

Farmer Organizations Capacity Enhancement Program (FOCEP), Funded by AGRA

Project Description	<p>SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT</p> <p>In recent years there has been a major effort to organize farmers in groups, associations and cooperatives as a result of government withdrawal/scaling down from agriculture sector support system. However, structures are still fragile facing managerial and administrative challenges that hamper their capacity to deliver quality services to members. As such Small Holder Farmers (SHFs) continue to lack extension services, have limited access to resources such as information, market and credit among others. As a result, SHFs have continued to be poor despite their enormous potential to contribute towards Tanzania’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) given that agriculture employs about 80% of the population.</p> <p>Project Goal</p> <p>To increase incomes of Small Holder Farmers in Mlimba and Ifakara Divisions of Kilombero District by 30%. It is envisaged that these will be achieved through institutional support building, linkage with service providers and enhancing communication through knowledge and learning. The specific objectives are as follows:</p> <p>Project Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) To enhance institutional, managerial and entrepreneurial capacities of targeted FOs (ii) To enhance access to services by FOs through linkages with service providers (SPs) (iii) To enhance communication and access to information by FOs through knowledge sharing and learning <p>Expected Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Increased sales volumes and value of produce sold by members (ii) Increased growth in membership of FOs (iii) Targeted SHFs reporting improvement in services offered by FOs (iv) Operational knowledge management system in place <p>Project Target Areas: Ifakara and Mlimba Divisions in Kilombero District</p> <p>Target Crop: Rice</p>
Project strategy	<p>Working with the Association of Kilombero High Quality Rice Growers (AKIRIGO) and Association of Mlimba High Quality Rice Growers (AMRIGO), in three years, FOCEP will reach 15,000 SHFs. Among the key interventions to be conducted include: organizational capacity assessment, tailor made training programme to address challenges identified, building capacities of SHFs and FOs to be bankable and setting up a knowledge management system to facilitate documentation of success stories and lessons learnt.</p>
Collaborators	<p>AKIRIGO & AMRIGO and Ifakara District Council, NAFKA, RUDI</p>
Project Duration	<p>3 years</p>