



ACT NEWS LETTER

2023

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Tanzania International Trade Shows

A highly anticipated event on the Tanzanian agricultural calendar, the Harare National Agricultural Exhibition Show is an annual week-long extravaganza, traditionally held from the 1st to the 8th of August.



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ASDP II Stakeholders Consultative Review Meeting

On August 15, 2023, the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), in partnership with the Prime Minister's Office, convened a half-day stakeholder consultative meeting.

FO4ACP BENEFICIARIES LEARNING EVENT

On the 5th of August 2023, a delegation of 15 individuals, comprising lead farmers, extension officers, and representatives from the ACT Secretariat, embarked on a visit to the Association of Mbeya High Rice Processors Association (AMBERICO). The purpose behind this visit was twofold: to glean insights from AMBERICO's best practices and to engage in knowledge exchange, a process integral to strengthening our FO4ACP beneficiaries.



A group photo captured during the Learning Event and Knowledge Sharing at AMBERICO



The delegation was greeted warmly by Mr. Asafu Aloyce Mkwama, a Loan Officer who provided a succinct overview of AMBERICO's journey from inception to its current status.

Mr. Asafu underscored the critical need that prompted the establishment of AMBERICO. He highlighted the vacuum that existed in representing the interests of Mbarali farmers and the lack of solidarity among them, resulting in individualistic operations that left challenges unaddressed. Recognizing this gap, a handful of individuals envisioned the establishment of an association dedicated to supporting farmers. The association's modest beginnings comprised a small group of farmers operating within Mbarali schemes. Its primary objectives included tackling challenges faced by paddy growers through initiatives like GAP training, facilitating market access, ensuring the availability of quality inputs, and offering access to loans.





FO4ACP beneficiaries engaged in a discussion with Mr. Asafu during the exchange visit at AMBERICO.

Take away Messages:

- i. The journey of AMBERICO underscores the transformative power of collective action and unified purpose.
- ii. A proactive approach to addressing challenges can lead to the creation of associations that serve as catalysts for positive change within the agricultural landscape.
- iii. Successful linkage with external stakeholders can unlock access to essential resources, like power tillers, which significantly enhance farming productivity.
- iv. Evolving associations can diversify their offerings to farmers, encompassing services like processing and packaging, which contribute to the value chain's strengthening.

About the FO4ACP

The Agricultural Council of Tanzania (ACT) is currently spearheading a significant initiative named the "Farmer Organization for Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific" project in Mvomero. This undertaking has garnered potential funding support from esteemed sources including the European Union (EU), the Organization of African, Caribbean, and Pacific States (OACPS), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The execution of this project is being facilitated by the Southern Africa Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU).

Spanning a duration of five years (2019-2023), the primary objective of this endeavor is to enhance the livelihoods of farmers while simultaneously boosting their productivity and profitability. Originally designed to benefit around 16,000 farmers, the project's impact has already surpassed expectations, having reached a remarkable count of over 23,000 farmers thus far. As the project advances into its final year, it is anticipated that the overall beneficiaries will soar to 24,000 individuals. These beneficiaries will have received comprehensive training in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and financial literacy, establishing them with crucial skills. Furthermore, the project is establishing connections between the beneficiaries and key stakeholders such as input suppliers, off-takers, and financial institutions.

TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL TRADE SHOWS

A highly anticipated event on the Tanzanian agricultural calendar, the Nane Nane National Agricultural Exhibition Show is an annual week-long extravaganza, traditionally held from the 1st to the 8th of August. This grand showcase serves as a platform for unveiling the latest farming technologies, groundbreaking developments, vital discoveries, and noteworthy best practices that collectively contribute to the advancement of the agricultural sector. More than a mere display, the exhibition also serves as a stage for spotlighting alternative solutions that hold the potential to revolutionize agriculture. Furthermore, this event plays a crucial role in fostering unity by bringing together farmers, traders, and associations/cooperatives, offering them a shared platform to celebrate and acknowledge their indispensable contributions to the larger Tanzanian economy.



Farmers from Mkindo, Mr. Khaji (on the right) and Mr. Sbebbi (on the left), actively engaging with visitors at the ACT pavilion during the Nane Nane agricultural show.

The national-level exhibition took place at the John Mwakangale grounds in the vibrant Mbeya Region. The grand opening ceremony was honored by the presence of none other than the Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Dr. Philipo I. Mpango, on the 1st of August 2023. During the event, he assured that the Government remains committed to the construction of irrigation infrastructure and the establishment of the Agricultural Development Fund, as these initiatives will enhance financing opportunities and reduce borrowing costs.

**AGRF**AFRICA FOOD
SYSTEMS FORUM

The African Food Systems Forum 2023 held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, represented a pivotal moment in Africa's pursuit of food security and sustainable agricultural practices. The AFS Forum gathered convergence of minds, ideas, and strategies aimed at addressing the continent's pressing agricultural challenges. This quarterly newsletter highlights the AFS Forum 2023, with a specific focus on its crucial role in unveiling investment opportunities. The African Food Systems Forum, formerly known as AGRF, stands as the world's premier forum on African agriculture and food systems.

Since its inception in 2010, AGRF has served as a vital platform for stakeholders from various sectors, including Heads of State, ministers, business leaders, development partners, farmers, youth, and women, to collaboratively address the multifaceted challenges facing African agriculture. It has consistently provided a space for identifying actionable measures and policies to advance the continent's food system development.

AGRF 2023: THE SETTING IN DAR ES SALAAM

Tanzania's selection as the host for AGRF 2023, following the last event held in 2012, was a testament to the nation's commitment to advancing agricultural transformation in Africa. According to the Deal Report provided by Ms. Vanessa Adams, VP Strategic Partnerships and COP at AGRA, the forum in Dar es Salaam convened approximately 5,400 delegates from -

90 participating nations, including 5 heads of states, 6 former heads of states, 1,200 private sector companies, and 500 youth representatives, among others. These delegates, hailing from both international and regional backgrounds, shared a common dedication to shaping the food systems agenda. Notably, over 57% of the participants were women.

The theme of Africa's Food Systems Forum 2023 Summit, "Recover, Regenerate, Act: Africa's Solutions to Food Systems Transformation," serves as a strategic compass guiding the event's agenda. It places youth and women at the heart of efforts to build more resilient, equitable, and sustainable food systems.

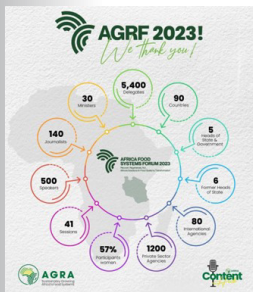
- **Recover:** This phase entails the implementation of decisive strategies and actions aimed at rebuilding food systems following multiple crises and shocks.

- **Regenerate:** This phase underscores the importance of revitalizing natural capital resources through adaptation practices, innovation, and technology.

- **Act:** This phase signifies the urgency for collective action. It urges the acceleration of food systems transformation through the implementation of improved policies, practices, and investments.

The event's choice of location in Dar es Salaam, renowned for its strategic trade significance, underscored the pivotal role of trade and commerce within the agricultural sector. Dr. Philipo I. Mpango, the Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, presided over the official inauguration of the event, where he reiterated the Tanzanian Government's commitment to various initiatives aimed at enhancing resilience and transforming the food systems. These initiatives include substantial investments in agriculture financing through the Agricultural Development Bank (TADB), a significant four-fold increase in the budget allocated to the agriculture, livestock, and fisheries sector, as well as the implementation of programs like BBT-YIA and Agenda 10/30.

These programs have set ambitious targets, with the goal of achieving a 10% growth rate in the agricultural sector by 2030, aligning seamlessly with the principles outlined in the Malabo and Maputo Declarations. This dedication to sustainable agricultural growth not only benefits Tanzania but also contributes to broader regional and continental goals.



Statistical insights courtesy of AGRF Secretariat



Vice President Dr. Philipo I. Mpango presided over the AGRF event and delivered an address to the audience on September 5, 2023, at

JNICC



The Vice President, Dr. Philipo I. Mpango, and the President of AGRA, Dr. Agnes Kabilata, jointly inaugurated the launch of the African Agriculture Report (AAR) during the AGRF 2023 event held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Farmers' Forum: Nurturing Agricultural Solutions

The culmination of the 2023 Africa Food Systems Forum on September 8 marked a special occasion known as the "Farmers' Forum." This dedicated day provided a platform for farmers from across the continent to convene and engage in constructive dialogues. Their discussions centered on finding practical solutions to propel their endeavors to the next level of success. During the Farmers' Forum, participants had the opportunity to share their experiences, challenges, and innovations in agricultural practices. They delved into topics such as sustainable farming techniques, access to resources, market opportunities, and the role of technology in modern agriculture. Moreover, this interactive platform facilitated networking and knowledge exchange among farmers, enabling them to learn from each other's successes and failures. The Farmers' Forum underscored the vital role of farmers as key stakeholders in Africa's food systems transformation. Their insights and contributions were highly valued, as they are at the forefront of food production and play a critical role in ensuring food security on the continent. By dedicating a day to the Farmers' Forum, the 2023 African Food Systems Forum acknowledged the importance of involving those who till the soil and nurture the crops in shaping the future of African agriculture. This inclusive approach emphasized the forum's commitment to promoting sustainable and farmer-centric solutions that would benefit not only the agricultural sector but also the entire continent.

AGRF 2023 YOUTH TOWN HALL: AMPLIFYING YOUTH VOICES IN AGRICULTURE

On September 7th, 2023, as part of AGRF 2023, an insightful Youth Town Hall event was organized to provide young people with an exclusive platform to present their concerns, hopes, and hurdles to policymakers and stakeholders. This forum aimed to foster interaction among young individuals and ecosystem players, facilitating meaningful engagement.

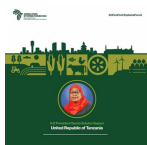
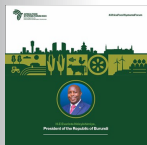
The Youth Town Hall received the esteemed presence of Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania. Her Excellency addressed the attendees and engaged in a lively debate, featuring questions and answers from invited Global Agriculture Youth Connect participants. This dynamic exchange of ideas and perspectives enriched the event and underscored the importance of youth engagement in agricultural transformation. Moreover, during the Town Hall, AGRF's partnership recognized excellence among youth and women entrepreneurs. Notably, this year's Gogettaz Grand Prize Award was bestowed upon outstanding individuals from Nigeria and Madagascar, further highlighting the achievements and potential of young talents in the agriculture sector.

The Presidential Summit at African Food Systems Forum: A Pledge for Transformation

On September 7th, during the African Food Systems Forum, a Presidential Summit convened leaders from across the continent, united in their commitment to transform Africa's food systems. In this article, I will highlight some of the key commitments made by African leaders to ensure a sustainable and food-secure future for the continent, as declared during the African Food Systems Forum 2023. The event was meticulously designed to foster in-depth dialogues and solidify commitments, all aimed at propelling Africa's food systems to unprecedented levels of development. It served as a catalyst, igniting discussions that framed Africa's stance on food systems, strengthening partnerships among nations, and giving rise to actionable plans and enduring legacy programs. The 2023 African Food Systems Summit drew distinguished leaders, each contributing unique perspectives and displaying unwavering dedication to the cause.

Key Commitments Made at the Presidential Summit:

- i. **Investing in Agriculture:** African leaders pledged to increase investments in agriculture, allocating a larger share of national budgets to this sector and attracting private sector investments. Adequate funding is essential to modernize farming practices, improve infrastructure, and enhance research and development.
- ii. **Climate-Resilient Agriculture:** Recognizing the impact of climate change on agriculture, leaders committed to promoting climate-resilient agricultural practices. This includes the adoption of drought-resistant crop varieties, improved water management, and sustainable land use practices.
- iii. **Support for Smallholder Farmers:** Smallholder farmers are the backbone of African agriculture. Leaders pledged to provide support to these farmers, including access to credit, modern farming technologies, and training. Empowering smallholder farmers is crucial for increasing food production and reducing poverty.
- iv. **Reducing Post-Harvest Losses:** Efforts to reduce post-harvest losses were emphasized, focusing on improved storage and transportation infrastructure, as well as better market access, to minimize these losses and ensure that more food reaches consumers.
- v. **Enhancing Trade and Regional Integration:** African leaders recognized the importance of regional trade in ensuring food security. They committed to removing trade barriers and improving trade infrastructure to facilitate the movement of agricultural products across borders.
- vi. **Promoting Sustainable Food Systems:** The summit highlighted the need to promote sustainable food systems that are both environmentally friendly and nutritionally balanced. Leaders committed to reducing food waste and promoting healthy diets.
- vii. **Youth and Women Empowerment:** African leaders acknowledged the vital role of youth and women in agriculture. They pledged to create opportunities for youth and women in the agricultural sector, including access to land and resources.



Photograph courtesy of AGRF Secretariat/ Ministry of Agriculture -
Tanzania

ASDP II STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIVE REVIEW MEETING

On August 15, 2023, the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), in partnership with the Prime Minister's Office, convened a half-day stakeholder consultative meeting to mark the inception of the ASDP II Mid-term Review. The primary aim of this consultative gathering was to provide an overview of the current implementation status, highlight challenges encountered, and showcase significant milestones achieved during the initial five years of ASDP II implementation. Furthermore, the meeting sought to gather valuable input and insights from a wide array of stakeholders, which would play a pivotal role in shaping the upcoming review process.



**Private Sector in a group photo during the ASDP II review meeting
held in Dar es Salaam**

The participants in this meeting represented both the public and private sectors. Key ministries and agencies from the public sector, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Ministry of Finance, and associated government bodies, were actively engaged. On the private sector front, prominent organizations such as ACT, ANSAF, TAHA, SAGCOT, and TPSF contributed to the insightful discussions, with ACT being represented by Mr. Khalid Ngassa.

A noteworthy highlight of the event was the presence of Hon. Dr. Jim James Yonazi, the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, with responsibilities encompassing policy, parliamentary affairs, and coordination. His active participation emphasized the government's unwavering commitment to the ASDP II program.



SACAU YLIP Learning Event in Germany

From August 20th to 28th, 2023, the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU), in collaboration with Andreas Hermes Akademie (AHA-International), organized a transformative knowledge-sharing and exchange visit in Germany. The core purpose of this enlightening experience was to provide young representatives from diverse African farmers' organizations, all affiliated with SACAU, with a profound and comprehensive understanding of the European agro-political landscape. The YLIP participants embarked on a transformative journey that included visits to key institutions:



The YLIP participants from Tanzania are pictured with Dr. Sinare Y. Sinare, the SACAU president (third from the right), and Mr. Jitu Soni, the ACT Vice Chairperson (second from the right).

During the meeting, a significant concern that emerged was the somewhat sluggish pace of implementation observed during the initial phase of the program. The Agricultural Sector Development Programme Phase II (ASDP II) signifies a substantial initiative aimed at reshaping the agricultural landscape in Tanzania. Its multifaceted components encompass sustainable water & land use management, enhanced agricultural productivity and profitability through commercialization and value addition, and the Strengthening of Sector Enablers. Addressing these challenges and expediting the program's momentum in the upcoming years will be pivotal in unlocking its full potential and realizing the envisioned transformation of Tanzania's agricultural sector.

First, at the German Ministry of Agriculture, they gained valuable insights into proactive efforts to elevate and revitalize agriculture. This was achieved by reframing the narrative around smallholder farmers, recognizing them simply as "farmers." This shift in mindset rippled through the entire agricultural value chain, emphasizing the crucial role of farmers. They also explored youth engagement in agriculture and policymaking, where farmer unions and young individuals collaborated to drive agendas integrated into government policies.

Next, their visit to the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) underscored the significance of research and development in agriculture. Participants discussed the challenge of making research recommendations accessible to farmers, emphasizing the need for simplified channels to effectively apply research findings.

Finally, participants shifted their focus to the European Commission, where they explored the advantages of the Common Market for member countries. This framework promotes seamless intra-member state trade and establishes stringent quality standards for imports, creating a favorable environment for local producers to thrive in supplying domestic markets.

Throughout the journey, they also had enriching experiences visiting the European Council of Young Farmers in the EU (CEJA) and the United Nations (UN). CEJA champions young farmers' interests and addresses challenges like access to land, credit, and mental health, ensuring the prosperity of agriculture. At the UN, they delved into efforts to combat desertification and the emphasis on capacity building to navigate a rapidly changing world, underlining the need for transformative change from within.



The YLIP participants in a group photo in Johannesburg, South Africa.

In conclusion, this immersive learning event provided participants with a priceless opportunity to establish networks, explore diverse perspectives, and immerse themselves in new cultures and approaches to agricultural practices. This experience will undoubtedly contribute significantly to the future of agriculture, particularly in Tanzania and across Africa as a whole.

BAYER & ACT PARTNERSHIP EXTENDS IN LAKE ZONE

The Agricultural Council of Tanzania (ACT) is implementing a Maize Demonstration Project (MDP), a partnership project with Bayer Ag, an international manufacturer and supplier of maize seeds and agrochemicals. In the current 2022/23 cropping season, the partnership mainly focused on promoting uptake of improved agricultural inputs in 17 pre-selected districts of mainland Tanzania (Wanging'ombe DC, Ludewa DC, Songea DC, Mbinga DC, Hai, Siha, Monduli, Meru, Moshi DC, Babati, Kiteto, Kondoa, Kilindi and Handeni), Sengerema, Buchosa and Geita) targeted to reach 90,300 smallholder farmers through a Farmer to Farmers (F2Fs) extension approach and establishment of maize demonstration plots. The MDP project stems from the successful implementation of "Better Farms Better Lives (BFBL)", which was concluded in July 2021 with the remarkable achievement of reaching out to 115,000 smallholder farmers in 29 districts. The project aims to improve smallholder farmers' production and productivity by utilizing modern agricultural technologies. The project trains farmers to act as anchors for demonstration plots. In addition, they will use Village-Based Agricultural Advisors (VBAs) to provide supplementary extension services. The initiative is targeting to train 4 VBAs, 5 Agro-dealers, and 150 (up to 180) Lead farmers who will help to reach out to at least 5,250 (and maximum 6,300) smallholder farmers per district. Other partners considered in this initiative are: key actors along the maize value chain, local Government Authorities at district/village levels and other input supplying companies.

During the week spanning from September 16th to 25th, the ACT team, under the leadership of Mr. Khalid Ngassa, initiated the project and conducted courtesy visits to the District Agricultural & Livestock District Officers (DALDOs) and District Executive Directors (DEDs) in Sengerema, Buchosa, and Geita Districts. The primary objective of these visits was to introduce the project to each district and establish essential communication channels. Furthermore, in each district, a dedicated crop officer has been appointed to oversee and facilitate the coordination of project implementation at the district level. ACT coordinates the overall planning, implementation and monitoring of project activities and facilitates strategic stakeholders to fulfil their roles and responsibilities. Bayer provides funding, maize seeds and other inputs, and technical support.

FARMERS TRAINING IN GAP

From February 16th to 27th September 2023, ACT conducted training on Good Agricultural Practices and the safe use of agro chemicals for VBA's, Lead Farmers and Agro-dealers in three districts of Sengerema, Buchosa and Geita. The ACT team comprised two Technical Officers, Mr. Khalid Ngassa and Mr. Obed Abraham, along with one Area Coordinator, Mr. Leonard Chacha (Sengerema, Buchosa, and Geita), who provided support in facilitating and delivering the training. The training sessions helped to strengthen extension services by quickly reaching out to a relatively large number of farmers through technically capacitated VBAs and Key Lead Farmers who act as distribution pathways for agro-inputs and GAPs knowledge on leveraging social networks (VBAs and Lead Farmers) for last-mile information delivery. The training was officiated by Mr. Khalid Ngassa (ACT Membership Services Manager) and Mr. Obed Abraham (ACT Project Officer) who welcomed the participants by providing a general overview of the Bayer Ag project focus on driving demand for BAYER products in particular DEKALB seed and CP (Belt and AUXO)



The YLIP participants in a group photo in Johannesburg, South Africa.



"VBAs pose for a photo during the receipt of DK maize seed for demo plots in Buchosa."



Participants posed for a group photo during the GAPS training in Geita

In summary, the GAP training program is strategically designed to stimulate demand for BAYER Ag agricultural inputs within the three targeted districts. This objective is achieved through the comprehensive training of Village-Based Advisors (VBAs), agro-dealers, and prominent local farmers in the principles of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs). Our dedicated team conducted rigorous training sessions, encompassing both theoretical and hands-on practical components. The training curriculum covered essential topics, including:

- i.) Effective land preparation,
- ii.) Selection and proper planting of improved/appropriate seeds,
- iii.) Correct application of fertilizers,
- iv.) Safe and efficient utilization of pesticides (including herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides), and
- v.) Management of post-harvest losses.

Remarkably, an impressive 150 participants, representing 100% of the total, actively participated in and benefited from the training sessions.

EABC CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

The East African Business Council (EABC) collaborated with key partners, including the East African Grain Council (EAGC), the East African Farmers Federation (EAFF), and National Apex Private Sector Associations, to organize a Master Trainers Capacity-Building Workshop. This vital training event, held in Kampala, Uganda, on July 24th, 2023, was part of the larger project ***"Enhancing Competitiveness of Agri-food Industry and Mitigating the Impact of Global Crises to Improve Food Security in the EAC Region."*** The workshop brought together participants from EAC member states, including Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi, who were engaged in various aspects of the agri-value chain sectors, with representation from organizations such as ACT, TCCIA, and more. A total of 25 participants convened at the workshop, united by the common goal of enhancing their capacity and skills within the East African Community (EAC) in relation to EAC Export Procedures and Contract Farming. The overarching objective was to strengthen the competitiveness of the agri-food industry and bolster the region's food security, especially in the face of global challenges.



Location

Plot 88 C, block 45, House no.
3. Off Bagamoyo Road Victoria



Phone Number

(+255) 719260726



Web

www.actanzania.or.tz



Participants posed for a group photo during the EABC capacity building training, Kampala-Uganda

The comprehensive training encompassed two key components:

Contract Farming: This component underscored the pivotal role of contract farming in enhancing agricultural value chains, improving productivity, and fostering sustainable partnerships. It highlighted the benefits, such as expanded market access and risk-sharing mechanisms, while emphasizing the need for a deep understanding of contract farming principles and processes. Participants, including farmers, processors, and buyers, were empowered to engage effectively in contract farming, negotiate equitable contracts, and manage quality control and dispute resolution.

Training on EAC Export Procedures: Understanding EAC export procedures, especially for food products, emerged as a crucial aspect of facilitating seamless regional trade. The training delved into the complex regulations governing food exports within the EAC, equipping participants with the knowledge to navigate the market effectively while ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements. Additionally, it empowered agri-actors to leverage preferential trade agreements like the EAC Common Market Protocol, enhancing their risk management, logistics, and export financing capabilities. Emphasis on product quality, safety standards, and efficient export practices aimed to foster consumer trust, boost competitiveness, and promote growth in the food export sector within the EAC.

In conclusion, the training delivered substantial outcomes, including the accreditation of 25 officers from regional associations as Master Trainers, increased knowledge among agri-actors regarding EAC Export Procedures and Contract Farming, and the expansion of a pool of experts well-versed in these critical areas. ACT was represented by Ms. Avelina Bernard.

VALIDATION WORKSHOP

On August 6, 2023, the Agricultural Council of Tanzania (ACT), with support from Andreas Hermes Akademie (AHA-International) through the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU), held a validation workshop at the Mdope Hotel in Mbeya. This workshop focused on engagement mechanisms for National Farmers' Organizations (NFOs) in climate change-related policies and programs. The validation workshop followed a successful regional climate change workshop held in July in Johannesburg, where each country had the opportunity to present progress made in implementing their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The event drew 50 participants, including farmers, representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, a representative from the Prime Minister's Office (climate change desk), and representatives from the private sector associations.

The primary objective of the workshop was to validate the findings from a rapid assessment study on "Engagement Mechanisms for National Farmers' Organizations (NFOs) in Climate Change-Related Policies and Programs, Including NDCs, at the National Level in Tanzania." Specifically, the workshop aimed to:

- i. Bring together stakeholders to discuss climate change and agriculture-related issues.
- ii. Share the key findings of the rapid assessment study with the invited stakeholders.
- iii. Address comments and questions from stakeholders.
- iv. Receive recommendations from stakeholders on how to enhance engagement mechanisms for farmers.

Mr. Daniel Naila, the consultant, presented a summary of the rapid assessment, highlighting the country's efforts to ensure the effective implementation of NDCs in partnership with NFOs to combat climate change and provide mitigation measures.



Participants engage in dialogue following the presentation of the research in Mbeya

In summary, the validation workshop addressed several critical issues, including the role of governments in mitigating climate change's impact on agriculture by emphasizing the need for robust policies and coordinated actions to support sustainable farming practices. The workshop also underscored the essential role of NFOs like ACT in bridging the gap between smallholder farmers and climate solutions, facilitating their engagement with adaptive practices and technologies. Discussions also centered on government plans for tailored extension services to ensure effective climate adaptation guidance reaches rural farmers. Additionally, challenges related to accessing agricultural inputs, implementing rapid assessment study recommendations, and the vital role of NGOs and development partners in empowering farmers were key focal points of the workshop.

TRAINING WORKSHOP ON AGGREGATION AND COLLECTIVE MARKETING

On August 3rd and 4th, the Agricultural Council of Tanzania, with funding from the Southern Africa Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) through the FO4ACP project, organized a two-day training workshop focused on aggregation and collective marketing. The primary aim of this workshop was to raise awareness and enhance the capacity of lead farmers and extension officers in the effective practice of aggregation and collective marketing. The overarching goal was to empower farmers, including those who had adopted SRI technology and practices, to develop strategies for aggregating surplus produce, accessing more lucrative markets, reducing transaction costs, and bolstering the bargaining power of smallholder farmers. The ultimate objective of these training sessions was for lead farmers and extension officers to disseminate the knowledge they acquired to their peers, thus increasing the volume of aggregated and collectively sold produce.



In total, the workshop brought together approximately 75 participants, consisting of selected lead farmers and extension agents (35 from Dakawa and 34 from Mkindo), as well as 3 extension officers from each village. This training addressed critical concerns in numerous rice-producing districts in Tanzania, prompting a reevaluation of current marketing mechanisms and the exploration of innovative approaches to ensure that farmers gain access to broader and more secure markets. Consequently, the training introduced proactive strategies aimed at enabling smallholder farmers to capitalize on emerging commercial opportunities.

In summary, the training provided lead farmers with valuable knowledge on effective aggregation, efficient produce storage management, and the collective sale of their produce. It served as a crucial platform for lead farmers to strategize and enhance their skills in the aggregation of produce and collective marketing. This approach has become increasingly vital for smallholder farmers to maintain competitiveness in rapidly evolving markets. The overarching goal of implementing aggregation and collective marketing plans is to boost farmers' income levels and combat rural poverty. The training was expertly delivered by Mr. Khalid Ngassa and Mr. Obed Abraham from the ACT Secretariat.

FINANCIAL LINKAGE TRAINING

On August 1st and 2nd, 2023, the Agricultural Council of Tanzania (ACT) organized a two-day workshop focusing on "business linkages" for participants from Dakawa and Mkindo Irrigation Schemes in Mvomero district, Morogoro Region. The primary objective of this workshop was to facilitate and promote business connections between off-takers/processors and smallholder farmers. In attendance were a total of 83 participants, comprising 38 females, 26 youth, 69 lead farmers, 8 off-takers/processors, and 6 extension officers from both Mkindo and Dakawa.

ACT, through the FO4ACP Project, orchestrated this linkage meeting, aiming to bridge the gap between farmers and off-takers/processors, with a focus on creating a mutually beneficial business environment. The discussions revolved around various critical aspects, including the availability and quality of rice produce, buyer-offered prices versus market-set prices, the establishment of collection centers, and the formulation of additional terms and conditions to ensure the sustainability of business transactions. During the workshop, participants engaged in comprehensive discussions concerning business management and, notably, the long-term viability and sustainability of their enterprises.



Lead farmer (Mr. Mwamtobe) explaining about quality of rice produce to convince off-takers during linkage meeting at Dakawa village.



Wilmar sales manager, Mr Nuruel provides briefings about the quality and standard of rice as per company's requirements at Dakawa village

The linkage meeting was an integral part of the negotiation training provided to lead farmers under the FO4ACP project (2019-2023), generously funded by the Southern Africa Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU). The facilitation team for the linkage meeting consisted of Mr. Obedi Abraham and Mr. Khalid Ngassa from the ACT Secretariat, along with Mr. Hoziel Foya, the ACT's designated contact person in Mvomero.

Mission & Vision

MISSION

To advocate, coordinate and provide support for a competitive and sustainable agribusiness.

VISION

A vibrant and prosperous sustainable Agricultural sector which is competitive and ensures food and nutritional security; and is private sector driven.

Editorial Board

➤ Mr. Timoth Mmbaga – Board Chair

➤ Mr. Mark Magila - Member

➤ Mr. Khalid Ngassa - Member

Contact Us

Executive Director
Agricultural Council of Tanzania
S.L.P 14130, Dar es Salaam

- ☎ Tel: (+255) 719260726
- ✉ E-mail: act@actanzania.or.tz
- ✉ MembershipComm@actanzania.or.tz
- 🌐 Website: www.actanzania.or.tz

ACT Strategic Objectives

- To advocate for improved agri-business environment
- To strengthen the technical and managerial competencies of ACT members so that they can improve service delivery to their respective members.
- To provide and receive relevant information from and to ACT Members and other stakeholders for development of the agricultural sector in Tanzania.
- To support and strengthen the Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) at national and district level.
- To coordinate the Public and private sector initiatives towards the development of agribusiness in Tanzania.

This Is PFS

Partnership for Scale project, coordinates and facilitates different value chain actors and stakeholders under a Public Private Partnership (PPP). The project intends to complement and upscale achievements made during the previous phase (popularly known as TAP II). TAP II (October 2014-October 2019) thrived to stimulate agricultural growth in Tanzania through commercially oriented interventions and investments. The project is being implemented for 3 years i.e., from October 2020 to September 2023. It is managed by the Agricultural Council of Tanzania.

PFS Goals

The PFS goal is: Improved Food & Nutrition Security and Poverty Reduction. Income poverty is expected to be reduced by 17 percent and child malnutrition decreased by 5 percent.

Approaches

The TAP program, since its inception, has focused on working through partnerships that greatly contributed to its success in the preceding phases. PFS will adopt a similar approach where the key mode of operation will be guided by partnership building. The PFS Management, under ACT, will coordinate and assume a more facilitative role with minimal direct field presence to ensure that these partnerships are strengthened and desired outcomes are delivered.

Official ACT Social Media Accounts:

LinkedIn [@barazalakilimo](#)

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Facebook [Agricultural Council of Tanzania](#)

PFS is responsible to ACT Board of Directors