Section 8 of this report, which include gender integration, behavior change communication, environment and natural resource management, behavior change communications, and Monitoring and Evaluation.

3.1 IR. I: Improved Value Chain Productivity

A number of interventions are implemented by NAFKA in order to address low productivity in both rice and maize value chains. Improving productivity requires behavior change, the willingness by individuals to take initiative, and the access to information, services and practices to facilitate that change. The project facilitates agricultural productivity through direct and facilitated training, lead farmer development, village based extension development, sponsoring demonstration plots with input providers, hosting farmer field days, amongst other activities. During this quarter, NAFKA saw a rapid expansion in the maize-growing areas due to a large scale-up in demonstration activities through the VBAA model of farmer-to-farmer extension services implemented by NAFKA subcontractor FIPS.

3.1.1 Demonstration Plots

Last quarter, NAFKA finalized the demonstration plot protocols. This quarter saw a roll out in developing the demonstration plots across all project districts. These plots act as platforms for good-agricultural practice training, for farmer field days, and for input companies to showcase and demonstrate their products. Demonstration plot protocols were developed with extension methodology in mind. Lead Farmers (identified through associations) host plots that are designed for more hands-on training throughout the season with association members. These plots can showcase up to 14 technologies and practices, including intercropping with food security crops. Village Based Advisor plots protocols are more simple, as these individuals reach out to farmers throughout the village through the dissemination of learning packs. Protocols focus on 3 key technologies which are shown to improve yields considerably: improved seed, fertilizer and spacing.

Rice Demonstration Plots:

In KPL cluster, NAFKA agronomists in conjunction with KPL agronomists are promoting “System of Rice Intensification” Methodology. SRI concepts and practices adapted to rain-fed (unirrigated) conditions include promoting:

- rice field soils should be kept moist rather than continuously saturated, minimizing anaerobic conditions, as this improves root growth and supports the growth and diversity of aerobic soil organisms;

Rice Cluster	Type of Plot	# of Plots
Mang'ula	Lead Farmer	16
Ifakara- North	Lead Farmer	22
	VBAA	73
Mlimba	Lead Farmer	18
	VBAA	40
KPL		124
KVTC		9
Mvomero	Lead Farmer	19
	VBAA	26
Total		347

- rice plants should be planted singly and spaced optimally widely to permit more growth of roots and canopy and to keep all leaves photosynthetically active; and
- rice seedlings should be transplanted when young, less than 15 days old with just two leaves, quickly, shallow and carefully, to avoid trauma to roots and to minimize transplant shock.

By the end of reporting period 2867 are the confirmed number of farmers who are working under SRI program, 2432 farmers are actively participating in the demo plots and 435 are slightly participating due to various reasons, more detailed are depicted in the table no. SRI is also being promoted in KVTC cluster, with ten demo plots being accessed by 166 farmers. While yields will not be known until after the harvest during the next reporting period, the technology being applied by KPL outgrowers on the SRI plots is expected to significantly increase yields compared to farmers employing traditional farming practices.

Maize Demonstration Plots

NAFAKA is promoting conservation agriculture techniques in the maize growing areas of Kongwa, Kiteto and, minimally, Mvomero. Conservation agriculture (CA) aims to produce high crop yields while reducing production costs, maintaining the soil fertility and conserving water. It is a way to achieve sustainable agriculture and improve livelihoods. Conservation agriculture has three basic principles:

- *Disturb the soil as little as possible.* The ideal is to plant direct into the soil, without hoeing or ploughing. Tillage is reduced to ripping planting lines or making holes for planting with a hoe.
- *Keep the soil covered as much as possible.* Mulch, special cover crops and/or crop residues left on the field protect the soil from erosion and limit weed growth throughout the year. This is opposed to conventional farming practices, whereby farmers remove, burn crop residues or mixes them into the soil with a plough or hoe. As a consequence, the soil is left bare, so it is easily washed away by rain, or is blown away by the wind.
- *Mix and rotate crops.* Planting of the same crop each season - as sometimes practiced in conventional farming is minimized by planting the right mix of crops in the same field, and rotating crops from season to season. This allows a breakdown of survival and multiplication cycles of pests, diseases and weeds resulting in higher yields and maintenance of soil fertility.¹ NAFKA promoted the following rotation crops: pigeon peas, cowpeas, sunflowers, and dolichos lab lab.

Many plots in the districts benefited from access to professional rippers, though conservation agriculture can also be promoted through the use of the spring jembe, which most VBAs had access to. A limited amount of herbicide is often applied to CA fields to reduce weed growth, though this technique was used on only a select number of NAFKA plots, as shown in the table below.

Maize Cluster	Type of Plot	# Conservation Farming Plots		Regular	Total
		Ripped	Herbicide	Non-Ripped	
Mvomero	Lead Farmer	7	0		7
	VBAA			7	
Kongwa	Lead Farmer	12	11		128
	VBAA	19	13	97	
Kiteto	Lead Farmer	44	37		105
	VBAA	11	4	50	
Total		93		154	247

¹ <http://www.infonet-biovision.org/default/ct/283/biodiversity>

3.1.2 Good- Agriculture Practices -- Training Activities

Using the demonstration plots as a platform, NAFKA agronomists, village based agricultural advisors, agro-input companies, agro-dealer extension agents, and government extension agents providing training in modern agricultural technologies and practices. Training on GAP is the initial step aimed at imparting knowledge and skills so that producers develop the capacity to adopt and in turn increase marginal sales and yields. 17,869 beneficiaries have received productivity training since project inception. Farmers were encouraged to cultivate a portion of their fields under improved conditions.

During the quarter the following trainings were conducted on demonstration plots:

- NAFKA’s agronomists and water management experts continued to provide ‘hands on’ technical training to smallholder farmers to realize the potential of irrigated agriculture, as well as water management in rain-fed areas. Training in rice areas included seed bed preparation (including proper bunding and leveling), seed sowing, construction of irrigation channels, deepening drainage to required depths, seedling and seedbed transplanted, basal fertilization, and seedbed irrigation. Agricultural practices focusing on proper water management can result in vast improvements in agricultural production and assure economic vitality for the region. Training specific to SRI and Conservation Agriculture were also conducted, as described above in section 3.1.1.
- Village Based Agricultural Advisors (VBAs) trained smallholder farmers on proper land preparations, harrowing and band preparations, basal fertilizer applications, proper seed sowing and spacing, importance of using improved seeds, fertilizer top dressing, herbicide application and use of protective gears, field pest management, and weed management. Farmers have increased access to extension and advisory services through these independent VBAs.
- To meet national and international standards for seeds and further develop quality standards for seed production, processing and storage, 19 lead farmers (11 men and 8 women) from Mvomero attended a Training of Trainers on quality seed production. They were also trained on and how to establish demonstration plots that compare crops using good agricultural practices and counterfeited inputs.

Cluster	Type of Demo.	Avg No. of farmers
Kiteto	VBAAs	50
	Lead farmers	9
Kongwa	VBAAs	10
	Lead farmers	8
Mvomero	Lead farmers	12
	VBAAs	15
Kilombero	Lead farmers	8
	VBAAs	10
KPL	Lead farmer	20
KVTC	Lead Farmer	20

3.1.3 Increased access to inputs and technologies

In addition to good agricultural practices, NAFKA promotes and demonstrates the application of improved technologies to our targeted beneficiaries. The technologies include improved seed, fertilizers, agro-chemicals, irrigation or mechanization equipment, and fertilizers. Activities to increase farmer’s access to these technologies include:

Quality Produced Seed

In order to increase local production of quality seeds, NAFKA identified and supported local rice seed production of Quality Declared Seed (QDS) as well as certified seed production of TXD 306 in partnership with TANSEED International. TANSEED, together with NAFKA’s seed specialist, have been overseeing the selection of associations for seed production. To date, 56 producers have been identified to produce certified TXD306 rice seed, of which 26 are women. Each has signed a contract with TANSEED to produce

approximately 250 MT of seed, which is expected to result in production of 14,000 MT of QDS. This intervention will not only increase local producer access of improved seeds but further enhance the involvement of private seed companies in sustaining the availability of seeds within the area.

To expand on-going production schemes NAFKA has introduced specific varieties of quality seed to our beneficiaries, making available an alternative to the improved TXD 306. The introduced varieties include Nerica I and Supa, which are promoted through demonstration plots.

Private Sector Input Supplier Engagement

NAFKA has created a platform, through demonstration plots and ToTs, for input companies to demonstrate their products, with the objective of stimulating demand for these products. To date, 9 companies have worked with NAFKA: Yara (Fertilizer), Syngenta (Agro chemicals), TANSEED (Seeds), Bytrade (Seeds, Agro Chemicals), Minjingu (Fertilizer), Export Trading (Fertilizer), Seedco (Seeds), Agriseed Technologies Ltd. (Seeds), Highland Seeds (Seeds) and Kick Start (Agricultural equipment). This quarter, 27,253 USD was invested in demonstration plots and for small packs. These companies view NAFKA as a marketing opportunity to demonstrate their products to thousands of farmers, extending their marketing outreach to the farm level that their current outreach networks cannot provide.

The table below highlights the type and amount of inputs demonstrated or distributed in our areas of operation (during the quarter) which include; Kilombero, Mvomero, Kongwa and Kiteto.

Table 2: In-Kind contributions of inputs within NAFKA intervention areas during the quarter

S/N	INPUT	TOTAL (kilograms)
1	Minjingu Mazao (fertilizer)	2,300
2	UREA (fertilizer)	1,150
3	Yara Mila Cereal (fertilizer)	3,800
4	DAP (fertilizer)	225
6	YARA NITROBAR (fertilizer)	15
7	TAN H 600 (maize seed)	32
8	TAN 254 (maize seed)	217
9	TAN 250 (maize seed)	284
10	SC 627 (maize seed)	1,350
11	SC 403 (maize seed)	1,323
12	SC 513 (maize seed)	1,330
13	SILA (sorghum seed)	770
14	TMV-I (maize seed)	50
16	TXD 306 (rice seed)	1,101
17	Kilima (maize seed)	50
18	Record (Sunflower seed)	50
20	P 3253 (maize seed)	1,331
21	P 2859 (maize seed)	845

Source: March 2013 NAFKA Field Data

Agro-dealer Development

NAFAKA subcontractor IFDC conducted a training of trainers on Agricultural Product Knowledge, with a participant list that included 8 input supply companies; YARA, SYNGENTA, MONSANTO, SEEDCO, MINJINGU, BYTRADE, Greenbelt and Kick start. The training topics included adult facilitation skills and technical knowledge on proper selection and application of fertilizer, seed and agro-chemicals. This ToT is the first milestone for agro dealers to complete in order to receive a grant from the project.

Bulk purchase of inputs through associations:

Through NAFKA association development activities (outlined in 3.2 below), associations in Kilombero were able to bulk purchase inputs worth Tsh. 444 million through reputable input suppliers.

3.1.4 Increasing access to extension services

NAFAKA is currently involved in a number of initiatives which will increase the supply of rural extension services to farmers. These include:

Village Based Agricultural Advisors

NAFAKA's network of 137 Village Based Agricultural Advisors (VBAs) offer farmer-to-farmer extension services. The VBAs promote the use of improved seed varieties and fertilizers by distributing "starter packs" to farmers for application on their adoption plots accompanied by training on good agricultural practices and appropriate application of the distributed inputs. Each of these VBAs reaches between 100-250 farmers. They are being trained to offer a number of for fee services, including input sales, chicken vaccinations, herbicide applications, and general extension/advisory services.

Agro-dealer Extension

Through cost-share agro-dealer grants, NAFKA is facilitating the ability of agro-dealers to offer extension services in GAP and input promotion. The agro-dealer extension agents worked hand in hand this season with NAFKA agronomists to develop demonstration plots in rice growing areas. It is expected that they will be able to perform this function without NAFKA support in going season.

Radio Station Extension

NAFAKA was able to facilitate the radio messaging targeting the good agricultural practices of using quality seed and the proper use of fertilizer. A total of 672 slots of public service advertisements/radio spots were aired through two community radio stations broadcasting from Kilombero and Dodoma Districts, respectively. More details can be found under section 9.2 – Behavior Change Communication.

3.2 IR. 2: Expanding Markets and Trade

NAFAKA aims at facilitating investments along the rice and maize value chains, by addressing critical constraints in the form of improved and/or less costly access to markets, market information, storage, finance and transport. NAFKA market and trade activities are focused on fostering monetary and relationship transactions up and down the value chain focusing on market information systems, collective marketing strategies, buyer linkages, stakeholder networking events and information sharing platforms. In order to achieve the above NAFKA has adopted the association development approach.

3.2.1 Association Development

The Association Development team continued to provide capacity building support to associations formed in previous quarters. NAFKA is currently building the capacity of 48 producer associations comprising 10,153 members, 45 per cent of whom are women. Association development training is being conducted through four modules: leadership, marketing, recordkeeping and business operations. During this quarter, NAFKA

engaged a training specialist to work with our association development team to harmonize association training, define content of training manuals and ensure coordination and consistency of trainings throughout NAFKA. Individual trainer guides and participant manuals have been developed for each of the four training modules.

Kilombero Association Activities

NAFAKA is currently supporting rice value chain actors in 30 villages in Kilombero, working with a total of 5,000 farmers (47% women) organized in 147 farmer groups in 30 associations. This quarter, activities with both new and old associations, included:

Refresher in Business Operations: During this quarter, refresher training on business operations was conducted to 91 association leaders. This particular training was conducted with the core objective of assessing whether the initial training conducted in the first year of the project's implementation had any impact on the association's performance. The topics facilitated in this training included: membership – communication, retention and recruitment; internal controls; the role of women; cash-flow; and cash-flow forecast. The participants that attended the training included association leaders and local government authorities. This training also focused on facilitation of bulk inputs.

Association Registration: Facilitating the farmer associations to be formalized through registration process which involves a 10-step process. A total of 4 additional farmer associations were registered under the Ministry of Home Affairs making a total of registered associations to 10.

KPL and KVTC Association Activities:

Association activities in these clusters focused on linkages with the productivity teams and facilitating access to finance (section 3.2.2 below). New groups and farmers were encouraged to join existing associations through demonstration plots and field days.

Mvomero Associations Activities:

In Mvomero, activities focused on reviewing or developing constitutions and formally registering associations. For six associations in Mvomero, the process began with development of associations' constitutions in which all leaders of each association participated effectively. All associations were required to review their constitutions and approve through associations' general meetings. Then field officer facilitated development of all necessary documents for registration, which includes minutes of general meeting for constitution approval, association's leaders CVs, printed association constitution and registration fee was also collected in four(4) out of 6 associations.

NAFAKA team further supported the Mgongola association to establish a draft of their constitution. This activity was done through participatory methodology of with engagement of stakeholders from five villages. In collaboration with Zonal Irrigation Office, NAFKA facilitated a meeting whereby 168 members of Mgongola Association gathered to review and approve the draft of their constitution ready for registration. The draft together with leaders' CVs were taken to the Ministry of Agriculture for reference and there after submitted to the Ministry of Home affairs for registration.

Uwawakuda Cooperative Development Activities:

NAFAKA is building the institutional capacity of the Uwawakuda Water User's Association through a grant which provides for financial management support and training, and upgrading of facilities to improve record keeping.

Kongwa Association Development Activities:

NAFAKA is currently assisting KCGA in sensitizing group mobilization activities in Kongwa for collective trading. Currently 1,600 farmers comprising 126 groups have been formed, assisting KCGA to collectively supply member maize to NFRA and other maize traders.

3.2.2 Access to finance

Agricultural Loans:

In the KPL cluster, NMB and YOSEFO have disbursed loans to 612 farmers to date. By the end of reporting period, NMB and YOSEFO issued loans to 189 and 382 farmers respectively. The loans are worth 400,000 per farmer. Table 4 below highlights the number of farmers who have received loans within the KPL Exclusive Zone. . Many otherwise eligible outgrowers declined loans because of what they perceived as NMB's overly-complex application process, which NMB has indicated it will simplify next year.

Table 3: Number of farmers who have received loans within KPL

S/N	Name of village	Number of farmers received loan and cultivated under SRI Techniques	Number of financial institution provided loan
1	Merera	35	NMB
2	Chita	37	NMB
3	Chisano	31	NMB
4	Ikule	56	NMB /YOSEFO
5	Udagaji	43	NMB
6	Lukolongo	46	YOSEFO
7	Mkangawalo	142	YOSEFO
8	Njage	116	YOSEFO
9	Mchombe	42	YOSEFO
10	Mngeta	72	YOSEFO
<i>Grand Total</i>		<i>612</i>	

Source: March 2013NAFAKA Field Data

At the Uwawakuda irrigated perimeter, NAFKA is facilitating the CRDB bank to loan to 64 borrowers who showed interest, which will be guaranteed by PASS.

Micro-Insurance:

Syngenta Foundation is conducting a pilot to develop a weather-based, scalable input insurance for paddy smallholders. The pilot was initiated in late-December 2012. NAFKA facilitates this investment by: 1) linking and access to KPL core farm, out growers and participating financial institutions, 2) to take weekly photographs from selected KPL outgrower farms in the first year of the pilot (this season), and 3) to share rice value chain studies to help Syngenta Foundation calculate their business case. The target is for 120-150 KPL outgrowers to participate in the pilot insurance scheme for the 2013-2014 growing season. An interim dry run report has been submitted which analysed rain gauge versus satellite data, with some preliminary findings as follows:

- Both rain gauges and satellite imagery identified dry spells within similar periods.
- No extreme rainfall events were identified by either mechanism.
- Mkangawalo location: Rain gauges performed slightly better than satellite imagery in identifying rainfall inception dates. The satellite imagery picked a date two days earlier than the actual sowing date. Both rain gauges and satellite imagery performed equally well in identifying a brief dry spell in early-February which, from the ground observation reports, did not have a major impact on the crop.

- **Mngeta location:** Neither satellite imagery nor the rain gauges performed particularly well in selecting rain inception date, picking dates five and six days later than the actual sowing dates respectively. Satellite imagery performed slightly better than the rain gauge in this case. They performed equally well in identifying two brief dry spells in late-January and early-February which, from ground observation reports, did not have a major impact on the crop.

NAFAKA is considering whether to collaborate with the Syngenta Foundation on the next phase of this pilot activity, to include insuring a select group of outgrowers receiving loans from YOSEFO and NMB during the 2013-2014 growing season, involving a total maximum insured loan value of US\$30,000. This limit is based on Syngenta Foundation's experience in piloting in new countries, with a new product for a new crop. This helps to minimize the risk exposure for the insurer and to enable implementers to take corrective action on any issues or problems that may present themselves. Should NAFKA elect to support this pilot activity, the product would then scale rapidly in the second year, the 2014-2015 growing season, insuring greater numbers of KPL outgrowers who take input loans from the MFIs. It is expected that at that time, 2,000 farmers receiving loans averaging US\$250 would be insured, for a total insured value of US\$500,000.

3.2.3 Marketing

Collective Marketing and Buyer Engagement:

As the harvest season approaches, NAFKA has been following up on potential buyer/farmer linkages for market access. A roundtable event bringing together traders, processors, farmers and government officials at district level is being planned for the next reporting period. Meanwhile, through collective marketing in Ifakara, paddy from last year's harvest kept in warehouses was during this past quarter at Tsh. 16 million.

Storage and Warehouse Development:

EAGC Training: NAFKA partnered with the Eastern Africa Grain Council in February to participate in a workshop for warehouse operators. NAFKA sponsored seven participants, including three farmers drawn from three grantee associations and 4 field extension officers working with the farmers. The training covered skills and knowledge of basic elements of grain warehouse operations, including grain handling, grain intake procedures, dispatching, proper record-keeping and documentation, stock monitoring and control, and requirements for warehouse certification for the Warehouse Receipts certification. The workshop built skills and knowledge to better manage storage equipment and grain stock. It also addressed a number of useful business development topics including occupational health and safety, and workplace security in line with our environmental and safety compliance policy. Specific topics addressed included receiving grain for storage, weighing procedures, grading, proper record-keeping, grain storage practices, inventory control, pest management, shipping grain from the warehouse, risk management, safety and security, personnel management and supervision, maintenance of warehouse equipment, and responsibilities of the warehouse manager.

Warehouse Upgrading Grants: Four associations with warehouses are receiving grants to build their capacity to better manage post-harvest activities and to upgrade their facilities.

Warehouse Assessment: During this reporting period, NAFKA finalized a warehouse assessment that was initiated in October, 2012. The exercise assessed the location, ownership and upgrading requirements of approximately 400 warehouses in the four districts NAFKA serves. The report has been submitted to USAID. It will be used by NAFKA team members next quarter to develop a roadmap for warehouse upgrading. It has been used by the CDM Infrastructure project to determine priority rural road upgrading.

Further, the East African Grain Council has requested the report to inform their planning for further trainings and outreach to warehouse owners.

Some key highlights of the study include:

- Improvement of grain storage facilities and advocacy on acceptable construction standards are required. Common observable issues included lack of, or sub-optimal foundations, access ramps, loading and off-loading bays, poor ventilation, and poor pest and moisture control.
- Most village/government warehouses are either under-utilized or used for purposes other than storage, e.g., meeting halls, social activities, etc. This is primarily due to the poor state of the structures, lack of proper security, and unclear facility management and storage procedures. This capacity would be readily available for storage if these issues can be addressed.
- Trading centers with adequate storage facilities (e.g., Kibaigwa, Mkoka, Hembahemba and Kibaya in maize-growing areas; Mang'ula, Ifakara, Viwandani and Mlimba in rice-growing areas) make good aggregation points for traders and transporters and together stimulate productivity. Potential productive areas without such arrangements can be piloted with model warehouses.
- Upgrading: Supply and installation of mechanical handling equipment and pallets is required for suitable warehouses identified as being able to utilize such equipment. Standardization of basic inventory control tools and procedures is required for ease of learning and sharing of skills involved in their use, in addition to providing greater transparency for end-users. Training on basic warehouse management is vital including more efficient stacking and layout, especially where more than one farmer leases storage capacity within the same warehouse.

This study intended to complement the study performed by the COMPETE project in which warehouses along the main trade routes were assessed. A detailed report of the findings and recommendations is available at NAFKA.

3.3 IR. 3: Increased private investment in agriculture

Lead Firms

NAFAKA continues to work with KPL and KVTC in mutually developing outgrower programs. During the reporting period our DCOP visited Mtenda Kyela Rice Supplies based in Mbeya. Mtenda Kyela Rice Supplies is keen to partner with NAFKA as a private investor to strengthen its outgrower program. They are currently working with farmers in Mbeya, with keen interest to expand into Morogoro since their present supply can hardly meet their demand. Collaboration being discussed includes input loans, technical support to farmers, processing and marketing. The status of this activity will be reported in future reports.

NAFAKA Innovation Grants

NAFAKA is managing a grant funds to unleash innovation and private sector investment. This Innovation and Investment Fund is designed to catalyze co-investment with private sector actors in activities that will catalyze change (upgrading) in the value chain(s). Through this grant mechanisms, NAFKA has the flexibility to invest in opportunities as they arise and partner with private firms, GoT agencies, research institutes, NGOs or other local organizations and other donors best placed to address key value chain and systemic constraints. During the quarter NAFKA is has administering the following grants:

- The NAFKA agro-dealer grants program commenced into its second milestone this quarter, involving the grantees conducting field training on Good Agricultural Practice and Land Preparation to farmers. A total of 22 trainings have been conducted at eleven farmer associations. Grantees have also established 22 demonstration plots in selected areas.

- To engage our associations in collective storage, marketing and increase installed storage capacity, 4 Associations were targeted for warehouse upgrading grants. The grants cover upgrade of office and warehouse equipment i.e. computers, furniture, warehouse equipment among other items. The assessment for the grant entailed: readiness for the grant; administration capacity; and security of the grant.
- TANSEED: This seed producer has been provided with a \$130,000 grant to assist in the development of a certified seed outgrowers' program, with farmers in Mvomero. In turn TANSEED is providing over \$73,000 in contributions towards the activity.

Input Supplier Engagement:

This quarter, 27,253 USD was invested in demonstration plots and for small packs. NAFKA has created a platform, through demonstration plots and ToTs, for input companies to demonstrate their products, with the objective of stimulating demand for these products. To date, 9 companies have worked with NAFKA: Yara (Fertilizer), Syngenta (Agro chemicals), TANSEED (Seeds), Bytrade (Seeds, Agro Chemicals), Minjingu (Fertilizer), Export Trading (Fertilizer), Seedco (Seeds), Agriseed Technologies Ltd. (Seeds), Highland Seeds (Seeds) and Kick Start (Agricultural equipment).

Radio Stations:

As a result of good cooperation through NAFKA radio programming, NAFKA was granted airtime of seven slots of 1-hour Live Interactive Radio Talk Shows at no cost. The programs were granted by the radio stations as part of their corporate-social responsibility. The two respective radio stations awarded Certification of Participation in recognition of NAFKA's contribution to fighting hunger in Tanzania.

3.4 IR. 4: Increased Income for Vulnerable Smallholders

NAFKA is increasing incomes for vulnerable smallholders and enhancing rural household nutrition by promoting activities specifically tailored for more-vulnerable members of communities in the NAFKA target districts. Employing CRS' Savings and Internal Lending communities reduce vulnerability by teaching farmers' basic financial management, increasing their ability to access loans and increasing their ability to build an asset base. During this reporting period, NAFKA continued with mobilization and training activities of SILC groups in Kilombero District. New promotion techniques were applied during this quarter to increase awareness of SILC methodology to reach more community members. These included:

- Use of testimony of the community members who are benefitting from SILC operations.
- Use of village Government meetings to promote SILC.
- Use of existing Farmer Group Associations.
- Use of mosques and churches to increase awareness on SILC activities.
- Internal recruitment in which each member of a SILC group recruits one new member.

During this reporting period, 28 new SILC groups were formed, of which 13 have initiated savings activities while 15 groups are still in the development phase. This brings the cumulative total of SILC groups to 79, comprising 1,497 members (68% women). Of these, 64 SILCs are engaged in member savings activities. Fifteen groups are currently in training and will initiate savings activities in the next reporting period. Cumulative SILC savings increased from US\$33,932 in December, 2012 to US\$55,113 in March 2013, while the value of internal lending increased from US\$31,800 in December to US\$47,710 at the conclusion of this reporting period. SILC savings and lending are actually conducted in Tanzanian Shillings, but the figures here are converted to U.S. dollars for the purposes of this report. A cumulative total of 694 SILC members have accessed loans, of whom 478 are women.

In the SILC groups, more women are accessing loans compared to men. This trend suggests that women are more trusting of the SILC methodology than men, are more committed to following the rules, and are increasingly engaged in commercial activities (vegetable gardens, etc.) requiring investment capital. However, the average loan size is larger among men (US\$74) than women (US\$66), suggesting that women are more judicious and sensitive to the risks inherent in borrowing, and use loans for household expenses more so than men. NAFKA provides training to project field agents who work directly with communities to support SILC to ensure that proper record keeping is done for each member.

Expansion of SILC Activities:

NAFKA is working with local partner Catholic Archdiocese of Arusha (AAIDRO) to expand the SILC outreach into Kiteto district. Village selection was conducted this quarter, with the criteria for village selection including:

- Number of households and population size.
- Presence or absence of other community micro-finance mechanisms.
- Willingness and readiness of community members to participate in SILC activities.
- Readiness of village governments to support project interventions.

Seventeen villages were selected in Kiteto district for initiating SILC activities during the next reporting period.

IV. ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED ON ZANZIBAR

NAFKA initiated activities on Zanzibar in early February 2013. NAFKA was initially advised by Mission to delay our start-up there pending conclusion of a hydrology study to determine the most appropriate areas in which to operate. However, after further consultation with Mission, work began in mid-February.

NAFKA has been assigned two counterparts by the Zanzibar Ministry of Agriculture, both of whom have been instrumental in helping us to establish activities rapidly. They assisted in identifying two irrigated and two rain-fed sites on which to begin. In less than two months, four demo sites for paddy production were established on land managed by three farmer associations: two in the irrigated area of Bumbwisudi farmer association in the West District of Unguja, and two in the rain-fed areas Kilombero and Kipange farmer associations in the North B District. Four hundred farmers were trained on these demos, 200 on the rain-fed demos and 200 on the irrigated ones.

The four demonstration plots were demarcated with bunds constructed to establish twenty individual plots, which were used as platforms to train the 400 identified farmers. These farmers were trained in the following technologies which were demonstrated on the plots:

- **Bunding and leveling:** Proper bunding and leveling helps to conserve water and improve crop productivity.
- **Use of different varieties:** Participants were exposed to characteristics of different rice varieties, providing the opportunity to compare and contrast yield potential, growth potential of the plants, those requiring differing levels of tilling and fertilizer, etc. The demos will provide farmers visible evidence to help them select the most suitable varieties.
- **Seed selection:** Participants were trained to select rice seeds using practices of winnowing and flotation in a salt solution to allow heavier, well-filled grains to sink in the container for selection as healthier and more uniform seedlings, while poorly-filled grains have a tendency to float and can be more easily identified.
- **Proper seedbed preparation:** Farmers on Zanzibar commonly use very small and poorly-prepared seedbeds, resulting in poor seed production and limited potential for transplantation. Participants

were trained to prepare larger seedbeds requiring a reduced amount of seed, resulting in higher percentage of seed available for transplantation.

- **Introduction of new fertilizers:** Zanzibar has historically relied on single fertilizer sources for phosphorus, nitrogen and potassium. Indeed, fertilizer is distributed free to farmers on Zanzibar, so there is little incentive to explore new fertilizer technologies. NAFKA has introduced new compound fertilizers such as DAP, which provides both potassium and nitrogen, a Yara Mila complex which provides all three, and Urea Deep Placement (UDP) granules which are placed deep in the soil between plants and thus results in more retention in the soil and concentration on the plants, hence greater production. Depending on the results and farmer satisfaction at harvest, NAFKA will consult with the Zanzibar Ministry of Agriculture about adding these to its distribution in subsequent growing seasons.
- **Field visits:** NAFKA will conduct an exchange visit for a group of farmers from Zanzibar to its activities in both irrigated and rain-fed areas of Mvomero in the next reporting period so our Zanzibar activities can be better informed by lessons learned from our activities on the mainland.

Challenges:

The late arrival of rains delayed planting, and then very heavy rains delayed seed transplantation. These constraints have been overcome, and the plots appear to be in excellent condition. Activities during the next reporting period will focus on further training in integrated pest management to control beetles that attack the roots of the paddy plant, water conservation, side-dressing fertilizers, a review of why fertilizers, seeds and herbicides performed as they did, post-harvest actions and marketing training.

V. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS

The following is a highlighted list of key achievements and results:

- 17,000 households benefiting directly from NAFKA interventions.
- More than 18,000 beneficiaries reached since project inception.
- 600 demonstration plots were established, with \$27,000 in in-kind contributions from 9 input supply companies.

- NAFKA continues to work with 4,000 producers among 10 formally registered associations in the KPL outgrower zone, of which more than 600 farmers have accessed rural loans from two commercial financial institutions whose presence in the outgrower area has been facilitated by NAFKA.
- Significant scale-up in the maize-growing districts, reaching approximately 5,000 producers in those areas.

VI. PROBLEMS/CHALLENGES

- Rains began late in the growing season and resulted in delays in planting demonstration plots. This problem was particularly acute in the maize-growing areas and on Zanzibar. Subsequent heavy rains during the reporting period inundated and destroyed many developed demonstration plots, including both rice and maize fields, hampering new development. The heavy rains also affected the road infrastructure, hindering our access to intervention areas.

- The notice that 120,000 tons of rice duty is to be imported duty-free from Vietnam and Pakistan resulted in the price of rice going down, with farmers who had stored stocks in the warehouses from last season being adversely affected.
- Plots also saw poor germination of improved seed: Nerica 1.

VII. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

7.1 Improved Value Chain Productivity

- Facilitate farmer field days on good agricultural practices in both maize and rice areas in partnership with input companies.
- Continue to establish demonstration plots and vegetable nurseries on-site for training activities and distribution of inputs to our beneficiaries.
- Organize an agricultural show with Tanseed International in order to reach more farmers.
- Conduct training on post-harvest handling specifically to lead farmers, VBAs and progressive farmers.
- Strengthen collaboration with research institutes such as Katrin, Sokoine University and others.

7.2 Expanding markets and trade

- Continue to facilitate association training using harmonized modules in order to build associations capacity in becoming competitive in the market place. The training topics include: Gender Integrated Leadership, Marketing, Recordkeeping and Operation.
- Facilitate sensitization and association registration activities for new associations in rice and maize growing areas and develop village profiles for the new villages.
- Facilitate group formation activities with existing associations and identify a demonstration plot that will be assigned to their lead farmer.
- Follow up on agriculture loans from NMB, YOSEFO, CRDB and PASS.
- Identify and develop the key areas to work on regarding UWAWAKUDA's institutional capacity and constitution.
- Establish a database for all buyers and producer organizations working with NAFKA.
- To strengthen our network of input suppliers NAFKA will organise a Buyer Round Table.
- Follow up on buyer-to-farmer linkages and participate in study visits to farmers with Mtenda Kyela Rice Supply Limited and Frahbo Enterprises.
- Develop an agro-dealer consortium as output off-take buyers.
- Develop activities for addressing mycotoxin and aflatoxin challenges during post-harvest handling.

7.3 Increased private investment in agriculture

- Continue to facilitate cost-share innovation grants, at the national and rural level, including:
 - Encourage farmer associations and apexes to apply for institution capacity building cost-share grants.
 - Monitor the agro dealer innovation program.
 - Conduct field inspection for local seed production of Quality Declared Seed (QDS), for the Tanseed International Grant Program.
 - Inspect milestone activities to be implemented by Progressive Farmers in compliance to their grant program.

- Follow-up with organizations that have shown interest in investing in warehouse upgrading and milling plants within NAFKA target zones.
- Identify interested mechanization and irrigation companies to develop partnerships.
- Continue to work with private sector input companies on demonstration plots and farmer-field days.
- Continue work with Syngenta Foundation on micro-insurance program.

7.4 Increased Income for Vulnerable Smallholders

- Continue to promote SILC methodology to vulnerable smallholders, particularly ultra-poor farmers and women headed households in old and new villages. Roll out activities in Kiteto and Kongwa.
- Facilitate roll out training on business and marketing skills to PSPs and farmer groups (SILC and associations) using developed 5SS methodology.
- Monitor the progress of SILC groups in adopting and applying business and marketing skills.
- Conduct ToT training on vegetable production for income and household consumption.

7.5 Cross-cutting Issues

- Our gender-integration team will:
 - Facilitate ACIDI/VOCA Gender policy to NAFKA staff.
 - Identify gender indicators for monitoring and evaluation activities.
 - Participate in gender awareness and sensitization of farmers groups.
 - Conduct gender assessment in NAFKA intervening areas.
 - Facilitate gender awareness training to women groups.
- Our BCC team will:
 - Broadcast radio messaging on collective storage and marketing.
 - Assess BCC effectiveness within NAFKA intervening areas.
 - Continue to monitor BCC activities.
 - Document evidence-based best practices and lessons learned from BCC programming.
 - Develop the next BCC seasonal campaign.
- Our monitoring and evaluation team will continue to facilitate data collection activities from the field.

VIII. SPECIAL ISSUES

8.1 USAID Mission Visit to NAFKA Project Site

During this reporting period, NAFKA hosted various high level visits from the USAID Mission. The first visit was to DAKAWA by delegates from U.S. Congress and the USAID Mission in Tanzania, organized by CARE International. Another visit was arranged to introduce [REDACTED] (the new USAID Mission Director), USAID Economic Growth Chief [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (the new NAFKA COR) to NAFKA's activities.

8.1.1 USAID DAKAWA Visit

This visit was hosted by CDM Smith and UWAWAKUDA. The team visited the pump house to observe the on-going rehabilitation and operations at the pump house as well as NAFKA's farmer activities in water management. This was followed by a visit to the model farm, where a Lead farmer [REDACTED] was available to receive and respond to all guest questions. A dinner meeting was arranged for the mission delegates to meet with the NAFKA and iWASH teams. iWASH is a recipient of USAID's grant for water and natural resource management. This was an introduction in order to identify areas of collaboration.

8.1.2 iWASH project – MSABI

NAFKA team and the USAID delegates were hosted by MSABI on a tour of their project sites within Ifakara. Most interesting was a secondary school where they have a water and sanitation project, have constructed toilets for the school and are running a Hygiene Club. The school has a large paddy field where NAFKA has an opportunity for establishment of a demo plot to train the students in GAP.

To finalize the visit, courtesy calls were made to the District Commissioner and the District Executive Director offices. We introduced the team from the Mission and discussed NAFKA activities and areas of collaboration. Out of the key topics of discussion was the engagement of government extension workers. The two local officials pledged their commitment and support to NAFKA in engaging of government extensionists, and highlighted that they only needed to formalize it.

8.2 Collaboration with other FTF Partners

Mwanzo Bora facilitated a workshop to review orientation guides for community health workers. The workshop had participants that included government officials and representatives from other implementing partners including NAFKA. The main objective of the workshop was to review the Orientation Health Worker and Extension Worker guide drafts. The Mwanzo Bora initiative has a close relationship with NAFKA because Mwanzo Bora puts emphasis on healthful feeding while Nafaka puts emphasis on quality and availability of staple crops (paddy and maize) and healthy crops used for intercropping purposes, which are suitable foods for healthy porridges for both mothers and their babies. Integrating nutrition issues in agriculture activities by linking the importance of various crops as food to Health and can help to achieve the objectives of the Project.

8.3 Collaboration with other Partners

NAFKA will continue its collaboration with input suppliers, private sector partners and research institutes, as highlighted throughout the report. A new potential partnership with Opportunity International through its investment company, Opportunity Transformation Investments (OTI), is in discussion. OTI has expressed

interest to work with NAFKA, in setting up a micro-finance loan model with DAKAWA/UWAWAKUDA farmers growing irrigated paddy in the scheme. The model will include inventory credit, input finance and pay-outs at other possible peak times in the season (weeding, harvesting, and mechanization). If approved by the Opportunity management board, the preparations for inventory credit at the next coming harvest will start. For the first year, they will target half of the farmers in the scheme, i.e. 450 farmers, who will access storage and be offered credit to inputs for 2 acres. Farmers will be organized into Groups prepared to cross guarantee each other (ideal groups are 15-25 members. The group guarantees reducing the need for collateral. Opportunity International is also looking into providing agronomic advice via mobile to farmers. They are already in touch with input companies for supply of inputs.

IX. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

9.1 Gender Integration

Gender Workshop:

In this reporting period NAFKA facilitated a one day gender workshop in Kihansi as a way of commemorating International Women Day. The workshop aimed to increase extension staff knowledge and awareness of gender concepts, how gender relations affect the achievement of project results and how integrating gender issues into project activities can improve gender outcomes. The workshop attracted 32 and 24 male and female participants respectively. 8 among those 32 there were lead farmers from different villages. There were four main topics presented namely: 1) Key Gender concepts 2) Food security in Tanzania 3) Gender based constraints in NAFKA maize and rice value chains 4) Vulnerable groups.

Youth Development Strategy:

The first draft of the NAFKA Youth Development Strategy was completed within this reporting period. In Tanzania the youth play a vital role in rural development. Intervention of youth activities in NAFKA include proposing youth to form 'spraying groups' (for hire) responsible for spraying pesticides and herbicides to farms belonging to association and non-association members. The spraying groups will be trained on the techniques of spraying and environment management by the NAFKA productivity team. To start off, the group will consist of 10 members (gender balanced) with its own leadership. We have received positive feedback from our progressive farmers, lead farmers and association leaders highlighting the need of such groups because, the individuals currently available for hire tend to be too expensive or lack proper spraying skills.

Youth and Women Group Engagement:

Within this reporting period we identified three youth groups (1 in Mvomero and 2 in Mlimba) and one women's group (in Mvomero) to work with NAFKA. All 4 groups are under already existing NAFKA associations.

- Huduma youth group, under by Mlimba 'A' farmers association, was formed for the purpose of herbicide spraying activities to farmers. This group will be hired members and nonmembers of the association. The youth group has 5 female and 5 male members. The group will be trained on spraying techniques and environmental management in the next quarter. The spraying facility cost will be incurred by the groups.
- Tuleane youth groups in Ngalmila, Mlimba Cluster were formed for the purpose of providing weeding services to farmers. It has been reported that the group is currently overwhelmed with weeding orders. This highlights a need to promote the formation of more youth groups within the area, to perform similar services.

- Tausi Women’s Group in Dihombo village initially formed as a netball group consisting of 17 female members. During this quarter NAFKA formalized the group to be both an agricultural women’s group as well as a netball team. The group participated in the NANENANE Agriculture fair - 2012 in DAKAWA.

9.2 Behaviour Change Communication

Radio Messaging:

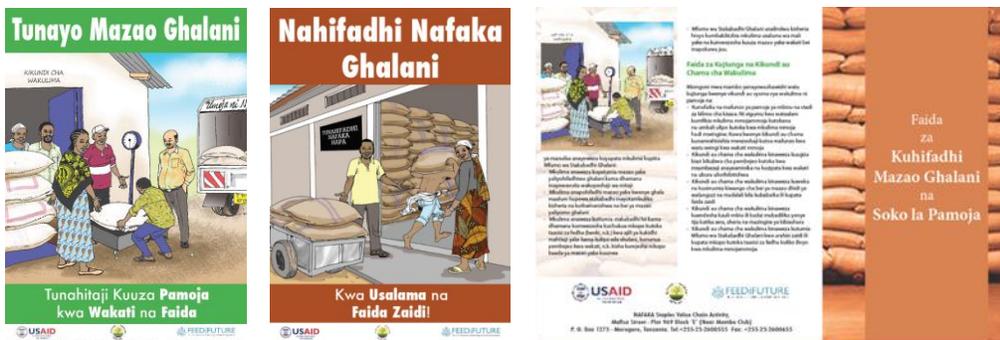
During this quarter the NAFKA BCC team arranged the broadcast of radio messages and also developed the coming season’s campaign materials. NAFKA was able to facilitate the radio messaging targeting the good agricultural practices of using quality seed and the proper use of fertilizer. NAFKA also developed two radio spots to promote the two targeted behaviors. NAFKA followed the same methodology as it did for the brochure and posters. Initially, prototypes were developed based on the communication strategy. After developing the prototypes, NAFKA developed pretesting tools and tested them during focus group discussions in the communities. The radio spots were then adapted based on community and expert feedback. All of the scripts, along with the branding and marking, have been submitted to USAID Tanzania to seek approval for broadcasting. An assessment of the radio effectiveness is scheduled to be conducted next quarter.

A total of 672 slots of public service advertisements/radio spots were aired through two community radio stations broadcasting from Kilombero and Dodoma Districts, respectively. The broadcasting slots were routinely monitored by the NAFKA technical teams throughout their presence in the community localities. The routine monitoring process was enhanced by an established documentation system that required the respective partner radio stations to issue periodic (weekly) broadcasting transmission reports.

As a result of good cooperation with the broadcasting house, NAFKA enabled a granted airtime of seven slots of 1-hour Live Interactive Radio Talk Shows at no additional cost. The programs were granted by the radio stations as part of their corporate-social responsibility. On top of that, along with the contractual obligations to sign Certificates of Completion of broadcasting, the two respective radio stations awarded Certification of Participation in recognition of NAFKA’s contribution to fighting hunger in Tanzania.

Marketing and Storage Campaigns:

NAFKA developed several prototypes of posters and a brochure in Kiswahili that could be used within community settings. The materials carry messages on encouragement to use storage facilities and sell in collective markets. The final BCC material designs that are in the pipeline for production are shown below:



In relation to outreach and project coverage NAFKA was able to follow up with the previously delivered BCC messages through t-shirts and posters sent to all four project districts. Initial feedback has been very positive, and a rapid evaluation is planned for next quarter to assess their impact.

9.3 Environmental Compliance and Natural Resource Management

Environmental Compliance

The achievements of environmentally sustainable outcomes within the NAFKA project are reinforced by the sustainability practices built under the USAID Environmental Guidelines, the Tanzanian National environmental policy (1997) and the Environmental Management Act 2004. Throughout this reporting period our environmental and natural resource team continued to encourage farmers to make use of innovative technologies, with up to date research evidence to ensure improved environmental outcomes. Training in integrated pest management and proper use and storage of fertilizers and agro-chemicals has been conducted in line with the project's ECP.

Climate-Smart Agriculture

To respond to increasingly unpredictable weather due to climate change (including droughts and flooding) NAFKA is promoting various climate-smart techniques to manage soil water retention and erosion. This is primarily focused in maize growing areas through conservation farming, and reduces the vulnerability of farmers to these environmental externalities.

9.4 Monitoring and Evaluation

Two additional M&E assistants were contracted during this reporting period to extend the NAFKA M&E team to Ifakara and Kongwa. These new staff are tasked with strengthening M&E activities in the clusters. These individuals are responsible for ensuring that technical staff complete required instrumentation correctly and provide them with needed technical assistance to ensure the highest levels of data quality.

TMG/USAID conducted a Data Quality Assessment on some selected NAFKA indicators. The Data Quality Assessment (DQA) team visited Kilombero and Mvomero Districts, where they interviewed farmers and project staff. TMG is now preparing a detailed report on the findings and recommendations on how to improve data collection and reporting processes.

The process of operationalizing the Kimetrica data base is at an advanced stage. In March 2013, M&E staff with the support of a Kimetrica expert, began uploading data into the Ki-projects database.

X.ANNEXES

10.1 Annex I: Performance against PMP indicators

NAFAKA PERFORMANCE AGAINST PMP INDICATORS (FY 2013)							Achieved to date
Indicator No.	Indicator	Target 2013	FY 2013 actual		Cumulative 2013	% Ach.	
			Q1	Q2			
IR_1: Improved Agricultural Activity							
1	FTF-4.5-4	Gross margin per unit of land, kilogram, or animal of selected crops (Rice, maize & legumes and maybe horticulture) (RIA) (OUTCOME)	Reported on an annual basis; not reported this reporting period.				
		Maize	158				106
		Hectares planted (for crops); Number of animals (for milk, eggs); or Area (ha) of ponds or Number of crates (for fish)	35,200				279
		Male	19,360				191
		Female	15,840				88
		Disaggregates Not Available					
		Total Production	42,240				273
		Male	23,232				177
		Female	19,008				96
		Disaggregates Not Available					
		Value of Sales (USD)	5,331,040				41,664
		Male	2,932,072				25,903
		Female	2,398,968				15,761
		Disaggregates Not Available					
		Quantity of Sales	22,880				179
		Male	27456				119
		Female	12320				62
		Disaggregates Not Available					
		Purchased input costs (USD)	4,294,400				33,946
		Male	2,361,920				22,391
		Female	1,932,480				11,555
		Disaggregates Not Available					
		Rice	645				543
		Hectares planted (for crops); Number of animals (for milk, eggs); or Area (ha) of ponds or Number of crates (for fish)	11,760				7,461
		Male	6,468				4,277
		Female	5,292				3,184
		Disaggregates Not Available					0
		Total Production	30,576				17,681
		Male	16,817				9,990
		Female	13,759				7,691
		Disaggregates Not Available					
		Value of Sales (USD)	6,369,592				3,654,687
		Male	3,503,276				1,752,396
		Female	2,866,317				1,902,291
		Disaggregates Not Available					0
		Quantity of Sales	14,676				8,435
		Male	8,072				4,397
		Female	6,604				4,038
		Disaggregates Not Available					
		Purchased input costs (USD)	5,680,080				3,608,827
		Male	3,124,044				2,047,661
		Female	2,556,036				1,561,166
		Disaggregates Not Available					
2	USAID (T)	Yields: KG/Ha for rice, maize and horticulture cultivated (OUTCOME)	Reported on an annual basis; not reported this reporting period.				

NAFAKA PERFORMANCE AGAINST PMP INDICATORS (FY 2013)								Achieved to date
Indicator No.	Indicator	Target 2013	FY 2013 actual		Cumulative 2013	% Ach.		
			Q1	Q2				
	Maize	1,200						976
	Rice	2,600						2,370
IR_1.1: Enhanced Human and Institutional Capacity Development for Increased Sustainable Agriculture Sector Productivity								
3	FTF-4.5.1-27	4.5.1(27): (CBLD 5) Score, in percent, of combined key areas of organization capacity amongst USG direct and indirect local implementing partners (S) (OUTCOME)	Capacity assessment remains to be conducted during this workplan period. Actual data for this indicator will be reported based on assessment results.					
		Numerator: The total number of points scored	18					
		Denominator: The total number of points possible	68					
4	FTF-4.5.2-7	Number of individuals who have received USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training (RiA) (WOG) (OUTPUT)	20,000	2,724	15,145	17,869	89%	17,869
		Type of individual						
		Producers	20,000	2,724	15,145	17,869	89%	17,869
		People in government						
		People in private sector firms						
		People in civil society						
		Disaggregates Not Available						
		Sex	20,000	2,724	15,145	17,869	89%	17,869
		Male	10,400	1,547	7,663	9,210	89%	9,210
		Female	9,600	1,177	7,482	8,659	90%	8,659
5	FTF-4.5.2-5	Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance(RiA) (WOG) (OUTCOME)	13,010 (Data collected on an annual basis; not reported during this reporting period.					3,405
		New/Continuing	13,010					
		New	13,010					
		Continuing						
		Disaggregates Not Available						
		Sex	13,010					
		Male	6,765					
		Female	6,245					
6	FTF-4.5.2-28	Number of private enterprises, producers organizations, water users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations and community-based organizations (CBOs) that applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (RiA) (WOG) (OUTCOME)	60	16	0	16	27%	48
		Type of organization	60	16	0	16	27%	48
		Private enterprises (for profit)						
		Producers organizations	60	16	0	16	27%	47
		Water users associations	0	0	0	0	0	1

NAFAKA PERFORMANCE AGAINST PMP INDICATORS (FY 2013)								Achieved to date
Indicator No.	Indicator	Target 2013	FY 2013 actual		Cumulative 2013	% Ach.		
			Q1	Q2				
	Women's groups							
	Trade and business associations							
	Community-based organizations (CBOs)							
	Disaggregates Not Available							
	New/Continuing	60	16	0	16			48
	New	60	16		16			16
	Continuing		32	48	48			48
7	FTF-4.5.2-11	Number of food security private enterprises (for profit), producers organizations, water users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG assistance (RiA) (WOG) (OUTPUT)	37	16	0	16	43%	48
	Type of organization							
	Private enterprises (for profit)							
	Producers organizations		16		16			47
	Water users associations							1
	Women's groups							
	Trade and business associations							
	Community-based organizations (CBOs)							
	Disaggregates Not Available							
	New/Continuing							
	New	37	16	0	16	43%		16
	Continuing		32	48	48			48
IR_1.2 Enhanced Technology Development, Dissemination, Management and Innovation								
8	FTF-4.5.2-13	Number of rural households benefiting directly from USG interventions (S) (Output)	26,716	11,292	17,070	17,070	64%	17,070
	New/Continuing		26,716	11,292	17,070	17,070	64%	17,070
	New		26,716	6,740	5,778	12,518	47%	12,518
	Continuing			4,552	11,292	11,292		11,292
	Disaggregates Not Available							
	Gendered Household Type		26,716	6,740	5,778	12,518	47%	17,070
	(FNM) Adult Female no Adult Male		1,336	193	11	204	15%	2,161
	(MNF) Adult Male no Adult Female		1336	77	7	84	6%	84
	Male and Female Adults (M&F)		24,044	6,470	5,760	12,230	51%	14,825
	Child No Adults (CNA)			0	0	0		0
9	FTF-4.5.2-2	Number of hectares under improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance(RiA) (WOG) (OUTCOME)	18,354					4,961
		(Reported on an annual basis; not reported during this reporting period.						
	Technology type							4,961
	crop genetics							
	animal genetics							
	pest management							
	disease management							
	soil-related							

NAFAKA PERFORMANCE AGAINST PMP INDICATORS (FY 2013)								Achieved to date
Indicator No.	Indicator	Target 2013	FY 2013 actual		Cumulative 2013	% Ach.		
			Q1	Q2				
	irrigation							
	water management							
	post-harvest handling and storage							
	processing							
	climate mitigation or adaptation							
	fishing gear/technique							
	other							
	total w/one or more improved technology							
	Disaggregates Not Available	18,354						
	New/Continuing							
	New							
	Continuing							
	Disaggregates Not Available							
	Sex	18,354						
	Male	9,911						
	Female	8,443						
	Association-applied							
10	FTF 4.5.2-39	Number of technologies or management practices in one of the following phases of development: Phase I/II/III as a result of USG assistance (S) (Output)	14	4	7	10	71%	10
		Phase I Number of new technologies or management practices under research as a result of USG assistance						
		Phase 2 Number of new technologies or management practices under field testing as a result of USG assistance						
		Phase 3 Number of new technologies or management practices made available for transfer as a result of USG assistance	14	4	6	10	71%	10
11	NAFAKA	Number of targeted beneficiaries reached (OUTPUT)	20,000	12,569	5,785	18,354	92%	18,354
		New/Continuing						
		New	20,000	7,067	5,785	12,852	64%	5,785
		Continuing		5,502	12,569			12,569
		Disaggregates Not Available						
		Sex	20,000	7,067	5,785	12,852	64%	18,354
		Male	10,000	4,072	3,198	7,270	73%	10,139
		Female	10,000	2,995	2,587	5,582	56%	8,215
IR_2: Expanded Market and Trade (Corresponds to NAFAKA Component 2 Activities)								

NAFAKA PERFORMANCE AGAINST PMP INDICATORS (FY 2013)								Achieved to date
Indicator No.	Indicator	Target 2013	FY 2013 actual		Cumulative 2013	% Ach.		
			Q1	Q2				
	Maize							
	Baseline sales							630,000
	Reporting year sales	5,331,040						46,664
	Volume of sales (mt)	22,880						179
	Rice							
	Baseline sales							308,124
	Reporting year sales	6,369,592						3,654,687
	Volume of sales (mt)	1,467						8,435
13	NAFAKA	MT of Paddy, Rice or Maize Sold by Producer Associations (OUCOME)						
		Rice	360	240	114	354	98%	354
		Maize	90	60	0	60	67%	60
R 2.1: Improved Market Efficiency								
14	FTF 4.5-10	Total increase in installed storage capacity (m3) (S)	Several interventions under way to increase storage capacity, but no data yet available for this indicator.					
		Dry storage	1,000					
		Cold storage						
R 2.2 Improved Access to Business Development and Affordable Financial and Risk Management Services								
15	FTF-4.5.2-29	Value of Agricultural and Rural Loans (RiA) (WOG)	395,000	78,135	76,118	154,253	39%	154,253
		Type of loan recipient						
		Producers	395,000	78,135	76,118	154,253	39%	154,253
		Local traders/assemblers						
		Wholesalers/processors	7,000	0	0	0		0
		Others	7,900					
		Disaggregates Not Available						
		Sex of recipient	395,000					
		Male	205,500	45,369	59,231	104,600	51%	104,600
		Female	189,600	32,766	16,887	49,653	26%	49,653
		Joint	0	0	0	0		0
		n/a	0	0	0	0		0
		Disaggregates Not Available						
16	FTF 4.5.2-30	Number of MSMEs, including farmers, receiving USG assistance to access loans (S)	1,500	310	302	612	41%	612
		Size of MSME	1,500	310	302	612	41%	612
		Micro	1,000	310	302	612	61%	612
		Small	400	0	0	0		0
		Medium	100	0	0	0		0
		Disaggregates Not Available	1,500	310	302	612	41%	612
		Sex of owner	1,500	310	302	612	41%	612
		Male	870	180	235	415	48%	415
		Female	630	130	67	197	31%	197
		Joint						
		n/a						
		Disaggregates Not Available						
17	FTF 4.5.2-37	Number of MSMEs, including farmers, receiving business development services from USG assisted sources (S) (OUTPUT)	20,000	2,724	17,869	17,869	89%	17,869
		Size of MSME						
		Micro	18,000	2,724	17,869	17,869	99%	17,869
		Small						
		Medium						
		Disaggregates Not Available						

NAFAKA PERFORMANCE AGAINST PMP INDICATORS (FY 2013)								Achieved to date
Indicator No.	Indicator	Target 2013	FY 2013 actual		Cumulative 2013	% Ach.		
			Q1	Q2				
	MSME Type							
	Agricultural producer	6,997	2,724	17,869	17,869	255%		17,694
	Input supplier							
	Trader							
	Output processors							
	Non agriculture							
	Other							
	Disaggregates Not Available							
	Sex of owner	18,000	2,724	17,869	17,869	99%		17,869
	Male	9,360	1,547	9,034	9,034	97%		9,034
	Female	8,640	1,177	8,835	8,835	102%		8,835
	Joint							
	n/a							
IR 3: Increased Investment in Agricultural or Nutrition Related Activities (Corresponds to NAFKA Component 5 Activities)								
18	FTF-4.5.2-12	Number of public-private partnerships formed as a result of FTF assistance (S) (OUTPUT)	12	14	6	20	167%	20
		Agricultural production	12	14	6	20	167%	20
		Agricultural post-harvest transformation	0	0	0	0		0
		Nutrition						
		Multi-focus						
		Other						
19	FTF-4.5.2-38	Value of new private sector investment in the agriculture sector or food chain leveraged by FTF implementation (RiA) (OUTCOME)	Reported on an annual basis					
R 5: Increased Resilience of Vulnerable Communities and Households (Corresponds to NAFKA Component 4 Activities)								
20	FTF-4.5.2-14	Number of vulnerable households benefiting directly from USG assistance (S) (OUTPUT)	Currently in discussions with USAID regarding how we treat this indicator. Vulnerability definition we are using suggests that all households reached by the project should be counted. Should this be the case, the results for this indicator would be the same as FTF-4.5.2-13. We expect to further clarify how we count vulnerable households through further discussions with TMG and the Mission.					
		New/Continuing						
		New	4,360					
		Continuing						
		Disaggregates Not Available						
		Gendered Household Type						
		Adult Female no Adult Male (FNM)	200					
		Adult Male no Adult Female (MNF)	236					
		Male and Female Adults (M&F)	3,924					
		Child No Adults (CNA)						
21	NAFAKA	Value of Savings accumulated by SILC groups under NAFKA (OUTPUT)	40,000	14,804	19,128	33,932	85%	55,113
		Male		4,664	6,025	10,689		17,361
		Female		10,140	13,103	23,423		37,752

10.2 Annex 2: Success Stories submitted to the USAID Mission during the quarter



SUCCESS STORY

Community savings and lending groups mean self-reliance for vulnerable households in Tanzania

Improving lives through social support networks



Photo: Ngitoria Lemondul

Through participation in Savings and Internal Lending Communities, Christina was better able to educate her children and start her own business.

Vulnerable women and men who cannot qualify for commercial loans are increasing savings and accessing small loans through membership in SILC groups.

Telling Our Story
U.S. Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523-1000
<http://stories.usaid.gov>

Christina's parents divorced several years ago, forcing her to drop out of school. She lived with her father, who was unable to provide the family with basic needs of food, education or healthcare. Living under such difficult conditions, Christina knew she needed to find a better alternative to survive. Seeking employment was challenging, as her lack of education left few options other than casual labor that trapped her into low paying jobs. "My salary was too low to support my father, my younger brother or myself," Cristina said.

She subsequently married, but life with her husband was difficult. She endured a physically-demanding job in a stone quarry, but the income was barely enough to support her family.

Christina despaired. It was during this period that a friend in her village told her about Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC), a USAID - sponsored program that provides vulnerable households, primarily women, with income generating opportunities through access to self-managed savings-led financial services.

A SILC group consists of approximately 25 members, each of whom is required to make small weekly individual contributions to a common fund. Group members can borrow from the pooled savings at an interest rate far lower than that of local money lenders. As the members continually utilize and repay the money lent, the fund earns interest and grows, allowing the members to access subsequent loans. Feed the Future Tanzania currently supports more than 50 of these village groups comprising 1,000 individuals that have accumulated savings of \$20,000 and lent \$17,200 to their members.

Christina was able to mobilize her neighbors and form a group, and together they attended training on group mobilization, business management, savings and lending procedures, record keeping, and gender inclusion. She used the money from her job at the stone quarry as her savings contribution. Soon after, she received a small loan of \$100 which she used to start a food selling business. The new business is growing so that she is able to repay the money and remain with a small surplus. "My children are now attending school regularly", says Christina. "I can now afford to give them a good education." Christina was able to access an additional amount from her SILC group's social fund, involving a special interest-free loan. The social fund is set up to manage unpredictable expenses such as emergencies and funeral expenses. Christina used the money to cover transportation costs and medical expenses when visiting her sick father. "My father was happy to see me after many years and has fully recovered, thanks to USAID's support of my SILC group," she commented.

Christina's life has improved as her income has increased. She is now better able to support her 5 children, one of whom is adopted. She now advises and encourages other women in her village to work hard and join SILC groups so that they can learn to be empowered and self-reliant like her.

SUCCESS STORY

Improving livelihoods through vegetable gardening in Tanzania

Enhancing household nutrition and income



Photo: Eilwina Mjwachawe

Esther Athanasi, the sole provider for her two small children, watering her vegetable garden in Mwaya Village, Tanzania, after being trained in gardening and nutritional practices by Feed the Future.

Vegetable gardening is a sustainable agricultural practice that can assist vulnerable women and men by increasing their earning potential as well as nutritional levels for their households.

Telling Our Story
U.S. Agency for International Development
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<http://stories.usaid.gov>

Esther is a 32 year old mother of two small children. She separated from her husband several years ago and moved back with her parents, assuming full responsibility for supporting her children. Esther had no home or land of her own, leaving her feeling frightened and powerless with no visible means for providing for her family.

Selected to participate in a USAID Feed the Future activity targeting vulnerable households, Esther started vegetable gardening after being trained in sustainable agricultural practices under this program. Although Esther had no land of her own, her local church assisted her with a small plot on which to develop her vegetable garden. The group members were trained in techniques for planting seeds, applying fertilizer, controlling plant disease and the nutritional value of vegetable consumption.

In addition to the training, a variety of vegetable seeds were distributed to program participants that included tomatoes, onions, okra and mchicha, a nutritious green, leafy vegetable. Mchicha takes approximately 14 days from planting to harvest, and this short production window enables Esther to sow twice per month. The vegetables are then consumed by her household members and the surplus sold to generate income to sustain the enterprise and to cover essential family expenditures. She said that *"within two months, I was able to sell mchicha worth 38,000 Tanzanian Shillings (about US\$24), allowing me to save money for my household and more easily access kerosene, school expenses for my children and even join saving and lending programs within my community."* She went on to say that, before receiving this USAID assistance, she had no knowledge of how to grow vegetables or their nutritional importance. She said she can now proudly pass on to her children the benefits of vegetable gardening as an activity to improve household nutrition and income, extending these benefits to future generations.

Feed the Future's vegetable gardening and nutrition interventions are helping hundreds of the most vulnerable households in even the remotest rural areas to increase earning potential and improve nutritional intake.

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