

Enhancing Competitiveness of Smallholder Rice Farmers in Morogoro

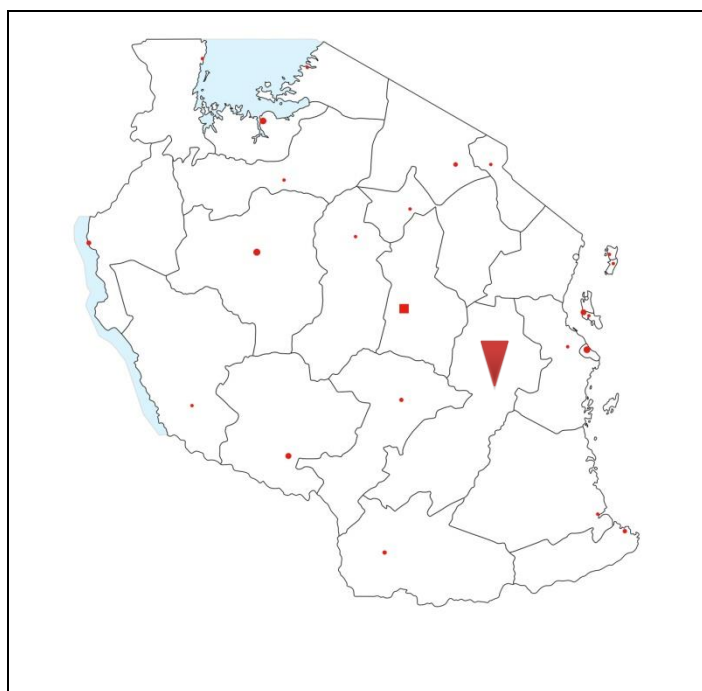


January 2018

In partnership with the European Union



The project “Enhancing Competitiveness of Smallholder Rice Farmers” in Morogoro, developed by Aga Khan Foundation and its partner Rice Council of Tanzania, aims to reduce poverty and support SAGCOT initiative’s economic development goals to become more inclusive by enhancing benefits for smallholder farmers and value chain actors.



Key Information

Sector: Agriculture

Lead Partner: Aga Khan Foundation

Other Partners: Rice Council of Tanzania

Budget: EUR 1,875,000 (EU funding 1,500,000)

Duration: 2017 – 2021

Background

The Tanzania rice industry has grown over the past decade. Average rice yields have improved but still remain low (1.8 tonnes/hectare) due to poor agronomic practices, poor storage and milling and weak farmers organizations. Post-harvest losses are extremely high. Estimates place post-harvest losses at 50% of crop, with large losses borne by smallholders during harvest and prior to milling, during drying, threshing and storage in the home. Infrastructure for harvesting mechanization exists but has not been promoted or financed and therefore not used by farmers.

Even though Morogoro is the second largest rice producing region in Tanzania after Mbeya, an estimated 154,132 rice producing households are cultivating largely on small farms (average of 1 ha per household) for a total of 168,762 ha and account for about 12% of the country’s total rice production. The majority of rice production is rain-fed and yields are at about one third of their potential with few inputs such as fertilizers used.

AKF has been strengthening the rice market system in Tanzania since 2010, engaging rice market stakeholders across the value chain including farmers, input suppliers, agro-dealers, millers, local government, and service providers. Over 20,000 rice farmers have been directly impacted and AKF is scaling up best practices.



Project Details

The overall objective of the project is to reduce poverty and support SAGCOT initiative's economic development goals become more inclusive by enhancing benefits for smallholder farmers and value chain actors working in the rice sector in Morogoro. The region is the second largest rice producing region, but the commodity is not as competitive as in other regions. This is largely due to a lack of access to quality inputs, poor post production practices, inadequate harvesting and post-harvest management, post production marketing challenges.

Aga Khan Foundation and Rice Council of Tanzania will support smallholder farming systems for rice post-harvest and value chain development by addressing the gaps along the post-harvest value chain including post-harvest management, limited access to quality storage and weak linkages with private sector (service providers, millers, transporters, traders). AKF and RCT will work with local government to enhance production and marketing among farmer groups/associations, shifting farmer livelihoods from small scale subsistence farming towards commercial farming.

The project targets 5,000 smallholder farmers with a focus on women and youth to increase their sphere of returns in the rice sector. AKF and RCT will work with traders, mechanization service, and input suppliers, especially those that lack access to finance to procure farm machinery. Millers will be equipped with the skills and knowledge to improve the conditions of storage facilities, as well as infrastructure support.

Expected Results

The expected results for the Action are:

1. Strengthened capacities of smallholder rice farmers, farmer groups, and extension workers to enhance quality and reduce postharvest losses
2. Increased smallholder farmer access to market opportunities through facilitating value chain actors to enhance business services, supplies and linkages;
3. Improved infrastructure and management of post-harvest storage facilities

In the first six months, the project team will have:

- Conducted a village and stakeholder mapping aimed at profiling key stakeholders working in the project areas for forging possible synergies;
- Designed appropriate interventions in line with project objectives;
- Established relationships with district councils and assigned 33 government agricultural extension officers (GAEOs) to work with the project;
- Conducted 35 sensitization and mobilization meetings to 35 villages and recruited 4,273 farmers (51% women and 49% men);
- Mapped millers and established a database of warehouses (those with and without machines).

The next six months; the project team will:

- Conduct training need assessment (situational analysis);
- Conduct trainings on group management
- Trainings on Good Agriculture Practices to farmers and value chain actors on farming as a business;
- Raise awareness and build linkages for the uptake of mechanized harvesting services;
- Promote mechanisms for dissemination, policy dialogue, coordination among rice value chain actors, train private storage providers on professional management of facilities.



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION

An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network



Contact(s)

COUNTRY OFFICE

Director of Programmes, Aga Khan Foundation Tanzania
37 Haile Selassie Road, Oysterbay
P.O.Box 125, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: 1-255 (22)266865/26667 923, Fax +255 (22) 2668527

FIELD OFFICE

Project Manager, Aga Khan Foundation Tanzania
Kibaoni Street, Block H Plot No. 71
P.O. Box 15 Ifakara | Morogoro, Tanzania
Tel: +255 22 266 8651 | +255 22 266 7923
Mob: +255 765 739 961
Email: godfrey.kahabuka@akfea.org

