

Tanzania



Commercial Agriculture for Smallholder farmers in Zanzibar (CASH)

Implementing Partners:

VSO Tanzania – Project Manager

UWAMWIMA – Vegetable Farmers Association

UWZ – Association of People with Disability

WEDTF – Women Entrepreneurship Development Trust Fund

KATI – Kizimbani Agriculture Training Institute



The **Commercial Agriculture for Smallholder Farmers (CASH)** project aims to empower smallholder farmers to participate in the market and transform agriculture from a subsistence activity to a profitable enterprise. The project is supported by Cordaid and Accenture, and is implemented by VSO in collaboration with Uwamwima, UWZ, KATI and WEDTF. The project operates in the framework of VSO Tanzania Secure Livelihoods Programme which aims to improve agriculture value chains by ensuring smallholder farmers have access to productive resources (land, microfinance), appropriate technology (irrigation, seeds), good agriculture practices and market linkages.

Why? To support Zanzibarian smallholder farmers in Commercial Agriculture.

Zanzibar is a small island with just over a million inhabitants, the majority of whom are subsistence farmers. Tourism has become the major industry in the last 20 years, but Zanzibar's farmers aren't

benefitting from the estimated 1 million tourists per year that visit the island. Once famous for its spice plantations, much of Zanzibar is no longer cultivated and 80% of the vegetables and fruits supplied to the hotel industry are not from the island.



What? Objectives of the CASH project support smallholder farmers on:

- Improving productivity and quality through group access to production, extension and training services and reduce production costs through purchasing larger volumes of materials (including seeds, fertilizers and other equipment).
- Improving farmer capacity to participate in higher return markets.
- Introducing revolving funds as a means of financing common use services and facilities.

In the course of the project implementation, the project has witnessed increasing number of Zanzibarians using improved production techniques, and the number of women participating at all levels of the agriculture value chain including marketing of products to tourist hotels. The Impact assessment conducted by VSO Making Markets Work for the Poor (MMW4P) project has shown increased income of more than 50%.



Beneficiaries

- 14 farmer groups from Chutama, Kivunge, Mchangani, Tunduni, Chechele, Chuini, Kiboje, Mahonda, Mbuzini, Mchangani, Mfenesini, Munduli, Nyamanzi and Pale are provided with improved farming techniques and microfinance services.
- 256 members including women, young people, people with disabilities, people living with HIV and Aids of whom 21% are male and 78% female received training on good agricultural practices, input and equipment grants and market training.
- 400 entrepreneurs in the field of food processing and vegetable value additions are linked to the market through agents.
- 10 agriculture marketing agents are linked with local farmers and their produce.
- 4 extension workers from the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources receive technical support.

Activities delivered

- Agromony Practices and Entrepreneurial Skills Training
- Set up of Farmer Field Schools
- Farmers' Study Tour
- Linkage with input supplies, local and tourist markets
- Field Mobilization and Planning Sessions

F. Field Assessment Visit and Learning Process

G. Value additions

H. Market Survey

I. Microfinance services

VSO technical input

VSO provides the following specialized technical support:

- Microfinance development Advisor
- Value Chain and Enterprise Development Specialist
- Agriculture and marketing specialist
- Mari-culture Advisor
- Food Security and Nutrition Analyst
- Agro Engineer Advisor

Project timeframe

January 2012 to December 2013



VSO's Secure Livelihoods programme

VSO is an international development organization that works through volunteer professionals to fight poverty. We have been working in Tanzania for more than 52 years in close collaboration with various Government institutions and civil society stakeholders. We have particularly contributed to the achievement of the objectives of the Ministry of Agriculture in the provisioning of quality agricultural and food security services, building capacity of local Government Authorities and facilitating the private sector to contribute effectively to sustainable agricultural productivity, food and nutritional development in different regions in Tanzania.



The programme is set to achieve the following key outcomes

- Vocational training institutes raise their standards in line with internationally recognized levels and the needs of the market.
- Smallholder farmers have access to productive resources (land, microfinance), appropriate technology (irrigation, seeds), good agriculture practices and market linkages.
- The business environment is more conducive for private sector development, in particular SMEs.

Contact us for more information

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