

Activities

GSC-TZ will work in four districts, Monduli, Arusha, Meru and Longido, where a number of other NGO and government actors are present. A high level of collaboration will be sought among other food security-related NGOs, as well as exchange visits, and common approaches which will enhance the cross-organizational learning. Mennonite Central Committee will play a role in the project oversight through its long-established links with the Canadian Food Grain Bank. Memorandums will clarify expectations of Partners.

This project concerns food security activities and the following narrative describes them. This project is about empowerment. Rural trainees will be selected, trained, and mobilized to assist their neighbours. A strong participation in selection, training and a close follow-up by local committees helps to keep these people active. These local volunteers in similar projects have enhanced significantly the adoption by wider communities of innovations promoted by the project. For example, they have reduced significantly the number of cases of poultry diseases in the community, helped in the take-up of innovations, and helped to target needy participants to benefit from project interventions.

Food security committees are formed from among community leaders and existing groups to support dissemination of interventions by increasing cohesion of sub-groups and wider participation. The committees may vary in size and activities according to their interest, but generally comprise 4 or 5 members.

Table 1 Activities of the food security committees

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| FOOD SECURITY COMMITTEES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mobilize selection of appropriate groups within the community for training • identifying and supervising potential rural caregivers from sub-villages • ensure community cooperation so that families pay for animal vaccinations • ensure the welfare of more vulnerable households through participation, sharing and caring among members and their families through visits to households • assist preparation for trainers, e.g., alerting community, venue for meetings, food • mobilize, if possible, home-based care by caregivers, support of HIV+ groups • assist coordination of field days and agriculture shows • promote addressing of environmental issues, e.g. sanitation, tree planting, etc. • provide accountability of group equipment such as bicycles for caregivers • share progress reports and productivity records with wider village leaders • identify and address constraints: potential markets, sources of micro-finance, or agriculture inputs for the group members |
|--------------------------|--|

Table 4 Typical Requirements for Community Volunteers

| | |
|-------------|--|
| VACCINATORS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residing in the community • Available to undertake regular campaigns and to record their work, including receipts. • Reside in or near to the respective community. • Chosen by the village government, and willingness to cooperate with them • Commitment to providing services by a set calendar, and obtaining fair fee for services rendered (contract with village authorities) • Minimum 50% women |
|-------------|--|

| | |
|--|--|
| COMMUNITY WORKERS¹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to learn and teach about nutrition and rural hygiene among rural groups/neighbors • Capacity to learn technical information and put into practice on their own homesteads • Available to undertake regular campaigns and to record their work • Availability to undertake regular voluntary training activities on behalf of neighbors • Chosen by the community, in conjunction with local health centres where applicable • Residing in the community • Minimum 50% women |
| SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROMOTERS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to learn and teach others technical organic farming know-how and put into practice on their homesteads • Willing to host Farmer Field Schools to research and scale out practices • Availability to undertake regular voluntary training activities on behalf of neighbors, and to record their work • Chosen by the community in conjunction with project staff, having implemented techniques on their own farms successfully • Residing in the community • Minimum 50% women |

Table 2 Typical qualifications and role of district extension staff

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| EXTENSIONISTS² | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical know-how (Certificate or Diploma) in general agriculture. • Prepared to collaborate with NGOs in agricultural development programs. • Willingness to promote an integrated support effort among caregivers in the project • Scope for integration of organic/conservation farming and rural livestock and poultry vaccination in their working situation • Prepared to learn and disseminate new initiatives in food security • Prepared to assist other stakeholders by follow-up and linking actors together |
|----------------------------------|---|

Follow-up is equally important as mobilizing rural vaccinators and volunteers. GSC-TZ trainings administered through local farmer groups are supported with assistance of district extension staff. This link with the local government at the district level ensures a level of sustainability and scaling up where successful.

A summary of the main project activity objectives and outputs are in Table 5 below. Detailed project activities undertaken in order to achieve the goals follow in Table 6.

Table 3: GSC-TZ Summary Project Activities and Outputs

| Activity Objective | Participants | Progress Measures |
|---|--|---|
| Improve food security and nutrition for participant farmer households | >2,000 farmer households 240 rural caregivers | Outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nutritional assessment among target households conducted - 70% farmer households benefit from improved rural livestock and poultry systems, including Newcastle Disease control and ECF immunizations - In each community >60 farmer households trained in kitchen gardens for vegetable production, integrated pest management, and appropriate irrigation techniques - > 6 communities have conservation agriculture being implemented by |

¹ May already exist in village

² Normally already assigned to the village by district

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | <p>farmers through Farmer Field Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - > 40 farmer households have planted fruit trees from local nurseries ->20 farmer households trained and equipped to solar dry and preserve produce for better nutrition year-round - >20 farmer households trained and equipped to store grains and pulses in more effective ways to reduce pest damage - >20 participating farmer households have improved access to water for home use, and improved water utilization at homesteads - 24 food security committees trained to support interventions to help households especially Orphans and vulnerable populations affected by HIV/AIDS - Community or individual water harvesting is organized to support the above activities <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased vegetables, fruits and animal protein introduced into local diets - Vegetables and fruits affordably available on and off season - Increased local demand for vegetables and fruits - Improved grain & pulses production - Improved household diets - Improved household nutritional status - Improved rural cooperation to address food insecurity of orphans and vulnerable populations - Improved service delivery by GSC-TZ to its partners |
|--|--|--|