

## **Supporting Youth Agriculturists in Kishapu District, Tanzania**

### **Development Project #218, 18-19**

#### **May 2019 Update**

In October 2018, The Marquis Project submitted a proposal to the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation [MCIC] in partnership with long-time partner the Tanzania Society of Agricultural Education and Extension [TSAEE] in the Lake Zone. In January 2019, MCIC approved funding of \$3000 through the MGMGP Development Fund to match 1:1 with funds of \$3000 raised by Marquis through individual donations, the Fair Trade Feast of 2018, support from People to People and support from another of TSAEE's long-time partners - the Canadian Agricultural and Rural Extension Society [CARES].

This \$6000 project - **Supporting Youth Agriculturists in Kishapu District, Tanzania** – builds on the project with Buganika village youth who were involved in a one-year project #305, 16-17 “Mitigating young Adults Migration in Tanzania Through Local Economic Development”, funded by MCIC to Marquis Project through the MGMGP Theme Fund. The project ended while cropping cycles were incomplete. A participatory evaluation took place in September 2018 after crops were harvested and sold. Evaluation and monitoring identified which aspects of cropping, maintenance, harvesting, and marketing were successfully adopted by youth participants and which areas need additional facilitation, extension focus, and mentoring. TSAEE facilitators had observed that areas which need further support include proper use of pesticide, fungicides and application of foliar fertilizers, and the use of protective application equipment. Cotton growers need more time to adopt the ten recommended principles of growing cotton in Tanzania.

TSAEE launched the new project at the beginning of March 2019 with 17 youth in Buganika. Youth are being trained on proper application methods of pesticides combined with foliar fertilizer applied in a liquid form using backpack sprayers. This method is recommended by the national government's extension officers in the district in an effort to increase yields of cotton in sustainable production methods. The goal for a good yield of cotton would be 800 kilograms per acre. The youth were harvesting at a rate of 250 to 300 kg per acre and are being supported through training and efficient use of inputs to realize at least 400 kg per acre.

*The Development Fund is a portion of the Manitoba Government Matching Grant Program (MGMGP) to MCIC. The Government of Manitoba has generously supported international development through the MGMGP since 1975.*