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NAFAKA STAPLES VALUE CHAIN ACTIVITY

TASK ORDER NO. AID-621-TO-11-05000

QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

(October 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
Project Scale-Up	1
Improved Value Chain Productivity	2
2. INTRODUCTION	3
Project Description	3
Goals and Objectives	4
Geographic Zones of Influence.....	4
3. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS	5
IR.1. Improved Value Chain Productivity	5
IR.2. Expanding Markets and Trade.....	15
IR.3. Increase Private Sector Investment in Agriculture.....	20
IR.4. Increased Resilience for Vulnerable Smallholders.....	22
4. ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN ZANZIBAR (UNGUJA AND PEMBA)	24
IR.1. Improved Value Chain Productivity	24
5. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS	25
6. PROBLEMS/CHALLENGES	26
7. PLANNED ACTIVITIES	26
8. SPECIAL ISSUES	28
9. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES	30
Gender Integration.....	30
Behavior Change Communications.....	30
Environmental Compliance and Natural Resource Management.....	30
Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning.....	31
ANNEXES	33
Annex 1: Performance against PMP Indicators	34
Annex 2: Success Story Submitted to USAID during the Quarter	38

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIRD	Associates for International Resources and Development
ARI	Agricultural Research Institutes
BCC	Behavior Change Communications
BDS	Business Development Services
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CBAP	Capacity Building Action Plans
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
DCO	District Coordination Officers
DPS	Direct Paddy Seeder
EMMP	Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FA	Field Agent
FFS	Farmer Field School
FICA	Farm Inputs Care Centre
FIPS	Farm Input Promotions-Africa
FtF	Feed the Future
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
HQ	Head Quarter Office
IFDC	International Fertilizer Development Center
IWD	International Women's Day
KATI	Kizimbani Agricultural Training Institute
KATRIN	Kilombero Agricultural Research and Training Institute
KFSL	Kibaigwa Flour Supplies Limited
KPL	Kilombero Plantation Limited
KVTC	Kilombero Valley Teak Company
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MFTC	Mkindo Farmer's Training Centre
MIS	Management Information System
MSME	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
MVIWATA	Mtandao Wa Vikundi Vya Wakulima Tanzania
NFRA	National Food Reserve Agency
PASS	Private Agriculture Sector Support
PERSUAP	Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
PO	Producer Organizations
QDS	Quality Declared Seeds
RGoZ	Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar
RiA	Required if Applicable
RUDI	Rural and Urban Development Initiative
RUP	Restricted Use Products
RYMV	Rice Yellow Mottle Virus
S	Standard Indicator
SACCO	Savings and Credit Cooperatives
SARO 5 (TXD 306)	Semi-Aromatic Tanzanian Cross Dakawa 306 Improved Rice Seed
SILC	Savings and Internal Lending Community
SMFM	Sell More for More
SP	Service Provider
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
STTA	Short-Term Technical Assistance
SUAP	Safer Use Action Plan

TAPP	Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program
TFRA	Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority
TOSCI	Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute
ToT	Training-of-Trainers
TPRI	Tropical Pesticides Research Institute
TSh	Tanzanian Shillings
UDP	Urea Deep Placement
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollar
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USG	United States Government
VBAA	Village-Based Agricultural Advisor
WFP	World Food Program
WOG	Whole of Government Indicator
YOSEFO	Youth Self Employment Foundation
ZARI	Zanzibar Agricultural Research Institute

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: NAFKA Beneficiaries Reached – FY 2015.....	2
Table 2: Supply Networks Established in Kilombero District in October 2014.....	9
Table 3: Contributions of Inputs within NAFKA Intervention Areas Oct 2014 – Dec 2014.....	12

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 ACIDI/VOCA. NAFKA integrates agricultural, gender, environmental, 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) on the mainland, as well as Pemba and Unguja in Zanzibar. NAFKA's goal is to sustainably reduce poverty and food insecurity by increasing incomes for smallholder farmers, including men, women, and youth.

This Quarterly Performance Report for the period October 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014 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 (Unguja and Pemba); (5) Key Achievements/Results; (6) Problems/Challenges; (7) Planned Activities; (8) Special Issues; and (9) Cross-Cutting Issues. Annex 1 of this report includes quantitative information on performance against quarterly PMP indicators, while Annex 2 includes a success story submitted to the Mission during this reporting period. Financial information for the reporting period is submitted under separate cover.

Project Scale-Up

During this reporting period, NAFKA continued to build on the successful methodologies it has implemented since project inception, scaling interventions along the rice and maize value chains on the mainland and deepening rice productivity activities in Zanzibar. This quarter, NAFKA submitted a proposal at USAID's request for expansion of project activities into Mbeya and Iringa, and is ready to initiate activities in those areas upon formal modification of our Task Order allowing us to proceed. Specific activities of the reporting period included:

- Expanding interventions into 6 new villages in Mvomero Districts with association development activities and VBAA extension services.
- Conducting a pre-award/capacity assessment of 10 VBAs as emerging agro-dealers of farm inputs.
- Strengthening Capacity Building Action Plans (CBAPs) with NAFKA's two primary local subcontractors, MVIWATA and RUDI, through customized training workshops and on-site technical assistance.
- Issuing two large grants in Zanzibar to local partners – Zanzibar Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI) and Kizambani Agricultural Training Institute (KATI) – to expand NAFKA's work there and reach an additional 4,000 beneficiaries in 40 locations on the islands of Pemba and Unguja.
- Issuing a grant to Kibaigwa Flour Supplies Ltd to strengthen the maize value chain in Kongwa District.
- Preparing and mobilizing resources to launch two BCC campaigns that a) promote use of fertilizer and improved seed and b) promote the benefits of association membership.

SNAPSHOT OF NAFKA

- Value Chains: Rice and Maize
- Program Approach: Association Development, Demonstration Plots, Savings and Internal Lending Communities, Farmer Field Days, and Farmer Exchange Visits
- Program Extension Service Providers: Village-Based Agricultural Advisors, Lead Farmers, and Agro-Dealers
- Cross-Cutting Activities: Gender Integration, Environmental Compliance and Natural Resource Management, Monitoring & Evaluation, and Behavior Change Communications
- FtF Partners: Mwanzo Bora Nutrition Program, iAGRI – Innovative Agricultural Research Initiative, TAPP – Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program, TUBOCHA – Tuboreshe Chakula Project, SERA, and Infrastructure Project – CDM Smith
- Public-Private Partnerships: Kilombero Plantation Limited, Kilombero Valley Teak Company, and Rice Council of Tanzania

During this reporting period, NAFKA reached 30,237 direct beneficiaries (49% M / 51% F), 1,960 of whom were new (39% M / 61% F), and 28,277 (49% M / 51% F) were continuing from a previous reporting period. Since NAFKA interventions impact all members of a beneficiary household by facilitating improved economic status, family members are counted as indirect beneficiaries. These numbers are estimated by applying a household-size multiplier to the direct beneficiary count for each of NAFKA's eight geographic areas¹ (Kongwa, Kiteto, Mlimba, North Ifakara, Mang'ula, Kilombero Plantation Ltd., Ulanga KVTC, and Mvomero). Combined, there were 140,348 total beneficiaries (direct and indirect) for the quarter, 9,098 of whom were new to the project.²

Table 1: NAFKA Beneficiaries Reached – FY 2015

NAFKA Outreach	Q1 FY 2015 New	Q1 FY 2015 Continuing	Q1 FY 2015 Total	Cumulative-to-Date ³
Direct Beneficiaries (Farmers, Service Providers, or Clients of Service Providers)	1,960	28,277	30,237	135,018
Total Beneficiaries (Direct and Indirect Combined)	9,098	131,251	140,348	621,395

Improved Value Chain Productivity

- **Demonstration Plot and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Training:** NAFKA identified and developed protocols for 890 demonstration plots, slated for installation next quarter. Seven (7) GAP technologies for maize and rice will be promoted on these demonstration plots through GAP training and technical assistance from Lead Farmers, Village-Based Agricultural Advisors (VBAAAs), and agro-dealers.
- **Service Provider Development:** NAFKA continued to support networks of private sector service providers by providing training and technical assistance to 98 agro-dealers, 212 Village-Based Agricultural Advisors (VBAAAs), 52 Savings and Internal Lending Community (SILC) Field Agents, and 32 certified SILC Private Sector Service Providers.
- **Engaging Agricultural Research and Training Institutes:** NAFKA continued its technical collaboration with four (4) research and training institutions that include: Kilombero Agricultural Research and Training Institute (KATRIN), Cholima Research Institute, Zanzibar Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI), and Kizimbani Agricultural Training Institute (KATI). Much of our work with KATRIN and Cholima involves research trials on performance of Urea Deep Placement (UDP) as an alternative to existing Urea formulations and as an environmentally friendly product.

Expanding Markets and Trade

- **Associations:** NAFKA expanded its network of producer associations this quarter to include 13 new associations for a total of 125. NAFKA facilitated the formation and registration of producer associations and built the capacity of the associations to provide marketing, leadership, management skills, and service provision to their members.
- **Apex Associations:** NAFKA facilitated the formation of 2 new apex associations (one in Kongwa District and one in Kilombero District) for a total of 8 apex associations.

¹ The number of total beneficiaries reached – direct and indirect – is calculated by adjusting the number of direct beneficiaries in two stages: 1) estimating the number of households reached by applying a downward multiplier to account for multiple direct beneficiaries within the same household, then 2) estimating total beneficiaries by applying cluster-specific, household-level multipliers to the estimated households reached. The downward multiplier used to calculate households – .967 – is based on NAFKA primary data that 96.7% of SILC group and association members come from unique households. Data for population and number of households per ward in which NAFKA works was taken from the Tanzanian 2012 National Census and used to generate cluster-specific. Household-level multipliers that estimate total direct and indirect beneficiaries.

² Indirect beneficiaries cannot be sex disaggregated because multipliers are used to calculate the figures.

³ Cumulative-to-Date figures are the sum total of all final Year-to-Date figures for each reporting year. Beginning Q3 FY 2014, NAFKA revised its methods for calculating cumulative beneficiaries per USAID approval.

- **Produce Aggregation:** For collective marketing purposes, NAFKA facilitated the aggregation of 772 MT of paddy and 1,300 MT of maize in rented warehouses.
- **Access to Finance:** \$302,457 in informal loans was issued to 3,872 vulnerable individuals through the SILC mechanism as described in the vulnerable groups section below.

Increased Private Investment in Agriculture

- **Public-Private Partnerships:** NAFKA continues to work with Kilombero Plantations Limited (KPL) and Kilombero Valley Teak Company (KVTC) to mutually develop outgrower programs that promote provision of agricultural inputs and crop marketing within the rice value chain. These two entities are the major private investors in rice in the SAGCOT region. Additionally, NAFKA offers support to the Rice Council of Tanzania (RCT), an advocacy platform for the rice sub-sector in Tanzania. RCT provides an important collective private sector voice that advocates for the Tanzanian rice industry.
- **Input Supply Company Relationships:** Input supply companies contributed approximately \$38,132 in in-kind products (primarily seeds and fertilizers). Participating companies include Minjingu Mines and Fertilizer Ltd., YARA Tanzania Ltd., Positive International, Suba Agro-Trading Engineering Ltd. (SATEC), Bytrade, Meru Agro-Tours & Consultant Company Ltd., Aminata Seed Ltd., Starn Seed Company, Pannar Seed Company, Zambia Seed Company Ltd., and TANSEED International Ltd. They also participated in workshops organized by NAFKA to link input suppliers with agro-dealers. As in previous years, the relationships with these input supply companies has been so strong that they have provided the great majority of inputs needed for NAFKA demonstrations. The participating companies view their involvement with NAFKA not as charity, but rather as a business opportunity to market their products to the very producers who use them, using the demonstration plots as platforms for showcasing the products. Several companies have provided their own agronomists to participate in the demonstrations.
- **NAFAKA Grants:** NAFKA administered the following grants to support local businesses, associations, individual farmers, and institutions: 1) Warehouse Upgrading Grants (15 Associations) 2) Association Development Grants (KINNAPA) 3) Private Co-Investment Grants (KPL) 4) Institutional Strengthening and Capacity-Building Grants (UWAWAKUDA) 5) Research Institution and Training Grants (ZARI and KATI) and 6) Enterprise Development Co-Investment Grants (KFSL).

Increased Income for Vulnerable Smallholders

- **Expanded Savings and Internal Lending Communities:** NAFKA assists vulnerable households by building the capacity of local savings groups. This reporting period, NAFKA reached 8,617 vulnerable households with SILC services through mobilizing and training; 720 of these households were new.
- **Food Security and Nutritious Crops:** A total of 2,595 (39% M / 61% F) SILC group members received training on sustainable organic farming and vegetable crop production to improve household-level nutritional intake. A total of 1,529 (30% M / 70% F) SILC members have adopted home gardens.

2. INTRODUCTION

Project Description

NAFAKA 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, the Government of Tanzania, and the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar to analyze local rice and maize value chains and to develop strategies to strengthen them.

NAFAKA 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:

- ACIDI/VOCA – Overall project management, operations, and technical leadership.
- Rural and Urban Development Initiative (RUDI) and Mtandao Wa Vikundi Vya Wakulima Tanzania (MVIWATA) – Local service providers focused on developing farmer associations in target locations.
- Farm Input Promotions-Africa (FIPS) – An East African organization developing village-based extension.
- International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) – Providing technical expertise in rice production, irrigation, and agro-dealer networks.
- Danya International – Providing technical expertise in behavior change communications.
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS) – Addressing the needs of the most vulnerable in target regions.
- Short-term technical support from Associates for International Resources and Development (AIRD on policy issues in collaboration with the FtF SERA project.

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 productivity and competitiveness of the smallholder-based rice and maize value chains.

To sustainably reduce hunger and poverty, NAFKA is:

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

Geographic Zones of Influence

NAFAKA is implemented in four districts on the mainland as well as Zanzibar. Key areas of intervention and on-the-ground partnerships are described below:

- Kilombero District: a rice-growing area in the south of the Morogoro region:
 - Ifakara North, Mlimba, and Mang'ula Clusters: NAFKA is engaged in association development and increasing productivity in 56 villages (20 in Ifakara North, 16 in Mlimba, and 20 in Mang'ula), focused mainly on rain-fed production.
 - Kilombero Rice Plantation (KPL) and Kilombero Valley Teak Company (KVTC): NAFKA is facilitating KPL outgrower schemes in 10 villages. NAFKA is also working with KVTC employees and some teak outgrowers to develop their own rice operations in 11 villages.
- Mvomero District: a rice and maize growing area in the north of the Morogoro region. NAFKA is developing associations and increasing productivity with both rain-fed and irrigated rice and maize producers in 40 villages (35 rain-fed and 5 joint rain-fed and irrigated).
- Kongwa and Kiteto Districts: maize-growing areas in Dodoma and Manyara regions. NAFKA is developing associations and increasing productivity with maize producers in 95 villages (50 in Kongwa and 45 in Kiteto).

- Zanzibar: NAFKA is focused on increasing productivity with rain-fed and irrigated rice producers in 37 wards/shehias (20 in Unguja and 17 in Pemba).

As of next quarter, activities are slated to begin in the new project areas of Mbeya and Iringa, once formal approval for expansion is granted by USAID through a formal Task Order modification.

3. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

This section presents NAFKA's progress in implementing activities according to the key result areas as per the NAFKA project document, which include:

- Improved value chain productivity.
- Expanding markets and trade.
- Increased private investment in agriculture.
- Increased income for vulnerable smallholders.

Cross-Cutting Issues are addressed under Section 9 of this report, which include gender integration, behavior change communications, environment and natural resource management, and monitoring and evaluation.

IR.1. Improved Value Chain Productivity

NAFKA's productivity enhancement efforts are aimed at sustainably reducing poverty by improving the productivity and competitiveness of rice and maize value chains. Our agricultural productivity activities utilize multiple interventions designed to bring about positive change in farmers' practices through integration of core behaviors in their farm activities. This quarter focused on developing protocols for the private sector-sponsored demonstration plots for the cropping season scheduled to start in January 2015 in Kilombero, Mvomero, and Zanzibar. In Kongwa and Kiteto, NAFKA focused on promoting ripping technology to maize farmers to combat low rainfall and degraded soils.

I.1. Enhanced Human and Institutional Capacity Development for Increased Sustainable Agriculture Sector Productivity

During the reporting period, NAFKA facilitated one-off trainings that focused specifically on increased productivity in the rice and maize value chains to 4,065 (51% M / 49% F) individuals across four districts on Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar. More details on this are described under Section 1.1.4 and Section 4.

I.1.1. Build Capacity of Local Implementing Partners

Capacity-building action plans (CBAPs) were drafted to support the capacity development efforts of local partners Rural Urban Development Initiatives (RUDI) and Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima Tanzania (MVIWATA). The process of identifying a capacity-building consultant to complete a financial manual review and revision for MVIWATA is still ongoing, however the strategic plan review for RUDI began during the quarter. There are five milestones for the strategic plan consultation, three of which have been completed: 1) Review of RUDI's core values, leadership, and operations activities; 2) Assessment of stakeholder needs and internal and external SWOT analyses; and 3) Formulation of immediate and long-term goals. The remaining milestones will be concluded in the next quarter with development of organizational tool kits, an annual work plan, and an overall strategic plan.

These local implementing partners have been receiving capacity-building services from NAFKA on a regular basis through a combination of customized training workshops and on-site technical assistance. During the quarter, both sub-contractors attended a peer learning event facilitated by USAID's Leveraging Economic Opportunities (LEO)

project in partnership with the Bureau for Food Security (BFS). The aim of this event was to strengthen Implementing Partners' (IPs') market facilitation approaches in the Eastern and Southern Africa regions.

1.1.2. Producer Associations and Group Strengthening

During the reporting period, NAFKA's primary activities under association development focused on registration of unregistered associations and facilitation of the Sell More for More (SMFM) participatory training program to 166 (69% M / 31% F) association leaders. Sell More for More develops gender-integrated association leadership by equipping farmers with the skills and marketing knowledge to meet quality specifications and manage their operations effectively. It includes practical lessons in areas such gender-integrated leadership, record-keeping, marketing, and operations management.

The association development unit facilitated the formation of 13 new producer associations and continued capacity-building efforts to the 112 associations established in previous years – including the existing water user associations Mgongola and UWAWAKUDA – covering topics such as GAP, human rights, credit access, and management training.

1.1.3. Engaging Agricultural Research and Training Institutes

NAFAKA continued its collaborative efforts with four (4) research and training institutions that include Kilombero Agricultural Research and Training Institute (KATRIN), Cholima Research Institute, Zanzibar Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI), and Kizimbani Agricultural Training Institute (KATI).

Partnering with Kilombero Agricultural Research and Training Institute and Cholima Research Institute

NAFAKA completed the work it began in FY 2012 on Urea Deep Placement (UDP) trials with Kilombero Agricultural Research and Training Institute (KATRIN) (Kilombero District) and Cholima Research Institute (Mvomero District). The trials were conducted to determine the benefits and suitability of UDP on Tanzania mainland soils in conjunction with SARO 5 (TXD 306) improved rice seed. Details on the results of the trials are described under Section 1.2.3.

Partnering with Zanzibar Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI) and Kizimbani Agricultural Training Institute (KATI)

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of Zanzibar has been an excellent partner of NAFKA in improving rice productivity in Zanzibar through activities implemented in collaboration with Zanzibar Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI) and Kizimbani Agricultural Training Institute (KATI). During the quarter, ZARI and KATI were issued new grants to undertake core implementation activities under the supervision of NAFKA. ZARI and KATI representatives will work closely with NAFKA to develop demonstration plots and conduct GAP and SRI training to an additional 4,000 individuals across Unguja and Pemba in Zanzibar. This will bring our total number of beneficiaries on Zanzibar to approximately 10,000 since NAFKA began implementing activities there in 2013.

1.1.4. Training on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

NAFAKA's agricultural productivity activities are designed to facilitate positive changes in farmer practices through the integration of core behaviors in farm activities. A combination of training approaches is employed that includes on-farm cascade training in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), demonstration plots, residential trainings, farmer exchange visits, and Farmer Field Days to instill these key behaviors. The trainings are facilitated by NAFKA agronomists, Village-Based Agricultural Advisors (VBAAAs), agro-input companies, agro-dealer extension agents, and government extension agents.

NAFAKA GAP Training Program: For farmers to achieve maximum impact on yield and quality improvement, NAFKA has designed a productivity training program – comprised of land preparation, proper spacing, use of fertilizer and improved seeds, water management, pest and disease control, and pre-harvest/harvest/post-harvest practices – intended to equip farmers with skills and knowledge in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). Such training is the initial step in developing knowledge and skills so that producers build their capacity to adopt improved practices and, in turn, increase marginal sales and yields. This quarter, 1,983 farmers (57% M / 43% F) were trained in various GAP technologies.

The training program promotes 14 different technologies in three modules that are introduced on demonstration plots and cover the entire crop production cycle for both the rice and maize value chains. In this quarter, the GAP focus was harvesting and post-harvest handling. The status of each GAP training module is highlighted below:

Module 1—Mwanzo: Input selection, land preparation, planting, first top dressing

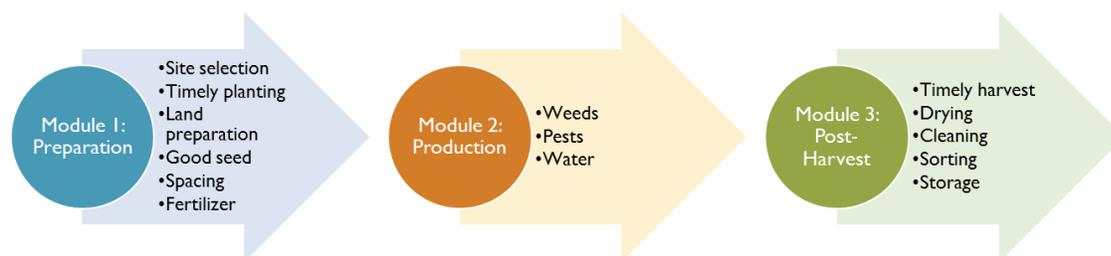
All NAFKA VBAs and Lead farmers were trained in Module I during the second quarter of last year. Both a refresher training and initial training for new VBAs and Lead Farmers will be provided in the next quarter of this season (January – March 2015).

Module 2—Nufaisha: Weed and pest identification and management, second top dressing

This module was also offered to all current VBAs and Lead Farmers last year. Both a refresher training and initial training for new Lead Farmers and VBAs will be provided in the next quarter. Also in the next quarter, 349 Lead Farmers and 216 VBAs will be expected to deliver this module of the GAP training program directly to farmers with technical support from NAFKA agronomists and DCOs.

Module 3—Imarisha: Pre-harvest, harvest, and post-harvest practices

NAFAKA delivered the first round of Training of Trainers (ToTs) of this module to the project’s eleven agronomists and five district coordination officers (DCOs). They then delivered Module III ToTs to 192 Lead Farmers and 161 VBAs, who are expected to deliver this module directly to farmers during the third quarter of this implementing year.



1.1.5. Developing Extension Service Providers

NAFAKA has established a continuously growing sustainable network of VBAs, agro-dealers, and select Lead Farmers to increase farmer access to improved services and inputs, such as seed, fertilizer, and agro-chemicals. NAFKA builds the capacity of these individuals by facilitating ToTs that cover topics ranging from GAP to business management – and by creating linkages amongst various service providers and between the service providers and farmer customers. NAFKA collaborates directly with district extension officers in training VBAs, farmer associations, and Lead Farmers on both QDS production and in the selection and establishment of demonstration plots.

Village-Based Agricultural Advisors (VBAs)

NAFAKA continued to strengthen its network of 212 rural VBAs: 52 in Mvomero, 22 in Mang'ula, 21 in Ifakara, 18 in Mlimba, 47 in Kiteto, and 52 in Kongwa. VBAs are farmers who are based in rural areas and are selected by their community to provide extension services and inputs to other farmers within their village. VBAs are trained by NAFKA and closely monitored by 5 district coordinating officers (DCOs). While VBAs are not currently certified agro-dealers, they serve as agents of agro-dealers, re-selling inputs to farmers in their village for a small commission and providing valuable access in the most remote areas.

VBA Associations: NAFKA is encouraging VBAs to form associations in order to increase the number of sustainable economic agricultural enterprises that can provide inputs and services throughout the rice and maize value chains. As a registered association member, VBAs can access seed dealer and fertilizer stock list certificates for official distribution of seed and fertilizer inputs at the village level – rather than only being able to act as agents of agro-dealers. Additionally, an association structure allows VBAs to purchase inputs in bulk at a lower cost by leveraging collective efforts. NAFKA is currently working with four VBA Associations in Kiteto (17 members), Kongwa (33 members), Mvomero (27 members), and Kilombero (62 members).

Training to VBAs: NAFKA facilitated business development training to 27 VBAs. Topics covered included budgeting, distribution, and sales of agriculture inputs such as seed, fertilizer, and agro-chemicals. NAFKA also provided GAP Module III training to 212 VBAs, discussed above in Section 1.1.4.

VBA Small Grants Program: Last year, NAFKA conducted a needs assessment to determine the challenges and opportunities that exist for VBAs within their communities. Based on the findings of the assessment, NAFKA identified 10 VBAs and during this reporting period conducted a pre-award assessment of their capacity as wholesalers or retailers of farm inputs. Three out of the identified 10 VBAs qualified to submit a proposal next quarter for the VBA Emerging Agro-Dealers Grant. This grant program has been introduced under the umbrella of the NAFKA Enterprise Grant as both a strategy for incentivizing VBAs, as well as for improving input availability at the village level by training promising VBAs to more formally participate in the input supply chain.

VBA Videography Product: NAFKA engaged a videographer to design and produce a 3-5 minute video on the VBA model, including its successes and challenges. The consultant traveled to Tanzania to meet directly with NAFKA field staff, VBAs, farmer beneficiaries, and local government officials to develop a more thorough understanding of the VBA model and how it is integrated into NAFKA activities and achievements. The consultant is currently developing a full script to showcase the model and will return to Tanzania in 2015 to film the testimonials of various beneficiaries of the VBA model. Upon completion, the final video will be distributed to NAFKA beneficiaries and other audiences, in conjunction with the videos being produced by the BCC team.

Agro-Dealers

Agro-dealers are generally based in semi-urban areas and are certified and registered as private inputs dealers. Although demand for improved seed, fertilizer, and agro-chemicals has increased at the field level due to NAFKA interventions, accessibility and affordability remain as constraints. Farmers in remote areas continue to lack access to affordable, high-quality inputs and the necessary technical knowledge to use them properly. This hinders their ability to increase productivity and to diversify into higher-value agriculture production. To address this, NAFKA is supporting a network of 98 trained and certified agro-dealers by providing GAP training and encouraging the use of improved inputs to farmers throughout its zone of intervention.

GAP Training: In Kilombero and Ulanga, NAFKA collaborated with input supply companies to train 28 agro-dealers on product technical knowledge with the understanding that the information would be passed on to farmers at the point of sale. One of the major causes of low farm productivity is the lack of familiarity by smallholder farmers regarding use of various inputs. It is important for agro-dealers to have technical knowledge of inputs so that they are able to accurately and confidently pass this information along to farmers

and to control counterfeit products along the supply chain. Participants from five input supply companies participated in product knowledge training: Suba Agro-Trading and Engineering Company Ltd. (SATEC), Crop Life Tanzania Ltd., Glycel Crop Science, Tanzania Crop Care, and Syngenta.

Agro-Dealer Workshop: NAFKA and the African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP) organized an Agro-Input Stakeholders Linkage Workshop to devise strategies to strengthen linkages and support the agro-inputs supply chain in the four districts of Mvomero, Kiteto, Kongwa, and Kilombero. Sixty-two participants attended the workshop in Morogoro: 23 agro-input company representatives, 15 hub agro-dealers, 5 VBAAAs, 3 farmer association leaders, 2 development partners, and 14 NAFKA staff. Key issues discussed included the need for greater involvement by key partners (e.g. associations, local government authorities) to encourage increased demand for quality inputs and the development of a sustainable input supply network through hub agro-dealers in semi-urban towns with closer proximity to rural agro-dealers and VBAAAs. It was agreed that associations should serve the role as aggregators and input suppliers in locations without VBAAAs and agro-dealers, while local governments should channel input subsidies through the farmer associations. The participants agreed to scale up existing partnerships by developing MOUs for consignment and by continuing to showcase best practices and lessons learned through demonstration plot management.

Hub Agro-Dealers: Hub agro-dealers are wholesalers of fertilizer, seeds, and other agro-chemical companies who supply bulk product to retail agro-dealers for direct sale to customers. NAFKA works with hub agro-dealers by providing technical backstopping in the establishment and management of their demonstration plots and by linking them with networks of VBAAAs, associations, and local government authorities. Last year, NAFKA conducted an assessment of 14 “high potential” hub agro-dealers to identify which were best suited to receive grants to improve their businesses to strengthen the overall agro-input supply chain in turn. Preliminary information was collected to create a business plan for each one, and ten hub agro-dealers were chosen to submit full grant proposals, 9 of which qualified to be submitted for USAID approval.

The hub agro-dealer grantees are required to have an established customer network of rural agro-dealers, VBAAAs, and Lead Farmers from different associations. The overall aim of establishing agro-input supply networks is to encourage efficient, timely, and increased distribution of inputs to rural areas. Of the 9 qualifying hub agro-dealers (3 in Kiteto, 1 in Kongwa, 2 in Mvomero, and 4 in Kilombero), only 3 in Kilombero managed to establish a customer network per the grant guidelines. NAFKA is assisting these three potential grantees to further strengthen their networks. Since these three hub agro-dealers do not have enough resources to cover all of Kilombero alone, NAFKA plans to facilitate the formation of more hub agro-dealers within the district for better outreach.

Table 2: Supply Networks Established in Kilombero District in October 2014

S/N	Hub Agro-Dealer	Network Type and Number			No. of Villages
		Rural Agro-Dealers	VBAAAs	Lead Farmers	
1	S. Majembe Agrovet & Agrochemical	13	3	8	10
2	TVC Agrochemical Input Investment	12	5	7	6
3	Nokwim Investment Co. Ltd	16	4	10	9

Lead Farmers

Of the farmer associations that have demonstration plots, one Lead Farmer is chosen by group participants to manage the plot and provide guidance to others. During the quarter, NAFKA worked with Lead Farmers to establish 286 demonstration plots. To date, NAFKA agronomists have provided training to 349 Lead Farmers. This quarter alone, 192 Lead Farmers were trained on GAP Module III and continued to provide general advice and support on improving agricultural practices to the farmers in their associations.

1.1.6. GAP Behavior Change Communication (BCC) and Material Development

NAFAKA uses BCC materials to support behavior change and the adoption of selected practices or technologies that allow farmers to increase yields and incomes. During this reporting period, the NAFKA BCC team developed a series of materials to promote both GAP adoption and the benefits of association membership.

Campaign Promoting Use of Quality Seed and Proper Use of Fertilizer: This quarter, the Phase II Input Campaign was designed, pre-tested, and rolled out. The campaign built on last year's seasonal campaign that promoted quality certified inputs and aims to both reinforce those messages and incorporate new messages to promote good farming practices, such as proper land preparation and line spacing.

The approved posters and radio spots were launched in December 2014. Posters (1,000 maize and 1,000 rice) were disseminated through VBAs and association leaders for placement in areas with maximum visibility within the respective communities and will be used during demonstration plots lessons, classroom trainings, Farmer Field Schools, and other field events.



Above left: A3 sized, landscape, maize farming poster promoting the use of improved seeds, correct spacing, and proper use of fertilizer.

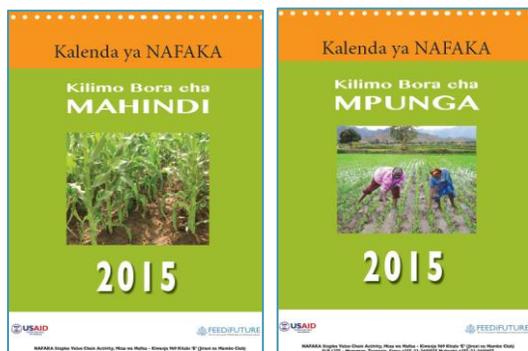
Above right: A3 sized, portrait, rice farming poster promoting the use of improved seeds, correct spacing, and proper use of fertilizer.

Broadcast of Radio Messaging: Radio remains an important channel to reach large numbers of farmers in isolated areas to increase their awareness of different NAFKA messages and activities. During this reporting period, NAFKA gauged the interest of private sector input companies in co-sponsoring upcoming radio spots and live talk shows that promote the use of agriculture inputs such as certified seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. Champion farmers have been selected to discuss how the use of improved seeds has increased their yields, and their profiles have been shared with interested private sector input companies as part of a concept note to encourage private sector interest. The viability of this cost-share arrangement with input companies is dependent upon approval by USAID but would provide a sustainable model for message dissemination past the life of NAFKA.

Six community radio stations have been selected to air the radio spots. These are Pambazuko Radio (Ifakara), Mwangaza Radio and Nyemo FM (Dodoma for Kiteto and Kongwa), Abood Radio and Planet FM (Morogoro), and Ulanga FM (Mahenge). The spots will begin heavy rotation in the next quarter with each station planning on broadcasting a total of 720 spots from January 2015 through March 2015. The spots will be aired during primetime and regular hours based on feedback from informal surveys of farmer listenership conducted during the Public Service Announcement (PSA) pre-test.

GAP Calendars: Building on previous BCC campaigns, the BCC team designed calendars with creative prompts

to encourage farmers to ask questions to VBAs and association leaders about best farming practices. The seasonal farming calendar messages correspond to each month within the growing season and are intended to reinforce best practices at each stage of the rice and maize production cycles. Ten thousand (10,000) rice and maize calendars will be distributed to VBAs, Lead Farmers, association leaders, agro-dealers, district offices, village offices, and individual farmers in upcoming quarters.



Left: Covers of A3 sized portrait calendars that highlight various stages of the rice (right) and maize (left) crop cycles.

1.2. Enhanced Technology Development, Dissemination, Management, and Innovation

NAFAKA promotes the application of improved technologies to our targeted beneficiaries by demonstrating and popularizing the use of improved seeds and fertilizers, ripping technology, UDP application, quality declared seeds (QDS), and direct paddy seeders (DPS).

1.2.1 Demonstration Plots for Improved Technologies and Management Practices

Site selection of demonstration plots was a major activity during the quarter and takes into consideration accessibility, visibility, slope, and land characteristics. NAFKA uses demonstration plots as a teaching and experimentation tool to allow farmers to visually observe the benefits of GAP application and to compare various combinations of GAP techniques. These demonstration plots promote up to seven technologies and practices that include land preparation, proper spacing, appropriate use of fertilizer and improved seeds, water management, pest and disease control, intercropping with food security crops (pigeon peas, cowpeas, green grams, and/or soybeans), and pre-harvest/harvest/post-harvest techniques.

Demonstration plots are managed by VBAs, Lead Farmers, and agro-dealers who use them to provide direct training to farmers with technical support from NAFKA agronomists and DCOs. NAFKA plans to develop a total of 890 demonstration plots (412 rice; 478 maize) for installation next quarter. Through GAP training, dissemination of promotional seed packs, and maintenance of demonstration plots, VBAs and Lead Farmers are raising awareness by community farmers of the agronomic benefits of improved seed and fertilizer.

1.2.2 Private Sector Input Supply Engagements

NAFAKA recognizes that private sector investment in agricultural supply chains contributes to sustainable development. Through demonstration plots and ToTs, NAFKA has created a platform for input companies to showcase and demonstrate their improved technologies (seeds, fertilizers, and agro-chemicals) with the objective of creating awareness. This quarter, \$38,132 was invested by private sector input companies in demonstration plots and distribution of small packs of seeds. The table below highlights the types and amount of inputs distributed during the reporting period in our areas of operation.

1.2.3 Quality Declared Seed (QDS) and Certified Seed Production

Quality Declared Seed (QDS): Local availability of high-quality seed is integral to increased yield potential of smallholder farmer crops. In rural areas that are challenging for agro-dealers to reach, QDS is produced and sold to farmers within the same village. NAFKA supports the efforts of quality declared seed (QDS) producers by providing GAP training for QDS production, as well as marketing strategies to distribute the seed they produce.

During the reporting period, NAFKA conducted GAP training on the principles of QDS production to 22 VBAAAs in Kongwa and Kiteto. The training was organized in collaboration with the Kiteto District Agricultural, Irrigation, and Cooperatives office (DAICO). The Kiteto District Seed Inspector, working in DAICO's office under the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security, and Cooperatives, facilitated the training to the QDS producers. This training program is targeted to reach 100 VBAAAs within the five districts in NAFKA's zone of intervention.

Training Topics on QDS Production:

1. What is Quality Declared Seed (QDS)?
2. What are the Fundamentals of Quality Declared Seed Production?
3. Varieties for Quality Declared Seed Production
4. Registration of Quality Declared Seed Producers
5. QDS Production
6. Labelling of QDS
7. Supervision of Quality Declared Seeds
8. Penalties against Non-Compliance to Seed Policy, Bylaws, and Regulations
9. Organizational Framework of QDS Production System
10. Quality Declared Seed Declaration
11. Rice Quality Declared Seed Production

After the training, the VBAAAs will receive start-up basic seed and authorization from Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) to produce QDS. The VBAAAs will be expected to multiply the basic seed within specified guidelines and increase the availability of quality seeds in their respective communities, while simultaneously strengthening their own resilience by increasing their incomes.

NAFAKA continues to work with 26 current QDS producers by offering training and technical assistance. Last quarter, NAFKA's Seed Specialist and the Kilombero District Seed Inspector – working under the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security, and Cooperatives – collected samples of QDS rice from 22 QDS producer fields and submitted them to Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) for assessment of purity, viability, disease infection, and pest infestation. During the quarter, TOSCI approved 20 of the QDS producers to sell seed to their neighbor farmers in the next cropping season. NAFKA plans to eventually assist all interested QDS producers in becoming certified seed producers (those that produce directly for national seed companies) by offering additional training and facilitating the certification process.

Under implementation by ZARI, NAFKA continued to strengthen the capacity of 30 QDS producers to produce the Supa BC rice variety and to improve timely access to appropriate and affordable seed on Zanzibar. Additionally, KPL plans to introduce a local QDS production plot to evaluate the performance of SRI QDS, SARO 5 (TXD 306) QDS, and seven aromatic rice QDS varieties that include Supa India, Kisegese, Zambia, Kalimata, Lawama, Mbawa mbili, and Nahuruka. Although these aromatic varieties are known to produce lower yields than SARO 5 (TXD 306), they have a higher consumer demand due to their aromatic and palatability qualities. KPL management has planned to produce 20 MT of QDS during the 2014/2015 growing season for their farmers. Sources for these varieties have not been confirmed but ASA, Agricultural Research Institutes (ARI) – KATRIN, and Cholima are potential partners in the program.

Certified Seed: While QDS producers sell directly to local customers in their village area, certified seed producers sell to national seed companies that have contracted with them in advance. NAFKA currently works with 14 certified seed producers by offering training and technical assistance.

NAFAKA has also designed a seed grant program to increase the availability and adoption of commercially-bred, certified rice and maize seed. This grant is a result of the success of the TANSEED outgrower program that concluded last year with 14 certified seed producers continuing to supply to TANSEED. Two grant applications from Tropical Seeds East Africa and TANSEED International were, at the end of the reporting

period, under review by ACIDI/VOCA HQ for eventual submission to USAID for approval. Selected candidates are expected to work closely with the Government of Tanzania and local research institutes to identify certified seed varieties suitable for Kilombero, Mvomero, Kongwa, and Kiteto. The selected rice variety for the program is SARO 5 (TXD 306) due to its high yields, drought resistance, high tillerage, and short pre-harvesting life. Staha is the selected maize variety because of its suitability to the climate characteristics in NAFKA's maize-growing areas.

1.2.4 Scalable Technology – Urea Deep Placement (UDP)

Consistent with our strategy to increase the availability of inputs to local producers, NAFKA continues its work with Agricultural Research Institutes (ARI) Dakawa (Mvomero) and KATRIN (Kilombero) to promote the use of Urea Super Granules (USG) fertilizer⁴. During the quarter, NAFKA completed the UREA Super Granules (USG) through UREA Deep Placement (UDP) on-station trials. The trials were conducted to determine the benefits and suitability of USG on Tanzanian soils and rice lowland ecology by using the SARO 5 (TXD 306) rice variety.

Overall, application of UREA Super Granules (USG) through the UDP method recorded superior performance on growth parameters (number of tillers and plant height) and yield-attributing parameters (number of panicles, spikelets per panicle, and weight of 1,000 grains) for SARO 5 (TXD 306) over prilled UREA and control treatments. In general, Urea Super Granules proved significant superiority over the normal form of Urea and the control, specifically in grain yield and grain weight.

1.2.5 Direct Paddy Seeders (DPS)

Tanzanian farmers and those elsewhere in Africa have used one of the three traditional planting methods to establish their rice fields for centuries. These methods include broadcasting rice seeds, drilling rice seeds in rows, and manual transplanting of rice seedlings (either in zigzag formations or in rows) after establishing them in nurseries. Recently, a new technology for transplanting rice seedlings was developed that saves farmers time, reduces the labor burden, and improves yields due to its accuracy.

NAFKA conducted demonstrations on direct paddy seeders (DPS) in the rice area of Ulanga. Twenty-five farmers attended the demonstration which exposed them to this simple and affordable technology that can be used to eliminate hours of transplanting and of manual labor by sowing germinated paddy seed directly into the field. The majority of farmers who attended these demonstrations expressed interest in using this new technology. NAFKA will track the adoption progress of this technology, as well as the progress that private companies make in commercializing the product in upcoming quarters.

This year, NAFKA plans to establish five (2 in Mvomero, 2 in Kilombero, and 1 in Ulanga) DPS demonstration plots in order to train more farmers and to promote the use of this technology by rice farmers.

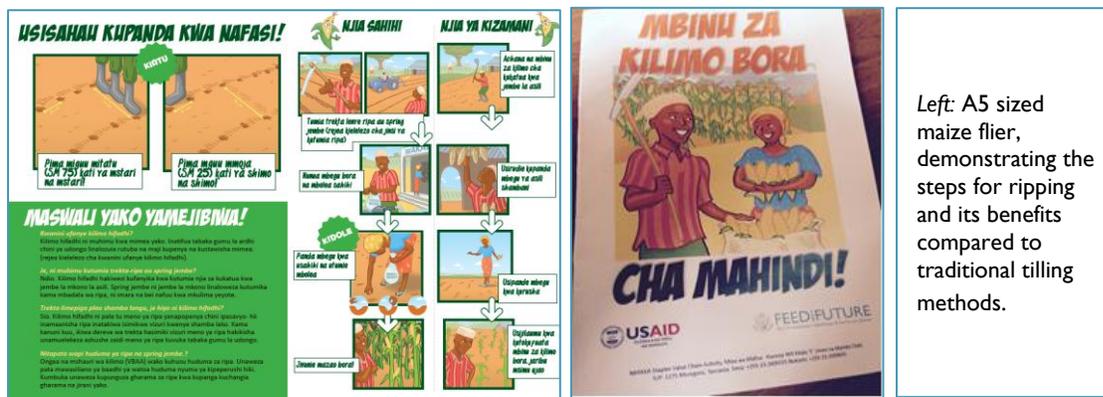
1.2.6 Ripping Technology

Ripping technology was widely promoted by NAFKA in Kongwa and Kiteto during the quarter under review through facilitation of training to 484 farmers in ripping and conservation agriculture. Ripping is a conservation agriculture technique that is beneficial to farmers in areas of low rainfall because it improves soil fertility by significantly reducing soil erosion and improving water retention within the soil to allow crop roots to access water reserves.

Maize Fliers on Ripping: During the reporting period, NAFKA's BCC team finalized a flier that demonstrates the steps for ripping and highlights its benefits compared to traditional tilling methods. The flier also explains other

⁴ Urea fertilizer comes in the form of either prills, which are spherical in shape and about 1 or 2mm in diameter, or granules. UDP uses Urea in the form of a briquette (1.8 and 2.7 grams per briquette), which allows for placement deep within the soil, making it less likely to evaporate like prilled Urea or Urea granules.

GAP techniques for maize farming including correct spacing and the use of improved seeds and provides contact details for VBAAAs in Kongwa, Kiteto, and Mvomero. The fliers will be distributed in Kongwa (4,000), Kiteto (4,000), and Mvomero (2,000) through VBAAAs, Lead Farmers, and farmer associations just before the next cropping season begins. A sample of the maize flier is shown below.



Left: A5 sized maize flier, demonstrating the steps for ripping and its benefits compared to traditional tilling methods.

IR.2. Expanding Markets and Trade

To be competitive in today's agricultural marketplace, farmers – especially smallholder farmers – need to be integrated fully into the value chain. NAFKA market and trade activities are focused on fostering financial and relationship transactions all along the value chain that benefit from market information systems, collective marketing strategies, buyer linkages, stakeholder networking events, and information sharing platforms.

2.1. Increased Market Efficiency

NAFAKA is 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.

2.1.1. Strengthening Producer Marketing Associations

Formation and Registration: NAFKA's association development component aims at improving competitiveness and trade. During the quarter, NAFKA facilitated the formation of 13 new associations – 8 in Mvomero and 5 in Kiteto. This brings the total number of associations under NAFKA to 125, comprised of 20,506 members (54% M / 46% F).

Fifty eight associations are in the process of registration with the Ministry of Home Affairs, which requires three steps: 1) Outreach: Identification of villages, sensitization, and obtaining expressions of interest; 2) Constitution development and election; and 3) Collection of dues, garnering local government support, and actual registration. Additionally, NAFKA worked on building the capacity of apex organizations, which are comprised of several member associations and benefit from a unified voice and economies of scale. NAFKA facilitated the formation of 2 apex associations during the quarter – one in Kilombero for rice associations and one in Kongwa for maize associations. Currently, five (5) apex associations are fully registered, and three (3) are in the process of registration with Business Regulatory and Licensing Authority (BRELA).

NAFAKA's work with apex associations includes technical assistance at every stage – formation meetings, constitution drafting, leadership and management training, grades and standards training, access to finance through SACCOs, and developing market linkages. These apex associations will enable participant farmer associations to collectively advocate and to aggregate rice and maize in order to supply large commercial buyers, such as National Food Reserve Agency – NFRA (maize), TAMAGRASAI – Tandale Market Grain Sellers Association Investment (milled rice), TANRICE (paddy or milled rice), or KPL (paddy).

Sell More for More (SMFM) Training Program: NAFKA continued to facilitate training and capacity-building support to 125 of the existing associations on gender-integrated leadership, managing the marketing process, association record-keeping, and managing association operations through the Sell More for More (SMFM) training program. SMFM includes four modules: Leadership, Marketing, Record-Keeping, and Operations. This quarter, 166 (69% M / 31% F) association leaders participated. Kilombero associations have completed the entire SMFM training program. Associations that complete the SMFM curriculum will be trained to prepare two-year strategic plans that will further guide their development and promote sustainability.

Other Training Programs: NAFKA introduced human rights training to associations during the quarter to foster their ability to understand that all individuals deserve equal opportunities, to recognize the impact of violating human rights and its long-term effects, and to become familiar with the language used to discuss gender and gender issues. Fifty-nine (61% M / 31% F) association members in Kilombero District received human rights training.

Separately, 27 apex association leaders in Kilombero were trained on branding as a marketing strategy. Branding is a value-addition element that allows apexes to differentiate themselves in mass and niche markets. Although differentiation can be achieved by providing superior service or having a unique distribution channel, it often still requires a brand that is well recognized by the target market.

ICT Capacity Assessment of Farmer Organizations: During the quarter, NAFKA developed an ICT capacity assessment tool for addressing critical ICT capacity areas for apex associations. The assessment was conducted on six (6) apexes in Kilombero, Kongwa, and Kiteto and covered ICT infrastructure (hardware and software), internet connectivity, availability and use of MIS, organization website and e-mail, ICT policies, procedures and documentation, security, data management, and disaster recovery. The results revealed that five apex associations out of six lacked ICT infrastructures, basic computer skills, internet connectivity, reliable ways to access market information for inputs and farm produce, and formal ICT training. NAFKA is planning to further build the capability of these apexes by providing training on basic ICT skills, including proper record keeping, internet usage, data analysis, report writing, and presentations.

2.1.2. Developing Marketing

Market Information System (MIS): During the quarter, NAFKA sub-contractor MVIWATA participated in an international workshop on Agricultural Market Information Systems and ICT platforms for business management across value chains. The training was organized by IFDC and co-financed by East African Grain Council (EAGC) and Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA). The objective of the training was to build the capacity of MIS practitioners on MIS design, MIS operations, data collection, analysis, sustainability, scaling up, and MIS report interpretation. This training will help improve the MVIWATA Agriculture Market Information System (MAMIS), which is currently used by NAFKA beneficiaries and other smallholder farmers across the country.

2.1.3. Storage and Warehouse Management

Collective Storage: Farmer associations continued to hold 772 MT of aggregated paddy in private warehouses because of depressed rice prices, although sales slowly began to take place towards the end of the quarter when farmers needed funds for the new season. Additionally, about 1,300 MT of maize were collectively stored awaiting sale to NFRA.

BCC Campaign to Promote Association Membership: This quarter saw the design, pre-test, and rollout of the association membership campaign. The campaign builds on the messaging adjustments to the Phase II Collective Storage and Marketing campaign. NAFKA decided to implement two related campaigns on association membership promotion and market awareness: *How to Find Your Market*. These two campaigns will increase the

within and beyond the rice industry of Tanzania and is already regarded as an authoritative industry voice. Major achievements of the RCT since its establishment seven months ago include:

- Serving as a platform for dialogue amongst the drivers and key private-sector stakeholders in the Tanzanian rice industry. This is a new and innovative approach, not common in Tanzania.
- Providing opportunities for lesser known, yet very important, industry stakeholders to be represented.
- Providing substantial input in the revision of the GoT's National Rice Development Policy, as well as the National Rice Seed Development Policy. The objective of these policy documents is to encourage the East African Commission (EAC), the Government of Tanzania, and various development agencies to create and maintain an enabling business environment that will accelerate the development of private sector-led rice seed and commercial rice production systems.
- Monitoring the continued importation of cheap rice from Asia that appears to be circumventing CET requirements. Numerous fact-finding meetings have been held between the Tanzanian Revenue Authority (TRA) and RCT Board Members.
- Fostering dialogue between the GoT and the private sector. This has contributed toward dismantling mutual mistrust. The GoT regards the RCT as the legitimate voice of the rice industry and already actively seeks its support.
- Lobbying with the President's Office, the Ministry of Agriculture and the East African Commission in reversing some of the decisions to impose Common External Tariffs (CET) on Tanzanian rice imported into Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi.
- Strengthening its partnership with the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) and providing advice and support in developing a prominent market presence for the SAGCOT brand.
- Developing a better awareness of how Produce Cess and Agricultural Value Added Tax (VAT) impede the development of the rice industry.
- Collaborating with the Government of Tanzania, various development partners, and private sector stakeholders (farmers, established input businesses, and rice traders) to develop a transparent data and information management system for the Tanzanian rice sector.
- RCT is recognized by the GoT as a service and information provider to the rice industry of Tanzania. In conjunction with the GoT and Tan Trade, RCT has organized private sector representatives to join a delegation tentatively scheduled to travel to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in February 2015 to identify potential market outlets for Tanzanian rice.

Despite these achievements, it is important to recognize that RCT has been operational for only about seven months, and there is need for continued development. This process must continue, perhaps even faster and more focused than until now. Matters that are already being addressed in order not to lose momentum in the development of RCT include:

- Expansion of its member base. This was originally designed to be 30, yet still only 12 positions are filled.
- Continued engagement with the USAID-FtF-SERA project to develop and adopt a Strategic Development Plan that will be the basis for annual workplans. This plan needs to outline and clearly specify the RCT's core activities.

- Awareness that it is a private sector-driven and -owned entity. Although there will be donor support, the private sector must demonstrate its commitment.
- Development of a secure funding mechanism, which includes a fee structure. Advocacy costs money!
- Sharpen the effectiveness of the secretariat. The secretariat and board of directors need to develop stronger presentation skills in campaigning for issues related to the rice industry.

2.2. Improved Access to Business Development and Affordable Financial and Risk Management Services

2.2.1. Increased Access to Agricultural and Rural Loans

This quarter, NAFKA continued to monitor the formal loans previously taken by 316 smallholder farmers from YOSEFO, CRDB, and Opportunity International at a total value of \$249,793.

- YOSEFO: Fifty farmers were issued loans last year for purchasing inputs, such as seed and fertilizer, or for farm operations – hiring labor or equipment.
- CRDB and PASS: In UWAWAKUDA, NAFKA continued to provide training on financial management and the importance of loan repayment to the 27 farmers who received loans averaging \$2,600 to \$3,200 that were approved and guaranteed by PASS. An up-scaling process is underway between CRDB and PASS, who are willing to provide guarantee funds again for the next loaning cycle, especially since UWAWAKUDA borrowers have such impressive repayment rates.
- Opportunity International: In Mvomero, NAFKA assisted 239 farmers in receiving a total of \$116,914 in loans from Opportunity International, used primarily for input supply. The value of total loans from Opportunity International is expected to increase in upcoming quarters due to expanded operations in Mvomero and Kilombero, specifically Dakawa and Dihombo (irrigated rice), Mkindo, Hembeti, and Komtonga (elevation irrigated water), and Mpanga and Msolwa (irrigated rice).

Crop Banking: Crop prices vary during the year depending on market volumes – usually from the lowest price just after harvest to a potential doubling or tripling in times of crop scarcity. A crop bank purchases grain in bulk at its lowest price after harvest, then provides the supply at a constant price throughout the year with a small profit margin incorporated. During the quarter, NAFKA monitored crop banking activities in Mvomero District. A total of 772 MT of paddy from producer association in Mvomero were stored in seven crop banks. Paddy aggregation in Mvomero comprises a greater proportion of NAFKA-assisted aggregation because Mvomero has two cropping seasons, irrigation schemes, more advanced associations that have started to conduct service transactions such as aggregation with members, and association partnerships with SACCOS to co-manage storage facilities and use tonnage stored as collateral for loans.

NAFKA linked 12 maize associations with a local financial institution called TUR-SACCOS to access loans to cover market operations when trading with NFRA. These associations were also linked to a transport company called NASAI for transportation loans. Additionally, three associations of the 12 were able to access loans worth \$35,760. The interest rate of the SACCO loans is 1.5% per month, while interest for the transport company loan is over covered by transport costs.

2.2.2. Increased Access to Business Development Services (BDS) for MSMEs

During the quarter, NAFKA facilitated access to business development services (BDS) for 4,612 (35% M / 65% F) MSMEs, including individual farmers.⁵ NAFKA supports the delivery of BDS such as training, access to formal or informal finance, and agricultural services like tilling and agro-input supply.

⁵ Note that some beneficiary groups can be considered under multiple BDS disaggregates. To avoid double-counting, NAFKA has placed each beneficiary group in only one BDS area.

- *Training Related to BDS⁶*
 - 166 association leaders received Sell More for More training in business management.
 - 13 SILC Field Agents (FAs) and Private Service Providers (PSPs) received follow-up trainings to improve their service delivery.
 - 28 agro-dealers received product knowledge training.
 - 27 VBAAAs received training in business development, and 22 VBAAAs received QDS production training.
- *Agricultural Services*
 - 484 farmers in Kiteto received ripping services.
- *Access to Formal or Informal Finance*
 - 3,872 SILC group members have had access to informal loans through their savings and lending groups during this reporting period.

IR.3. Increase Private Sector Investment in Agriculture

3.1. Develop Strategic Partnerships with Lead Private Sector Firms

NAFAKA continues to work with Kilombero Plantations Limited (KPL) and KVTC (Kilombero Valley Teak Company) in mutually developing outgrower programs that promote private sector involvement in the provision of agricultural inputs and crop marketing within the rice value chain. During the quarter, NAFKA facilitated GAP and leadership association training to outgrowers. KPL outgrowers continue to experience dramatic increases in paddy yields using SRI technology, some as much as 700% compared to previous yields using more traditional practices.

3.2. NAFKA Innovation and Capacity-Building Grants

The Innovation and Capacity-Building Grants serve to unleash innovation and private sector investment. NAFKA currently administers six (6) grants amounting to [REDACTED] and has processed and submitted requests for approval of an additional 14 new grants amounting to [REDACTED]. The progress of each grant is highlighted below:

2.2.3. Ongoing Grants

Kilombero Plantations Limited (KPL) Grant: The overall objective of the KPL outgrower program is to increase rice productivity and profitability among smallholder farmers in the KPL area through improved farming practices, adoption of suitable inputs, and expansion of these improved practices. The total amount of the grant is [REDACTED], and KPL has committed to leverage additional funds of [REDACTED] in order to complete the grant activities. Activities through the life of the grant include provision of extension activities to 10 villages with an agronomist assigned to each village; access to finance for smallholder farmers; increased availability of agricultural inputs for local purchase; and building the capacity of newly formed associations comprised of members who have received SRI training. The grant program completed its fourth milestone this quarter involving extension activity to 2,420 smallholder farmers and preparation of a workplan for year 2014/2015, including a market access program for 10 villages.

Warehouse Upgrading Grant: NAFKA has signed in-kind grants worth [REDACTED] with 15 farmer associations to facilitate collective marketing in warehouses. NAFKA procured weighing scales, image equipment (computers and photocopier machines), office furniture, warehouse fittings, fire extinguishers, and moisture meters. These

⁶ For the purposes of the BDS indicator, NAFKA includes only training numbers that directly correlate to business development activities.

grants are designed to contribute to building the institutional capacity of associations in order to promote collective marketing using warehouse receipt systems principles. During this quarter, weighing scales were delivered to all 15 associations.

Zanzibar Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI) Grant: During this reporting period, NAFKA signed a new grant agreement with ZARI to build the GAP capacity of 2,000 new farmers in rain-fed and non-irrigated areas. This grant will increase rice productivity and profitability amongst smallholder farmers in Zanzibar through the provision of training to smallholder and extension staff, conducting scientific trials, and the production and distribution of improved seeds. The first milestone was already completed and included the preparation of a workplan, selection of training participants, and development of alternative crop demonstration plots. The total value of the grant is [REDACTED] with a counterpart contribution of [REDACTED].

Kizimbani Agricultural Training Institute (KATI) Grant: During this reporting period, NAFKA signed a new grant agreement with KATI to build the capacity of 80 Lead Farmers and 40 extension workers who will deliver the training program directly to 2,000 farmers in Pemba and Unguja. This grant will increase the productivity and profitability among smallholder farmers in Zanzibar by building the capacity of KATI to provide quality training services in support of developing an extension service and Lead Farmer network. A training needs assessment was also conducted during the quarter, and KATI's standard training syllabus was adapted to meet the needs of farmers based on the information collected in the assessment. The total value of the grant is [REDACTED] with a counterpart contribution of [REDACTED].

KINNAPA Development Program Grant: This grant is increasing maize productivity and profitability among smallholder farmers in Kiteto. KINNAPA focuses on aggregation and service provision, developing linkages with market actors (processors, buyers) and financial institutions, promoting the use of improved practices and technologies at all harvest stages, quality processing, and marketing. The grant activity also involves work with farmers and agro-pastoralists in Kiteto to strengthen livelihoods and community development. During this quarter, KINNAPA organized smallholder farmers into 25 associations. This is a one-year grant amounting to [REDACTED] with a leverage of [REDACTED].

Kibaigwa Flour Supplies Limited (KFSL): During the reporting period, NAFKA signed a grant agreement with KFSL to strengthen the maize value chain in Kongwa. KFSL is a service provider investing in mechanization for commercial farming. Through contract maize farming, KFSL will support access to both input and output markets and train farmers on GAP to help reduce post-harvest losses and improve the quality and quantity of maize products. This is a one-year grant amounting to [REDACTED] with a leverage of [REDACTED]1. During this quarter, KFS implemented activities for the first milestone, which included developing a profile report for 50 farmer groups, organizing an initial planning meeting, and developing an annual work plan. The registration process of the farmer groups has begun.

2.2.4. Pipeline Grants for Innovation and Capacity-Building

Enterprise Development Co-Investment Grants: NAFKA is reviewing five enterprise grant applications from the districts of Mbeya and Iringa. These grants aim to catalyze private sector investment in agricultural value chains with a particular focus on integrating smallholder producers into staples value chains. The Enterprise Development Co-Investment Grant will assist qualifying businesses (primarily MSMEs with options for select larger firms) engaged in the maize or rice value chains in upgrading their services to benefit smallholder farmers. The five field-reviewed applications have been sent to ACDI/VOCA HQ for the next stage of review before forwarding to USAID for final approval. The estimated total grant amount for the five potential grantees is \$497,704. These grants will be ready for implementation pending modification of our Task Order to allow us to engage in these new regions, and Mission approval of the individual grant agreements.

Agro-Dealer Grants: These grants foster public-private partnerships by encouraging agro-dealers to demonstrate their inputs to stimulate demand from farmers. They support agro-dealers to train farmers in GAP through

their demonstration plots and to cover the costs of transporting agro-inputs to smallholder farmers through their VBAA agro-dealer network. Nine agro-dealer applications with a total value of ██████ have been submitted to USAID for review and approval.

Seed Production Grants: These grants are designed to assist in improving the availability and adoption of improved varieties of certified maize and rice seed. Two applications from Tropical Seeds East Africa and TANSEED International are currently under review by ACDI/VOCA headquarters. Recipients are expected to work closely with the Government of Tanzania and local research institutes in identifying certified seed varieties suitable for Kilombero, Mvomero, Kongwa, and Kiteto. The total value of the two grants is ██████.

3.3. Input Supplier Engagements

During the quarter under review, input suppliers invested ██████ in demonstration plots and farm inputs such as small packs of seeds and fertilizer. Through demonstration plots and ToTs, NAFKA created a platform for input companies to demonstrate their products to stimulate demand for improved inputs and tools. During this quarter, 11 input companies worked with NAFKA: Minjingu Mines and Fertilizer Ltd., YARA Tanzania Ltd., Positive International, Suba Agro-Trading Engineering Ltd. (SATEC), Bytrade, Meru Agro-Tours & Consultant Company Ltd., Aminata Seed Ltd., Starn Seed Company, Pannar Seed Company, Zambia Seed Company Ltd., and TANSEED International Ltd.

IR.4. Increased Resilience for Vulnerable Smallholders

NAFKA is increasing incomes for vulnerable smallholders and enhancing rural household nutrition by promoting activities specifically tailored to more vulnerable members of communities in NAFKA target districts. Our subcontractor CRS implements NAFKA activities targeting vulnerable groups.

New Farmer Mobilization: During this reporting period, a total of 36 new SILC groups with 745 members (28% M / 72% F) were formed and trained in SILC methodology. This brings the total number of SILC groups supported by NAFKA to 459. A total of 8,911 members have been reached by SILC Field Agents who have been trained on SILC methodology, which includes aspects such as group fund collection and distribution policies, record-keeping, responsibilities of members, member self-selection criteria, and leadership selection.

Development of SILC Field Agents and Private Service Providers: There are currently 52 total FAs and 32 PSPs whose primary activity is to mobilize and train SILC groups. During the quarter, a ToT on the Fundamentals of Agricultural Marketing was given to relevant NAFKA staff who then trained 13 FAs and PSPs to deliver the program directly to mature SILC groups. Additionally, NAFKA staff sensitized SILC groups in Kilombero and Kiteto on the importance of paying fees for the services they receive from PSPs. PSP training will be sold to SILC members and farmer association members for TSh 500 per session. A total of 45 SILC members in North Ifakara have been trained on basic marketing skills using the Fundamentals of Agriculture marketing manual.

This reporting period, 3,872 SILC members accessed loans with an overall value of ██████, up from ██████ last quarter. Of these new loans, 66% were issued to women. Average loan values for women were \$76, and average loan values for men were \$82. This increase in average loan value for women (from as low as \$46 in past reporting periods) is a good indication that the financial empowerment of females is being developed and sustained. Access to these short-term loans has allowed women to become more self-reliant in their households, improving the overall livelihood of their families.

Local Partner Involvement: In Mvomero, NAFKA has partnered with Women Poverty Alleviation in Tanzania to promote and form savings and internal lending (SILC) groups, to train on organic vegetable production both for home use and sale, and to introduce basic marketing skills. Twenty villages in Mvomero have been identified for vulnerable population interventions.

Vegetable Gardening for Food Security

To help improve nutritional intake and to increase incomes for vulnerable households, NAFKA promotes vegetable gardening activities. Currently, there are 1,529 (30% M / 70% F) beneficiaries engaged in home vegetable gardening, most of whom are women. Vegetable gardening helps vulnerable households in the most rural areas increase earning potential and improve nutritional intake. Home garden protocols are being standardized across the Feed the Future activities, with Mwanza Bora, the nutrition-focused project, taking the lead in working with NAFKA and TAPP (Tanzania Agricultural Productivity Project). More information on these protocols will be shared in subsequent reports.

During the quarter, SILC FAs delivered the vegetable garden training program directly to SILC group members in Kiteto. The FAs trained 2,595 (39% M / 61% F) SILC group members and covered sustainable organic farming and vegetable crop production through soil and water conservation techniques, pest and disease control, crop rotation, and biological control methods. Different gardening techniques, including sack gardening, compost making, double digging, and raised beds, were introduced.

Promotion of Nutrition and Diet Diversification: During the quarter, nutrition training was provided to selected women from 41 villages in Kilombero. These women were identified as leaders from existing SILC groups and are expected to deliver the training program directly to their fellow SILC group members in the coming quarters, in addition to 25 non-SILC group members within their communities. This training program has been introduced as a complement to vegetable production with the overall objective of improving household-level nutritional intake.

4. ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN ZANZIBAR (UNGUJA AND PEMBA)

IR.1. Improved Value Chain Productivity

NAFAKA's activities on Zanzibar are channeled through two Zanzibari institutions and are designed to improve the productivity of rice cultivation in order to raise the incomes of smallholder farmers and to support the Government of Zanzibar's rice development strategy. During the reporting period, the Zanzibar Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI) and the Kizambani Agricultural Training Institute (KATI) received new grants to undertake core implementation activities under the supervision of NAFKA.

Enhanced Human and Institutional Capacity Development for Increased Sustainable Agriculture Sector Productivity

Developing Extension Service Providers

NAFAKA has established a continuously growing sustainable network of government agriculture extension officers and Lead Farmers to increase farmers' access to improved services and inputs, such as seed and fertilizer. NAFKA will continue to build the capacity of these individuals by facilitating ToTs that cover topics ranging from GAP to business management.

Training Needs Assessment and Training Syllabus Development: In collaboration with ZARI, KATI launched activities by conducting a training needs assessment in the six newly selected project sites in Unguja and Pemba, providing each site with key information for designing residential and on-farm training syllabi. Sixty farmers were interviewed (10% from irrigated; 90% from rain-fed areas).

Sensitization and Demonstration Plot Set-up: ZARI completed village identification and sensitization activities in 40 villages (and sub-villages) on Unguja and Pemba. A total of 40 plots have been selected, and 2,000 farmers have been identified for trainings along with 40 new extension staff and 80 new Lead Farmers for the new program.

Government Agriculture Extension Officers and Lead Farmers: Agriculture extension provides farmers with the knowledge, information, and technologies needed to increase and sustain productivity. The 40 extension staff and 80 Lead Farmers from the first program will be expected to continue delivering GAP training directly to farmers in their respective villages, in addition to collecting data for ZARI on outreach activities to individuals that are non-members of groups.

Enhanced Technology Development, Dissemination, Management, and Innovation

NAFAKA promotes and demonstrates the application of improved technologies to our targeted beneficiaries. The key technologies targeted under the strategy in Zanzibar include popularizing improved seeds, fertilizers, UDP application, and quality declared seeds (QDS).

Demonstration Plots for Improved Technologies and Management Practices

Demonstration Plot and Scientific Trial Plot Development: ZARI developed protocols for 40 rice demonstration plots, as well as five validation trial plots. ZARI will be conducting UDP and Yara Mila validation trials this year to provide justification for use of the technologies against conventional fertilizer Urea on three rice seed varieties. Results from the trials – which are required to take place for two to three years by the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar – will influence the decision by the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources to officially allow the technologies to be registered and used in Zanzibar.

Alternative Crop Demonstrations: Last year, NAFKA introduced trials on alternative crops including Nerica, sunflower, cowpeas, green gram, and maize. The trials are being conducted on an alternative crop demonstration plot located in Kipange and have been introduced for potential adoption during the short rains period after rice harvesting. The selected alternative crops would provide income diversity and allow smallholder farmers in Zanzibar to take advantage of other markets. Monitoring of the demonstrations is ongoing, and the results will be reported in future quarters.

Quality Declared Seed (QDS)

Seed Production Development: NAFKA has engaged in a partnership with ZARI and the Zanzibar Seed Production Unit to increase availability and adoption of improved rice seed. Thirty smallholder farmers were selected from Unguja to participate in the seed production program. The selected seed variety for the program is Supa BC due to its high yields, drought resistance, semi-aromatic nature, high tillering ability, and consumer preference in Zanzibar. NAFKA will strengthen the capacity of these 30 selected smallholder farmers to improve timely access to appropriate, affordable seed within Zanzibar.

Scalable Technology – Urea Deep Placement (UDP)

Last quarter, NAFKA completed the Urea Deep Placement (UDP) trials and demonstrations that were conducted to determine the benefits and suitability of UDP on Zanzibar soils alongside various seed varieties. Compared to the traditional method of broadcasting Urea, results of the trials indicated that use of UDP briquettes resulted in 60% higher yields in rain-fed areas and 49% higher yields in irrigated areas. These positive results encouraged the start of validation trials this quarter. The validation of UDP technology will determine the sale and use of UDP as an approved technology to improve rice productivity in Zanzibar.

5. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS

Below is a highlight of NAFKA's key achievements and results:

- **Outreach:** This quarter, 1,960 new direct beneficiaries benefited from NAFKA interventions, combined with 28,277 continuing direct beneficiaries for a total of 30,237 direct beneficiaries. Adding indirect beneficiaries (those within the households of the direct beneficiaries), this translates to 140,348 total beneficiaries – direct plus indirect – reached for the quarter. Cumulatively over the life of the project, 135,018 direct beneficiaries and 621,395 total beneficiaries – direct plus indirect – have been reached by NAFKA, 85,110 of whom are unique direct beneficiaries.
- **Project Expansion and Village Sensitization:** NAFKA intensified activities in Mvomero, expanded to 6 new villages, and continued to work with the 243 villages identified in the previous quarter.
- **GAP Training:** Module III training was provided as a ToT to 60 youth service providers, 14 agro-dealers, 192 Lead Farmers, and 161 VBAs.
- **GAP Demonstration Plots:** a total of 890 demonstration plots have been earmarked for establishment, with over \$38,132 in in-kind contributions from 11 leading input supply companies.
- **Service Provision and Sustainability:**
 - Building the capacity of 98 agro-dealers and 212 village-based agricultural advisors to integrate into the input supply chain.
 - NAFKA is working with 52 FAs and 32 PSPs whose primary activity is to mobilize and train SILC groups.
- **Association Development:**
 - NAFKA expanded its association development activities to include 13 new associations, bringing the total associations to 125. NAFKA also continued its work with apex associations and facilitated two new apex associations in Kongwa and another in Kilombero.

- In addition to providing new associations with initial leadership and registration trainings, NAFKA continues to develop associations using the Sell More for More training curriculum.
- Providing assistance to farmer associations on decisions regarding whether to hold or to sell aggregated paddy and maize in private warehouses, depending on market prices. The paddy aggregated in rented warehouses for collective marketing totaled 772 MT, and the maize totaled 1,300 MT.
- **Grants:**
 - NAFKA issued new grant agreements with ZARI and KATI to help improve rice productivity and raise the incomes of smallholder farmers in Zanzibar. The program should reach 4,000 farmers.
 - NAFKA signed a grant agreement with Kibaigwa Flour Supplies Limited (KFSL) to strengthen the maize value chain in Kongwa District by building the capacity of maize outgrowers. KFSL is a service provider investing in mechanization for commercial farming.
- **Engagement with Research and Training Institutions:**
 - Urea Deep Placement (UDP) fertilizer application trials were completed during this quarter in close collaboration with KATRIN (Kilombero District) and Chiloma Research Institute (Mvomero District). In Zanzibar, validation trials on UDP commenced this quarter under implementation by ZARI, due to encouraging results from the first trials.

6. PROBLEMS/CHALLENGES

- **Infrastructure:** Poor transportation, roads, and irrigation infrastructure affected both agricultural production and marketing.
- **Violence between Farmers and Pastoralists:** Conflicts between farmers and pastoralists over limited land and water resources disrupted project activities in the maize-growing areas in Kiteto. Due to the sensitivity and fearful climate, productivity and association activities within some villages in Kiteto were stopped temporarily, to keep project field staff away from the area in the case that hostilities were reignited.

7. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

Improved Value Chain Productivity

- Monitor and provide technical assistance to VBAs and Lead Farmers as they facilitate training for GAP Modules I, II, and III.
- Conduct QDS production training to VBAs.
- Conduct QDS production field inspections.
- Conduct demonstration plot development activities.
- Conduct training on data collection tools to VBAs and Lead Farmers.
- Distribute inputs for demonstration plot establishment.

Expanding Markets and Trade

- Conduct training on Sell More for More methodology.
- Conduct ToT on Sell More for More methodology to KINNAPA Development Program.
- Follow-up on registration process for associations and apex organizations.
- Conduct training on 'Farming as a Business' to associations.
- Facilitate association development of business plans for aggregation and collective marketing.
- Link trained agro-dealers and VBAs to associations and supply companies.

- Support associations to provide service transactions to members, including input supply; facilitate collective marketing.
- Continue to track NFRA forward contract implementation.
- Facilitate Crop Banking ('Bank Mazao') in Mvomero District.
- Continue identifying applicable models for mobile money transaction.
- Conduct ToTs in strategic planning for technical team and roll out strategic training in Kilombero District.
- Conduct capacity assessment for associations.
- Organize district maize stakeholders meeting to launch Farmer Associations Network ('Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima Kiteto-MVIWAKI').
- Implement the SMS and IVR platform subject to USAID approval.
- Implement ICT technical assistance for the six apex associations.
- Work with IFDC and MVIWATA to enhance their respective market information systems for NAFKA beneficiaries.

Increased Private Investment in Agriculture

- Supervise and follow up on milestones for all innovation grants.
- Kizimbani Agricultural Training Institute (KATI):
 - Prepare and submit annual work-plan.
 - Conduct training needs assessment (TNA).
 - Develop training curriculum and plan based on TNA results.
- Zanzibar Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI):
 - Prepare and submit annual work-plan.
 - Conduct stakeholder meeting for ZARI, KATI, and NAFKA to assign activities for work-plans in 2015.
 - Identify, monitor, and manage demonstration plots, seed trial plots, and UDP trial plots.
 - Identify 40 new extension workers for training program.
 - Identify 40 farmer groups for training 2,000 farmers.

Increased Income for Vulnerable Smallholders

- Conduct SILC expansion activities in new and existing clusters and villages.
- Facilitate local leaders meetings in Kiteto and Kongwa to promote NAFKA and the SILC methodology.
- Conduct FA refresher training in SILC methodology.
- Conduct village mapping exercises in Kongwa, Kiteto, and Mvomero.
- Support mobilization of PSP networks.

Cross-Cutting Issues

Our Gender Integration team will:

- Link new youth groups and women's groups to NAFKA Productivity Lead and Agro-Dealer Specialist for targeted trainings in GAP and product knowledge.
- Conduct ToT on gender and human rights with association leaders, FAs, women's group leaders, and youth group leaders.
- Follow up on grants for youth and women's groups.
- Continue to identify women and youth groups for facilitation in GAP.

Our BCC team will:

- Implement and monitor the inputs campaign.
- Implement and monitor the collective storage and marketing campaign.
- Implement and monitor the increasing association membership campaign.
- Develop monthly messages milestones and calendar for ICT bulk SMS program.
- Documentation of project success stories and best practices.

Our Learning & Knowledge Management (LKM) and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) teams will:

- Organize stakeholders' learning forums in Kiteto, Mvomero, and Kilombero Districts.
- Conduct a second learning agenda survey.
- Prepare the "Livelihoods Strategies Paper."
- Finalize the establishment of the NAFKA mini-library.

Our Environmental Specialist will:

- Conduct ToT on Integrated Pest Management to agronomists and DCOs.
- Conduct ToT on Integrated Pest Management to VBAs and Lead Farmers.
- Facilitate the implementation of standard operating procedures for pesticide control at the field level.
- Conduct environmental compliance monitoring at the field level and provide recommendations for improvement.

8. SPECIAL ISSUES

District Level Stakeholders' Learning Forum

During the quarter, NAFKA organized a district-level stakeholders' learning forum that took place in Kongwa on December 16, 2014. A total of 67 stakeholders attended the learning forum, whose goal was to share successes and challenges with beneficiaries and policymakers in Kongwa. Specifically, the forum:

- Updated beneficiaries and government officials on what has been done by the project (success achieved, challenges encountered, and lessons learned).
- Solicited government extension support in promoting adoption of the good agricultural practices promoted by NAFKA.
- Acted as a platform for learning from stakeholders.
- Helped to identify and involve all parties in developing a workable sustainability strategy.
- Linked different actors in the maize value chain.
- Identified areas for future collaboration.

Seed Development Strategic Plan Meeting

JICA and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security, and Cooperatives organized a meeting on the Rice Seed Development Plan (2014-2018) that included all stakeholders in the rice seed value chain. The meeting was held on October 6-10 in Morogoro and was facilitated by a consultant from the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD). The main objective was to develop concept notes for areas of weakness in rice seed development, such as challenges in the supply of rice seeds from research institutes (pre-basic seed) to Agriculture Seed Agency (ASA). Participants included USAID, Ministry of Agriculture (MAFC), AGRA – Scaling Seed and Technology Partnership (SSTP), NAFKA, and the Rice Council of Tanzania.

Micro-Finance Providers Meeting

NAFKA's SILC work has met implementation challenges in Kongwa District due to the presence of other rural micro-finance providers also based there. To harmonize activities and better serve Kongwa communities, NAFKA and its partner, Diocese of Dodoma, met in Kongwa with other micro-finance providers in October 2014. The meeting was organized by SEDIT, an NGO operating in Kongwa as a partner in the Global Sanitation Fund – Usafi wa Mazingira (GSF-UMATA project) consortium that promotes environmental sanitation with funding from United Nations Office for Project Support (UNOPS) and coordinated by Plan International here in Tanzania. The meeting was convened to coordinate micro-finance activities with greater efficiency and to reduce activity overlap and confusion to community members from having so many providers with different

options or methods. A second meeting next quarter will be used to further harmonize the current activities taking place in Kongwa.

Collaboration with FtF Partners and Other Partners

- NAFKA continues to support the FtF SERA Activity with expert assistance in the policy area. During this period, our policy subcontractor AIRD provided follow-up to previous consultancies related to develop a Policy Options Paper to analyze the options for and cost of assuring adequate food availability in the face of fluctuations in production, designing a rules-based system for emergency food imports, and examination of what other countries do to assure their food security through storage and trade as well as to identify best practices. The consultancies completed a draft paper that was to be presented at a workshop with a high-level GoT audience to be convened by the Prime Minister's Office in December. However, this workshop was cancelled at the last minute by the PMO and the consultants departed before this portion of their SOW could be completed. This workshop is now tentatively re-scheduled for late in the next reporting period, at which time the AIRD consultants would return to present their observations and receive feedback in order to finalize the Paper and determine next steps.
- NAFKA participated in a partnership enhancing meeting with Africa Rising and Tuboreshi Chakula to fast-track the delivery and scaling of agriculture technologies in Tanzania. The meeting established a management team for the project that will be jointly implemented by NAFKA, Africa Rising, and TUBOCHA in Kilombero, Mvomero, Kongwa, Babati, and Kiteto Districts. Consensus was reached on the role of the Project Management Team, which is to oversee coordination between project components and partners, advice on the annual work-plan and budget, monitor progress of implementation, and offer advice to overcome constraints and provide guidance to project leads to ensure conformity with the proposed strategy. The management team is comprised of members from NAFKA, TUBOCHA, and Africa Rising and will meet twice a year.
- The inception meeting to launch the 3-year joint project with Africa Rising and Tuboreshe Chakula that will be implemented in five districts also took place during this reporting period. The meeting further established the role of the project in delivering information and technology packages comprised of technologies that were identified and evaluated by African Rising and creating opportunities for mainstreaming these packages into wider rural development programs beyond current zones of influence. This project focuses the expertise of Africa Rising partners that have been drawn from local and international research institutions and mobilizes the efforts of NAFKA and TUBOCHA.
- NAFKA is working with the Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre to coordinate a training manual for nutrition integration within the NAFKA zone of intervention.
- NAFKA hosted the poverty assessment training of the Poverty Counts tool at the NAFKA Conference Hall from October 21-24, 2014. Field testing of the tool was done from October 27-30 in Mvomero and Kibaigwa. There were a total of 12 trainees invited from all FtF projects.

Collaborating with the Private Sector

- NAFKA continues its collaboration with Kilombero Plantation Limited (KPL) and Kilombero Valley Teak Company (KVTC) to provide SRI extension services to paddy outgrowers.
- Seed companies that collaborated with NAFKA during the quarter include: Zambia Seed Company Ltd., Suba Agro-Trading Engineering Ltd. (SATEC), Bytrade, Meru Agro-Tours & Consultant Company Ltd., Aminata Seed Ltd., Starn Seed Company, Pannar Seed Company, and TANSEED International Ltd.
- Fertilizer companies that collaborated with NAFKA during the quarter include: Minjingu Mines and Fertilizer Ltd., YARA Tanzania Ltd., and Positive International.
- Agro-chemical companies that collaborated with NAFKA during the quarter include: Suba Agro-Trading Engineering Ltd. (SATEC), and Positive International.

9. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Gender Integration

To ensure that men, women, and youth have equal opportunities to participate in the rice and maize value chains, gender and youth considerations are streamlined into all NAFKA activities. Among the farmers supported by NAFKA this quarter, 48% were women, and 27% were youth.

Human Rights Training: The gender team's key activity this quarter was launching the "Human Rights" training curriculum after on-going consultations that combined Tanzanian and international best practices. NAFKA engaged a training specialist to conduct a ToT on the curriculum, comprised of three modules:

- (i) Basic Human Rights and Good Governance for Increased Agricultural Production
- (ii) Human Rights, Gender, and Women's Empowerment
- (iii) Relevant Laws and Policies for Enhancing Support for Women's Empowerment, Leadership, and Gender: Land Laws, Laws on Marriage, and Inheritance

The "Human Rights" curriculum is intended to equip individuals with knowledge and awareness of gender and human rights issues within their communities. The Human Rights ToT was delivered to 59 (61% M / 39% F) peer educators from Mvomero and Kilombero Districts. The peer educators included PSPs, FAs, association leaders, government officials, and women's and youth group leaders. The peer educators will be expected to deliver the training program directly to their community members in the coming quarters.

Behavior Change Communications

NAFAKA designs BCC materials to foster behavior change and encourage adoption of key agriculture practices and technologies that allow farmers to realize an increase in yields and incomes. Many behaviors and practices are socially, culturally, and/or economically embedded, therefore several varied approaches are required to influence behavior modification. The NAFKA BCC team developed a series of communications materials targeting behaviors and practices promoting GAP and collective marketing and storage. Please refer to Section 1.1.6 and 2.1.3 of this report for a full description of these activities.

Environmental Compliance and Natural Resource Management

NAFAKA's activities are guided by our Safer Use Action Plan (SUAP), which was approved by USAID as part of our Pesticide Evaluation Review and Safe Use Action Plan (PERSUAP) submission. All inputs and agro-chemicals promoted by NAFKA, whether they are contributed by input supply companies or purchased for demonstration with project funds, are approved in our PERSUAP. We also ensure that these inputs are promoted in a manner compliant with the SUAP and our Environmental Mitigation Monitoring Plan (EMMP), which was approved by USAID.

During the quarter, our Environmental Compliance Specialist ensured that NAFKA activities conformed to environmental laws and regulations as stipulated in PERSUAP guidelines. NAFKA enforces the use of standard operating procedures and integrates environmental compliance aspects into all of its activities, including GAP trainings, BCC campaigns, and field monitoring systems. Compliance activities focus on three major areas of environment and natural resources associated with the use of pesticides and safety protection; solid waste management; and wastewater management.

Natural Resource Management: Agricultural conservation activities included GAP trainings on soil fertility management and farm water management. Ripping technology was a major focus of this quarter's activities. Low-cost solutions such as ridge tilling for water retention were also promoted.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Manual Development: NAFKA has introduced an IPM training module that provides farmers with best practices for effective and environmentally sensitive approaches to controlling pests in rice and maize farming. The module will be rolled out next quarter.

Case Study on Pesticide Waste Management: During the quarter, the Environmental Specialist and Learning & Knowledge Management Manager prepared a paper titled “Pesticide Waste Management Practices among Rice Smallholder Farmers in Kilombero District.” The paper is currently under internal technical review with a plan to submit the abstract to a conference with the theme of “Agriculture for Sustainable Growth: Challenges and Opportunities for a New ‘Green Revolution’.”

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning

In addition to compiling and verifying data for the overall project, the M&E team provided aggregated FY 2014 data for the USAID annual Project Performance Reporting (PPR) and the Feed the Future Monitoring System (FTFMS).

On October 7, NAFKA M&E representatives participated in a webinar on FY14 FTFMS Guidance Review with the aim of providing guidance to clarify and further improve reporting, including timelines for finalizing reports and FTFMS indicator data. The webinar provided information on indicators that were revised, dropped, and newly added. NAFKA was informed that the indicator “CBLD(5) Score, in percent, of combined key areas of organization capacity among USG direct and indirect local IPs” was dropped by FTFMS, however, we will continue to track it as a USAID cross-cutting indicator and at the activity level. Changes were made to the following indicators:

- 4.5.2(2) Number of hectares under improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (Dropped: New/Continuing Disaggregate, Addition: “Cultural Practices” disaggregate category)
- 4.5.2(5) Number of farmers and others who have applied improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (Dropped: New/Continuing Disaggregate, Addition: Producers/Others Disaggregate, Addition: Technology Type disaggregates)

The M&E team continued to work on data compilation and analysis of the Annual Outcome Survey (AOS) data. Preparation of the AOS draft report was started and should be finalized next quarter.

NAFKA M&E and USAID Tanzania had a meeting on December 1, 2014 where the following was discussed:

- The US Government and the Government of Tanzania signed a new Country Development Strategy for Tanzania in October 2014. The new Country Development Strategy for Tanzania sets out priorities, targets, and plans for achieving key objectives.
- NAFKA and other FTF Activities in Tanzania will be required to monitor and report on some indicators related to the newly signed Country Development Strategy for Tanzania.
- As far as NAFKA is concerned, the new Country Development Strategy will require information on the following general parameters:
 - Profitability and margins for maize and rice farmers.
 - Volumes of sales and sales activities.
 - Production and yield increases as a result of USG assistance.
 - Organizational Capacity Development/enhancement as a result of USG assistance.

On December 10, 2014 the M&E team participated in a conference call with staff from the USAID Leveraging Economic Opportunities (LEO) team in Washington to explore ways that counting of indirect beneficiaries can best be standardized across projects. The meeting initiated a discussion of different challenges and approaches

to capturing indirect numbers.

Publication on GAP Adoption: During the quarter, the Learning & Knowledge Management Manager wrote a manuscript entitled “Adoption of Good Agricultural Practices among Farmers: the Case of NAFKA Project in Tanzania.” The manuscript intends to share results from the GAP adoption survey to a wider audience and is currently being reviewed internally before being sent to a journal.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Performance against PMP Indicators

Annex 2: Success Story Submitted to USAID Mission during the Quarter

Annex I: Performance against PMP Indicators

NAFAKA Quarterly PMP Data Matrix⁸

SR/ NO	FtF/ NAFAKA	Performance Indicator	FY 2014 Actuals					Percent Achieved FY 2015	FY 2015 Target	Cumulative To-Date ⁹	LOP Target
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Year-ToDate ¹⁰				
IR_1.1: Enhanced Human and Institutional Capacity Development for Increased Sustainable Agriculture Sector Productivity											
1	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)									
			4,065	0	0	0	4,065	6%	55,062	96,730	108,793
<p>Abbreviated Indicator Definition: The number of individuals to whom significant knowledge or skills have been imparted through interactions that are intentional, structured, and purposed for imparting knowledge or skills should be counted. This includes farmers, and other primary sector producers who receive training in a variety of best practices in productivity, post-harvest management, linking to markets, etc. It also includes rural entrepreneurs, processors, managers, and traders receiving training in application of new technologies, business management, linking to markets, etc., as well as training to extension specialists, researchers, and others who are engaged in the food, feed, and fiber system and/or natural resources and water management. Farmers that receive training via input supplies, agro-business, processors, or through NAFKA supported training of trainers (ToT) rather than directly with farmers themselves are considered direct beneficiaries.</p>											
2	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)									
			875	0	0	0	875	100%	876	2,075	1,552
<p>Abbreviated Indicator Definition: Total number of private enterprises, producer associations, cooperatives, producer organizations, fishing associations, water users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations, including those focused on natural resource management, that received USG assistance related to food security during the reporting period. Organizations assisted should only include those organizations for which implementing partners have made a targeted effort to build their capacity or enhance their organizational functions.</p>											

NAFAKA Quarterly PMP Data Matrix⁸

SR/	FtF/	Performance Indicator	FY 2014 Actuals					Percent Achieved	FY 2015	Cumulative	LOP Target
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IR_1.2 Enhanced Technology Development, Dissemination, Management, and Innovation

3	FTF-4.5.2-13	Number of rural households benefiting directly from USG interventions (S) (OUTPUT)	29,239	0	0	0	29,239	30%	96,700	129,627	98,000
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Abbreviated Indicator Definition: A household is a beneficiary if it contains at least one individual who is a direct beneficiary. An individual is a direct beneficiary if s/he is engaged with a project activity or s/he comes into direct contact with the set of interventions (goods or services) provided by the project. Individuals merely contacted or involved in an activity through brief attendance (non-recurring participation) does not count as a direct beneficiary. See indicator Number of beneficiaries reached (direct and indirect) for a comprehensive definition of a beneficiary. This indicator includes vulnerable households. To prevent double-counting of households that may contain more than one direct beneficiary, total direct beneficiaries are adjusted by .967 (derived from internal estimates based on the NAFKA Annual Outcome Survey).

4	NAFAKA	Number of beneficiaries reached (OUTPUT)	140,348	0	0	0	140,348	27%	529,152	621,395	983,693
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Abbreviated Indicator Definition: Beneficiaries are those individuals within the target area that receive direct benefits (i.e., goods or services) from the program (including where applicable, families receiving food rations). For NAFKA, beneficiaries include individuals who receive training, participate in demo plots, benefit from grants/loans, receive small packs of technologies, receive technical assistance from V BAAs, participate in SILC groups, receive support to improve business operations, or receive technical assistance from a variety of BDS providers with whom NAFKA has worked. Farmers (and other primary producers) that work directly with input suppliers, agro businesses, processors, or through training of trainers (TOT) with whom NAF AKA works will still be direct beneficiaries. After multiplying the total number of direct beneficiaries by .967 to adjust for potential double-counting of beneficiaries living within the same household (derived from internal estimates based on the NAFAK A Annual Outcome Survey), a c luster-level household multiplier is then applied to account for family members indirectly impacted, which is based upon official census data.

IR_2: Expanded Market and Trade (Corresponds to NAFKA Component 2 Activities)

R_2.1: Improved Market Efficiency

R_2.2 Improved Access to Business Development and Affordable Financial and Risk Management Services

5	FTF-4.5.2-29	Value of agricultural and rural loans (RiA) (WOG) (OUTPUT)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0			
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Abbreviated Indicator Definition: Total value of formal loans disbursed during the reporting period to producers (farmers, fishers, etc.), input suppliers, transporters, processor s, and other MSMEs in rural areas that are in a targeted agricultural value chain, as a result of USG assistance. The indicator counts loans disbursed to the recipient, not loans merely made (e.g. in process, but not yet available to the recipient). The loans can be made by any size formal financial institution from micro-credit through national commercial bank, and includes any type of micro-finance institution, such as an NGO.

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SR/	FtF/	Performance Indicator	FY 2014 Actuals					Percent Achieved	FY 2015	Cumulative	LOP Target
6	FTF 4.5.2-30	Number of MSMEs, including farmers, receiving USG assistance to access loans (\$) (OUTPUT)	3,872	0	0	0	3,872	32%	12,000	13,942	14,500

Abbreviated Indicator Definition: Total number of micro (110), small (11 -50), and medium (51-100) (parentheses = number of employees) enterprises (MSMEs) that have received USG assistance which resulted in a loan from any financial institution, formal or informal, including MFIs, commercial banks, or informal lenders, as well as from in-kind lenders of equipment (e.g. tractor, plow) or other agricultural inputs (e.g., fertilizer or seeds) , or transport, with repayment in cash or in kind. USG assistance may include partial loan guarantee programs or any support facilitating the receipt of a loan.

7	FTF 4.5.2-37	Number of MSMEs, including farmers, receiving business development services from USG assisted sources (\$) (OUTPUT)	4,612	0	0	0	4,612	26%	18,000	20,604	52,800
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Abbreviated Indicator Definition: Total number of micro (110), small (11 -50), and medium (51-100) enterprises (parentheses = number of employees) receiving services from FTF-supported enterprise development providers. Services may include, among other things, business planning, procurement, technical support in production techniques, quality control and marketing, micro-enterprise loans, market linkages, input access, etc. Clients may be involved in agricultural production, agro-processing, community forestry, fisheries, input suppliers, or other small businesses receiving USG assistance.

IR 3: Increased Investment in Agricultural or Nutrition Related Activities (Corresponds to NAFAKA Component 5 Activities)

8	FTF- 4.5.2-38	Value of new private sector investment in the agriculture sector or food chain leveraged by FTF implementation (RiA) (OUTCOME)	██████	\$0	\$0	\$0	██████	8%	██████	██████	██████
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Abbreviated Indicator Definition: Investment is defined as any use of private sector resources intended to increase future production output or income, to improve the sustainable use of agriculture-related natural resources (soil, water, etc.), or to improve water or land management etc. – in both upstream and downstream investments. Upstream investments include any type of agricultural capital used in the agricultural production process such as animals for traction, storage bins, and machinery. Downstream investments could include capital investments in equipment, etc. to do post-harvest transformation/processing of agricultural products as well as the transport of agricultural products to markets. Private sector includes any privately-led agricultural activity managed by a formal, for-profit company.

R 5: Increased Resilience of Vulnerable Communities and Households (Corresponds to NAFAKA Component 4 Activities)

NAFAKA Quarterly PMP Data Matrix⁸

SR/	FtF/	Performance Indicator	FY 2014 Actuals					Percent Achieved	FY 2015	Cumulative	LOP Target
9	FTF-4.5.2-14	Number of vulnerable households benefiting directly from USG assistance (\$) (OUTPUT)	8,617	0	0	0	8,617	99%	8,744	19,951	16,379

Abbreviated Indicator Definition: As a proxy for vulnerable households, NAFKA uses the total number of SILC group members and applies its .967 multiplier to account for the potential of more than one beneficiary living in the same household.

10	NAFAKA	Value of savings accumulated by SILC groups under NAFKA (OUTCOME)	██████	\$0	\$0	\$0	██████	118%	██████	██████	██████
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Abbreviated Indicator Definition: Through the SILC methodology, community members self-select into groups of 15 to 25 people who receive intensive capacity building to strengthen their skills in group and financial management through internal savings and lending. SILC groups focus on vulnerable populations.

11	NAFAKA	Number of beneficiaries with home gardens or alternate crops as proxy for access to nutritious foods and income (OUTCOME)	1,529	0	0	0	1,529	63%	2,414	3,485	8,198
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Abbreviated Indicator Definition: Beneficiaries refer to target individuals who own or have owned a home garden during the reporting year. A home garden generally emphasizes staple crops and horticultural products and is in close proximity to the household. Within a household, each beneficiary with a distinct home garden may be counted once each, but several household members sharing one home garden will only be counted once. A garden generally focuses more on mixed cropping with emphasis on vegetables and fruits but may include grains, roots, tubers and other traditional staple crops as well. A garden may be used for home consumption or commercial sale or a mix of the two. Home gardens refer to those managed by an individual household – not by an entire community.

[1] Note that the single household-level multiplier used to calculate total beneficiaries was adjusted in Q3 FY 2014 to ten (10) unique cluster-specific household-level multipliers representing each cluster in which NAFKA works.

Annex 2: Success Story Submitted to USAID during the Quarter



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



FEED THE FUTURE
The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

SUCCESS STORY

Improving Economic Opportunities for Youth through Agriculture

USAID works with rural youth groups to create new economic opportunities in the agriculture sector



Photo by: Cosmas Kirenga

Ester Oscar Kiyule, Chairperson of Huduma Youth Group, in the rice farm at Mlimba, Kilombero.

“Working as a group has helped many of our members believe that they can be someone reliable to many. I am very excited that I am a role model for youth in our community.” – Ester Kiyule

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

The agriculture sector in Tanzania struggles to attract younger generations. For many youth (ages 18-35), farming fails to offer profitable economic opportunities and attractive environments in which to live and work. Cultural traditions that grant land control primarily to the patriarch further limit access by younger family members, which has contributed to the migration of younger generations to urban centers where they perceive the quality of life and earning potential to be better.

To ameliorate the impact this generational shift could have on the future of Tanzanian agriculture, the USAID Feed the Future Initiative has been working with rural youth groups to create new economic opportunities in the agriculture sector. Providing services to farmers, such as weeding and spraying, not only further enhances productivity of the entire agriculture sector but also creates new jobs well suited for younger generations. By facilitating trainings to youth groups on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) like land preparation, proper planting and spacing, crop management, and post-harvest handling, the project has initiated renewed interest in agriculture and provided youth with important techniques that benefit the entire sector. Seventeen youth groups have already been formed with a total of 220 members. At present, forty-three of those members (51% female) have begun offering services to farmer customers.

One such group that has benefited from trainings is Huduma Youth Group in Mlimba (Kilombero District). The group's 10 members (50% female) have already generated a total of \$1,280 working as agricultural service providers within their community. Members are hired to perform spraying services, transplanting, direct seeding, and weeding activities. The group invested 70% of its profit into the purchase of one acre of shared land, four spraying pumps, and three dibblers and has collectively decided to divide the remaining 30% amongst themselves for individual use. Currently, the group has 21 regular clients and has delivered services on 50 total acres of land. The group has also established a group development fund worth \$163 to manage personal emergencies or natural disasters. Ester Oscar Kiyule, Chairperson of Huduma Youth Group, explained, *“Working as a group has helped many of our members believe that they can be someone reliable to many. I am very excited that I am a role model for other youth in our community.”*

Through this initiative, a wider range of economic opportunities in the agriculture sector are being developed, creating jobs for youth in rural areas, establishing linkages that strengthen agricultural value chains and increase productivity, and sustaining the future of the agriculture sector in Tanzania.

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