

ACT Newsletter



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We Unite . We Dialogue . We Advocate

1 OBITUARY

The 13th July 2018, was the darkest day in the short history of ACT, the Accountant, Mr. Asante Bernard died at Muhimbili National Hospital after a very short illness. Mr. Bernard (40 years old) worked with ACT for nearly three years. He managed one of the key departments. He was laid to rest at his birth place in Kasulu district, Kigoma region. May his soul rest in peace. Amen.





2

IMPLEMENTATION WORKING GROUP MEETING IN DODOMA

On 24th and 25th July 2018, 3 ACT staff held a joint meeting with their counterparts from the Ministry of Agriculture in Dodoma to deliberate further on the Memorandum of Understanding – MOU in regard to strengthening the participation of the Private Sector in developing the agriculture sector. In the previous meeting, the two parties agreed to form the Implementation Working Group – IWG which was directed to set-up modalities for cooperation in key agreed activities. The Dodoma meeting worked on the Action Plan meant to set a clear understanding of the nature and scope of collaboration. Hence advise the Management of the two institutes. The life-span of the MOU is 5 years (2017- 2020) and it is reviewable. Initial areas identified for cooperation are: Budgetary Process, Legislation of the Agricultural Land, Digital Farmer Aggregation Platform, Co-managing National Agricultural Shows, Data and Information Sharing. The next meeting was planned to take place on 6th September 2018.





Maize crop failure due to persistent drought

3

AGRICULTURAL INSURANCE IN TANZANIA

On 19th July 2018 ACT attended a high-level meeting which discussed and sought answers to the challenges that insuring agricultural enterprises are facing. This event was organised by the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority, supported by Feed the Future initiative – ‘Assets and Market Access Innovation Lab’. The meeting discussed about agricultural and livestock-based index insurance as a developing tool. The organizers brought to light that many countries with similar agricultural setting like ours have succeeded to test and endorse Agricultural Index Insurance interventions. The organisers therefore invited policy makers, researchers, insurance companies, and partners to discuss about appropriate steps to take to achieve responsible, affordable, accessible and valuable products and services. Most of the discussion was about presentations from Kenya experience in crop and livestock insurance.

4

ACT Facilitates Resource Mobilization Training

ACT organised a tailor-made training about Resource Mobilization for its Board members, the Secretariat, and representatives from several member organizations. The training was held on 27th July 2018 at New Africa Hotel, Dar es Salaam. 'Resource Mobilization' is not 'Project Write-up'. It is a strategy to mobilize funds for a certain purpose or activity. ACT out-sourced a Consultant who guided the participants through the procedures to follow towards accomplishing the Organization's goal. A point of focus during his presentation was how to source funds to enable an organisation can survive without depending too much on donor funding. He confided to the trainees some strategies for resource hunting, they include: networking with partners, creating consortiums, courtesy visits, and marketing / branding an organisation.



Participants in the resource mobilization workshop



ACT MARKED THE NATIONAL FARMERS WEEK

5

From 1st to 8th August 2018 ACT was present at this year's National Farmers Week which exhibited products and services that are related to the value chain of the agricultural industry. The venue was at Tungi Grounds, Morogoro Municipality. TAP supports some farmers and processors to participate in this annual event. This year it invited stakeholders from Kyera, Njombe, Mbeya, Mbarali, Songea, Namtumbo, Mvomero and Kisarawe. The beneficiaries displayed their products and services for the benefit of show goers, especially those who are interested in agricultural pursuits. At times ACT pavilion was jammed with people from all walks of life. According to the registry book, we recorded the highest attendance ever. Moreover, ACT has purchased a plot at Tungi grounds which will be the permanent venue for its exhibitions.



The Role and Capacity of 2 Food Agencies

6



A consultancy company, M/s Market Axis was commissioned by ACT to conduct a study on how policies, regulatory and institutional frameworks constrain the Cereals and other Produce Board (CPB) and the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) in supporting smallholder farmers to access reliable and remunerative markets for their produce. Finally recommend how food security support instruments can be improved so as to bring a positive impact to smallholder producers.

The study which was conducted in strategically selected 9 districts was presented on 29th August 2018 in Dodoma at a stakeholders' meeting. Over 50 participants deliberated on key findings of the study: the status of food security, price stabilization, CPB performance, NFRA performance, the synergies of these bodies, hitches in their functioning, and cross-cutting recommendations.



Challenges and Opportunities of WRS in smallholder agriculture

7



A senior consultant from Sokoine University of Agriculture – SUA, Prof. Reuben Kadigi was commissioned by ACT to conduct a study on challenges and opportunities for implementation of Warehouse Receipt Systems in smallholder agriculture, specifically cereals and pulses. About 45 participants with a diverse background were invited to deliberate on this subject, the workshop was held on 30 August 2018 in Dodoma City.

The study was hinged on the existence of malfunctioning elements of the WRS despite its huge potential to benefit small scale stakeholders. The general objective was to investigate the capacity of storage warehouses in Tanzania, and challenges behind the improper functioning of the WRS within smallholders' environment. Hence identify existing weaknesses that should be addressed, and opportunities that should be capitalized on.





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