

University of Minnesota Extension Global Food Security Efforts in Tanzania

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION

ABSTRACT

The Companion Village Project (CVP) is an educational outreach project in Tanzania, Africa. Its goal is to increase food production above subsistence levels and create a source of income. University of Minnesota Extension is an indirect partner and will provide educational development, counsel and agricultural resources to the CVP, which is operated by staff (trained by U of M MAST) at the Institute of Agriculture at Tumaini University. Similar in concept to the American land grant system, the CVP is using research from the U of M and developing an outreach system through church leaders and congregations. Short-term deliverables will be awareness and education of the rural population, virtually all of whom practice subsistence agriculture. The long-term goal is increased food security in the Region of Iringa, Tanzania.



"There are still a lot of hungry and miserable people in the world. And without food, a lot of the other things that we take for granted as being essential aren't very meaningful."

NORMAN BORLAUG, 2006

PROBLEM

Sub-Saharan Africa is one region of the world where local food production cannot meet the needs of the human population.

WHY?

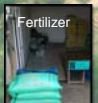
- Nutrient-depleted soils
- Sub-optimal management practices



SOLUTION:

Improve Management Practices

- Plant population and spacing
- Seed selection/quality
- Pest control
- Tillage/residue management
- Fertilization



Practices are KNOWN. Informing and persuading farmers to change their practices are the challenges.

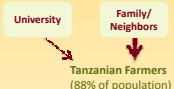
OBJECTIVE AND MODEL DEVELOPMENT

Objective: Create a learning model that will increase the adoption of improved food production practices.

The classic model for educating a national public is the American land grant system:

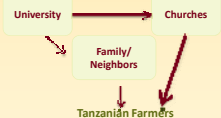


The land grant learning model does not exist in Tanzania, hindering information flow.



PROPOSED NEW MODEL FOR INFORMATION FLOW

Church pastors are being leveraged for the role they hold in being community leaders at the forefront of change.



Why churches?

- Integrity of pastors
- Implied credibility of project
- Regular traffic
- Trust of data collection



The Model: Companion Village Project

Replicating the Extension system, the Extension agents' role is being filled by church pastors to disseminate knowledge from University research. Pastors in Tanzania can become part of the "Companion Village Project" and commit to holding six educational meetings and a demonstration plot on church property in exchange for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America funding the costs.



Ibrahim, Gabriel, Roger

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Develop vision and plan
- Clarify relationships of all involved
- Develop financial support systems
- Contributions management (U of M)
- Communication plan
- Develop HR support (U of M MAST, exchanges)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John Vreyens, Greg Cuomo, Les Everett, Fred Bergsrud, and Phil Larsen, U of M; Will Carlson, Roger Blomquist, Maury Miller, Kathryn Hesse, Gary Langness, Lee Sandager, Don Fehr, Dave Johnson, Bob Hesse, John Hodler, Mark Jensen, Pete Raquet

Institute of Agriculture
TUMAINI UNIVERSITY
IRINGA, TANZANIA

PERSONNEL

- Roger Blomquist, Interim Director
- Ibrahim Wikedzi, Research Asst.
- Gabriel Malima, Research Asst.
- Sokoine University (research sharing)
- University of Minnesota (extension models)

FUNDING

- Evangelical Lutheran Church of America Foundation
- St. Paul Area Synod contributions
- Grants
- Congregational sponsorship of demonstration plots
\$2,000/yr/plot
2008: 11 plots
2009: 21 plots

DEMONSTRATION PLOTS

- 1-acre plot adjacent to church (half beans, half corn)
- Soil analysis, seed, fertilizers, and pest control are done by program personnel
- Six educational meetings per growing season
- Harvest and yield data collected



ANTICIPATED RESULTS

The program's initial outcome indicators include attendance at meetings, changes in crop production practices, and increased yields. These variables are being measured now. The final outcome is increased food security at the household level.

U OF M/EXTENSION ROLES

- Design educational model
- Educate program staff (U of M MAST)
- Share agronomic research recommendations
- Lead in acquiring and leveraging resource



Farmer's Field



Demonstration Plot