

The Marquis Project – Tanzania Society of Agricultural Education and Extension Partnership

The Marquis Project has been in partnership with the Tanzania Society of Agricultural Education and Extension (TSAEE) in the Lake Zone of Tanzania since the 1990s.

2013-2014

In January 2013, Marquis partnered with two other NGOs – People to People of SW Manitoba and the Canadian Agricultural and Rural Extension Society (CARES) - to develop a request for funding to the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC) to support a project in Tanzania focused on the theme of “Creating Innovative Economic Opportunities for Youth”.

The project entitled *The Tangible Goals Approach with Rural Youth in Agricultural Community Economic Development in the Lake Zone of Tanzania* was approved for funding at \$12,000 to operate between the period of 18/03/2013 to 15/03/2014.



Summary

The economic situation of youth (female/male) approaching adulthood that leave school and/or are underemployed in rural villages in Tanzania requires intervention to enable their participation in the local market economy. TSAEE will act as a catalyst to build local capacity through a combination of microenterprise skills training, mentorship, aiding youth to establish tangible goals and to develop the means to access capital.

The project objectives included the following:

- i. To mobilize and sensitize rural youth in the Lake Zone of Tanzania to organize into democratically functioning rural community-based groups.
- ii. To assist rural youth to identify potential sources of income-generating activities within their local villages.
- iii. To train youth in determining the economic sustainability of the income source.

- iv. To mentor youth in establishing micro-enterprises.
- v. To train youth in management of revolving micro-loan funds.
- vi. To increase awareness of legal rights, gender equality, HIV/AIDS and the benefits of participation in community-based activities.
- vii. To empower youth to identify and attain personal, tangible goals by establishing realistic goals for spending of earned income in the market economy.

Examples of progress in three of the project villages:

Usagara, Tanzania:

TSAEE divided the Usagara youth into two groups for the purpose of entrepreneurship training – the teens were in one group, and those over age 20 were in another group. The over 20s group said the training was eye opening.

The over 20s group named itself *Star Action* group. They started with 12 youth (5 female, 7 male). After the training, each contributed 1000 shillings to raise capital of 12,000 shillings in their micro-credit lending fund. TSAEE provided another 100,000 shillings from Canadian friends for a total of 112,000 (about \$72 Canadian). The members held an election by secret ballot and elected a chairperson, a secretary and a treasurer. The size of the capital has grown to 500,000 shillings based on a rate of 10% interest charged every 2 weeks for any money borrowed.



Photos courtesy of Dinah Cepelis

Functioning micro-businesses operated by the youth include ice cream sales, foodstuff kiosk, spicy meat pies production and sales, and sales of cereal grains, Tangible assets acquired include bricks for house construction, payment for labour for house construction, payment of school fees for adult upgrading courses, purchase of property, a refrigerator, a sofa, and music system.



Photos courtesy of Dinah Ceplis

Nyaharongo, Tanzania:

The group began with 16 members (5 female, 11 male). This has dropped to a total of 10 (2 female, and 8 male). Reasons for dropping included perceptions of easy money, and high expectations for the provision of training allowances (which are not part of this project).

The group has named itself “Timiza Malengo” (Accomplish Goals). They organized themselves in May 2013 after the initial entrepreneurship training of 6 weeks. During this time, they attended classes, learned the broad meaning of entrepreneurship, how to manage a business, how to keep records. They set personal goals and informed each other of their business activities.



Photos courtesy of Dinah Ceplis

The group leaders were chosen by democratic process through secret ballot. Each group member contributed 5000 shillings to start the micro-credit. Ten people contributed for a total of 50,000. TSAEE topped it up with 100,000 shillings through donations from friends from Canada. The total of 150,000 (about \$100 Canadian) has grown to 190,000 shillings through member borrowing and repayment. The repayment plan is to repay with 30% interest after 2 months of borrowing. (e.g. borrow 10,000 and repay 13,000 shillings after 2 months). The micro-credit has helped the group members with capital in their vegetable production and local poultry production.

Functioning micro-businesses operated by the youth are focussed on vegetable production for the most part, with one business producing and selling tea and mandazi doughnuts. Tangible assets acquired include payment of school fees, purchase of property, and purchase of poultry for production.



Photos courtesy of Dinah Ceplis

Mwamishali, Tanzania:

The project is implemented by six TSAEE members selected among the 27 active members of the professional NGO- TSAEE Meatu district branch. Mwamishali village is among 100 villages in Meatu District. The youth population is about half of the total population and a majority of them are school leavers and jobless and rarely participated in local economic activities such as farming, livestock keeping within the village. Politically the village is made up of 7 hamlets each represented by a chairperson to the village council. An agricultural based international company engaging in cotton contract farming (Biore) is located in the village.



Photos courtesy of Dinah Ceplis

The project commenced in March 2013 with 92 youths participating in entrepreneurship training but the number decreased gradually with time to 51 after 3 months, and to 9 youths after six months. This is because of the commitment required to operate a business, keep records, and repay borrowed funds from the micro-credit fund. Local businesses implemented by the youth include producing and selling

local chickens, carpentry, selling dried fish, buying and selling goats, and goat-keeping, tailoring, gardening, and hair shaving/cutting. Tangible assets acquired include purchasing bricks for house construction and buying a cow.

2014–2015

In January 2014, Marquis partnered with the Canadian Agricultural and Rural Extension Society (CARES) to develop a request for funding to the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC) to support a project in Tanzania focussed on the theme of “Creating Innovative Economic Opportunities for Youth”.

The project entitled *Facilitating Rural Youth in Lake Zone of Tanzania To Increase Marketing Intelligence through Agro-based Community Economic Development* was approved for funding at \$15,700 to operate between the period of 17/03/2014 to 16/03/2015.

Summary:

The economic situation of rural Tanzanian youth, including orphans, requires intervention to (1) facilitate their participation in the local market economy, (2) increase market intelligence, and (3) build self-employment skills. TSAEE will act as a catalyst to increase local capacity through a combination of microenterprise, agro-production and vocational training, mentorship, and micro-credit development.

Three categories of rural youth have been identified, with differing training and mentoring needs.

- Category 1 is teens who participated previously in training and need additional mentoring. Also included in this category are new participants from rural villages. Expected participants are 9 teens who are involved in petty trading and 75 new youth participants
- Category 2 are youth who initiated microenterprises in the past project and need additional production and market intelligence training to ensure better prices at the markets. Expected participation rates by youth include 41 youth who have been trained in the past project and have initiated microenterprise activities which benefit the rural community such as production and sales in vegetable crops, tea and doughnuts, ice cream, cereal crops, spicy meat pies, field crops (groundnuts, sunflower), goat keeping, dried fish, and hair cutting.
- Category 3 is vulnerable female teenage orphans, aged 13 to 15. Expected participants are 18. As their land base is limited, through this project, they will have access to vocational type training such as sewing, stove-making, and food production within their community which will enable economic opportunities, plus life skills training.

Watch this site for further updates as the project develops.