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European Union

Boresha Chai Improving Income and Nutrition of Smallholder Tea Farmers in Southern Tanzania



Boresha Chai fosters sustainable livelihoods, nutrition, and gender equality among tea farming families in southern Tanzania.



KEY INFORMATION

Sector: Tea
Lead Partner: IDH the Sustainable Trade Initiative
Other Partners: CEFA; Tea Research Institute of Tanzania (TRIT), Tanzania Smallholders Tea Development Agency (TSHTDA)
Budget: EUR 5 560 000
EU contribution: EUR 5 000 000
Duration: 2020 - 2024

BACKGROUND

Tea is a high impact sector in Tanzania. Around 31,000 smallholder farmers collectively produce a third of the country's output. The tea crop is generally harvested all year round and thus provides a regular and dependable source of income for growers.

However, the tea sector faces significant challenges: tea smallholder farmers in Tanzania achieve low yields. Factories are not getting sufficiently consistent supplies of green leaf volume and quality throughout the year to operate efficiently and keep variable factory costs low. Consequently, they are only able to offer low prices to farmers.

Due to these and other factors, including lack of or limited shareholding in processing plants, tea growers in Tanzania receive a much lower share of the Mombasa auction price. As a result, there is a clear downward cycle within smallholder tea production, leaving Tanzanian farmers among the lowest paid in the East African region.

AGRI-CONNECT

Supporting Value Chains for
Shared Prosperity



PROJECT DETAILS

1. Strengthening tea farmer cooperatives to:
 - Provide training to tea farmer cooperatives
 - Stimulate female leadership and youth participation in tea cooperatives
 - Grant financial support to cooperatives to improve service delivery to their members
2. Sustainable service delivery, training and quality-based payment for tea smallholders to:
 - Introduce Sustainable Service Delivery Models (SDM) for tea cooperatives and farmers
 - Build capacity of tea smallholders through Farmer Field Schools
 - Implement a bonus system to promote and reward higher green leaf quality
3. Sustainable innovations:
 - Demonstrate and promote optimised nutrient application in smallholder tea farms
 - Demonstrate and promote mechanised tea harvesting services
 - Demonstrate and promote irrigation of smallholder tea plantations
 - Establish improved clone nurseries for increased climate resilience and productivity
 - Promote digital financial and information services for smallholder tea farmers
4. Income diversification:
 - Convene partners for secondary value chain services and offtake
 - Implement SDM for secondary value chain and establish market linkage
5. Nutrition and household decision-making to:
 - Promote good household nutrition through sensitisation, training and demonstrations
 - Build financial literacy and promote balanced decision-making in tea farming households

EXPECTED RESULTS

The project expects to reach:

- 22,000 smallholder tea farmers – covering >70% of Tanzania's tea smallholders.
- Approximately 1,600 in Mufindi District, 5,000 in Njombe District, 15,000 in Rungwe and Busokelo Districts
- 34 tea cooperatives and/or farmer groups
- Approximately 103,000 members of tea farming households (average 4.7 persons per household)
- Private sector tea companies constrained by the low and inconsistent volume and quality of green leaf supplied by smallholder farmers' inefficiencies of service delivery to smallholders.

By the end of the project, the following results are expected:

- 560 Farmer Field Schools in the target districts are established.
- Increased household income as a result of higher green leaf yields and a higher price based on quality (50% increase).
- 4 non-tea value chains strengthened and 50% of smallholder tea farming families to diversify their income.
- Improved nutrition practices leading to reduced stunting (40% reduction).
- Increased gender equality in households, farms and cooperatives (50% of women in smallholder tea households reporting an increase in economic activities and decision making).
- Reduced climate vulnerability (as a result of planting drought-resistant tea varieties, implementing good agricultural practices, installing irrigation, and income diversification).
- Improved organisational capacity and performance of all 34 farmer cooperatives.
- New and improved service delivery to members of at least 10 cooperatives.
- Increased committee membership, especially of women and youth (102 women in gender committees and 68 youth in youth committees at cooperative level).
- Increased green leaf quality and volume supplied by smallholder farmers from 50% to 65%.

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