

Case Studies of Women in Tanzanian Agribusiness

Case studies compiled by Maggie Tiernan and Christina Nelson for the Women in Public Service Project.

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I. Overview: Agriculture in Tanzania

From: Worldmark Encyclopedia of Nations (<http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Tanzania.aspx>):

AGRICULTURE

About 5.8% of the total land area is cultivated, with about two-thirds belonging to farmers owning or operating farms of five hectares (12.4 acres) or less. A massive collectivization and cooperative agricultural program was begun in 1967; by the end of 1980, 8,167 self-help villages, involving more than 14 million people, had been established. The program was coupled with the takeover of large estates.

The principal food crops are corn, millet, rice, sorghum, and pulses. The chief cash crops are coffee, cotton, and cashew nuts; sisal, cloves, sugar, tea, pyrethrum, and tobacco are also important. Tanzania is one of Africa's leading producers of sisal; in 2004, production was 23,500 tons. Other estimated agricultural production in 2004 included manioc, 6,890,000 tons; corn, 2,800,000 tons; sorghum, 650,000 tons; rice, 647,000 tons; and millet, 270,000 tons. Production in 2004 also included coffee, 47,000 tons; cotton, 109,000 tons; cashew nuts, 100,000 tons; tea, 25,500 tons; tobacco, 24,500 tons; sweet potatoes, 970,000 tons; white potatoes, 260,000 tons; and 83,000 tons of peanuts. Sugarcane production in that year was an estimated 1,800,000 tons; bananas, 150,400 tons; plantains, 601,600 tons; dry beans, 280,000 tons; seed cotton, 330,000 tons; and cottonseed, 210,000 tons. Tanzania is the third leading producer of cloves, which are grown mostly on Pemba; production totaled 12,500 tons in 2004. Tanzania is also an important producer of coconuts (370,000 tons in 2004), mostly from the island of Zanzibar.

There was a steady decline in agricultural production during the late 1970s and early 1980s because of drought and low prices paid by the state crop-marketing agencies. In addition, there was a shortage of farm implements; only 3,000 of the nation's 10,000 tractors were in working order in 1982, and even hand hoes and oxen plows were in acute shortage. By 2003, there were some 7,600 tractors in service (down from 8,000 in 1985). Beginning in 1986, reforms of the cooperative unions and crop marketing boards have aided production. The purchase of crops (especially coffee, cotton, sisal, tea, and pyrethrum) has been opened to private traders.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Although large areas are unsuitable for livestock because of the tsetse fly, considerable numbers of cattle, sheep, and goats are kept, and livestock raising makes a substantial contribution to the economy. The estimated livestock population in 2005 included 17,800,000 head of cattle, 12,550,000 goats, 3,521,000 sheep, 455,000 pigs, and 30,000,000 poultry. About 364,000 tons of meat were produced in 2005. Milk production that year consisted of 940,000 tons from cows and 104,000 tons from goats.

FISHING

With over 6% of Tanzania's area consisting of open lake waters, inland fishing, especially on Lake Tanganyika, occupies an important place in the economy. There is also fishing in the Indian Ocean. The total catch was 363,522 tons in 2003, about 83% from inland waters. Nile perch, dagaas, and tilapias are the main species caught.

“Agriculture” from the Government of Tanzania, <http://www.tanzania.go.tz/agriculture.html>

Agriculture is the foundation of the Tanzanian economy. It accounts for about half of the national income, three quarters of merchandise exports and is source of food and provides employment opportunities to about 80 percent of Tanzanians. It has linkages with the non-farm sector through forward linkages to agro-processing, consumption and export; provides raw materials to industries and a market for manufactured goods.

Agriculture in Tanzania is dominated by smallholder farmers (peasants) cultivating an average farm sizes of between 0.9 hectares and 3.0 hectares each. About 70 percent of Tanzania’s crop area is cultivated by hand hoe, 20 percent by ox plough and 10 percent by tractor. It is rainfed agriculture. Food crop production dominates the agriculture economy 5.1 million ha. are cultivated annually, of which 85 percent is under food crops. Women constitute the main part of agricultural labour force. The major constraint facing the agriculture sector is the falling labour and land productivity due to application of poor technology, dependence on unreliable and irregular weather conditions. Both crops and livestock are adversely affected by periodical droughts.

Irrigation holds the key to stabilizing agricultural production in Tanzania to improve food security, increase farmers’ productivity and incomes, and also to produce higher valued crops such as vegetables and even flowers.

Urban Agriculture:

Urban agriculture has flourished as a household – level initiative to cope with economic hardships encountered as a result of raising cost of living. Urban agriculture that consists of raising and growing of vegetable and food crops is found in Tanzanian towns and cities where the ready market for Agricultural products are found. Producers of vegetables, milk, broilers’ meat and eggs sell to private households and to school, hotels, hospitals, bars, cafeterias and restaurants.

Agriculture Performance:

Agricultural GDP has grown at 3.3 percent per year since 1985, the main food crops at 3.5 percent and export crops at 5.4 percent per year. Considering that the overall GDP growth target for halving abject poverty by 2010 is in the range of 6-7 percent, this performance falls short of the needed growth.

The macro economic reforms have and continue to have had significant impact on the Agriculture sector. The economic reforms have lead to the opening up of the sector to private investment in production and processing, input importation and distribution and agricultural marketing. Most of production and processing and marketing functions have been assigned to the private sector. The Government has retained regulatory and public Support functions or facilitation role.

Farmers are free to sell their crops to cooperatives or private traders. Due to competition, normal producer prices for food & export crops have increased as such farmers can now sell their produce much faster. Farmers are no longer confined to a single source for their essential inputs for crops and livestock.

The Government recognizes the pivotal role of the agricultural sector both in terms of economic growth and poverty reduction. Also the strong influence of factors outside the sector such as infrastructure, rural financial services, land ownership and good governance is recognised.

Priority actions include:

- The pursuit of macroeconomic policies that will motivate investment in agriculture by small holders and large – scale commercial farmers.
- Creation of an enabling environment and provide proactive support to private operators, farmers organizations, NGOs and CBOs supplying inputs and credit to small farmers and ensuring a strong regulatory mechanism.
- Concentration of budgetary allocations in agriculture research and extension.
- Provision of special support to investments in agricultural processing particularly in fruits and vegetables and accord top priority to implementation of new land Act.

“Tanzania: Agriculture,” from the Encyclopedia of the Nations,
<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/economies/Africa/Tanzania-AGRICULTURE.html>

As the pillar of both the domestic and the export economy, the agricultural sector in Tanzania engages 80 percent of the **labor force**, which equaled approximately 13.495 million in 1999, while providing 49 percent of the country's GDP (est. 1996). Agricultural products include coffee, sisal, tea, cotton, pyrethrum, cashew nuts, tobacco, cloves, corn, wheat, cassava, bananas, and vegetables. Livestock production includes cattle, sheep, and goats. Agricultural output remains predominately based on **small holder** production, as opposed to estate cultivation, though the latter does account for some sisal, tea, coffee, tobacco, rice, wheat, and wattle (construction material made of tied-together poles or sticks) production. Cash crops, such as coffee, tea, cotton, cashews, sisal, cloves, and pyrethrum account for the vast majority of export earnings. Maize, paddy, wheat, and cassava are produced for domestic consumption.

In terms of agricultural exports, coffee constitutes the most important cash crop. According to the IMF, coffee accounted for 17.7 percent of Tanzania's total exports in 1996. At 16.3 percent of total exports, cotton was the second most important cash crop, followed by cashew nuts (12.7 percent), tobacco (6.4 percent), tea (2.9 percent), and sisal (0.7 percent). In Zanzibar, the major cash crop is cloves, 90 percent of which are produced on the island of Pemba. The major importers of Tanzania's agricultural exports consist of the EU countries, especially the United Kingdom, Germany, and the Netherlands.

In the past, the agricultural sector was completely controlled by the government. While **liberalization** of the sector has rapidly occurred, there are still government marketing boards that set quasi-official (semi-official) prices for certain crops. Purchasers are not forced to abide by the set prices, but often feel compelled to because most peasants normally support the prices the government establishes. This has led to some conflict, and most recently a dispute has emerged between cashew producers and cashew exporters over the government-set prices. While the former supports the prices, the latter argues they are unreasonable. The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) argues that the quasi-official prices are detrimental to agricultural growth, as they cause confusion and conflict. At the same time, however, the government argues that they apply pressure on private purchasers to pay fair prices for different crops. Despite the pressures of **deregulation** in the agricultural sector, the government has not made plans to abandon the quasi-official pricing system.

The February 2001 Tanzania Country Report issued by the EIU forecasts that GDP growth in Tanzania will equal 5.3 percent in 2001 and 5.9 percent in 2002. Not surprisingly, this growth will be led by the production of traditional agricultural commodity exports. While growth in GDP represents a positive development, the cash crop basis of this growth renders it largely unsustainable. In other words, Tanzania is currently experiencing a period of favorable production conditions, which, due to the volatile (frequently changing) nature of the weather, are guaranteed to change, for better or worse.

Production patterns in Tanzania and other agriculturally based developing nations oscillate (rapidly increase and decrease) dramatically, according to the shifting weather conditions in a given harvest year. In the past 10 years, for instance, maize production in Tanzania has varied considerably, ranging from a high of 2,638 produced tons in 1995-96, to a low of 2,107 tons in 1996-97. Though maize production is largely for domestic consumption, the same unstable patterns of production

characterize agricultural crops designated for exportation, as both are subject to the debilitating effects of drought and flooding during the rainy season.

The volatile prices of agricultural commodities on international markets exacerbate (make worse) the instability of countries such as Tanzania that are highly dependent upon cash crop exports. For example, in any given year, the international prices of a commodity such as coffee can increase or decrease considerably, depending upon how much or how little all coffee-producing countries collectively produce. If there is a large international coffee harvest, prices will diminish, as competition will increase. The same holds true in the opposite direction.

Another major inhibiting factor working against the sustainability of growth generated by agricultural production relates to the small amount of existing arable land in Tanzania. Only 4 percent of all land is arable, with only 1 percent suitable for permanent crops. To make matters worse, Tanzania currently confronts issues of soil degradation, deforestation, and **desertification**. For all these reasons, it is imperative that Tanzania develop the other sectors of its economy.

“Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania: Appendix III: Land Development”

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper is to identify some of the major issues relating to land development in the context of SAGCOT. SAGCOT's overall aim is to contribute to the growth of modern, commercial agriculture in the corridor and to stimulate local development. Land is an essential element in this process. The development process would be designed to be socially and environmentally responsible.

It is often said that there is a large amount of land available for future agricultural development. In reality, this is not true. Although there are significant areas of unused and underused land in the Southern Corridor, the assumption that this is available for immediate development may not be correct. Most of the high potential areas have been developed, and many of the areas with less potential require major infrastructure investment if they are to become commercially competitive. Also, many areas of high agricultural potential, especially around wetlands, are also important areas for biodiversity.

The current land tenure and land use situation in Tanzania is as complex as it is sensitive. Furthermore - although the issue is of immense political, social and environmental importance - authoritative and reliable information on the overall situation is usually very difficult to find. SAGCOT will therefore approach the issue with care, appreciating that there are often different, sometimes conflicting, views of the same piece of land: for example smallholder cultivation/grazing/biodiversity/large scale farming.

While each situation has its own important characteristics, the underlying constraints to a rational and transparent system of land tenure, land administration and land use planning are generally well recognized. That is why Kilimo Kwanza has placed land reform very clearly on its agenda (see section 2.6). The constraints to investment in future agricultural development are also recognized, which is why the Government is establishing Regional Land Banks to increase the availability and improve the accessibility of land to investors.

For SAGCOT to be able to make progress, it is not necessary to wait until all the underlying problems are resolved. Rather, by focusing on large and small scale farms and farmers who are already established, and looking to develop land that already has 'title' there are immediate ways in which SAGCOT can move forward.

2. THE CURRENT SITUATION

This section summarizes some of the current opportunities and constraints related to agricultural land development in Tanzania.

2.1 Land Availability

It is generally held that Tanzania has 94.5 million ha of land of which 44 million ha are classified as suitable for agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives (URT, 2009) estimates that 2.3 million ha have high development potential, and a further 4.8 million is of

medium development potential. As will be shown later, some of these figures might need revision and updating.

Within the approximate 300,000 km² of the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor there are 7.5 million ha of arable land, of which only 2.2 million ha (30%) is currently cultivated. The human population is about 8.8 million people.

All land is owned by the government. However, the great majority of agricultural land is controlled by villagers and their rights are protected – up to a point – by the provisions of the Village Land Act of 1999. However, within the corridor, there are also significant tracts of land owned by private organisations (such as churches), as well as public institutions (prisons, research stations and others) that are not being developed. Furthermore, there are abandoned, but titled, farms such as old Brewery farms and deserted sisal estates. Also, there are many farms that are titled, but not farmed. These are the property of absentee landlords, or more formally ‘Non-Farming Land Owners’ (NFLO). These are usually urban-based professionals working in other sectors with very little capacity to start farming. This is a potentially rich source of available land for rapid development, and bringing the non-farming landowners themselves into agriculture would be a great step forward in developing commercial Tanzanian agriculture.

2.2 Land Laws

All land in Tanzania is public land, held in trust by the Head of State. While the provisions of the Land Act and Village Land Act (both of 1999) and their regulations are complex, from the perspective of SAGCOT there are two main land types that are of interest. The first is land that is said to have a ‘title’: though this is actually a long-term lease assured by a Certificate of Occupancy, issued under Section 29 of the Land Act No 4 of 1999. The other is village land, which is usually unsurveyed and without any title. Access to this land is controlled by the Village Government, with traditional usufruct rights recognised and organised within the village itself.

Only a very small proportion of agricultural land in the corridor has a Certificate of Occupancy. The vast majority is therefore Village Land. The main legal instrument currently controlling access by outsiders to village land for development is *Hati ya Kimila*. This allows the Regional administration to allocate Indigenous Land Titles of up to 500 acres (c. 200 ha) to companies with majority Tanzanian ownership. A *Hati ya Kimila* lease will only be issued once the village has agreed and documented a sale of land. Under this system, the landlord is the village, and the Regional Lands Office oversees the lease and ensures that both the village and the individual are protected by the lease (the *hati*).

In areas where the *Hati ya Kimila* system is not predominant, investors should be able to access land through the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC). This is a long process, which starts with negotiation at the village. This system is summarised in Annex 1. These regulations are making it difficult for farmers wanting to invest in land get a Certificate of Occupancy, unless they purchase a farm that has already been surveyed and registered, though the process of sale can also be cumbersome. In addition, in response to corruption problems, there is currently a freeze on

land registration in much of the Southern Highlands. This has further exacerbated the problems of using land as collateral for bank loans.

The current concerns about the practical difficulties of existing land laws and their impact on overall development are reflected in the Government's own analysis: *"agricultural challenges we witness today could be due to the land law which does not give full ownership to individuals"* (URT, 2009b).

2.3 Land Administration

Weak, and at times corrupt, land administration systems have compounded the complexity of the land laws. It can take an honest investor up to ten years going through the official channels to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy. Inevitably, there is the temptation for investors to take a short-cut, which only fuels of the underlying problem. Once a Certificate of Occupancy is issued, the titleholder is expected to develop the property, usually within three years. This places a burden on the title holder to finance immediate development on the land, which is often without access to supporting infrastructure or proper long-term financial instruments.. Failure to do so risks confiscation, though this does not often happen. Fear of confiscation also deters land owners not wanting to farm, without the necessary skills, or unable to raise start-up capital from putting undeveloped, titled land into the Regional Land Banks.

These problems are not being ignored. Steps have recently been taken by the government to tackle endemic corruption in land administration.

2.4 Land Banks

TIC is not operating a Land Bank. This responsibility has been transferred to the Regional Authorities². The SAGCOT IBP Preparation Team obtained information from several Regional Land Banks in the Southern Highlands. Very little land suitable for large-scale development has so far been registered. In part, because owners fear they will be accused of not having failed to develop the land. This is one of the many problems that must be tackled if the Land Bank system is to become an effective instrument for agricultural development.

2.5 Land Use Planning

Although there are a number of institutions collecting information on land and land use, there is no obvious central point coordinating access to land use information. Neither, for the moment, is there an efficient cadastral system recording the legal status of land throughout the country.

At the district level, with support from ASDP, Local Government Authorities are working on District Land Use Framework Plans (DLUFP) and Village Land Use Plans (VLUP). These will record crop production, livestock production, forestry, irrigation and human settlement. The plans are guided by Land and Village Land Acts of 1999, and Land Use Planning Act No. 6 of 2007. With support also from the Ministry of Land, Housing and Human Settlement, 26 District Land Use Framework Plans and 702 Village Land Use Plans have been prepared. Also, the National Land Use Planning Commission

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(NLUPC) gazetted and developed land set aside for settlement in 21 villages with growing settlements/trading centres as according to Urban Planning Act No 7 of 2007.

However, most of the land use planning that is underway is sectorally-focused. The SAGCOT team has not been able to locate or access any fully integrated overall land use plans (incorporating agriculture and livestock, infrastructure, forestry, protected areas, human settlement and environmental concerns in one interactive system.)

The lack of an authoritative and accessible focal point for information results in misinformation and misunderstandings about land use and land availability. An example is provided by the Table below, which is a standard Table for land in Tanzania used by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives.

		<u>Million ha</u>
TOTAL LAND	–	94.5
Arable	–	44.0.
Cultivated	–	10.1
Suitable for Irrigation	–	29.4
High Potential	–	2.3
Medium Potential	–	4.8
Low Potential	–	22.3
Under Medium/Large Scale farming	–	1.5
Rangelands*	–	50.0
Suitable for Livestock	–	26.0
Tsetse Infected Area	–	24.0

Source: MAFC Power Point Presentation to ASDP Stakeholders, Bagamoyo, March 2008.

This table reflects a stronger bias towards sectoral interests rather than respect for geographical or agro-ecological accuracy. There is, for example, no recognition of the 39 million hectares of forest, of which 13.5 million hectares are formally gazetted as national or local government forest. Furthermore, the table ignores some 6 million ha of inland water and 10 million ha of national parks and reserves. Such numbers are misleading and lead to false expectations about opportunities. There is therefore an urgent need for a system of effective, unbiased and accurate land use data for the nation as a whole.

An immediate opportunity arises through the initiatives being launched by ASDP at district and village level,; ASDP is planning to recruit a team of Land Use Planning Experts to work on improvements of the district and village LUPs. The intention is to establish five Land Use Planning Zones to bring land use planning services closer to Local Government, farmers and other stakeholders. SAGCOT should cooperate with this initiative, so as to contribute the existing information that has been collected and collated, and to learn more about the future process. Without this, it will not be possible for Tanzania to plan and implement a rational programme of agricultural (or forestry or rangeland or protected areas) development. Not only must this information be accurate and unbiased, but it must also be readily available to all who would like to use it.

It will also be necessary to work with other local initiatives, such as wetland planning in the Kilombero.

Coordinating Land Use Planning is not part of the mandate of SAGCOT. On the other hand, in the course of preparing the Investment Blueprint, the SAGCOT team has collected and collated a vast amount of relevant – though not always accurate – information. This is a resource that could be made available to a suitably qualified and capable institution to establish the basis of a Southern Corridor Land Use data set.

2.6 Land Reform

The need for land reform is understood. Nonetheless, land reform will be difficult and will take time. There are many different interests at stake. The primary concern of the government is to protect smallholders against exploitation. But the government is also wanting to protect biodiversity as well as encourage large-scale commercial agriculture. These are all sensitive and important issues. But there is no hope of rational, wise use of the available resources if there is no reliable information on which to base plans.

Like land use planning, land reform is not an area where SAGCOT has a mandate. SAGCOT is not a policy project or an advocacy organisation. It does not get directly involved in this important aspect of agricultural development: there are other organisations which focus on that.

It is therefore useful to note the set of proposals already established in *Kilimo Kwanza's* Pillar 5. As the Government is the owner of all land in the country, the *Kilimo Kwanza* proposals are directly focused on government actions to improve the current situation. No one else can bring change other than the Government. The *Kilimo Kwanza* recommendations require the Government to:

- a) Amend the Village Land of 1999 to facilitate equitable access to village land,
- b) Strengthen capacity of District Land Officers and empower District Councils to execute their land related tasks,
- c) Enforce laws on rural land use planning and town planning to include processes leading to issuance of title deeds,
- d) Allocate enough resources to District/Town Councils to be able to implement planned activities in relation to land,
- e) Build capacity of Land Offices in Local Government Authorities to efficiently and effectively administer land matters and strengthen supervision by District Executive Directors,
- f) Re-examine land surveying costs for provisioning of Certificates of Registration.
- g) Review and streamline the existing arrangements of granting land allocation,
- h) Regional Commissioners to establish Land Banks for commercial production and investments.
- i) Identify and record underutilized land for agricultural investments
- j) Legislate measures to enable villages and villagers to use their land as equity in joint ventures with investors
- k) Review Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) Derivative Rights to facilitate Tanzanians to enter into joint ventures in land based investments
- l) Work out a land valuation formula to reflect current market value for investment purposes
- m) Enforce the provision of the law to avoid land hoarding and speculation and

- n) Utilize land belonging to Government Institutions for agricultural production.

This set of recommendation provides a stark indication of the weakness of the current situation. It underlines the need for fundamental and substantial change. Without change, commercial agriculture –as well as many other land management operations – will fail.

2.7 Land Grabbing

There is a fundamental difference between the approach to agricultural land use as proposed by SAGCOT cluster development (average farm size 2.0 ha) and the mega-farms being developed for bio-fuels or following state-to-state agreements (Collier and Dercon, 2009). Not only is the scale of operation significantly different, so is the long-term objectives of the two types of development. The mega-farms often have little connection with, or concern for, the farming communities in the area where land is acquired. In contrast, SAGCOT will work with, and ultimately depend on, close cooperation with the neighbouring small-scale and emergent farmers. The land farmed through SAGCOT investments will be developed as a partnership; where all sides will take part in a sustainable rural development process: and do so ‘without regrets’.

SAGCOT will develop mutually profitable co-existence of developed farms owned by a wide range of different people and organisations and neighbouring smallholders. This is essential to the long term development approach.

II. Tanzanian Land Grabs

“Tanzania: Government signs off huge tracts of land to foreign investors in secret deals”

The Norwegian Council for Africa

<http://www.afrika.no/Detailed/21706.html>

Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) - Tanzania leads East African countries in secretive land investment deals, with the government signing off huge chunks of land to foreign governments and private investors, a new survey shows. And East Africa — a region where land is usually an emotive issue — tops the global charts on dishing out farmlands, edging out Southeast Asia, South America and Central Africa.

Tanzania recorded at least 58 deals involving an estimated 2.2 million hectares, according to the Land Matrix Project, a new online database. Kenya follows with 13 deals over an estimated 633,500 hectares. Uganda comes in third with four deals over an estimated 76,512 ha; while Rwanda tails with just a single deal over an estimated 3,100 ha. There is no information on Burundi.

While the entry of foreign investors purportedly comes with positive trickle-down effects like provision of jobs and economic growth, some security analysts and humanitarian organisations said this trend is exposing EAC countries to possible food insecurity, instability, social unrest and conflict in coming years. Indeed, it has already sparked land invasions in northern Tanzania.

Foreign governments that seek this land import most of their food and so they want it mainly to grow food and export it back to their countries. A section of politicians in Tanzania have been pushing for land reform that would see the seizure of big tracts of land owned by rich individuals and their transfer to poor, landless people — this was promised by both Cha cha Mapinduzi and Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (Chadema) candidates in the campaigns before the recent by-election in Arumeru East constituency in Arusha.

While the single land investment in Rwanda is from next-door neighbour Uganda, Tanzania’s are mainly from Germany, the UK, Norway, Sweden, Korea, and Netherlands; while Kenya’s deals come in from Canada, UK, Japan, Qatar, the US, and Switzerland.

Ironically, a majority of the countries, particularly in Africa, that are giving their land away routinely suffer from famine and starvation.

The Land Matrix Project has been created by the Centre for Development and Environment at the University of Bern in Switzerland; the Paris-based Centre for Agricultural Research for Development; the German Institute of Global and Area Studies; Germany’s lead development agency GIZ, and the International Land Coalition. The matrix, its creators said, systematically collates and seeks to verify information on large-scale land acquisitions, from 200 ha and above, that have been concluded since 2000 with the aim of providing a quantitative response to a global trend where rich countries are swooping down on poorer ones and picking up huge pieces of land on the cheap.

An accompanying report – Transnational Land Deals for Agriculture in the Global South — says that there has been a slowdown in the scramble for land, which peaked in 2009, because of “the easing of commodity prices, the financial crisis and new realism about the risks of the investments concerned.”

It is also possible, the report adds, that the slowdown “may also reflect a new wariness about announcing very large-scale prospective deals, and a shift in media interest to other topics.”

The wariness may result from the fact that for a time now, as these transactions have grown in scale and intensity, many commentators, including former UN secretary-general Kofi Annan, have expressed fears that a new Scramble for Africa is underway. The interactive matrix has recorded 1,217 agricultural land deals, which amount to 83.2 million hectares of land in developing countries or 1.7 per cent of the world’s agricultural area. Out of these deals, only information about 625 — 51.4 per cent, or 43.7 million ha — have been evaluated as coming from a reliable source, reflecting the deep secrecy in which these transactions are shrouded.

Past studies show the rush for African land has been facilitated by incoherent land tenure systems that self-interested elites have maintained as they are. In Uganda, for instance, the government has been developing a comprehensive national land policy since 1983 and has yet to complete it. The policy, according to one of its drafts, is essential for the sustainable management of land resources since the majority of Ugandans are dependent on land for employment and survival. No adequate reason has been given to explain the delay, fuelling speculation about the intentions of the government. Beginning in 2005, when land became a highly volatile and political issue, it tried to speed up the process and has since worked out four drafts. But Esther Obaikol, the executive director at the Uganda Land Alliance, says it is frustrating that the Cabinet has been sitting on the last draft for two years now without the slightest indication when it intends to move on it. Daudi Migereko, Uganda’s current Minister of Lands, says they are waiting for the Cabinet secretariat, which determines the Cabinet’s agenda, to set a date for it.

“Africa: World Bank hits back at Oxfam report on land grabs”

<http://www.afrika.no/Detailed/22510.html>

A huge amount of land has been sold off or leased out globally in the past decade. According to the Oxfam report, *Our Land, Our Lives* which was released earlier this month (October 4), an area equivalent to the size of Kenya has been sold off in Africa to international investors over the past decade in order to facilitate the growing of bio fuel and other commercial crops.

Oxfam says the land grab is accelerating and that “foreign investors have been buying an area of land the size of London every six days.” The report also says the land already sold “could feed a billion people, equivalent to the number of people who go to bed hungry each night.”

With food prices spiking for the third time in four years, interest in land could accelerate again as rich countries try to secure their food supplies and investors see land as a good long-term bet. While some land deals are negotiated with local people, Oxfam say that “all too often, forced evictions of poor farmers are a consequence of these rapidly increasing land deals in developing countries.”

Oxfam says the World Bank itself is partly to blame for the crisis. “As the world’s leading standard-setter and a big investor itself, the World Bank should freeze its own land investments and review its policy and practice to prevent land-grabbing. “In the past the Bank has chosen to freeze lending when poor standards have caused dispossession and suffering. It needs to do so again, in order to play a key role in stopping the global land rush.” The World Bank’s investments in agriculture have tripled in the last decade, from \$2.5bn in 2002 to \$6–8bn in 2012. Oxfam argues that although such an increase is welcome, it also heightens risks which must be addressed. “Investment should be good news for developing countries – not lead to greater poverty, hunger and hardship,” says Oxfam chief executive Dame Barbara Stocking. “We would argue, based on the evidence, that in too many cases, the application of safeguards for affected communities has not been sufficiently stringent.”

The activists say that since 2008 alone, 21 formal complaints have been brought by communities affected by Bank investments that they say have violated their land rights. However the World Bank hit back over the Oxfam report, saying that although it “shares the concerns Oxfam raised in their report” regarding the potential risks that can be associated with large-scale land acquisitions, it “disagrees” with Oxfam’s call for a moratorium on World Bank Group investments in land intensive large-scale agricultural enterprises, especially during a time of rapidly rising global food prices. “A moratorium focused on the Bank Group targets precisely those stakeholders doing the most to improve practices — progressive governments, investors, and us,” a statement said. “Taking such a step would do nothing to help reduce the instances of abusive practices and would likely deter responsible investors willing to apply our high standards.”

The Independent on Sunday newspaper cited one example of well-intentioned land projects that can go wrong, highlighting the case of the New Forests Company (NFC) tree plantation programme in central Uganda. The report acknowledges that the project “has clearly brought much good to an impoverished region, planting more than 14 million pine and eucalyptus trees over the past seven years on three plantations that employ more than 1,400 people.” But, the report continues, “not everybody is happy. Some communities around the plantations in the central Ugandan districts of Mubende, Luwunga and Kiboga claim they have been forcefully evicted in campaigns that some allege included

arson. The communities also say they were not properly consulted and have been offered no adequate compensation or alternative land.”

Tanzania, too, has become increasingly jittery about land leases to foreign agriculture companies. In July, Tanzanian and international civil society groups began to lobby the government to revoke an \$100million, 800,000 acre land lease to a US agribusiness corporation, AgriSol Energy LLC in Tanzania’s western Rukwa region, a deal which could see the eviction of 160,000 households —mainly former refugees from Burundi — who have been living on the land for over 40 years.

According to Land Portal, an online public database on international land deals, Tanzania has leased more than 1.4 million hectares to foreign companies from Europe and Asia, including 100,000 hectares to Norwegian company Green Resources AS for the planting of trees, and 45,000 hectares to British company, Cams Group, for the cultivation of sorghum. Kenya has leased about 555,000 hectares, including 160,000 hectares to Canadian company Bedford Biofuels and 93,000 hectares to Swiss-based Bioenergy International, both for the growing of jatropha — a plant used for the manufacturing of biofuels. Uganda, on the other hand, has leased 121,000 hectares, mainly to companies from the Netherlands and UK for the cultivation of oil palm and eucalyptus pine.

The Oxfam report says that while disputes over land ownership in the developing world “are nothing new, what appears to makes this case stand out is that the World Bank is an indirect backer of NFC through a \$7m (£4.3m) loan it made to AgriVie, an agricultural investment firm that is a key shareholder in the London-based group.”

In the case of NFC’s activities in Uganda, the government’s National Forestry Authority “claims responsibility for the evictions,” The Independent says, and the World Bank has “commenced a dispute resolution process” with the support of all parties involved. “NFC said it could not comment while the resolution process was ongoing, although the group has told the World Bank’s ombudsman it does not assume any direct responsibility for the evictions, was not involved in carrying them out and was explicitly excluded from the process by the Ugandan government.”

But the World Bank argues that by 2050, there will be two billion more people in the world and a 70% increase in global food production will be needed to feed them. While acknowledging that “instances of abuse do exist, particularly in countries where governance is weak,” and that there need to be “more transparent and inclusive participation in cases of land transfers,” the World Bank says it “does not support speculative land investments or acquisitions which take advantage of weak institutions in developing countries or which disregard principles of responsible agricultural investment.” But Oxfam says the problem remains that property laws are weak or non-existent in many developing countries, and governments are hungry for the revenues and jobs that land deals can yield. In many cases, families may have farmed a plot for generations but have no legal title, making it relatively easy for governments to sell the land.

The UK based NGO adds that poor people’s right to land and natural resources must be protected and that there must be transparency in any land deals which is “publicly accessible for both affected communities and governments.”

III. Women in Tanzanian Agribusiness

“Fact sheet: Women, Agriculture and Rural Development”

<http://www.fao.org/waicent/faoinfo/sustdev/WPdirect/WPre0010.htm>

United Republic of Tanzania

Population: 26 million

Growth rate: 3.0%

Fertility rate: 6.3

IMR: 115/1,000 births

GNP/head: US\$110 (mainland)

Source: "World Bank Atlas", 1994

Importance of agriculture in the economy

Agriculture is the predominant sector of the Tanzanian economy. In 1992 it contributed 62% of the GDP and employed 79.8% of the labour force. The major cash crops produced by subsistence farmers are coffee (20.3% of export earnings), cotton (18.7% of export earnings), tobacco and cashew nuts. Sisal and tea are grown on large estates. Farmers have also been encouraged to produce essential food crops, especially cassava and maize. Subsistence farmers produce a large proportion of the agricultural output, which accounts for 75% of agricultural export earnings and 80% of grain marketing. One of the major economic objectives of Tanzania is to increase self-sufficiency in food.

Role of women in agriculture

ILO estimates that in the mid-1980s women comprised 54% of those economically active in agriculture. Approximately 98% of rural women classified as economically active are engaged in agriculture. Women farmers also contribute substantially to both commercial and subsistence agriculture, including livestock and fishing, as casual labourers and unpaid family workers.

Division of Labour by Gender

Women carry the major responsibility for both subsistence agriculture, especially food crop production, and domestic work. Time use studies consistently show that women spend more hours per day than men in both productive and reproductive activities. Traditionally, women are responsible for almost all livestock activities of dairy husbandry (feeding, milking, milk processing, marketing, etc.). In addition, a 1992 labour force survey in Zanzibar showed that women comprise 74% of the labour force in agro-enterprises. In Zanzibar, women also predominate in on-shore fisheries, while men perform almost all the work in off-shore fisheries except for some cleaning and processing.

In crop production, both men and women participate fairly equally in site clearance, land preparation, sowing and planting, while women carry out most of the weeding, harvesting, transportation, threshing, processing and storage activities. Women are also responsible for food preparation, fetching water and gathering firewood. Gender Relations in Decision-making in Farming Activities Decision-making at the household level continues to be male-dominated in all farming-related activities, even in those where women contribute the majority of the labour. However, joint decision-making is commonplace.

Sharing of power and decisionmaking

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Members and Officers of Agricultural/Rural Organizations

There is a lack of data on women's participation in agricultural and rural organizations. Information from Zanzibar, however, indicates a gradual increase in women members of Cooperative Agricultural Organizations, from 30% in 1980 to 44% in 1993.

Women in Decision-making Positions in Ministries and Government Bodies

Women hold only a small percentage of decision-making positions in ministries and government bodies and are particularly under represented in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development.

Mechanisms to promote the advancement of women

National Machinery

The Department for Women and Children was established in 1985 in the Ministry of Community Development, Women and Children, on the Mainland, with the mandate to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Women and Development Policy, specifically addressing: ways and means of reducing women's workloads, improving their health and increasing productivity; promoting education and training; identifying strategies for women's economic empowerment; advocating the development of gender-sensitive statistics; and ensuring that women's experiences and concerns are more fully integrated into the planning process and that adequate resources are allocated for such issues. The Ministry of State for Women and Children was established in 1992 in the President's Office, Zanzibar.

WID Units or Focal Points in Technical Ministries

The Union Government Ministry of Agriculture WID Focal Point was established in 1985, with the mandate to: liaise with regional focal points and other agencies responsible for women in rural development; participate in training rural women in agricultural credit and enhancing their entrepreneurial capacities; collaborate with other interested institutions in organizing village-based seminars for women's groups; ensure female participation in and benefit from national extension programmes; and encourage female leadership in agricultural sciences.

The Zanzibar Ministry of Agriculture, Unit for Women and Youth, Office of the Commissioner for Research and Farmers Education, was established in 1992 with the mandate to: promote women's and youth agricultural, livestock, fishing and forestry activities; encourage formation of women's and youth groups; impart nutrition education to women so as to eliminate malnutrition among children; raise the economic status of women and youth; and ensure equitable distribution of income based on one's labour contribution.

Accomplishments of the WID Units

While some gender-sensitivity training programmes have been carried out, the main focus has been on activities in the areas of irrigation, food productivity, nutrition, dairy production, and support of credit mobilization, agricultural extension, animal traction and oil processing.

Constraints

Inadequate personnel and finances to carry out substantive analysis and action on agriculture-oriented gender issues; a top-down planning and administrative approach which does not promote innovative initiatives at the grassroots; and heavy dependence on donor funding.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Since 1985, both local and international NGOs have increased support to rural women in agriculture, due especially to the formation of WID Units at NGO headquarters and an increase in community based organizations (CBOs). Under the Tanzania Non-Governmental Organization Umbrella (TANGO), many local NGOs are addressing agriculture, livestock and environmental issues, and a growing number are also emphasizing women's empowerment. Grassroots women's groups are also increasing. For example, in Same District Kilimanjaro Region, between 1980 and 1993, 43 women's groups in agriculture and horticulture were formed, 8 in livestock and poultry, 8 in bee-keeping, 4 in fishing and 10 milling groups.

Women's rights

Tanzania is a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Women's civil rights are limited by the existence of a dual legal system which includes both statutory and religious and customary laws. In addition, the 1971 Marriage Act includes discriminatory provisions in respect to women's property and inheritance rights.

Dimensions and determinants of rural poverty

Structural adjustment programmes have forced many households to adopt survival strategies, with detrimental effects on women. Removal of government subsidies for agricultural inputs and food stuffs, dismantling of state-controlled marketing systems, reduction of public investment in extension services and credit, and rising interest rates of bank credit are affecting poor women farmers in particular.

Intensive **exploitation of natural resources** aimed at increased supply of primary export commodities and incomes has led to soil erosion, deforestation and increased threat of desertification. There is a heavy dependence on fuel wood energy in the absence of better alternative energy sources.

Pressure to grow cash crops is diverting labour and land away from food crops and forcing poor households to sell part of their food reserves. Fall in prices of traditional export crops is affecting the food sector in particular and attracting males to commercial food crops such as maize, beans, horticulture and dairy products, traditionally controlled by women.

Food imbalances are estimated to have affected 40% of the population. 28.7% of the population is chronically food insecure as landholdings are too small to provide sufficient food for subsistence. More than 25% of the population suffers from protein energy malnutrition, 32% from nutritional anaemia, 6.1% from Vitamin A deficiency, and 25% from iodine deficiency. Women and girls suffer more as they tend to eat less in times of food shortage.

The **rising cost of living** and raised production costs has increased women's workload. **Female-headed households**, which are generally associated with increased labour constraints, simpler farming systems, inadequate services and meagre incomes, are increasing.

Access to agricultural resources and services

Land

There is a great disparity between women and men in the size of landholdings, as well as an overall trend of increasing landlessness and decreasing size of holdings due to population pressure. About 84% of the land is cultivated by human labour, which limits the amount that can be cultivated.

Livestock. Data collection needed.

Forestry. Data collection needed.

Water. Data collection needed.

Credit

In 1992, women comprised only 15% of the total membership of formal rural savings and credit associations. Women's access to formal financing is limited by the small size of their agricultural enterprises, high rate of illiteracy, predominance in the subsistence sector, and lack of land as collateral. Women's access to loans has tended to be confined to donor-supported special grants.

Extension services and agricultural training

Data collection is needed on the numbers of women farmers reached by extension.

Selected programmes in support of women in agriculture, fisheries and forestry

Legal and Policy Reform

- Establishment of the Law Reform Commission in 1983 which, however, has yet to address the inequalities in succession and inheritance rights.
- Formation of Land Reform Commission which has noted gender inequality in land rights.
- Government legal literacy radio programmes.
- NGO initiatives, including Legal Aid Clinics, legal literacy campaigns and para-legal training.
-

Access to Agricultural Resources and Services

Many Ministry of Agriculture and donor-funded projects are directed, or have a component, to increase women's access to agricultural resources and services, including animal traction, irrigation, extension, small livestock, and small credit schemes.

Areas to be strengthened

- The establishment of a strong WID Unit in the Ministry of Agriculture, capable of carrying out substantive analysis and action on gender issues in agriculture.

- Clear policies and strategies on the promotion of women's advancement in agriculture.
- Gender-disaggregated data and base-line information on women's contribution to agriculture.
- Increased research on gender issues in agriculture.
- Increased gender-sensitization programmes for policy-makers.
- Reorientation of agricultural extension policies towards greater gender sensitivity and the constraints of small farmers.

Legal and Policy Reform

Redress inequality in land rights.

Access to Agricultural Resources and Services

Efforts should be made to increase women's access to: appropriate technology to reduce workload, extension and training, improved water supply, alternative energy sources, irrigation, credit, agricultural inputs, and cooperatives and rural associations.

“Participation of Women in Agriculture in Tanzania: Challenges and Policy Recommendations”
Mmasa Joel, J

http://clknet.or.tz/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/WOMEN-PARTICIPATION-IN-AGRICULTURE-IN-TANZANIA_FV.pdf

Rural women play a significant role in domestic and socio-economic life of the society such that national development is not possible without developing this important and substantial segment of our society. This paper examined the participation of women in agriculture activities. Data were collected from various publication and journal, papers and articles related to the topic of interest. According to various studies it was discovered that the socio-economic characteristics of the women farmers significantly affect participation of women in agriculture. However, other factors militating against women in their participation in agricultural production are many, some of which are socio-cultural and economic in nature. The task of surmounting such obstacles can be very daunting, even though women have largely succeeded in overcoming some of them.

“...After decades in which agriculture and nutrition didn't always get the attention ... to the lack of credit, especially for small farmers, most of whom are women. ... and play a role -- because government cannot and should not do this alone...”

President Jakaya Kikwete on the African Development Bank Group Opening Statement at the 47th Annual General Assembly, 31st May 2012 – Arusha – Tanzania.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rural women play a significant role in domestic and socio-economic life of the society such that national development is not possible without developing this important and substantial segment of our society. This paper examined the participation of women in agriculture activities. Data were collected from various publication and journal, papers and articles related to the topic of interest. According to various studies it was discovered that the socio-economic characteristics of the women farmers significantly affect participation of women in agriculture. However, other factors militating against women in their participation in agricultural production are many, some of which are socio-cultural and economic in nature. The task of surmounting such obstacles can be very daunting, even though women have largely succeeded in overcoming some of them.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Agriculture is a principal source of livelihood for the Tanzanian population (URT, 2003). Agriculture provides 27.8% of Tanzania's GDP (ibid). Women play an essential role in agricultural production (Leavens and Anderson, 2011). The sector is characterized as female intensive, meaning that women comprise a majority of the labor force in agriculture (54%). Moreover, there over 15 million smallholder farmers in the country, more than half of who are women (Nyomora *et al.*, 2012). Most cultivate one and three hectares, with limited access to modern machinery, inputs and improved technologies (ibid). Agriculture also comprises a greater part of women's economic activity than men's: 81% of women, compared to 73% of men, are engaged in agricultural activity. In rural areas, that number rises to 98% for women. Moreover, in Tanzania, the share of adult population working in agriculture is higher than

regional averages, especially for women: 81% of the female population works in agriculture in Tanzania, compared to 55% in the rest of sub-Saharan Africa.

There should effective programs and policies to empower African women and allocate more resources towards gender equality and women's empowerment- Honorable Sophia M. Simba, Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children (MCDGC) - 7 April, 2011.

Ironically, women are known to be more involved in agricultural activities than men in Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries. Agriculture is an important source of employment for 84% of economically active women and 80% of economically active men (Blackden and Rwebangira, 2004). Women constitutes 51% of the economically-active labor force in Tanzania and only 4% of women are in paid jobs, as compared with 10% of men (ibid). Data suggest that women comprise 38% of the informal sector, a share that is lower than their 51% share of the active labor force (Blackden and Rwebangira, 2004). Key among these policies are those that help increase incomes of the rural poor. Participation of women in agriculture is inevitable. The role that women play and their position in meeting the challenges of agricultural production and development are quite dominant and prominent (Jeckonia *et al.*, 2012). Their relevance and significance, therefore, cannot be overemphasized (Ibe 1996 and Rahman 2008). Tanzania is among the world's poorest countries with a per-capita income of about US\$ 280 (NBS, 2011).

"...The impact of higher food prices on women is particularly profound. Women play key roles in Agricultural Societies. Sub- Saharan Africa, Women contribute about 80 % of the total food production. Their contribution is about 65 per cent in Asia and 45% in Latin America. In rural communities, in particular, women play a central role in ensuring food security; when women have access to income they tend to spend a high percentage on food for the family, while men tend to spend more on themselves. When there is less money for food, women go hungry. The challenge is on how to enable them use their land more productively (Mizengo Pinda, 2008)

Source; Eleventh Sokoine Memorial Lecture, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro, 17th October 2008.

Tanzania pursued socialist policies which resulted in extended periods where economic performance was clearly below Tanzania's potential (URT, 2005). In the mid-eighties, Tanzania embarked on economic reforms which were not sustained and after an initial period of economic growth in the late eighties, the early nineties were again characterized by macro-economic disequilibria and poor economic growth.

According to the United Republic of Tanzania data (URT) (2003b) showed that 98% of the rural women defined as economically active are engaged in agriculture and produce a substantial share of the food crops for both household consumption and for export.

Moreover, women constitute 61% of the farmers in the communal areas and comprise at least 70% of the labour force in this area (ibid). Agriculture provides 70% of employment and 30 % of Sub-Saharan Africa's gross domestic product. Cognizant, the sector contributes 27.8% of GDP in Tanzania (Tanzania Economy Profile), 30% of the GDP in Kenya, 37% in Uganda, 33% in Rwanda and 43% in Burundi. According to Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) press release on budget analysis 2010/2011. The Government of Tanzania allocated 7.78% of the budget to Agriculture compared to the 10% target of Maputo accord. The budget suggests that the needs of organised large scale agriculture

producers are prioritized in terms of planned expenditures as well as numerous tax and tariff exemptions.

Furthermore, women are responsible for as much as 80% of the staple food items and provide 70-80 % of all agricultural labor and 90 % of all labor involving food production in Uganda, 75% in Kenya, 90% in Rwanda and 70 -80 % in Burundi. Increasing attention is also being given to the role of smallholder subsistence agriculture in ensuring the food security of the continent, as 73% of the rural population consists of smallholder farmers (IFAD, 1993:6). Hence women empowerment is paramount important this segment want to enjoy form the sector.

By most accounts, women in Tanzania take charge of weeding, harvesting, processing and storing food crops; they also contribute significantly to these tasks for cash crops, though men tend to help more with agricultural tasks for cash crops (National Sample Census of Agriculture, 1996; Keller (1999) cited in Ellis (2007). Accounts of specific divisions of labor differ, one source found that tasks in which men tend to contribute more include site clearing and land preparation and heavy-labor tasks like construction of fences. The project by FAO in Mogabiri, Mara region found that generally in crop production, men and women participate fairly equally in land clearance, land preparation, sowing and planting, while women take most responsibility for weeding, harvesting, transportation, threshing, processing and storage. National Sample Census in Agriculture (NSCA) data from 2002-03 found no significant difference between men's and women's responsibilities for crop-related activities with data that was not disaggregated by cash and food crops. The analysis did find that men strongly dominated animal husbandry and construction. Conflictingly, another analysis of earlier NSCA data found significant differences between men's and women's agricultural responsibilities.

Moreover, this abstract paper is in line with current government efforts to empower women and enhance their productivity; Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to reduce hunger and poverty by 2015 and National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGPR) programme in reducing the prevalence of income poverty in Tanzania of which according to the household budget survey of 2000/01 the proportion of population below the national basic needs such as food, shelter and water is 35.7 % (URT, 2005). Moreover, this s policy brief is in line with Tanzania Agricultural Food Security Investment Plan (TAFSIP), Agriculture Sector Development Plan (ASDP) and Agriculture first "*Kilimo Kwanza*" (2011) that promotes Agriculture and food security in the country.

2.1. Definition of Key Terms

☐ Gender inequality;

Gender inequality refers to unequal treatment or perceptions of individuals based on their gender. It arises from differences in socially constructed gender roles as well as biologically through chromosomes, brain structure and hormonal differences

☐ Gender mainstreaming

It is a strategy for making the concerns and experiences of women as well as of men an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres, so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated (ILO, 2012). The ultimate goal of mainstreaming is to achieve gender equality.

2.2. Methodology

This part aim at explaining the methodology used in conducting the study and justification for using those methods. It describes the rationale for the selected techniques and procedures and data collection methods and data analysis and presentation plan. Secondary data was the main source used to obtain sufficient and realistic information (Kothari, 2004). This method included review of relevant literature including journals, papers, thesis and various documentation. Under this design the data was collected from the following sources; Sokoine National Agricultural Library (SNAL), Tanzania Bureau of Statistics, websites, journals and other sources relevant to the study. This approach was very useful hence the reviewer selected the relevant articles for the study.

Rural women are extensively involved in agricultural activities. In Tanzania women make up 70 percent of agricultural labour force (Courtesy of FAO)

3. KEY FINDINGS ON WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURE

Findings from a study financed by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) on the role of women in agriculture revealed that women make up more that 50% percent of agricultural labour force in East Africa (FAO, 2011).

Smallholder farmers characterize Tanzanian agriculture. The average size of land cultivated varies between less than 1 ha to 3 ha of land. Agriculture accounts for three quarters of merchandise exports and represents a source of livelihood to about 80% of the population (URT, 2003). Agricultural income is the main source of income for the poor, especially in rural areas. But households that rely heavily on such income tend to be extremely poor. The poor are more likely to grow and sell crops than the non-poor, but the majority of production is not sold but consumed by the households.

In Tanzania women make up 70 percent of agricultural labour force (URT, 2003b). Yet, in spite of these, widespread assumption that men and not women make the key farm management decisions has prevailed. Sadly, farmers in the Tanzania are among the voiceless, especially with respect to influencing agricultural policies. Such policies, which are aimed at increasing food security and food production, tend to underestimate or totally ignore women's role in both production and the general decision-making process within the household.

Socio-economic characteristics of the farmers, among other factors, affect their decision-making in agriculture. (*Source: IFAD's Governing Council- 14- February 2007*)

However, gender inequality which adversely affects their overall performance and output has persistently manifested in a number of ways: high level of poverty (World Bank, 2001), vulnerability to external and uncontrollable hazards (IDB, 2000), low strength or energy level (Kaul, 1996), low educational attainment (Filmer, 1996), poor anthropometric variables (Kaul, 1996) marginalization by agricultural extension (FAO, 2006), high productive and reproductive work load (Commonwealth, 1992), and restricted access to productive resources (Saito and Spurling, 1992; Saito *et al*, 1994; Quisumbing, 1994; Gray and Kevan, 1996). It is common knowledge that gender inequality is one of the most pervasive forms of inequality, particularly because it cuts across other forms of inequality (Franklin, 2007). Different rules, norms and values govern the gender division of labour and the gender distribution of resources, responsibilities, agency and power. These are critical elements for

understanding the nature of gender inequality in different societies. Gender segmentation in household arrangements in sub-Saharan Africa is prevalent in the face of highly complex lineage-based homesteads. Much of Sub-Saharan African (SSA) is matrilineal, with women's access to land being through usufruct rights through their husband's lineage group. Since women's obligation to the family includes provision of food and caring for their children, they are granted this access to enable them carry out these responsibilities.

In parts of West Africa women generally have usufruct rights to separate holdings through their husband's lineage. Women's low participation in national and regional policy-making, their invisibility in national statistics and their low participation in extension services have meant that those issues of most concern to women have been neglected in the design and implementation of many development policies and programmes. In some countries such as the Benin Republic, the programmes developed were far from addressing the main concerns of women as they were neither involved in policy making decisions nor were they directly consulted to articulate their needs. In some countries, despite legislative and tenure changes in favour of smallholders, women continued to be placed in a disadvantaged position in terms of access to land. Women's access to land was rarely discussed and thus their benefits from land reforms were few (FAO, 1988).

The study by Franklin (2007) in nine countries in Africa, he found that while women are present in greater degrees in agricultural/rural organizations, they tend to comprise a low proportion of the membership and are often not represented in the higher levels of leadership. While women's membership is most often limited by their lack of formal land ownership, many rural organizations do not sufficiently concern themselves with the needs of rural women. Women's participation as office holders in these organizations tends to be even more limited. The most striking example is in Zimbabwe, where despite the fact that women constitute 75% of the members in the Zimbabwe Farmers Unions, only 5% of the officials are women. However, the largest numbers of women decision makers are found in the Sudan, where 14% of the office holders in agricultural cooperatives are graduate women. In Africa, few women hold policy-making positions at the national level and those that do tend to be concentrated in social ministries such as education, health and women affairs. Only rarely do women hold such positions in technical ministries such as agriculture, which has far-reaching implications for the policies generated there. Overall, women hold an extremely low number of decision-making positions in the ministries dealing with agriculture and rural development. It is clear that the sharing of decision-making between genders varies substantially from country to country and among different cultural and ethnic groups within the same country. While women's decision-making power tends to increase in many countries when the husband is not present, men may remain involved in many of the most important decisions.

According to Afolabi (2008) on role of women in household economy, food production and food security: focusing on the activities of rural women in Ondo State of Nigeria made a careful analytical study of women's agricultural activities and discovered that they are very strong pillars of the economy in the state. Women in the state are organized into groups, which are often engaged in more than one economic activity. (Source: IFAD, 2007)

Emerging from the study were the following facts: (a) that rural women in the state are major contributors to food production (b) that these rural women have successfully managed human and economic resources to achieve optimum results; (c) that they became employers of labour, thereby reducing unemployment; and (d) that output from the farms of these rural women contributed to

reduction in food shortage crisis. By so doing, they contribute substantially to national agricultural output, maintenance of the environment and family food security (Brown *et al.*, 2012).

“...Participation and the involvement of women, youth and vulnerable groups in Agriculture are of paramount important in reduction of rural- urban migration...” - Hon. Stephen Masato Wasira- Former Minister (MAFSC) – Tanzania.

3.1. Division of Labour in Agriculture

Division of Labor in Agriculture		% of hrs spent on task	
Female		Male	
General crop production	56		44
Food crop production	75		25
Land tilling	56		44
Sowing	74		26
Weeding	70		30
Harvesting	71		29
Marketing	73		27

Furthermore, Overholt *et al.*, (1984) described five patterns of women's involvement in crop production as follows:

- ☐ Separate crops system, where women undertake the responsibility for producing, processing and marketing subsistence crops, while men handle cash crops
- ☐ Separate fields system, where women and men produce same crops but on different fields
- ☐ Separate tasks systems, where much of the work in the cropping cycle is assigned by gender, and while men prepare the ground, women do the planting, weeding and harvesting.
- Shared task system, where men and women undertake same tasks on same crops, especially during labour bottlenecks like weeding and harvesting; and women-managed farms with *de facto* situations, where men are away for a period of time and women managed the farm in their absence; and *de jure* situations, where farms are controlled by widowed, divorced, abandoned or never-married women.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1. National Land Policy and Women Access to Land

The overall objective of the national land policy of 1997 was to promote and ensure land tenure system, encourage the optimal use of land resources, and facilitate broad based social economic development without upsetting or endangering the ecological balance of the environment. Moreover all land in Tanzania is public land vested in the president as trustee on behalf of all citizens. According to section 4.2.1 of the National land policy of 1997b women access to land under customary law, women generally have inferior land rights relative to men and their access to land indirect and insecure. Traditional provisions which used to protect women's land use rights have been eroded. In allocating land village councils have been guided by custom and have continued to discriminate against women by allocating land to heads of households who are usually men.

5. CONCLUSION

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The contribution made by rural women to agricultural production and rural development in Tanzania is grossly underappreciated in spite of the dominant role women play in the sector. That women compete more favourably with their men folks in terms of their over-participation in agricultural activities and contribution to household economy and food security would be an understatement. The survival and sustenance of agriculture and rural development in Tanzania, as well as in many sub-Saharan Africa countries, rest squarely on the rural women. They therefore deserve to be given due recognition as far as participation in agriculture is concerned.

5.1. Recommendations and Implications

Rural women's productive role in agriculture continues to be underestimated in many countries including Tanzania as unpaid workers are frequently excluded from national statistics and/or farm women are considered housewives in agricultural statistics. Such underestimation must be addressed in order to clearly demonstrate the importance of rural women-in-agricultural production.

☐ Support systems for women farmers within a holistic gender-sensitive framework are urgently needed to form a policy development, project design and implementation agenda.

☐ Women must be directly involved with the development and implementation of the new technology especially in production, processing and marketing.

☐ Government should have policy related to legal right for women to use lands, women can then pledge them as collateral when applying for bank loans.

☐ Government should encourage efficient and sustainable use of the existing cultivable land, by further investing in agricultural research and extension, with a view to increase the agricultural output as well as the corresponding income for households especially for those investing in commercial agriculture.

“Promoting women in agribusiness key to economic growth”

Friday, January 7 2011

Danielle Mutone-Smith, Women Thrive Worldwide

At the 9th Annual AGOA Forum in August, more than 35 African women business leaders launched the African Women Entrepreneurship Program targets women-owned companies for assistance with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. At the group’s first meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, in December, Elaine Bellezza of the USAID Trade Hub presented the Trade Hub’s work. Co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Vital Voices Global Partnership and Exxon Mobil, the meeting facilitated new connections among and between African women in business, included training in entrepreneurship and fostered information exchange. The meeting highlighted the important role women across West Africa play in the region’s economic development. In light of the AWEP initiative, Tradewinds invited Danielle Mutone-Smith, director of Global Trade and Agriculture Policy at Women Thrive Worldwide, to comment on what stakeholders can do to promote women in the business of agriculture.

Women-owned businesses are key to economic growth.

Mariam is a small farmer in Burkina Faso. Her day starts before the sun rises and her workload is heavy. She typically gathers and process shea nuts, processes rice, and cultivates three sets of fields- her husband’s land, her own small plot, and a communal plot that belongs to a local women’s organization. If there is a surplus, Mariam goes to the local market to sell her goods or she may sell to middlemen who will resell her products in the markets of Ouagadougou. This work is in addition to her household responsibilities of childcare, cleaning, preparing dinner, and gathering water and firewood.

Mariam, like most women, undoubtedly contributes to the prosperity of her family and community. Work in the home, on the farm, and in the community is often not captured in economic models or by the GDPs yet it is nonetheless critical. Societal constraints, gaps in education and training, as well as lack of access to financial services and productive resources have disadvantaged women from direct engagement in the formal market and branching out as entrepreneurs or business leaders.

It is encouraging to see the number of women in business growing; according to World Bank data, the number of firms with female participation in ownership was just over 29% in Sub-Saharan Africa as of 2009. The largest sector of the economy in sub-Saharan Africa that employs women is agriculture and food processing, yet as small scale farmers women are often limited to the production end of the value chain. Two ways to ensure that women have access to these new economic opportunities is, first, to use gender analysis to help identify openings and obstacles and, second, to make sure that women have a voice to speak for themselves.

Employing Gender Analysis

By using gender analysis of the agricultural value chain, governments and development agencies help ensure that both women and men have the opportunities to succeed. According to USAID, “value chain programs, when designed with gender equitable principles, can foster both competitiveness and gender equity goals to enhance poverty- reduction impacts.” Gender analysis can uncover the unique constraints and barriers that both women and men face in moving along the value chain, accessing markets, and growing their businesses.

Renewed attention to agricultural development by both African governments and the international community, such as at the L'Aquila G-8 commitments of 2009, provides an opportune moment for stakeholders to use gender analysis and design programs and policies that would allow women to move along the value chain, access markets, and contribute to economic growth.

One such opportunity exists through the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), a program of the NEPAD, which commits governments to investing 10 percent of their national budget to agricultural development, market access, technology and research and related issues. The process of determining country's priority investment areas and policy discussions are determined through a series of stakeholder meetings and surveys to ensure that the resulting CAADP plan is representative of all stakeholders.

Some countries, such as Senegal, have done a good job of including both women and men to identify the different constraints they face within the agricultural sector and prioritize areas of work to help reduce these barriers. But in other cases, much work remains to be done.

Each country or region's analysis through the CAADP process may result in a different set of priority areas. For example, Mali's CAADP compact includes capacity development and training as well as research as two of the five priority areas. In Senegal, two priority areas include the integration of smallholder farmers and medium scale enterprises into agricultural development approach in addition to creating partnerships and alliances for value chain enhancement. Within each of these priority areas, gender analysis can help in the design of specific policies and programs that will address the barriers women and men face. For instance, poor rural infrastructure, such as the lack of post harvest storage facilities available to women's co-ops or unsafe and limited transportation systems, may impede rural women farmers like Mariam from accessing urban markets.

Targeted improvements in these areas would help reduce post harvest loss and move produce, allowing women farmers and co-ops to more formally engage in agricultural markets and improve their economic status.

Leveraging Women's Voices

Women also play an important role in advocating for their priorities and needs within the agricultural value chain through their collective bargaining power. The majority of Africa's women farmers are small scale and do not own the land they work as compared to their male counterparts who tend to own the medium and large scale farms, or are employed on them. With all of their other responsibilities, this makes it difficult for individual women farmers to effectively advocate for themselves and a better policy environment. This type of work is often better facilitated through co-ops and farmers associations.

Take for instance the case of the Development Action Association (DAA) in Ghana. DAA is an umbrella organization representing 50 women's co-ops and farmers associations. Through their collective voice and the dynamic leadership of executive director Lydia Sasu, they have been able to access the CAADP stakeholder dialogues in their country and represent the critical need for a gendered approach to agricultural development and market access. DAA is helping to refocus some of the CAADP debate on how to best prioritize investments in the agricultural sector so that they include a focus on the specific needs of small scale and women farmers.

Since its creation, Ms. Sasu and DAA have brought the voices of women in the field to the table, resulting in better access to resources, tools, and training that have made them more efficient and productive in their work. And together, the women of DAA can raise the issue on a national level.

DAA hosted an event for International Rural Women’s Day on October 15th entitled “Building a Sustainable Future for Rural Women” to draw attention to the contributions that women make to agriculture and focus on the best ways to increase women’s participation along the market value chain.

Women in the business sector rely on their own ingenuity, hard work and creativity to succeed. However, without supportive policies in place, such as through CAADP, success is often hard won. Through tools such as gender analysis and the advocacy of women’s co-ops and associations, governments can recognize and target the additional obstacles women face in the agricultural business sector. When these inequities are addressed, countries will reap the economic rewards that result from the full participation of women in the economy.

share

“Women, weeding and agriculture in Iringa Region, Tanzania”

H J M Shimba

<http://www.atnesa.org/weeding/weeding-shimba-women-tz.pdf>

Abstract

In Iringa Region, Tanzania, animal-drawn technology is mainly confined to plowing. The reasons for this include: the draft oxen are not adequately trained for inter-row cultivation; very few cultivators/weeders have been available in the region and those available are not robust enough for the conditions met in the region. Hand weeding is a labour bottleneck and limits the area of land that can be cultivated. Poor weed control is one of the major causes of low yields. Women provide 60–80% of labour for agriculture and so would benefit greatly from the introduction of animal-drawn weeding. However, women have little access to resources or credit and rarely own land so are unable to obtain weeding technology. The Hifadhi Mazingira Iringa Project (HIMA) works with several women’s groups and is promoting the use of animal traction.

Introduction

Tanzania has about 40 million ha of rainfed arable land of which 6.2 million ha is actually cultivated, the area increasing by about 5% annually. More than 80% of the land which is cultivated is worked using simple hand tools. Iringa Region has a total area of 5.7 million ha, of which 4.2 million ha are cultivable. Iringa District, where the HIMA Project is situated, has a total area of 2.9 million ha of which 1.4 million ha are cultivable. Iringa Region has about 452 000 cattle, about 11 700 plows and smaller numbers of planters and cultivators.

Forms of mechanization

Tractors are widely used in Iringa Region. Animal draft technology is confined mainly to plowing and carting; it is rarely used for planting, inter-row cultivation, ridging or weeding, for several reasons:

- ° The draft oxen are not adequately trained for inter-row cultivation
- ° Very few cultivators/weeders have been available in the region
- ° The inter-row cultivators available are not robust enough for the conditions met in the region: the cast-iron parts are easily smashed by tree stumps or large stones.

There are normally three labour peaks during the cultivation of annual crops: at plowing, planting and weeding. Cultivation is the period of greatest labour shortage if hand hoeing is the method used.

The area of crops which can be weeded by hand is limited by the amount of farm family labour available. All annual crops are weeded at the same time, during the wet season. The area of land that can be hand weeded therefore limits the area of land which could be plowed using ox-drawn equipment. Major expansion of annual crops is possible if the use of ox-drawn equipment is extended beyond plowing into weeding.

Weed control, soil/water conservation and crop yields

Weeding helps conserve moisture by forming a surface soil mulch which also helps to control weeds. Weeding more frequently, or deeper, than is needed to control weeds does not increase crop yields; indeed, because it aids the rain in breaking down the soil structure and sealing the soil surface, crop yields may be reduced.

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Smallholder farmers commonly do not start weeding early enough. Having waited for the first rains before starting preparatory cultivation, they are naturally late with planting and by the time this has been completed the weeds are well developed on the earliest-planted land; farmers are therefore unable to catch up and weed at the optimum time.

Poor weed control is one of the major causes of low yields, especially on smallholdings. Whereas weed control in temperate climates usually increases yields by about 25%, in tropics it can frequently lead to 100% increases (Webster and Wilson, 1966).

It is important to weed while the crop is young. Experiments with various crops, especially maize, groundnuts and cotton have shown that crop growth is severely checked in the early stages by even a moderate cover of weeds, and that this reduces final yields (Ducker and Hoyle, 1947). Conversely, if the crop is weeded early in its growth, quite heavy weed infestation at a later stage does not affect yields.

Women in agriculture

Women play a central role in food production. Their activities determine the amount of food available for consumption in the home and they provide 60–80% of the labour required for farming activities including weeding (Kameri-Mbote, 1992). They are thus the ones faced with the greatest burden in times of famine, drought and other environmental crises. Agricultural policy stresses food production with the aim of achieving self-sufficiency. The determining factor in this respect is women. Of the total Tanzanian population 80% live in rural areas, and 60% of these are women who must ensure adequate food for their families regardless of the type of land or quality of their farm implements. In their efforts, they experience numerous constraints including poverty and ownership rights.

Similarly, the transfer of land in an almost exclusively male individualised tenure system means that women cannot use such land to obtain credit. Furthermore cash crops, which are controlled by men, take up more arable land compared with the food crops grown by women. All these factors militate against action by women to solve problems affecting draft animal technology. In the HIMA Project, of all the villages surveyed 6 women owned cattle as opposed to 271 men.

Advantages of draft animal power

Hand-hoe farming is physically exhausting. Women who carry out most of the work on farms are exposed to intense heat throughout the day, and they return home exhausted. With animal power, work is finished in the early hours of the day, farmers are less tired and thus have the mental and physical resources to manage their homes, work on other projects and participate fully in community tasks such as building schools and roads.

With animal-drawn implements, operations such as primary tillage (plowing) can be carried out at the correct time especially in areas where the rainy season is short and it is important to plant very early in the season. Weeding is the major limit to expanding the area farmed. Hand weeding is slow, and by the time the farmer has finished the plot, weeds will be growing again on the parts of the field weeded first. Weeding using animals is faster and more efficient than hand weeding, and weeds are removed when still very young.

HIMA's assistance to rural women

The use of animal power in field activities, eg, plowing, ridging, weeding and transport is the major concern of the HIMA project in reducing the drudgery for women in agricultural activities resulting from the use of hand tools.

Activities include supporting women's groups to obtain donkeys for transport of crops from field to homestead and to acquiring appropriate rural transport equipment, such as carts and wheelbarrows.

Conclusion

Most small-scale farmers in the project area are women and they are aware of the advantages of using draft animals as well as training their animals in farm work. Hand hoes are still used for weeding because draft animal weeding technology is not well established. The project will investigate ways of supporting women by introducing weeding technology and other animal-powered equipment.

IV. Stories of successful women in agribusiness/food industry

[“Q&A with Ms. Leticia Asafo-Addo, CEO of Samba, Africa Agribusiness”](http://www.africaag.org/2012/10/15/qa-with-ms-leticia-asaf-addo-ceo-of-samba-foods/)

<http://www.africaag.org/2012/10/15/qa-with-ms-leticia-asaf-addo-ceo-of-samba-foods/>

Summary: Asafo-Addo built her company, Samba Foods, from the ground up. She ultimately hopes to use her company to train women in food processing. She states that there is an assumption that women involved in agribusiness should remain at the micro-level, and she stresses the difficulty in breaking through that barrier.

“As we are hearing now, at nearly every turn, Africa has a huge potential to more fully develop its economic potential, including more fully developing its agricultural sector. Understandably, there remain many challenges, but by all indications the Continent seems well poised for success assuming that the programs and actions taken by governments, development partners and other institutions are successfully implemented. As the U.S. President Barack Obama underscored, “the nations of Africa need partnerships, not patronage.” Yet, it is also about the citizens themselves and their own contributions and commitment to success.

AAM interviewed Asafo-Addo, CEO of Samba Foods in **Ghana**, a woman with quite an impressive life journey of over 23 years. From a nurse in the kitchen making “Shito” (a traditional pepper sauce, popular in the diets of Ghanaians in the coastal regions) as a hobby in her part time, to producing and packaging pepper for YUM Brands for its KFC, Ms. Leticia Asafo-Addo shared with us her insight on lessons learned, advice for those starting out and her ideas on how we can best help African entrepreneurs continue to move forward.

AAM: What in your opinion, Ms. Asafo-Addo, can the citizens also do to help Africa or rather, themselves? What sort of incentives do you believe would induce or enable people, as well as entrepreneurs, in agribusiness to achieve greater productivity and success?

Asafo-Addo: There must be a holistic approach to solving the problems in agriculture by the government and the citizens. Agriculture, in general, can be developed through pragmatic policies at the macro level that will then trickle down to the citizens.

AAM: Samba Foods has had quite an impressive journey of over 23 years. You have definitely made it past the micro level, growing the business well into the medium if not on the national level. Congratulations on such an honorable accomplishment! What would you say have been some of your most significant growth lessons and why?

Asafo-Addo: The growth of SAMBA FOODS has been very painful and slow, due primarily to a number of factors that affect SMEs in Ghana and I believe in most developing countries. Apart from finance, there are issues of having a sustainable supply of raw materials both in quantity and quality, qualified and committed human resources, efficient and affordable technology, and also packaging and marketing.

One of my greatest lessons would be understanding that it's necessary to start small in business and grow gradually. Another is to remember to always pull yourself back up after a fall, not to give up easily, to keep believing in yourself and have absolute faith.

AAM: In the past, you have spoken of the various challenges faced in building the company. Are there any challenges you believe you have faced, particularly as a woman? Were there any particular stereotypes you had to overcome and what advice would you offer to African female entrepreneurs starting out?

Asafo-Addo: There is the notion that women can be entrepreneurs by participating in micro and other small income generating activities—in and around the house— in addition to their multiple roles as women (e.g., as a mother, wife). A woman faces significant challenges when there is the desire to grow and move up and graduate to the medium and large scale levels in business. Here things can become mechanical and automatic. The men then think we are stepping out of our boundaries because women, especially those in developing countries, are not supposed to enter the complicated world of business and finance. Up and coming women entrepreneurs need to be assertive, committed, and determined. They need to persevere and never accept “no” for an answer, no matter the odds against them.

AAM: Were there any particular influencers or role models in your life that helped push you to go further? You say you saw a need, but what influenced or pushed you to go further because as you've said in previous articles, you were tempted to go back to nursing at one point?

Asafo-Addo: There have been some women entrepreneurs that I have admired since my youthful days. Many made quite an impression on me, particularly those in the developed world. Some, I realize just had to cave in as the challenges became too huge to carry and continue on. I was motivated by the sheer and absolute desire to succeed in business. I saw there was a need for my products and I was determined to keep pushing ahead no matter the difficulties.

AAM: As you likely know, one of the pillars in the U.S. governments' new strategy toward Africa is to increase opportunities for women and youth, including the launch of a [U.S. National Action Plan on Women](#) for their increased empowerment. What are your thoughts on this new initiative? Is there any advice you might offer to those administering these programs?

Asafo-Addo: I am not aware of this new initiative by the U.S. government. My advice for the administrators would be that, this should not be business as usual where funds are given for seminars, workshops and conferences. There should be training and practical assistance to enterprises that have demonstrated the capacity and capability for growth and expansion. There have been so many initiatives for the establishment of micro and subsistence level operations, but there is now the need for growth and expansion oriented programmes to help enterprises grow to large and international levels. Also, the youth must be trained and sensitized to appreciate the need to work hard and not expect quick returns on their investments.

AAM: What are your plans for the continued branding and expansion of Samba Foods and how do you think the government can help you in this respect?

Asafo-Addo: The ultimate objective of SAMBA FOODS is to be a food-processing emporium with an academy to train women and the youth in food processing and preservation. We would be most grateful if we could be assisted in the establishment of the academy with some form of a grant.

AAM: In your speech at the [Partnership to Cut Hunger & Poverty in Africa's U.S.-Africa Forum: Farming is a Business](#) (June 2012), you highlighted what you saw as opportunities in agribusiness, such as food safety, quality management, the impact of urbanization on food systems, contributing to GDP growth through export, etc. Can you elaborate on these a little more?

Asafo-Addo: The opportunities I see in agribusiness include:

- Ideally, only surplus food can be processed and preserved. Thus, elimination of or minimizing the post harvest losses that can go up to 65-70% during bumper harvests.
- Raw material processing and preservation contribute significantly to the food security strategies of the nation.
- Over 80% of the jobs in the private sector are created by the labor force in agro-business; therefore their potential for wealth creation is enormous.
- Most farmers will have a ready market for their produce, thus reducing their poverty status, something that is perfectly in line with the poverty reduction strategy of all governments.
- Value addition to our farm produce, thereby increasing the shelf life of the produce. This will contribute to the food safety and security.
- Prevention or minimizing mal-nutrition and micronutrient deficiency syndrome particularly in children, pregnant and lactating mothers and generally increasing the health status of the population. A healthy population is a healthy nation and can contribute to the nation's increased development.
- Contribution to the overall GDP growth of the economy through export earnings and the paying of taxes.
- Increased collaboration between industries, universities, polytechnics and research institutions. These institutions could focus on science and technology priorities and infrastructural changes, identifying those factors that will ensure the continued growth of the agribusiness.
- Exploiting the growth capacity of biotechnology to modify the properties of agricultural products.
- Genetics and molecular biology of raw materials.
- Links between diet and health.
- Machines and materials, particularly assessing ways in which the quality of food materials changes during processing.
- Microbiological, chemical and physical safety of food Multivariate modeling: database and information network applied to food.

AAM: In your opinion, the private sector is the main engine of growth and can help Africa meet the challenges ahead. What three things should happen right now toward creating a more enabling environment and providing incentives, etc., that will help entrepreneurs deliver?

Asafo-Addo: The three things that could help are:

1. Having access to long-term funds for expansion to increase the production base.
2. Regulations to help access the export market.
3. The provision of sustainable and affordable infrastructure, such as roads, electricity and water."

“Meet Happiness - 2011 Economic Empowerment of Women Award Winner,” allafrica.com

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201109220656.html>

Summary: Mchomyu was a trainer in food processing at the Small Scale Industries Development Organisation in Tanzania. She received an award after more than half of her trainees went on to start successful food processing businesses. The overwhelming majority of her trainees were women, and the trainings have been responsible for over 2500 jobs generated.

“Born at Ugweno Village, in Mwanga District, Kilimanjaro Region 54 years ago, Happiness Mchomvu did not dream about receiving a globally recognized award in her life.

She thought the work of inspiring entrepreneurs and impart food processing skills on them at her Small Scale Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) office she was doing was one of her responsibilities which after all, she is being paid for.

And of course, although she knew the work she was doing was positively impacting on the welfare of men and women, she never thought it would attract the attention of the international players and be rewarded accordingly.

But, early this month things turned around and indeed she got a shocking message. She was selected by the International Alliance for Women (TIAW) as a recipient of the 2011 TIAW World of Difference 100 Awards.

Along with fellow award recipients, Happiness will be officially recognized on Tuesday, October 27, as part of the TIAW Global Forum at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, DC.

"Happiness has inspired many women to become entrepreneurs through her capacity as an experienced food-processing trainer at SIDO office," the TIAW says in a statement.

TIAW says she was picked because most of women whom she trained ended up starting and running their own successful businesses.

"Almost 96 per cent of the participants in the food processing courses are women and, interestingly, 50 per cent of them end up starting and running successful food-processing businesses," TIAW says.

With more than 7000 trainees she has mentored today, it can be said that Happiness has (both directly and indirectly) contributed to the Tanzanian economy through the successful entrepreneurship, the statement added.

Happiness, a 9th child in a family of eleven children, comes from a Pare royal family. Her grandfather Msami Msuya was a chief and was succeeded by his son Sereki Msami, but because he was a toddler when his father died, a relative, Minja Msuya, took over on his behalf as Gweno's chiefs, known as Mangi. Mangi Minja was the last in the throne before the government abolished chieftdomship soon after independence in 1961.

"I grew up knowing that I have to be aggressive in order to be successful," she says.

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After spending four years of her early school near home; she was sent to a boarding middle school at the age of 11, and ever since she hardly spent time with her mother until she got married.

"Immediately after completing my form six and attending a one year compulsory national service training, I was one of the lucky ones to get government scholarship to study abroad," she boasts adding; "I spent seven years studying in Germany until 1986 when I came back already married and started work as a textile technologist at the then National Textile Corporation (TEXCO)".

The first years at textile industry was a roll coaster, but later with importation of second hand clothes, the local textile industry started to suffer loss.

In the textile firm, she rose through the rank and file to the position of production manager and also dubbed as marketing manager but production capacity in the plant dwindled and found herself underutilizing her skills and decided to quit.

"I gained the management and marketing management skills and I vigorously started looking for new avenues until 1992 when I joined the Women Desk of SIDO as Principal Engineer," she says.

A year later she was seconded by SIDO to a jointly implemented food security programme with United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

The programme was mainly on promotion of food processing skills among women entrepreneurs with the view to empower them economically and subsequently alleviate poverty.

This programme is one of the very few UNIDO projects which managed to secure funds for three consecutive phases spanning for 10 years. As a coordinator she was a local focal person in managing donor funds to the tune of a million dollars.

Happiness manned training of 172 trainer of trainers (TOT) involving 102 women and 70 men, and coordinated training of 4800 entrepreneurs (96 per cent women) on food processing, management and entrepreneurship development skills. Other courses were on food hygiene and HIV/ AIDS awareness as part and parcel of life.

The trained entrepreneurs have created over 3200 jobs, of which about 2500 are for women. The creation of the only Association of Food Processors (TAFOPA) with over 250 members (210 women and 40 men) is a success story of the programme now known as Women Entrepreneurship Development (WED) under the stewardship of Happiness. In 2004 WED was successfully integrated into SIDO's main activities.

Other experiences include managing a 200,000 US dollar (over 300m/-) Commonwealth Secretariat (COMSEC) funded project on food processing through SIDO min 2005/06.

Currently, she is managing an International Trade Center (ITC)/Proinvest funded project worth 200,000 US dollar (over 300m/-), christened ACCESS for African Business Women in International Trade.

Between 2007 and 2009 she coordinated a UNIDO- WED/YED regional project for supporting women organisations in agro industry in five African countries namely Malawi, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Eritrea and Tanzania.

During that time she conducted and supervised the training of trainers' courses on food processing and entrepreneurship development; to 290 trainers in Tanzania, 55 in Sudan, 55 in Zimbabwe, and 65 in Malawi, under UNIDO and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

She has directly and indirectly touched the lives of many women, men and their families by providing them with steady source of income skills, created jobs and opportunities for successful career development.

Apart from the trainings she has published several books, journals and papers on the field and others. Among them she is the co-author of a booklet on Opportunities in Food Processing -A handbook for setting up and running small food processing business which was published by CTA-Wageningen.

She also prepared six modules on gender, employment and poverty alleviation while studying her Diploma course and prepared three editions on training manuals on entrepreneurship development courses for women in food processing that are being used by TOT in training entrepreneurs. They have been translated into Kiswahili language.

Happiness who is married to Dr Asser Mchomvu, is a mother of two-a daughter who is a medical doctor and a son who is an accountant. Dr Asser is also a medical doctor.

"I have been informed that on October 27, in Washington DC, I will be awarded by The International Alliance for Women Honour 100 Awardees at Global Forum. The 2011 awards is in recognition for our efforts in advancing economic empowerment of women locally, regionally and worldwide," she said. Recipients are selected from leaders of communities, organizations, corporations, regions or countries who have taken action to support women's economic empowerment and advancement in the society and in business.

"Happiness has indeed made a contribution in empowering women economically in Tanzania and other African nations," TIAW statement concludes."

“Tabitha Karanja: Brewing with confidence”

http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/?articleID=1144008820&story_title=tabitha-karanja-brewing-with-confidence&pageNo=1

Summary: Despite intimidation from government officials, their operatives, and smear campaigns directed against her, Karanja has successfully built up her business into one that controls 20% of the market share.

“For close to 90 years, no Kenyan dared enter the beer market. Termed as one of the most lucrative industries in the country, the sector was treated with awe even by the rich and mighty of the land, leaving it to the multinationals to reign free.

It took one woman, Tabitha Mukami Muigai-Karanja, to jump into the dreaded “unfair playing ground”, for the ground to move and she, to take her rightful place in the industry. At 45 years, Tabitha as she is commonly known is the CEO, Keroche Breweries, the first ever beer factory to be owned by a Kenyan. Hers is a story of pain, anger, threats, intimidation, determination and prayers that have seen her emerge as one of the most successful business women in the country.

Tabitha was oftentimes reduced to tears as powerful individuals both in and out of government fought her using all crude methods at their disposal. She wept when some politicians, either out of malice or misinformation, went out publicly and urged members of the public to ignore her products; she wept when powerful government operatives knocked on her door demanding exorbitant amounts of money and even temporarily closed her business.

"The most difficult time was in 2003 when over 10 depots in Central Province were raided by the provincial administration," she says.

She nearly gave up as some people embarked on a smear campaign to bring down her emerging empire. But instead of bringing her down, this motivated her and even made her strong and ready to venture into any business.

Tabitha has been in and out of courts so many times in a bid to protect her empire from competitors who feel threatened by her emergence.

She has watched her business grow from a small three-roomed factory with five employees to a state of the art brewery employing hundreds of Kenyans.

Her motto, “Truly Kenyan” sums up all her efforts and vision.

According to Tabitha, the journey has been rough and turbulent since 1997 when she ventured into the wine industry. For over 12 years, Tabitha fought a lone battle with giant multinationals in the fortified wines industry.

She had by and large penetrated the local market until 2007 when unexplained tax raise forced her out of the wine business.

"Then Minister for Finance introduced punitive taxes for fortified wines and we had to move to brandy, gin and Vodkas," she explains.

Not one to be intimidated by the new directives, she decided to tackle the bull by the horn, by announcing that Keroche Breweries was going into beer manufacturing.

And so on October 24, last year, Keroche Breweries launched Summit Lager in a ceremony graced by Prime Minister, Raila Odinga.

"After so much pain and sleepless nights, my dream had been achieved and this was the best day in my life," she says as she breaks into a smile.

Alternative at last

This gave Kenyans other options. She hopes to attract between 25 and 35 per cent of the beer market countrywide. And this, she believes is achievable, given a level playing ground.

"For the first time in 87 years, Kenyans have an alternative in the beer market," she says.

Keroche Breweries, based in Naivasha, has 100 employees, and engages hundreds others in the distribution network. Thanks to the distribution and retail networks built when she specialised in fortified wines. Keroche enjoys a national network, which she hopes to strengthen with the entry of the beer.

Despite the hardships encountered on her way up, Tabitha is confident especially due to the positive response Kenyans have shown to the brand.

"We are pleased by how the beer is performing and I want to thank Kenyans for the support and confidence that they have given us," she says.

The company has invested one billion shillings in the new plant built by Italian and German engineers. It has a capacity of 6,000 half-litre bottles per hour.

The CEO says that by April this year, Summit Malt will hit the market followed by Summit Stout by the end of the year.

"This is the first beer brewed by a Kenyan investor, and I want to assure our consumers that this is the best product you will ever receive," Tabitha says.

Supports coalition government

She adds: "We do not have the kind of money the competition has but this will not deter us from serving our consumers with the best beer ever."

Tabitha is full of praise for the coalition government for supporting the local initiative unlike in the past when there was too much harassment from government officials. She, however, says the main battle is not over as these forces are not happy. Posters from her firms are always pulled off. But her mind and heart are focused beyond petty peeves as she talks about the future:

"Despite all the challenges, my dream is to have a soft drink company and maybe I will have achieved my life's

Tabitha is full of praise for her husband Joseph Karanja, who is also the chairman, Keroche Industries. He not only plays a crucial role in the business management but is also her best friend.

"Whenever I am down, he is there to pick me and I have a shoulder to lean on as he is always there to guide me. I owe him a lot."

A mother of two boys and two girls, Tabitha always has time for the family despite the busy schedule. She says that in most cases, dinners are shared and birthdays are marked in a special way.

"Family is the best thing in my programme," she says.

"At the moment, three of my children are abroad taking their degrees and whenever they are around, we have quality time together".

Her advice to fellow women is for them to be strong and not to shy away from their dreams as nothing is impossible.

"I knew what I wanted in life and I worked day and night to achieve it, and here I am."

She calls on women to believe in themselves as men offer little help to aspiring women whom they perceive as threats.

“Teach a Woman to Farm...And She Creates Jobs”

Busani Bafana

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/11/teach-a-woman-to-farm-and-she-creates-jobs/>

DES MOINES, Iowa, USA, Nov 16 2012 (IPS) - Give a woman a hand-out and you feed her for a day. But teach her to farm, and how to add value to her product, and you feed her and her family for a lifetime. And if she happens to be Nigerian smallholder farmer Susan Godwin, she in turn will also provide jobs for her community and become a national food hero.

Instead of turning to financial hand-outs when her crop failed four years ago, Godwin went back to the classroom to learn new farming methods, how to add value to her product and how to draw up a business plan to access credit.

“Some of the women I trained with gave up after realising that the training had no financial hand-outs, but I wanted to see it to the end,” Godwin told IPS.

The following harvest, Godwin’s yam and groundnut yield doubled. From the sales she bought a peanut shelling machine and began processing them into oil and groundnut cake, something a few people in her community have done.

Today, her family is food and financially secure. Not many smallholder farmers in her village of Tunduadabu in Nasarawa State in central Nigeria can make that claim. While Godwin employs three women to help her process the peanuts she grows, many farmers in the village are struggling. This is because, unlike Godwin, they have not been educated about adopting new farming methods and still rely on traditional techniques.

“Training is very important for smallholder farmers, especially in Nigeria, because without the training they would not know about new farming methods. Adopting new methods has helped lift me out of poverty to a new life where I have enough to eat, to give to people around me and to sell. I am now able to send my children to school,” the mother of five said.

According to a March 2012 report titled “Oxfam in Nigeria”, by [Oxfam International](#), some 70 percent of the country’s women contribute to the West African nation’s agricultural output. But Nigeria is vulnerable to food insecurity despite ranking first in agricultural output in Africa. Only 50 percent of the country’s arable land is farmed.

Godwin now has five shelling machines and employs three women to operate them. She also lets her community use the machines for a small fee. “From the daily takings from the shelling machines I give each woman half of what she makes that day; 200 Naira (1.27 dollars) makes a difference when you have nothing,” said Godwin, who is also the chairwoman of the United Movement for Small Scale Farmers.

By sharing the profits of her business, Godwin has empowered her employees. Some of them have now been able to start up their own businesses.

“Smallholder farmers can feed the world if we give them the tools and support them,” she said

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A continent away from her village, Godwin was recently feted as a farming role model at the 2012 Borlaug Dialogue held in the Midwestern U.S. state of Iowa in October. Godwin was also named by Oxfam International as the 2012 Female Food Hero in Nigeria.

Sithembile Mwamakamba, manager of the Women Accessing Realigned Markets project at the [Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network](#) (FANRPAN), bemoaned the high level of illiteracy among smallholder women farmers on the continent.

“With the right support, smallholder women farmers can identify their needs, package relevant messages and effectively communicate them to policymakers,” Mwamakamba told IPS.

“There is a need to establish local-level dialogue platforms that capture the voice of women farmers in the process of policy formulation and implementation. Furthermore, there is a need for specially-designed extension and training services targeting smallholder women farmers in order to improve their productivity.”

Mwakamba emphasised that these programmes must be complemented with improved access to inputs and markets if they are to have a lasting impact on farmers’ livelihoods.

Director of global public policy at [CropLife International](#), Tracy Gerstle, told IPS that women were the backbone of the rural economy, comprising 43 percent of the agricultural labour force in developing countries and an estimated two-thirds of the world’s 600 million poor livestock keepers.

“We cannot overlook the central role of women in global food security and economic growth,” she said. “Within poor households, women are essential to breaking the cycle of poverty, given that women tend to invest a significantly higher portion of their income on food and education for the family. Yet women struggle to reach their potential, given globally persistent gaps in their access to extension (services), agricultural inputs, land and finance vis-à-vis men. (This is) underpinned by persistent inequalities in their basic human rights in terms of access to education, land and equality.”

Gerstle said that providing educational support for girls and women through training facilities, scholarships, mentoring, extension services and other forms of technical assistance would help bridge the equality gap.

Happy Shongwe is leading the fight against food insecurity in her homeland, Swaziland. Shongwe, a commercial seed grower and winner of the FANRPAN 2011 Movers and Shakers Civil Society Award, agreed that smallholder farmers hold the keys to food security.

“Smallholder farmers can feed the world, if you capacitate them and give them all the tools,” Shongwe told IPS in a telephone interview from the southern African nation.

Shongwe grows certified legume and maize seeds under conservation agriculture techniques on her farm on the Lubombo plateau in the Siteki region, 150 kilometres east of the capital, Mbabane.

After noticing that farmers were constantly short of seed, Shongwe ventured into the competitive, yet lucrative, market of seed production.

“Financial support is important for smallholder farmers. I have the energy and the passion for farming, but not the money to kick-start some of my projects,” Shongwe, a mother of two, told IPS.

Her income has tripled since she started the business, which in a good season can bring in 2,500 dollars. Her success has even attracted the Swazi royal family, which has consulted her on growing legume seeds.

Shongwe is also passing on her wealth of knowledge to others.

“I am currently mentoring 60 farmers keen to go into seed production and have another group of 10 who I am training on conservation agriculture because knowledge and information is key if smallholder farmers are to contribute to food security,” said Shongwe.

Five outstanding Kenyan women entrepreneurs

<http://www.howwemadeitinafrica.com/five-outstanding-kenyan-women-entrepreneurs/17261/>

Tabitha Karanja

Founder and CEO: Keroche Breweries

Quote: “We have fought countless battles and we seemed to have sunk at times, but true to the word we believed we could make it, we rose above the barricades and the story is now told of how we made it and won the war.”

Karanja founded Keroche Breweries, the first ever brewery to be owned by a Kenyan. Although she faced many challenges – including competition from multinationals, high taxation and meddling from high powered government officials – her resilience has seen the business grow into a respected company.

Beyond the expectations of her detractors, Karanja invested in a Ksh.1 billion (\$11.6 million) plant with the capacity of producing 6,000 half-litre bottles per hour. With its flagship brands, Summit Lager and Summit Malt, the brewery has proved resilient in the market.

“When Keroche ... commenced operations ... fingers were pointed at us and the rumours of they-can’t-do-it was written on the faces of many who never believed a Kenyan company could penetrate in a grid-tight multinational market where the end justified the means even if the means isn’t justifiable,” says Karanja.

She plans to increase the firm’s 20% market share to 40% in the next three years following an increase in its production capacity to 15,000 bottles per hour. Karanja also hopes to extend beyond beer into the soft drinks business.

“Liquid Gold”

Rekha Mehra, International Center for Research on Women

<http://www.icrw.org/media/blog/liquid-gold>

A small investment in women coffee farmers in Tanzania yields unexpected returns

Over the years, I have seen evidence time and again of the impact even small investments – if done right – can make in the lives of rural women.

In December, I was reminded of one of those moments while in Dar es Salaam, the capital of Tanzania. I was in the country as part of an ICRW team to set up network of practitioners to share ideas and challenges on how to effectively integrate women farmers into agricultural development projects across the country. The initiative is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

But several years prior and far from the dusty streets and sultry Indian Ocean breezes of Dar, I traveled to a remote corner in the country’s southwest. Its lush, rolling hills are supported by an intricate patchwork of small fields of corn, vegetables, fruits and, importantly, coffee trees.

Like many parts of the world, the women I met – wives, daughters, sisters and mothers, all of them farmers – were charged with the very time-consuming and labor-intensive work of processing crops before they are sold. During harvest season, they spent days washing coffee beans by hand and preparing them for men to take to market where they would sell them to traders. However, the women farmers told me that they often saw little of the money their hard work had helped earn. Sometimes they didn’t even know the price the coffee beans had fetched, leaving them uncertain about their household’s true income.

This changed when a wet mill was introduced into the community. This simple piece of modern equipment drastically slashed the time women dedicated to washing the beans. The mill freed up valuable hours in the day in which women could engage in other income-generating activities, child-rearing duties or household tasks – to the benefit of the whole family.

Using the mill included an option to sell the coffee beans directly to the wet mill operators, ensuring a fairer price than traders often offered. At the mill, the men received a cash receipt showing the value of the coffee and the payment the farmer would receive when the coffee was eventually sold outside the village. When the cash receipts came home, women could see exactly how much the coffee earned.

Just a few numbers on small scraps of paper can go a long way: they empowered women farmers with critical information. Women now knew just how much money was available to invest in things they considered a high priority like their children’s education or a new roof to keep the house dry and the family healthy. The receipts also equipped women with knowledge they could use to have a voice in critical household decisions.

An increased injection of smart investments tailored for women farmers – a village wet mill, portable irrigation pumps or even mobile phone technology that can help them reach their own markets for their farm products – can boost growth in rural areas where the majority of the world’s poor live. The economic and social returns for these women and their communities can be high.

I asked a group of women coffee farmers if they had ever tasted the end product – a cup of coffee – that

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would eventually be culled from their beans thousands of miles away. “No,” they replied. It was too precious: it brought income and a chance to have a say over how their meager household resources would be managed — powerful options for a poor rural woman.

Kenya

<http://www.solvingafrica.org/archives/900>

Summary: Fostina Mani runs a business school in Ukambani for would-be entrepreneurs. She has pushed her students to adapt to the conditions of their environment. Her students wanted to grow maize, but the lack of rainfall often proved an obstacle to the success of the crop. After being challenged by Mani, one of her students suggested a type of irrigation that would mitigate a potential lack of rainfall.

“...Take Fostina Mani for example. I met her after the focus group at USIU. She’s about 40, married, has a teenage son, Head of Fundraising at the university, serves as faculty mentor to the Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) club and on Saturdays, runs a business school in Ukambani, her husband’s home town. I can’t say she had an epiphany. She was like many of us who visit our rural hometowns and see that very little has changed. She saw that would-be entrepreneurs set up small, barely-stocked shacks and called it a business. They rarely took steps to evaluate and improve their businesses and planning for the future simply didn’t factor in. When the rains don’t fall as heavily or as frequently as expected, crops die and the village calls it drought. But the grass, flowers and weeds around the village tell a different story. They bear witness against the farmers that there was water somewhere else.

Fostina did more than just observe. Transforming her village was easier than she’d thought. She called a meeting of Ukambani entrepreneurs. At first it was just women coming to these meetings. They discussed the importance of keeping accounts, why it was necessary to know how much one was making or spending, and easy methods to begin doing so. They discussed the idea of co-operatives and seeking grants to expand their rural businesses. She explained that there were resources out there for villages like theirs to get loans and expert help to develop themselves. Soon, husbands heard about what their wives were learning and they too started showing up. The community provided a place for what has become the [Ukamba School of Business](#). What started out as just some bookkeeping advice is now a building with a library and computer room with Internet access, which she pays for.

When I visited, the class was discussing irrigation. There were two class assistants, students from the SIFE club. They helped with everything from searching the Internet for answers to questions that might come up during class to grant writing. Fostina started by asking why there was a drought in Ukambani. Everyone agreed it was a lack of sufficient rainfall. She then told the class that Israel is a country in the desert, they barely get any rain, but somehow they are able to grow food to feed themselves. She asked the class to come up with ideas of how to water their plants if no more rain fell. They said they could drill a borehole. It would cost almost \$10,000 – a hefty sum for a small village. They could dig a well but they couldn’t use it to grow maize. Their groundwater was salty and maize couldn’t survive on this kind of water.

Despite the knowledge that maize was not optimal given their location and unpredictable rainfall, it seemed every farmer present still only thought to plant it. Maize is used to make Ugali, the most Kenyan of Kenyan dishes. Asking the people of Ukambani to plant something else was almost like asking a fish not to swim or asking a Korean not to eat Kimchi. If they were to survive, adaptation was imperative. This was the point Fostina was driving at. As class progressed, someone mentioned River Harvesting. He explained that it was a technique used in the old days to collect water for irrigation. Instead of entirely damming a river, people would build walls in the river. As the water flowed, it would collect in the

pseudo-dam and when full, continue flowing along its normal course. Class ended with the decision to seek grant money for a borehole with a River Harvesting project in the meantime. I realized that Fostina wasn't just transforming her village, she was transforming minds. People were learning to look at their surrounding differently, to take charge of what they could control and seek help when necessary. By having these kinds of conversations in a culture where people believe that the hand nature deals you is the lot that God has given you, Fostina is pushing the limits of Ukambani's vision."

V. Programs and projects

“Improving Livelihoods Through Dairy: Women’s Empowerment in Tanzania”

<http://www.technoserve.org/blog/improving-livelihoods-through-dairy-womens-empowerment-in-tanzania#sthash.Gj4WvQjd.dpuf>

Summary: Although in Tanzania breadwinning is largely considered to be the purview of men, in Maasai culture women own the milk produced by a cow. Several women’s cooperatives have sprung up around milk production. The Nronga Women’s Cooperative in the Arusha-Moshi collects over 1000 liters of milk a day. These cooperatives provide women with access to markets.

“...In this male-dominated society, however, there are still flashes of female empowerment. For example, in the northern Tanzanian regions of Arusha and Kilimanjaro, due to Maasai tradition, a Maasai woman can own the milk produced by a cow, despite the cattle and land being owned by the husband. Consequently, she is allowed to sell the milk and keep the money for herself. In Morogoro, the woman (who performs most farming labor) milks the family’s cattle twice a day. She can take the morning milk to the market, using the proceeds to buy food and other necessities for the family. Though these earnings are meager, they provide occasions where a woman is in charge of finances.

An easy and obvious answer to increasing the dairy market value in Tanzania is to increase milk production, which would seemingly increase female empowerment as well as farmer incomes. However, there lies a hidden complication in this solution. We met a few women who feared that if milk incomes grew too much, then the small milk money would become a family’s subsistence. This almost guarantees that dairy will move from a woman’s work to a man’s business, thus eliminating what little power a woman holds today. Similarly, we saw in Uganda that the advent of milk collection centers, meant to offer better market access for families, had a comparable effect: The small portions of milk owned by women were now being sold by men to these bulking centers.

There are no easy answers to these challenges. How do you increase a woman’s income when faced with the social constraint that any significant amount of money belongs strictly in a man’s domain? A few groups of Tanzanian women, who have successfully commanded respect and forged careers in spite of entrenched economic and social barriers, might have a solution. Through cooperatives in the Northern regions of Arusha and Kilimanjaro, these women have used their collective power to alter gender roles, livelihoods and future prospects for girls.

For example, the Kalali Women Dairy Cooperative Society started in 1988 with the goal of improving the livelihoods of women. The society began with 160 members and has since surpassed 250. Another famous example is the Nronga Women’s Cooperative in the Arusha-Moshi area. Pioneered in 1987 by Helen Usiri, the cooperative collects more than 1,000 liters of milk per day and pays the women directly. These women cooperatives not only provide access to markets, but help develop skills, offer a safe environment for collaboration and provide the power of a group to each member.

“How local chickens helped me win against poverty and negative stereotypes: My story as a 59 year old village woman in Rufiji, Tanzania”

Maimuna Sefu Mlongea, Poultry Farmer and Project Champion of Rufiji District

<http://r4d.dfid.gov.uk/PDF/Outputs/ResearchIntoUse/riu11tz-lessons-complete.pdf>

Summary: Mkongea was able to become a successful entrepreneur through a program with RIU Tanzania. She emphasizes that RIU’s approach enabled those who participated in the program to successfully expand their businesses in poultry farming. RIU listened to the concerns of the participants, and taught the participants the importance of using failure as a way to improve. They stated that entrepreneurs are often afraid of failure, and that making mistakes in the beginning can help to mitigate that fear later on.

“My name is Bi Maimuna Sefu Mkongea and what I want you to learn from my story is that it is innovation and entrepreneurship that wins against poverty. I have been living in Rufiji District for many years and most of the population is very poor. Unfortunately the people of the coastal District in Tanzania have always been accused of being lazy and irresponsible to development programs.

With the RIU program we are seeing a reversal away from poverty and laziness. This has been possible through innovative approaches that have stimulated farmers to become entrepreneurs.

Beginnings as a chicken farmer

Generally people in Rufiji never believed that it was possible to train and mentor a farmer into a successful entrepreneur. Even government leaders at the higher levels had lost hope in finding new ways of addressing poverty in the district. Unfortunately the failure of most entrepreneurship programs implemented in the district was blamed on the culture of “laziness” amongst the coastal population. The truth is that no one bothered to search further to understand the real reason behind the failures and further decline of local farmers into poverty.

Change started to happen in early 2008 when the Research Into Use Programme was introduced in Rufiji. RIU started by initiating the formation of district platforms. In the Coast Region in Tanzania, a platform of local poultry actors was formed. The platform meeting included multi-stakeholders working in the local poultry sub sector from government extension workers, hatchery owners, vets, suppliers of poultry inputs and small scale farmers. Local farmers from Rufiji were also present in that meeting. The actors were then asked to develop their own action plans.

Towards

the end of the meeting, every district was asked to choose a champion to lead the project.

In Rufiji District I was chosen to champion the local poultry project. As a champion, my main job was to mobilize farmers to join the project. This involved leading them to change the keeping of indigenous chickens from subsistence purposes into a business.

This was a very big challenge for me. I wondered how I could convince the people in Rufiji to join this project after many others had failed before. Fortunately, I got very good support from my family and this gave me the confidence I needed to persist. I began my mobilization work by undertaking an information campaign to the local government. I also held meetings with communities at different wards and villages. This was followed by collecting information and statistics on local poultry farmers.

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My commitment and desire to disprove the stereotype that people of Rufiji are lazy allowed me to mobilize many farmers in a very short time. From June to September 2009 I had already mobilized 6 wards in my district and by early 2011 I had reached 12 wards.

I then entered the learning phase where the mobilized local poultry keepers were to be trained. RIU employed very practical training methods unlike other projects that had been implemented in the past. Ms Vera Mgittu, the RIU Country Coordinator for Tanzania, conducted the training. The farmers were trained on improved and modern methods of keeping chicken. They were also trained on business skills and marketing. Farmers were then provided with interest free loans for their projects as well as chicks to use for piloting their poultry projects and learning. They were also provided with trained house hold caretakers to support them in building up their projects. RIU supplied farmers with feeds, medicine and other inputs that can cover a period of one month.

Overcoming our fears to become entrepreneurs

After the first month the poultry keepers were left alone to run their own poultry farms. This proved to be a very challenging period for the farmers. Many of the chicks they had died and most farmers started to become worried because they had never kept such a large stock before. RIU listened to the farmers and then later called them into a training session. In the training session most farmers complained about how RIU was failing to manage the local poultry projects. RIU insisted that was part of the learning exercise to know the challenges involved in keeping local poultry. The trainers emphasized that “you can never be able to sell the first cloth you learn to make” and therefore the farmers should not despair. This revitalized the enthusiasm among the poultry keepers and has been the key to their commitment to date.

RIU then conducted a technical training for local chicken farmers. The training included learning how to build modern shelters for their poultry using local materials and how to raise the chicks into chickens over a short period. We learned how to buy the best chicks and the timing for immunization. We were then trained on entrepreneurship skills. We learned that it is possible for a small farmer to become an entrepreneur. We learned that to be an entrepreneur you should overcome the fear of failure before you even try. We learned it is important to be brave and persevere even when you face challenges. RIU also trained us on markets and how they work as well as how to manage your business.

From this training it was easy for farmers to grasp what was being thought. This is because of the practical experience we had from the initial stages of running their pilot projects. It was also evident from the success stories that followed in the second round after many had failed during the pilot phase. Now most farmers have moved from keeping 15 chickens to keeping 200 chickens. RIU provided chicks as interest free loans to farmers to kick start their projects. RIU was also there to mentor farmers throughout the process connecting farmers to other supporting services, such as care takers, vets, feeds suppliers, medical suppliers, hatcheries and marketers.

The support from the caretakers is very a very critical part of the project as it enables farmers to receive sufficient attention and customized training to meet their individual needs. There is also an open channel of communication that enables the farmers to know who to go to for information and support. The local chicken project has lead to significant institutional changes in development projects within Rufiji. Most projects failed in the past because they only used to train farmers in classrooms for a few days or even a few hours, only to later leave the farmers to fend for themselves. The RIU project is different because it nurtures farmers through every step made and allows them to make mistakes so that they can learn from them.

Expanding into contract farming

In 2010 contract farming was introduced. This was received with a lot of joy and enthusiasm in Rufiji. We were excited by the prospect of keeping more than a 100 chickens because to us this was unheard of and seemed to be a farfetched dream. We started by expanding the pens and forming a platform to unite the people of Rufiji who were engaged with indigenous poultry keeping. We met often and this helped us keep our aspirations alive.

Where there is success there must also be challenges. The challenges that we faced were getting vaccines and medication for our chickens on time and of good quality. There isn't a vet shop close by and there is only one in the entire Rufiji District. Now, with the increase in indigenous poultry keepers, the shortage is more acute due to the higher demand. We started with 92 keepers in 2009 and now that number has grown to 170 in 2011. Like vaccines, we also face the challenge of getting feeds.

No matter what the challenges are the number of people who want to join the program is growing steadily because of the success of the program and the fact that the promotion strategy in the Ward has stimulated interest. There are now about 1000 people who are waiting in line to join the program. We have grown from just 5 wards to 12 wards that now want to get involved. This has really encouraged me as the champion, I have become more confident and bold because I see the results of my efforts in encouraging more people to engage with the project.

Rufiji is a good example that others can learn from. I have done this wholeheartedly without an allowance or salary because I truly believe in the RIU project. The way I have personally benefitted from the project is by being one of the indigenous chicken keepers through the contract arrangement that RIU organises. I am proud to say that I have increased my income substantially. At first I sold 180 chickens and got 680,000 Tanzanian Shillings (US \$431), which I used to fix my house, build a chicken pen, pay school fees for my children. The remainder I kept as savings. I am 59 years old and for the first time in my life I have opened a bank account where I keep my savings. I now tell other women that I meet in women groups, on a one to one basis, to look at me and the success I have acquired through this program. They have truly been inspired, especially those who in the past and according to our culture would wait for their husband to be the sole bread winner and provide for them.

I want this story to encourage the government and other non state actors to realize that small scale farmers are not born or made for poverty, because this is not true, just like the stereotype that coastal people are lazy is not true. What we need is the right approach to educate and empower us and we will slowly transform our conditions ourselves.

Historically, people from the coast are renowned for being lazy, uneducated and backward, but RIU demonstrates that it is not that the people are the problem but rather the approach. We small scale farmers have as much right to contribute to development.

I would like to close with the message that the government should be supporting us rather than putting up more challenges. For example the Ward should re-examine the tax on chickens sold, because it is too high and depletes the profit margins we are striving to get.

We are still small and so the taxes should reflect our scale. Taxing us rather than nurturing our growth is not the way to encourage growth of the local chicken industry."

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“My knowledge works: Confessions from a certificate holder level working with indigenous chicken keepers in coastal region in Tanzania”

Leah Kimiro, Household Poultry Farmer Advisor

Certificate Holders should be used to impart knowledge to farmers

<http://r4d.dfid.gov.uk/PDF/Outputs/ResearchIntoUse/riu11tz-lessons-complete.pdf>

Summary: Certificate holders in agriculture, such as Kimiro, should be utilized when working on agricultural development programs. She believes that the RIU program implementation has proven the value of certificate holders and has made them more sought after. Furthermore, Kimiro believes that working one on one for an extended period of time with poultry farmers is one of the aspects of the RIU program that makes it successful.

My name is Leah, I graduated with a certificate in Agriculture from the Folk Development College in Kibaha, Coastal region in 1977. I began working with commercial indigenous poultry keepers under the RIU project in 2009. The practice of using diploma level rather than certificate level agriculture officers for the provision of extension services is common in the country. This is due to the belief that we, those with a certificate, are not qualified to impart knowledge to poultry keepers.

However, as the number of small poultry keepers increases, so has the demand for more knowledge. This is where our value as service providers has now been realised. Extension officers are overwhelmed and more and more villages have to do without one.

An example of this comes from an experience I had in July 2010 when I went to Kisanga village, Kisarawe District, Coastal Region and wanted to meet the extension officer. I was told that the village did not have an extension officer for many years. There are few extension officers and those who are available are already stretched by the numerous responsibilities they have, especially if they also double as village executive officers. Having two important responsibilities in the village means the villagers need them, and similarly, the poultry keepers demand their services.

I do not understand why this has to be the case. The government has built colleges that churn out certificate level agriculture officers annually and has incurred the cost of educating us. I understand that there is an acute shortage of funds to hire us but I still propose that they consider using us to support extension officers especially in places where there is a demand for agriculture expertise. Use us to impart knowledge to farmers and let us take part in accelerating development. We have not been used in the past because the Ministry does not believe we have enough knowledge to impart but that is not entirely true. If you look at the way RIU has utilised our skills and expertise then you have enough evidence to show that we are capable of providing quality service.

RIU contracts us for 30 days to support poultry keepers. We are in essence the caretakers of the project because we protect the investment that RIU and the poultry keepers have made by ensuring that the keepers get the right knowledge at the right time.

RIU values our expertise and they have used us to support small poultry keepers. There have been good results in the project because of the role we have been playing. In the past there were many poultry

keepers but they did not succeed because they did not know where to start. However, after RIU linked us to them to provide agriculture advisory services we have enabled them to start keeping as many as 100 to 300 chickens. This is contrary to the past where they only kept a smaller number of 3 to 10 chickens for household consumption. Indigenous chickens now contribute a significant portion of their household income, even more than other animals such as cows or goats. Poultry keeper's incomes have increased and they are now able to afford school fees for their children and food for their families. They now even have the money to build better housing.

The reason that makes RIU an outstanding project is the way in which we pass knowledge to poultry farmers. We give hands on skills and we stay with the farmer for a period of 30 days, helping them along the process of learning how to nurture small chicks without the mother hen. As household caretaker I teach poultry keepers how and when to vaccinate their flock, the importance of keeping records and the early detection of symptoms of diseases. They also learn how and when to feed the chickens, especially how to achieve the right nutrient balance by mixing locally available food such as cassava, millet, maize, salt, banana and potato peels.

I visit 1 to 15 households per day ensuring that they get personal one on one coaching. I cannot over state how the one on one coaching has been the key to RIUs' program success. Farmers absorb the knowledge better because they learn as the challenges emerge and can witness the solutions in their own stock. Furthermore, this has been a very dynamic method of imparting knowledge because people in the household learn together; knowledge is shared with the father, mother and children.

Farmers who are illiterate are assisted by their children to keep records which are imperative in tracking progress of the chicken's growth, thus ensuring inter-generational knowledge transfer. I have supported poultry keepers in Chalinze, Kisanga, Kirege, Ikwiriri, Mkuza, Rufiji, Bagamoyo, Mkuranga, Kibaha and Kisarawe Districts. I am proud of the success of poultry keepers and I have enjoyed watching them grow in confidence and in their ability to take care of more chickens.

A good example of this that I can remember one poultry keeper in Kibaha in a place called Picha ya Ndege. He now bought his own kerosene incubator and they now have more than 500 chickens. This is coming from a farmer who used to keep 3 to 10 chickens for subsistence.

The project is also growing beyond the RIU farmers. As the success of household caretakers work has grown, so has the demand from non-RIU poultry keepers who are seeking our expertise in nurturing indigenous chickens. The approach that is used in RIU has enabled us to forge stronger relationships with poultry keepers. They trust our advice and feel confident that we can help them solve problems. We live with one poultry keeper during the 30 days contract and we become part of the family. This intimate relationship has made it possible for caretakers to cultivate commitment from poultry keepers who feel at ease to express their anxiety and thus we are able to confront challenges that they face before they grow beyond our capacity to mitigate them. Working with poultry keepers has also enabled us to build a partnership relationship where we are not merely advising but that the farmers themselves. Taking part in the process allows them to feel a sense of ownership because of the intense level of engagement.

It would be untrue if I said this success came easy. I have encountered many challenges, some of which are tied to culture and tradition. Some tribes along the coast do not believe in joint property ownership and as a result you would need to persuade both the father and mother to collaborate in selling the

chickens so they can fetch a better price. However, once they realise the benefits of selling wholesale versus retail, they have increasingly overcome this entrenched tradition. They keep chickens in batches and sell in wholesale. This way they are able to plan and have the assurance that they will have a lump sum amount and it makes it easier to purchase new stock and organise their lives.

Another big challenge has been poverty. Most of the small poultry keepers are peasants. However, RIU has made it possible for them to join the program and provide them interest free loans in the form of chicks, vaccines and food for one month thus enabling those who are most in need to take part in this program. Although we provide good quality service there is a challenge with the quality and availability of vaccines. This has really jeopardised the poultry keepers' profits. Sometimes the vaccines come late or not at all. Others arrive when they are expired because they have not been preserved in the right conditions. So although we vaccinate, we are not always guaranteed of the results. If this challenge is responded to, then I am sure that the farmers will be able to afford paying us in the future once the RIU project is phased out, or through KukuDeal (the commercial portfolio of RIU project).

In all, the RIU project has dispelled the belief that certificate holders are not qualified to provide advisory services to poultry keepers. We are now valued and sought after and, in turn, we are able to help transform the lives of poultry keepers that we serve. Certificate holders are a resourceful pool of experts, we are committed, we are affordable and we ready to serve."

“Landless Women Farmers in Tanzania Profit from Vegetable Exports”

http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GAC_WomensEmpowerment_FiveChallengesOneSolution_Compendium_2013.pdf

Summary: Women vegetable growers were connected to a large East African vegetable exporter, allowing them to export high value crops to the UK.

The Smallholder Horticultural Outgrower Promotion (SHOP) Project supported by USAID and implemented by ACDI/VOCA in Tanzania illustrates how women farmers who lack basic agricultural production assets can become successful producers. The SHOP project has helped connect a vegetable growers association predominantly staffed and managed by smallholder women farmers (MVG) with one of East Africa’s largest vegetable exporters. The produce (mainly French beans and baby corn) is a high value crop exported to the United Kingdom for sale in major supermarkets. Support has included facilitating the leasing of land from farmers to women and the provision of technical assistance.

The MVG farmers have been able to earn additional annual household income of US\$ 1,500 and the project has expanded to include more farmers. This is an example of an innovative approach to empower women farmers and improve household income and family food security that could be promoted by both national and multinational businesses.

“Integrating Women Into Agribusiness Development”

Summary: ACDI/VOCA is primarily working with women’s groups, such as women’s vegetable cooperatives, to improve farmer and agribusiness capacity at all stages of the process. Cooperatives allow women to access resources and expensive equipment they might not otherwise be able to access on their own. Small investments can have large effects. The World Food Programme is now beginning to buy food from local producers instead of internationally, and recently purchased 25 tons of milled rice from such a cooperative.

“Sierra Leone’s 11-year conflict devastated the country politically, economically and socially. The outcomes were overwhelming: high levels of corruption, a lack of social services, unemployment, a fragile economy and a weak private sector, to name a few. Women suffered disproportionately from the conflict, but now they have the opportunity to lead the country’s recovery.

Why women? Women are key drivers of economic growth in emerging-market countries. The important roles they play in agriculture and other industries coupled with their responsibilities as household and community members means that development interventions that specifically target women result in multiple gains. One example, if women had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by 20 to 30 percent. This could reduce the number of hungry people worldwide by up to 17 percent, according to the Food and Agriculture Association of the U.N.

As Sierra Leone transitions from peace-keeping to peace-building and from relief to growth and sustainable development, ACDI/VOCA, a nonprofit economic development organization, is supporting it through a project that builds farmer and agribusiness capacity at all stages, from seed to market. The USAID-funded program’s overall approach is to improve food security and the economy while building democratic institution sand helping smallholder farms operate as businesses. This means improving all steps of agriculture—farming, processing, marketing, exporting, etc.—through a value-chain approach. “One of the lessons learned over time is that programs which address development in a holistic manner have a much better chance for success,” the U.S. ambassador to Sierra Leone said upon the program’s launch in 2008.

The ACDI/VOCA program aims to work with all stakeholders in the 250 communities targeted, but it focuses especially on women. For example, the program worked with a women’s vegetable farmers’ cooperative, the largest vegetable producer in Sierra Leone, giving them business development training and an innovation grant. “Groups such as this women’s vegetable cooperative play a very important role in closing gender gaps and empowering women,” said ACDI/VOCA’s Global Gender Advisor, Lindsey Jones. “Among other benefits, women are able to access resources and expensive equipment collectively that they cannot access individually because they are less likely than men to own property and valuable assets.” Through the grant from ACDI/VOCA, the cooperative bought a rice hulling machine, upgraded their warehouse and repaired their only vehicle, a clunky six-ton truck that was donated by the Ministry of Agriculture right after the civil war.

Small infrastructure investments can have big effects: these upgrades helped the cooperative supply 25 tons of locally grown and milled rice to the World Food Program (WFP). The sale was the first conducted in Sierra Leone under the WFP’s new program to purchase food for its school feeding program directly from local smallholders instead of importing it. Selling to the WFP was no small feat; it meant collecting paddy rice from several hundred smallholders and processing it to international standards with

sometimes dilapidated infrastructure. But it also improved the quality of the farmers' produce and solidified market linkages for local producers.

To capture some of the lessons learned through the Sierra Leone program, ACDI/VOCA sent Nancy Walker, with a Ph.D in Agriculture and Extension Education to the Sierra Leone to evaluate gender integration and conduct staff trainings. Nancy Walker's work was organized by ACDI/VOCAs' volunteer program which brings qualified American professionals overseas to provide technical assistance with field projects in agribusiness and other areas. Walker's research resulted in some key practical findings: Linking women to even simple farming implements such as long-handled cultivation hoe, hula hoe, hokey or wheel hoe, wheel barrel would reduce their workloads, which is important because women in Sierra Leone are already overburdened with multiple productive and household responsibilities. Integrating solar drying technology to farming programs would help women add value to surplus seasonal fruits and vegetables, bringing in extra income without requiring much extra work. Appointing female staff and youth specialists would naturally help the program reach the key demographics of women and youth. She left the program with a gender training manual that has since been used in other countries.

Two-thirds of the population in Sierra Leone work as subsistence farmers like the cooperative members. The agricultural industry is growing, but the country is still a net importer of food. With targeted assistance and investment, this can change. The women's cooperative is based in Koinadugu, considered the "breadbasket" of Sierra Leone before the war, a now-reviving area feeding the nation once again.

“Increasing Revenue Improves Women’s Lives”

http://eastafrika.usaid.gov/en/USAID/Article/1396/Increasing_Revenue_Improves_Womens_Lives

Summary: Training given to an existing agricultural association in literacy and accounting increased the association’s revenue. This, in turn, allowed the association to extend loans to its members.

For seven years a group of 28 female and three male farmers worked their communal fields in central Burundi’s Mwaro Province. This Association for Agriculture and Development (AGRED) operated on contributions from its members and small daily sales. Monies earned were shared among the members or used as contributions for community social events.

But while the association had a bank account its balance never reached \$80, and the group’s lack of management tools was a constant drag on its ability to achieve its goals.

In late 2009, USAID’s Burundi Agribusiness Program, which provides support to rural Burundian farmers, provided technical assistance to AGRED.

As a result, AGRED adopted improved agronomic practices, increased its land area under cultivation and today uses a series of management tools including a petty cash register, receipt book and bank account register to track and account for the group’s income and expenditures.

In 2010 the association benefitted from USAID’s literacy training. Prior to the training a lack of understanding about member’s rights, roles and responsibilities led to conflict. These new skills helped to facilitate the management of internal conflict since members could suddenly read statutes and internal rules of order.

The group also adopted improved management practices for the association’s finances and inventory. Members no longer allocate communal funds to social events like marriages and baptisms, and their bank balance has grown to approximately \$523.

Today AGRED is managing a much appreciated service--extending credit-- to its members. The association charges a 5% monthly interest rate for every \$8 borrowed and twenty- three members have used this credit to purchase goats, chickens, and pigs, and to market grapes and bananas.

And as a matter of great pride, there have been no problems with any loan reimbursements.

VI. Organizations/Events

African Women in Agribusiness Network

<http://www.awanea.com/index.php/k2-category-1/item/3-awan-history>

AWAN- EA was established in 2002 to respond to the increasing need for African women to have the latest information on trends, opportunities and challenges in the regional and international agribusiness arena.

The African Women in Agribusiness Network (AWAN-EA) start up program was funded by USAID under REDSO/ESA's Strategic Objective 5 "Enhanced African Capacity to Achieve Regional Food Security". The program was started in October 1, 2002.

AWAN-EA was born out of a series of sub-regional workshops held in Accra, Cape Town and Nairobi to address the opportunities and challenges facing women engaged in agribusiness exports in Africa. AWAN-EA operates in seven countries within the East African Region namely; Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Sudan and Rwanda. The regional secretariat is based in Nairobi, Kenya.

Expected Results of AWAN-EA are:

1. Enhanced trade & market development.
2. Increased access to risk management and financial services
3. Improved quality standards and compliance.
4. Improved Institutional capacity and technical skills.
5. Increased access to opportunities to Lobby and Advocate for policy change
6. Increased Information flows and Networking amongst members and other stakeholders.

Some of the opportunities spelt out in the 2011-2014 strategic plan include:

1. Regional agricultural based economies
2. Food insecurities
3. Customer demand for quality and safety
4. Availability of markets for non traditional crops
5. Govern support in agriculture
6. East African regional integration

“ABW CONNECTED SUMMIT & TRADE EXPO ANNOUNCED”

AWB Connect

<http://www.abwconnected.com/news/>

Toronto, ON, March 8, 2013: Coinciding with International Women’s Day, Canadian and African Business Women’s Alliance (CAABWA) in partnership with the Center for African Women Economic Empowerment (CAWEE) today announced a first-of-its-kind trade initiative, African Business Women (ABW) Connected Summit and Trade Expo to be held in Ethiopia in September 2014.

ABW Connected will bring together and enhance the economic performance of women-led businesses in every country of Africa in three of the largest export sectors for women throughout the continent; craft and textiles, agribusiness for cosmetics and tourism. Throughout Africa, women contribute an average of 60 per cent of the labour force and significantly higher in the craft and textiles, agribusiness and services sectors.

“Successful African women entrepreneurs are having a profound impact on uplifting and economically empowering less fortunate women and men, particularly those who are uneducated and living in rural areas, said Board Chair, CAABWA. “Their companies can work with hundreds, and in some cases thousands, in rural communities providing wages, healthcare and educational support.”

“By bringing together Africa’s best businesswomen in one place, the ABW Connected Summit & Trade Expo is supporting the growth of African economies, said the Honourable Jabulile Mashwama, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade, Swaziland. “I am delighted that buyers not only in Africa but from around the world will be able to experience first-hand the excellent quality and craftsmanship of Swaziland products, as well as the professionalism of our business leaders in many sectors.”

ABW Connected is meeting a huge domestic and international demand for unique products that are socially and environmentally conscious. “This will be the first time that buyers from around the world will have access to Africa’s leading female exporters from across the continent all at one time and in one place,” said Nigest Haile, Executive Director, CAWEE. “Supporting these women entrepreneurs to further grow their business is key to positively impacting the urban & rural areas of the continent on both a social and economic level.”

The five-day ABW Summit and Trade Expo is expected to attract more than 1000 people and will offer attendees three days of leadership, technology and trade skills development and training followed by two days of a trade expo with the final day open to the public to purchase goods and services. In addition to the African female export entrepreneurs, domestic and international buyers, corporate leaders from Africa and abroad, government representatives from Africa and Canada, African business association leaders and university students from across the continent as well as the general public are expected to attend.

ABW Connected Summit and Trade Expo is already supported by a number of other Canadian, African and international partners. They include FEMCOM COMESA (Federation of National Associations of Women in Business in Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa); ECOWAS FEBWE (Economic Community of West African States – Federation of Business Women and Entrepreneurs); SWIFT (Swaziland Fair Trade); Wisdom Exchange TV; Mustard Seed Africa; and BPW (Business and Professional

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Women International). The Chairwoman of ABW Connected's Advisory Council is Dr Amany Asfour, President of AFRAWE (African Alliance for Women Empowerment). Corporate partnerships in sectors such as technology, renewable energy, tourism, and consumer products are expected to be formed in the coming months. To learn more about the initiative and how to participate, please visit www.abwconnected.com

“Training young women and men to accelerate agribusiness growth in West Africa”

<http://www.unido.org/news/press/training-africa.html>

Summary: Several UN bodies put on a four-day workshop for women and youth in West Africa interested in agribusiness. The training allowed participants to share best practices, showcased new current equipment, and allowed participants to network.

PORT NOVO, Republic of Benin, 9 October 2012 – Over 200 participants from 14 African countries took part in a workshop on developing agribusiness entrepreneurship and agribusiness value chains as a way of empowering young women and men in Western Africa.

The four-day event, “Women and youth as catalyst for agribusiness development and growth in Western Africa”, was organized at the Songhai Centre by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UN Women, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the UN Development Program (UNDP).

Participants shared best practices in implementing agribusiness strategies, showcased state-of-the-art processing machinery, established a network of young agro-entrepreneurs in the region to share information and develop a strategic plan of action to promote agriculture as a lucrative business.

Grace Ongile, the UN Women Representative to Nigeria and to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), said that “when women and youths are empowered there is a strong linkage between not only the growth of the agribusiness sector but also the development of the economy”.

Noting that agribusiness is widely acknowledged as a central component of economic growth and sustainable development, especially in emerging markets, Mosunmola Umoru, a representative of women farmers in the region, said: “If we are fully empowered to achieve our dream for those of us who have chosen to pursue a career through the agribusiness sector, it will be possible for Africa to attain food security”.