

# Improve Competitiveness and Increase Postharvest Management Capacity of Smallholders Farmers in the Rice Value Chain

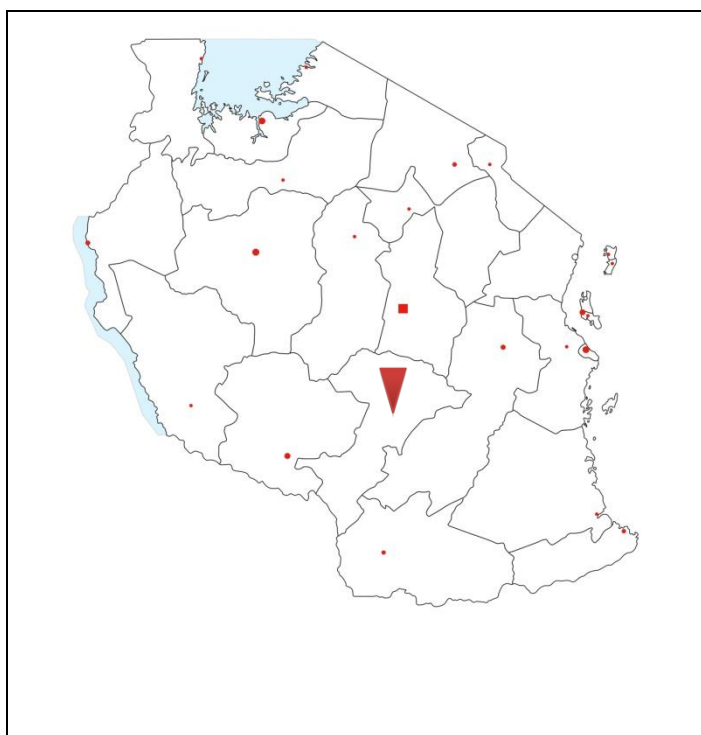


In partnership with the European Union

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The project is designed to support poverty reduction by supporting smallholder farmers to grasp opportunities, become more competitive, strengthening their organizational management capacities. This will translate into well-functioning value chains, reduced post-harvest losses and collective actions among farmers and other value chain actors.



## Key Information

Sector: Agriculture

Lead Partner: Food and Agriculture Organization UN

Other Partners: RUDI

Budget: EUR 1,875,000 (EU contribution 1,500,000 & FAO 375,000)

Duration: 2017 – 2020

## Background

Rice, the second most important crop in the United Republic of Tanzania, is mostly grown by farmers as a cash crop for local and regional markets.

Farmers are at the core of the value chain as they play a significant role on the source of the produced goods, post-harvest losses account for about 30% for cereals including the rice sub-sector, therefore addressing the challenge at the farm gate is crucial since chances for losses beyond the farmers' level are relatively minimum.

With improved competitiveness and post-harvest losses management, paddy and other cereals can definitely make the country food self-sufficient, resulting in poverty reduction, increased incomes while ensuring a sustainable supply of food and a reliable market for farmers.

## Project Details

The project is part of the SACGOT initiative with emphasis on public – private – partnerships, active collaboration between value chain actors. The project is implemented by the food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Rural Urban Development Initiative (RUDI) and Iringa District. It will focus on building the managerial capacities of farmer's organizations to increase their competitiveness among other value chain actors, reduce post-harvest losses, maintaining quality and quantity.

The project will strengthen the market linkages between value chain actors, promoting inclusive business models, linkage to structured markets, improving organizational management capacities, upgrading post-harvest facilities and coordination. Emphasis will be put on practical market support services to paddy smallholder and upstream value chain actors to capture market growth opportunities in the domestic and regional markets.

It is recognized that women and youth have a key role to play in the rice sub-sector and therefore special consideration will be made to ensure that women and young farmers benefit from the project initiatives.

## Expected Results

Overall objective: To reduce rural poverty through improved competitiveness of smallholder rice producers in the SAGCOT area.

**Specific objective:** To increase the competitiveness of rice value chain and improve post-harvest management of small holder farmers in Iringa regions.

### **The project will lead to the following results;**

- The managerial capacities of small holder farmers' cooperative associations strengthened
  - Innovative and sustainable and inclusive market systems strengthened
  - Postharvest facilities, rehabilitated and professional management promoted
  - Coordination, synergies and complementarities with ongoing initiatives strengthened
- Reaching an approximate number of 10,019 small holder farmers



**Food and Agriculture  
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