

## **PIATA TIJA project Tanzania**

### **Success story for reverse extension practice on paddy farming**

Deducted from the five years' program, the AGRA project entitled the PIATA TIJA Tanzania commenced its implementation of activities back in August 2017. The project was intended to be implemented in the regions of Rukwa and Katavi due to observed low production of the crops of maize, beans and paddy through different surveys against the high demands both in consumption and business purposes. The project planned to be implemented through consortium approach where the NGOs namely ACT, ADP Mbozi, BRiTEN and MIICO awarded the mandate of the implementation in the respective regions. The project had the target of reaching out 122,040 smallholder farmers in the split of 64,000 farmers from Rukwa and 57,040 farmers from Katavi. Three specific objectives were deducted from the main objectives where increasing production of the focused value chains, creating stable market outlets for the increased production and enabling farmers to stand against unexpected shocks and stresses being the project specific objectives. Since its start in implementation number of activities have been successfully conducted as per agreed specific objectives including of promotion of GAP through demonstration plots and other farmer's trainings, linkages between farmers and input companies but also farmers with grain and aggregators and trainings concerning financial risk management products just to mention few. With the regard to outcome from the number of activities implemented it is vital to show evidence of the success obtained from the activities implementation as it is presented in the following chapters with this success story. Subsequently following the transformation of farmers through the GAP practices, the farmers, Petter and Odilo who are 39 and 36 years respectively were successfully transformed and their success is as follows:

Before the commencement of the project in their areas, both were intentionally using traditional methods for farming including the rotation of the seeds planted, no application of fertilizer and broadcasting maize while planting where they maximum harvested 5-7 100 bagged maize per acre which was very far from the potentiality per acre. They fully had the information about the tradition practices due to inheritance purposes but they never had information and knowledge about the improved farming practices including the use of improved seeds, fertilizer and pesticides just to mention few. As well Petter and Odilo were among many farmers who were mobilized to

engage into doing contract farming with agro processors to ensure the availability of markets for their produce as per specific objectives and linked to agro processor Mr Sambo Tiluli through the consortium work. The processor bought the improved seed of paddy (TXD 306) known as the *Saro 5* from Agriseeds Technologies Ltd Co. a total of 0.75 MT and distribute them to 48 smallholder farmers who agreed to conduct contract farming with him.

### **One-day training**

TIJA project through collaboration with Agriseeds company managed to conduct one-day training with those farmers who were selected for the contract farming with Mr Sambo. The training aimed at providing literacy concerning the seed, extension required to obtain its best performance which included spacing, fertilizer application, planting, weeding etc. After the training, farmers were distributed with seeds which was bought by Mr Sambo for planting.

*Below is the picture portraying farmers with paddy seeds distributed by Agri seeds company after training*



After the training, farmers trained planted the distributed seeds at their farms while considering the spacing and application of fertilizer as instructed. Despite the fact that some of the farmers including Petter were discouraged with other farmers who are used to farming using local varieties but he opted to practice improved ways for farming to practically observe its importance. Since its application, Petter is reporting that the farm] has been progressing very well, it is very greenish and the variety has large number of branches up to 52 as compared to local variety of the nearby farms which has 5 to 15 branches as observed during field visit.



TIJA Tanzania team with Mr Sambo examining the progress of Mr Petter's farm at Ikaka village. While assessing the team counted the branches of few paddies planted among many.

Not only that of Mr Petter's, also the team visited at miss Odio's farm the only female farmer who encouraged and grouped with other farmers to enter into agreement with Mr Sambo for contract farming and cultivate improved seed, she attended the training and managed to plant 1.5 acres and expecting good performance from her farm.



*Mwakagile of ADP Mbozi observing the farm of miss Odilo and counting branches*