

**Fondation Eagle : 6 monthly report on Project on agriculture project Kagera,
Tanzania
June 2023**

Donor Name: Fondation Eagle

Name of Charity and Project: Mondo Foundation - Supporting vulnerable subsistence farmers in Kagera, Tanzania to increase production and livelihood security through environmentally friendly farming practices

Reference number: FF 0652

Date grant accepted: 15/12/2022

Amount: £ 5,292

Number of beneficiaries :

416 members of 20 existing village banking groups, and their family members (total 1664)

Location of project: Nyakhama village, Muleba District of Kagera in Western Tanzania

Period of Project : 12 months, January to December 2023

Six month progress report

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This is a one year project with the purpose of promoting environmentally friendly farming, improving health and well-being through diversification of nutrition and educating some of the poorest people in Tanzania to support themselves.

This pilot project will set up 20 demo plots using environmentally sensitive farming methods/Organic farming. It will train 60 members of existing Village Banking groups (VICOBA) on environmentally friendly, sustainable agricultural practices who in turn will pass on the knowledge to other members of their groups, meaning 416 people will benefit from this knowledge.

This training will be expected to:

- i) improve participant skills on compost manure-making and alternative disease control techniques,
- ii) Improve soil structure because of the use of compost,

- iii) Enable the VICOBA groups to generate an income for individuals to improve their economic situation and
- iv) Improve the nutrition of people in the region through the successful cultivation of diversified crops.

2. ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

SUMMARY OF RESULTS TO DATE

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS/RESULTS
A total of 25 demo plots started and facilitated. (5 extra to those planned). 17 demo plots used for maize crops and 8 demo plots for bean crops.
A total of 14 tons of animal manure purchased and distributed. The amount was enough for 15 demo plots and in addition 4 tons of manure was collected by the community to compensate for shortage.
15 kgs of improved maize and 80 kgs of beans seeds purchased and to supplied to 25 demo plots. An extra 5 demo plots received seeds support.
60 beneficiaries (3 from each VICOBA) trained on good agricultural practices including compost manure-making techniques and alternative pest and disease fighting techniques.

2.1 Consultation and Set up

The Nyakahama Good Agriculture Practice Pilot project since its inception on 17 January 2023, has achieved great success against its planned indicators. In the first phase of the project, Development Support Initiative (DSI) mobilized the community (members of VICOBA and the village leaders) to introduce the project. This is a very important part of the project for ensuring sustainability.

Achievement: A total of 280 members of VICOBA and local leaders participated in the meeting. Among them 190 were women and 90 were men. Such a good turnout of beneficiaries indicates project acceptability and can support the project to improve its sustainability.



Community Members Participating in Meeting

A meeting with Village leaders

2.2 Demo plots

The project had planned to set up 20 demo plots for maize and beans all supervised and managed by the 20 existing village banking groups.

Achievement: To date, the project has managed to set up a total of 25 demo plots and supplied the farmers with seeds. Among them, 17 are maize demo plots and 8 beans demo plots. An extra 5 farm plots indicate success in project acceptability. These extra 5 demo plots are owned and managed by individuals who wanted to replicate the skills they got from the DSI training.



Members of Mapambano Village Community Bank (VICOBA) working on their demo plot



Members of Juhudi Village Community Bank (VICOBA) working on their farm plot.

The project had planned to supply 14 tons of manure to 20 demo plots. All 14 tons of manure were purchased and supplied to 15 demo plots. Only 15 demo plots got enough manure to support the sowing phase and for the remaining five (5) demo plots the community mobilized themselves to collect enough manure to supply their farms. The reason there were only 15 demo plots is because demo plots differ in size, hence have required different amounts of manure. Another, reason is during the planning period we expected to get dry manure which is easy to distribute, unfortunately we obtained wet manure which is difficult to distribute.

Achievement: The community has shown initiative collectively/jointly working towards achieving group goals. This is by jointly collecting enough manure and compost to support their groups. Approximately 4 tons were collected by five (5) individuals to support their farm enterprise. Thus, a total of 25 demo plots have been set up.



Distribution of Manure to farm plots



Members of Tushirikiane group taking Manure to their farm plot.

Again the project planned to purchase 15 kgs of maize seeds and 80 kgs of bean seeds. To date, all 15 kgs of maize and 80 kgs of bean seeds were purchased and supplied to demo plots. The seeds were enough to support all demo plots..



Gizella, our volunteer engaging members Tushirikiane group in maize seed sowing.



Gizella, DSI volunteer handing over Seeds to Rosemary, Secretary of Tushirikiane group.



Gizella, working with Tupendane Village Community Bank group.



2.3 Agriculture Training

The project planned to train 60 beneficiaries (3 from each of 20 VICOBA) on good agricultural practices. To date 60 members of VICOBA have been trained in environmentally sensitive and sustainable farming. Among them 35 were women and 25 were men. The training was categorized into two parts. The first part was concerned with theories on maize and beans farming, compost manure making, and alternative pest and diseases control. The second part was concerned with practical skill training, where the participants were trained in beans and farming, alternative pest and diseases control. 2



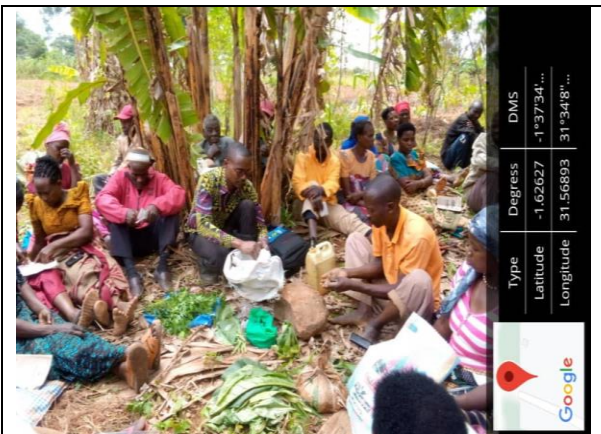
Learning, how to make compost manure. Josepina, our community volunteer digs a hole. This an initial stage in making compost manure.



Balikwelya, An agricultural Expert training on how to make Compost Manure



Community (VICOBA) members learning Practical skills on Maize and Beans Farming.



Balikwelya, an agricultural expert training community members on Alternative Insecticides for pest control

To make the training sessions successful, Development Support Initiative (DSI) as an organization is using volunteers to support its activities at community levels. DSI has four (4) community volunteers who support and monitor project activities.



DSI believes in Volunteerism

In areas where DSI lacks certain specific skills, the organization normally employs locally sourced experts to facilitate the training. Thus, DSI employed an expert from the Maruku Institute of Agriculture to support training activity on good agricultural practices for maize and beans.

2.3 Knowledge Sharing

The project had planned that the 60 trainees pass on their knowledge to wider VICOBA memberships while working on collective farms.

Achievement: This has been clearly shown where members of Village Community Banks (VICOBA) have participated in land preparation, sowing seeds, weeding and managing the farm plots.

3. IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

A pilot project on good agricultural practice is designed to respond to challenges that the Nyakahama community faces in the production of enough food to improve their food security as well as increase their income. Low production of food crops is due to low soil fertility and poor agricultural skills. Hence, the decision to intervene to address these challenges.

There are few challenges that DSI met while implementing this project. The first challenge was the size of the demo plots. Some demo plots were bigger, hence the amount provided did not match the size. And because we did not have contingency money, we decided to let the community mobilize the resources they have to obtain the manure.

Again, Development Support Initiative (DSI) planned to obtain dry manure, unfortunately, we did not get it. Dry manure is good when it comes to distribution. It is easy to distribute dry manure as compared to wet manure. Thus, it increased the challenges of distribution to 20 demo plots. In order to obtain good and enough produce, top dressing is needed, unfortunately, manure was not enough. So we did not do top dressing.

Another challenge was delay caused by seasonal rainfall and slippery roads. Development Support Initiative (DSI) planned to start sowing maize seeds immediately on 25 January 2023. However, seasonal rainfall made roads unpassable hence suppliers of manure were unable to bring manure on time. We managed to put seeds on the ground on early February. Moreover, we expected to put bean seeds on the ground on 20th February 2023, but the process was delayed to 15th March 2023.

In Nyakahama, the community is not used to maize farming on the long rainfall season. This is because of the outbreak of worms, despite the fact the season has enough rainfall. There was an outbreak of worms

to maize demo plots, though we managed to contain them by applying alternative methods of pest control. This involved making a natural pesticide from neem, tobacco and banana alcohol.

Climate change is showing its impacts in Nyakahama to some extent. Rainfall did not fall as planned, we expected to put bean seeds on the ground on 20th February 2023, but the process was delayed to 10th and 15th March, 2023.

Development Support Initiative (DSI) faces the challenge of monitoring 25 demo plots that have been set up by the community. We use volunteers who live in the community to support project activities and monitor of demo plots. When working for results and impacts, close supervision and monitoring of how the community employs the skills in the farms is highly required. DSI volunteers hire a motorcycle to reach some of the areas located far away, hence this add cost to the project.

4. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT PERIOD

Development Support Initiative expects to continue supervising and monitoring the demo plots until harvest season. This will give us an opportunity to manage the results and profit distribution among members of VICOPA. Furthermore, monitoring will provide us with an opportunity to estimate the whole cost involved from land preparation to harvesting and distribution of profit which will be carried out in August/September 2023. An external evaluation will be carried out towards the end of the year.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Activity	Cost per unit	Total budget	Expenditure	Balance
Training costs (including transport/venue hire/ food/ trainer fees)	£25 each (60 participants)	£ 1500	£1543	-£43
Manure fertilizer	2 lorries @ £372 each	£ 744	£741	£3
Improved maize and bean seeds	£369 (15kg maize, 80kg beans)	£ 369	£309	£60
Ongoing supervision by DSI staff	1 year stipend for project coordinator	£1,778	£889	£889
Independent consultant to evaluate project		£420	£0	£420
10% management/ M & E		£481	£240	£241
		£5292	£3722	£1570

Exchange rate 2700 TZ shs/ £