



Trans-SEC

Innovating pro-poor Strategies to safeguard Food Security using Technology and Knowledge Transfer

Contractnumber: 031A249A

Baseline report: Inventorying stakeholder platforms and upgrading strategies across food value chains

Authors: (Laurent Kaburire and Nickson Elly)

¹Institution (MVIWATA)



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1.0 General food security related part: Main activities and scale of intervention of MVIWATA related to food security, FVC, or specific FVC components

Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima Tanzania (MVIWATA) is a national farmers organisation which brings together small holder farmers from all regions of Tanzania in order to have a common voice to defend economic, social, cultural and political interests of smallholder farmers. Founded in 1993, MVIWATA aspires to empower smallholder farmers economically and socially through capacity building and undertake lobbying and advocacy interventions by strengthening their groups and networks to ensure smallholder farmers inclusiveness and participation, facilitating communication and learning so that they are capable of defending their interests.

Generally, MVIWATA was formed by smallholder farmers to address challenges facing smallholder farmers such as lack of a strong organisation of small scale farmers in the country, exclusion of small scale farmers from decision making process on matters that touch the welfare of small scale farmers and under-representation or complete lack of representation of small scale farmers in decision making bodies, low prices of agricultural produce, unreliable markets and lack of access to financial services. To address these challenges, MVIWATA has been implementing various interventions focusing on lobbying and advocacy and economic empowerment of small-scale farmers. These interventions are based on five strategic objectives defined in the five years Strategic Plan of MVIWATA (2010 – 2014), namely;

SO1 Organising farmers into strong groups and networks to have common voice to advocate for their interests;

SO2 Strengthening lobbying and advocacy capacity of farmers to influence policy process;

SO3 Empowering farmers economically through initiatives such as saving and credit (microfinance), market linkage, and development of entrepreneurship skills;

SO4 Building capacity of MVIWATA members, leaders and staff on cross cutting issues (HIV/AIDS, gender and climate change); and

SO5 Strengthening institutional development of MVIWATA



MVIWATA's vision is to become a strong farmers' organization that will guarantee small holder farmers' participation and representation in socio-economic and policy decision making process at various levels through learning, initiating, implementing and monitoring their own socio and economic development. Its mission is to strengthen farmers' groups, local and middle-level networks in order to form a sound and strong national farmers' organ that will ensure effective representation of their interests.

In terms of structure, MVIWATA is organized into;

- Local networks (which comprise groups of farmer networks at village and ward level)
- Middle level network which comprise networks at district or regional level
- National network which is the umbrella organization at national level

Main activities and scale of Interventions of MVIWATA related to food value chain

In collaboration with local, regional and international development agencies, MVIWATA implements various programs to address poverty and food security related challenges to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farms (SHFs) in Tanzania. MVIWATA has been facilitating formation and strengthening of producer groups, facilitating formation of farmers' networks at village, wards and district levels to enhance communication, networking and collaboration among farmers, building capacities of beneficiary farmers on improved agricultural production systems, sustainable land management practices, facilitating farmers access market and market information for access to better price for agro produce, management of postharvest losses, value additions and promotion of rural financial services and awareness creation on cross cutting issues such as gender equality, impact of HIV/ AIDS, environment and climate change.

For sustainability purposes, MVIWATA is implementing a training programme for leaders on various aspects. The leaders later on are used to train other farmers in their respective locations. These training programmes are either conducted at MVIWATA training centres or at different agricultural training institutions collaborating with MVIWATA whereby an average of 100 farmer leaders are trained per year. To complement the theoretical trainings to farmer leaders, MVIWATA is facilitating practical trainings through established



demonstration plots where farmers acquire practical skills on improved production techniques.

An average of 100 demo plots are established each year involving on average 3000 farmers. Most of the demo plots are established as learning sites for farmers for maize, paddy, tomatoes, sunflower and tree plantation.

Among the knowledge imparted to farmers through demo plots include the use of improved seed varieties, nursery preparation, sowing techniques, spacing, manure, watering, conservation of moisture, weed and pest control and harvesting. In addition to production techniques, farmers are trained on entrepreneurship skills development, record keeping, profit margin analysis, selection of profitable enterprises, quality control and value addition. To facilitate better access to markets, farmers are organised into production and marketing groups/association as mean not only for learning on production and marketing but also as a platform for creating a strong voice for price negotiation and bargaining power.

As part of market linkage, MVIWATA's has facilitated construction of rural markets such as Kibaigwa in Dodoma, Nyandira, Tawa and Tandai in Morogoro, Igagala in Iringa, Mkata in Tanga, Igurusi in Mbeya and Matai and Kasanga in Rukwa. MVIWATA's role in these markets is to work with the Marketing Boards who are members of its networks to ensure that produce supplied by its members meet the quality thresholds required by traders. These markets have become active business centres where SHFs and traders meet for business purposes. Various brokerage and business development services are offered at the markets including weighing, storage, quality control, price negotiation and others. For effective operations of these markets, MVIWATA has been providing technical support to the marketing boards to ensure smooth operations at the markets and improvement of service delivery at the markets.

To facilitate transparency and negotiation capacities of farmers, MVIWATA established and manages a computerized Market Information System (MAMIS) where market information is accessed through SMS. The system is established and managed at MVIWATA Head Office to help farmers and other market actors to access up to date price information for various commodities, traders in need or who want to sell a particular commodity of interest



on a daily basis. An average of 4500 SMS requests on market information are received per month through the system.

As part of linking farmers with input and output markets, MVIWATA facilitates stakeholders meetings where farmers, traders, processors and other actors in the value chain come together to discuss price, quality, varieties and business management issues.

Another service provided by MVIWATA to its members is facilitation of establishment and management of farmers' owned saving and credit cooperative societies (SACCOS) to facilitate access to financial resources for investment in agriculture and other business, 200 farmer owned SACCOS have been established and are functional in different regions.

MVIWATA has also been facilitating establishment of cereal crop banking not only as a mean to get relatively higher and better price but also link members to existing microfinance institutions where the stored produce are used as collateral to enable them access to loans from existing SACCOS. This intervention also facilitates farmers to sell collectively their crops.

For information sharing and learning purposes, MVIWATA has established a knowledge management communication unit whose the main task is to document and disseminate to farmers and partners MVIWATA experience on community economic empowerment (access to markets and financial services), networking, lobbying and advocacy. Documented information is disseminated through various media including radio and TV programs, newsletters, website, booklets, etc.

2.0 Detailed report of UPS and stakeholders platforms related to Trans-SEC.

2.1 Review of past activities or projects specifically related to Trans-SEC UPS, FVC and FVC components along different scales

The main activity for MVIWATA under Trans-SEC is mobilization and capacity building for farmers in the CSS through facilitation of local workshops on issues related to group formation and movement, leadership training and capacity strengthening of formed groups to enhance their participation in the project activities. However, MVIWATA has been



implementing activities which are closely related or similar to the UPS being proposed through Trans-SEC project in the four CSS. Here below is a detailed account of UPS and stakeholders platforms related to Trans-SEC that MVIWATA has been implementing through own initiatives. These include training to farmers on improved production techniques, processing of crops, environmental conservation through tree planting, improved storage, poultry keeping and access to markets and market information. The above strategies are similar to some of the UPS that were prioritized by Trans-SEC stakeholders for implementation in the CSS in Kilosa and Chamwino districts.

2.1.1 Training to farmers on improved production techniques,

To address low productivity challenges faced by majority of rural farmers in Tanzania, MVIWATA is facilitating capacity building trainings to farmers on improved production techniques for most high market potential crops grown by its members. To ensure that the knowledge is reaching many farmers in the villages, MVIWATA use the so called promoters' training approach where farmer leaders are trained intensively on various aspects including facilitation skills. These leaders later on go back to train other farmers in the respective villages through farmer groups and local networks. An average of 200 farmer leaders (promoters) are trained per year,

For example, a total of 293 (165M, 128F) promoters were trained in 2013. Selection of the farmer leaders to be trained is done in a participatory way where farmers in their groups agree on criteria to be used for selection and later select the farmers. The aim of participatory selection is to bring ownership and responsiveness for the leaders to be trained. After the training of farmer leaders they later train their follow farmers on improved production techniques in the demo plot. In the demo plots each farmer leader trains an average of 30 farmers.

The training conducted to farmers focus on facilitating water management in the field and the use of different seed varieties. Generally the agronomical practices taught to farmers include proper land preparation, appropriate use of inputs such as fertilisers, spacing, weeding, timely harvest and post harvest handling. Other practices promoted by MVIWATA to mitigate the impact of climate change include mulching and use of organic manure to



improve soil fertility and conserve moisture content. Mulch and organic manure help to preserve soil moisture, improve soil texture, soil microorganisms and soil fertility status.



Farmers practicing planting in rows in the paddy farm



Some of the farm covered with dry grasses and banana leaves to increase soil nutrient and moisture in Ibungu village 2014

In situ rain water harvesting techniques using terraces:



One of the challenge facing farmers in rural areas is unpredictable and erratic rains to meet crop requirements in terms of moisture content required for crop growth. To address this challenge, MVIWATA has been conducting capacity building trainings to farmers on the use of terraces and live contour bands in the farms which are in the steep slope to trap water and reduce soil erosion during rainy season.



One farmer in Lutusyo village in Kyela district in his cassava farm

Following the application of improved production techniques farmers have been obtaining the following results:

- Application of improved production techniques has been increasing productivity of crops per unit area. For example in 2013/2014 farmers who applied the improved production techniques in Shinyanga region increased productivity of maize from an average of 400kgs to 750Kgs per acre while paddy production rose from an average of 350kg to 800 kg per acre. The same results of increasing productivity were achieved in different regions.
- Application of these techniques has been also lowering the operation costs. Planting on rows has reduced the weeds in the farm and hence reduced weeding costs. The costs of seed and fertilizer used is low as compared to when traditional farming is applied

Apart from the results above, there are some challenges which are being encountered in implementation of the above challenges:

- The trained farmers leaders work on voluntary base, so sometime not all trained farmers become active and facilitate the training to fellow farmers as was



intended, so to address this challenges there has been more follow up done to ensure that the trainings are conducted to farmers.

- In areas where the improved techniques is introduced for the first time, at the beginning some farmers fail to apply the techniques trained due to different perceptions, but after observing the results achieved by those who apply, more farmers start to apply the techniques.

2.1.2 Facilitate processing of crops,

As a way of facilitating processing of crops, MVIWATA is implementing the following interventions:

- Conduct trainings to farmers on processing as part of entrepreneurship skills development
- Organising processors into groups and associations
- Facilitating introduction of crop cleaning equipments in the rural markets to improve quality standards

Conduct training to farmers on processing as part of entrepreneurship

In most rural areas, farmers have been selling unprocessed crops like paddy, maize, sunflower seeds, honey etc at lower prices. To facilitate farmers' access to better prices, MVIWATA is conducting a number of trainings on entrepreneurship skills development to show the importance of adding value to their crops. Trainings are being conducted on value addition and post harvesting for different crops. The aim of these trainings is to impart farmers with skills on how to reduce post harvest losses and add value to their crops in order to increase their income. The training on value addition focus on importance of value addition, variation in consumer needs, determination of production costs and selling price, value addition and quality as a base for price determination. Training on Post harvesting techniques mainly focused on management of crops in the field, harvesting, sorting, drying, cleaning, treatment of crops after harvest and storage of crops.



Farmers are also being linked to different institutions like Small Industry Development Organisation (SIDO) where they get packaging materials and labels of their crops. Packed products are sold at relatively higher prices.



Processed and packed crops

For processing of paddy and sunflower oil, farmers use processing machines owned by local traders in the villages where they pay the processing costs.



Farmers processing paddy

Processing is also done for vegetables where using simple tools like solar driers farmers have been processing fruits and vegetables and packing them in better processing materials.

As a result of processing of their crops farmers have been selling their crops at relatively higher prices than those who sell unprocessed.

Taking an example of farmer in Kyela district, as a result of training on Value addition and entrepreneurship skills 91(32Female, 59Male) farmers processed their paddy and sold rice whereby price of their crops raised by 40% this year. These farmers collected together



91,160 kg of paddy and processed it where they got 45,580 kg of rice. At the time they were processing, paddy was sold at Tshs 400/kg while rice were sold at Tsh 1100/kg.

The challenge is that the processing done to farmers is at low scale level, in vegetable and fruits solar driers that are the main tools used in processing. Ownership of processing machines need high capital which most of the farmers cannot afford and therefore even those who process their crops depend on privately owned machines which sometimes are of low quality. In other villages the machines are distantly located so to avoid the transport costs farmers decide to sell unprocessed crops.

Organising processors into groups

In most villages processing is done by individual traders who sometimes have poor knowledge in business management and quality standards. As a way of strengthen the capacities of processors around the markets constructed by MVIWATA, there have been initiatives of organising processors in groups. For example during the construction of Igurusi market, there were 14 millers who were scattered in residential areas and working individually. The husk of paddy was scattered in residential areas destructing the environment but also it was dangerous to the community in the village. The machines owned by these millers were of old mode producing crops of poor quality.

As a way of strengthening their capacities in terms of business management, advocating for their rights and shifting to an area which has high potential of improving their business, a number of trainings on Group formation, group management, leadership and advocacy were conducted to them. The trainings facilitated millers at Igurusi to form their association with 14 members. Initiatives were done to shift them from residential area to the market areas for better access to services and facilitation by MVIWATA. After forming their association, they were trained on business management (developing a business plan, business profitability, cost and benefit analysis of transfer, investment requirements/opportunities) and were linked to Tanzania Investment bank to get loans for buying modern machines with high processing capacity to meet the market demands as they shift to the market area. All 14 processors have shifted their machines to the new market and are doing good business. Though they have not yet secured the loan from the bank but some have already



accumulated their capital and own modern machines. The picture below show the building of millers at Igurusi market and modern machines installed.



Paddy De-husks machine at Igurusi market

- **Introduction of crop cleaning equipment in the rural markets**

To improve quality management at MVIWATA constructed markets, MVIWATA introduced modern cleaning equipments at the markets. These machines are operated by the market management by charging some costs to farmers for cleaning their crops. The machine shown in the picture below shows the cleaning equipment at Kibaigwa market..



Farmers cleaning maize



Cereals Cleaning machine at Kibaigwa market

The challenge with the use of the cleaning machine is that in most areas the price offered by traders to the maize sold by farmers does not differ for clean to un-cleaned one. Basing on this factor farmers find no need of incurring more cost for cleaning the crops while the price offered is the same. As a way to improve the quality of crops MVIWATA



has been conducting sensitization and trainings to farmers and traders at the markets on the importance of maintaining the qualities of the crops

2.1.3 Environmental conservation through tree planting,

One of the major environmental concerns in Tanzania is land degradation and desertification predominantly caused by agricultural activities. Apparently, this has direct link to the impact of climate change to which a major part of the country is subjected to and in turn negatively affects agricultural production.

As a way of conserving the environment MVIWATA is promoting tree plantation in some villages of Kyela and Ludewa districts. Trees are being planted by individual farmers and farmers who are organised in groups. Farmers in their groups are trained in nursery development and management. After growing tree in nurseries they are later transplanted to the farms of individual farmers while others are planted on mountains around their villages. A total of 930,729 different types of trees were planted by 167 farmers (M- 97 F-70) in their farms in Ludewa from January to June 2014 while 297,809 trees were planted by farmers organised ten groups. In Kyela, 72,000 trees were planted by 187 (72F, 115M) MVIWATA members from January to June 2014.



Farmers managing tree nurseries



Trees planted by farmers on the mountain

2.1.4 Facilitate storage

There has been a challenge of farmers selling their crops immediately after harvesting crops where they sell their crops at relatively low prices. As a way of facilitating farmers



selling crops collectively and at negotiated price MVIWATA has been facilitating farmers to manage crop banking. The operation of crop banking is associated with linking farmers to Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOS). Under crop banking farmers store their crops in the warehouse and get a loan equivalent to 75% of the value of those crops. Under this system crops are used as collateral for farmers to access loan immediate after harvesting and therefore waiting for price rise. This system operates mainly for cereals. Two of the markets constructed in the village have warehouses where farmers stores their crops while in other areas farmers use the warehouses constructed by the government which for a number of years were not in use.

In managing the crop banking the role of MVIWATA has been to train farmers on how to operate the system, record keeping, and quality issues. Farmers are also linked to different extension staff who trains them how to protect the crops in the warehouses from pests and fungus.

The advantage of crop banking is that farmers sell their crops collectively and decide the time of selling their crops especially when the price has risen. The crops are also used as collateral for farmers to access finance. One of the challenge farmers have been facing is that sometime they store their crops waiting for price to rise but due to different factors the price remain the same or sometime the price becomes low as compared to the price when they were storing the crops.



Examples of warehouses used for storing cereals.

Apart from the warehouses, MVIWATA also promote construction of granaries which are used to store crops at house level. This initiative started last year in Mbulu district in Manyara region. MVIWATA facilitated construction of 21 demonstration granaries where other farmers have been learning. A total of 21 (16 women, 5 men) farmers from different village were trained for them to train other farmers. As a way of facilitating farmer-to-farmer learning, exchange visits are done by farmers to learn best practices on granaries construction and post harvest handling. There are farmer field days conducted in each village for farmers to learn granaries construction and management.

As a result of the training on granaries construction and management the following has happened:

- In one year 2013 a total of 38 granaries were constructed by farmers at household level thus 38 families are now keeping their maize in granaries. The granaries constructed have different capacities ranging from carrying 0.5 to 2 tons.



- In villages where there is shortage of water, through the use of granary technologies, farmers improved their knowledge to construct rain water harvesting tanks and two water tanks were constructed by farmer last year 2013.



Farmers during construction of granaries



Granaries are ready for storage of cereals.

2.1.5 Poultry keeping

Chickens play an important role in the livelihoods of most rural families in Tanzania. It is an important source of animal protein, and can be raised in situations with limited feed and housing resources. Chickens are ‘waste-converters’: they ‘convert’ a scavenged feed resource base into animal protein. They are therefore by far the most important species for generating income for rural families.

There is a big market potential for chicken and eggs in most areas. For farmers to use the opportunity of high demand of chicken, MVIWATA has been training farmers on poultry husbandry. The training focused on nutrition management, disease control, housing and



management of chicks. Following poultry keeping farmers have been earning more income through selling eggs and chicken. For example in 10 villages of Morogoro a total of 440 (263F, 177M) are keeping the chicken. Following the training conducted to farmers on poultry keeping, for one year there has been an increase in the number of chickens owned by individual farmer from an average of 30 to 100 chickens.

The training to farmers mainly covers topics on preparations for indigenous chicken production, criteria, benefit and challenges of local chicken production, species of indigenous chicken, indigenous chicken keeping systems and housing, essential equipment, food and feeding, laying, brooding, hatching of chickens, raising chicks, diseases, insects attacking indigenous chicken, control, treatment and records keeping.



Chicken kept by farmers members of MVIWATA



Chicken kept by farmer in Kiloka villages



The challenges in keeping of chicken is that there are several diseases affecting them at different growth stage, the disease include Newcastle, Fowl pox, pimped head, Fleas, ticks and lice.

2.1.6 Facilitating access to market information

As a way to facilitate market linkage, MVIWATA supported the establishment of MVIWATA Agricultural Market Information System (MAMIS) in 2010. MAMIS aims at updating farmers and market actors on how they could access both traders and price information from different markets and processing firms in Tanzania. It also provides information on sellers and traders of ideal places for sale or purchase of the produce they want. The objective is to help users especially farmers and traders in making decisions with regard to buying or selling of their produce.

Since its establishment, there has been an increase in users accessing market information using MAMIS. From February-June 2014 a total of 22,000 SMS requests from 12,000 users were received and successfully replied via MAMIS. A total of 48 tons of maize and 62 tons of rice worth TZS 74,040,000 were sold by farmers of Mvomero, Igurusi and Njombe via MAMIS. The price of rice rose from 800 Tsh to 1000 Tsh per Kg while the price of maize rose from 320 Tsh to 420 Tsh per kg. The system facilitated farmers to generate an extra income of TZS 15,676,000 which was obtained by selling through MAMIS. Price increased by more than 25% of prevailing prices due to improved bargaining, decision making ability and ease availability of traders as result of using MAMIS.



MAMIS brochure

2.2 Existing stakeholder platforms and roles along different scales

MVIWATA uses the following platforms to implement its activities:

- **MVIWATA national level platform:**

This is composed of board of directors and management team, headed by the Executive Director and a number of technical staff. The role of this platform is to facilitate technical, financial, legal and similar supports to middle level networks members of MVIWATA. Other organs at this level include Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Council Meeting made up with board members and leaders (chairpersons and secretaries) of the middle level networks. The staff under the national level provide technical support to farmers in the village along different value chains. The national level is the organ for lobbying and advocating for various issues of interest to small scale farmers at the national level. MVIWATA national level works in collaboration with different organisations/institution both private and public to advocate for different issues affecting farmers. MVIWATA is a member of Tanzania Land Alliance (TALA), Agricultural Non-State Actors Forum (ANSAF), Inades Formation Tanzania, Participatory Ecological and Land Mangement(PELUM), East Africa Farmer Federation (EAFF), Eastern and Southern African Farmers Forum (ESAFF)i, These organisation advocate for issue affecting small scale farmers from land issues along the value chain up selling of farmers crops put more emphasis on involvement of farmers in decision making at different levels in the country.



While other institutions are focusing on issues within the country, ESAFF and EAFF is a forum for advocating farmers interests within East and southern African countries.

In collaboration with other members of ANSAF, MVIWATA has been participating in meetings with parliamentarians. Most of the time the meetings involved members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Water etc. The aim of these meetings has been to present to the committee research findings and recommendations on issues related to land and smallholder agriculture and the need for the government to increase budget allocation for agriculture sector as well as the impact of export bans on small-scale farmers

Likewise, MVIWATA in collaboration with other members of the Tanzania Land Alliance (TALA) and HAKI ARDHI has been organising a forum that involves representatives of from the ministry. The aim of these forums mainly is to discuss the challenges on land tenure system for smallholder farmers, laws governing land and the law process in case of grievances related to land.

- **The middle level platforms:**

This is composed of farmers' networks at regional and district level, has its own leadership (steering committee), liaise with the national level in order to establish common stands among all networks. The middle level has the responsibility of liaising with other stakeholders and actors at regional and district level for securing technical and financial supports and establishes good working relations. This level links the national and grass root level. It is the organ for lobbying and advocating of issues affecting farmers at regional levels. Some of the middle levels have staff that provide technical capacities to farmers for development of different value chains.

- **The grass root platforms:**

This platform is composed of farmers groups and networks, and individual farmers at village and ward level. They meet regularly to discuss issues of their concern. The grass root



level is responsibility for influencing decision making at local level and liaise with middle level of MVIWATA.

- **Market boards:**

Market Boards (MB) are registered companies limited by guarantees on the basis of the already developed MVIWATA model for the last 5 years. The legal status of market boards are Company limited by guarantees. The market boards compose of directors who represent market stakeholders around the markets. The stakeholders included in the market board include producers, traders, small services providers, Mviwata local network, SACCOs or District Legal Authorities. The roles of the market board is to manage the market constructed by MVIWATA, create conducive market environment for traders and farmers to conduct required business in the market. The composition of the market board is in such a way that ideas from all market stakeholders about operation of the market are collected and discussed, the decision made is participatory from all market stakeholders.

- **Partnership with District councils in areas where markets have been constructed**

As mentioned above, to the moment MVIWATA has facilitated constructions of nine rural markets. In managing these markets MVIWATA signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) showing the roles of each partners in facilitating operations of the markets. The role of MVIWATA has mainly remained to be conducting training to the market boards in management of the markets. The roles of district council is to create conducive marketing environment including enforcing implementation of by-laws in the district. According to present agreements the district and MVIWATA meet at least once a year to discuss on progress of marketing looking on various operational and policy issues around each market.

2.3 Policy relevant activities across UPS

To address policy related issues along the FVC of commodities being promoted by MVIWATA members, MVIWATA implements the following strategies to ensure that farmers have conducive environment for doing their business:

- Capacity building for farmers on lobbying and advocacy skills so that they are able to advocate for issues of their interests
- Conduct studies on some issues affecting small scale farmers



- Organizing forums at districts, regional, national and international levels to discuss issues of farmers concerns as way to influence policy and decision making processes.
- Use of media as tools for lobbying and advocacy to inform the public on challenges faced by farmers and the actions taken by the leaders

2.3.1 Capacity building for farmers on lobbying and advocacy skills so that they are able to advocate for issues of their interests

To increase the voice and participation of smallholder farmers in lobbying and advocacy, MVIWATA organize and facilitate training workshops and sensitization meetings for members and leaders from different areas.

2.3.2 Conduct studies on some issues affecting small scale farmers

MVIWATA has been facilitating studies that are conducted in different areas. Some of the studies conducted by MVIWATA are for analyzing opportunities and constrains for maize, paddy and beans Values chains in different regions and strategies required to improve marketing for these crops. The studies analyzed the opportunity available in the value chains and challenges including policy challenges. The main FVC related challenges identified include cross-border burns where farmers are prohibited to sell their crops especially maize and rice in nearby countries lowering the price of commodities offered by local market compared to higher prices offered by buyers in nearby countries. Other studies conducted are related to land ownership by farmers and acquisition of land by investors. Generally findings indicate that there is a challenge on land ownership by farmers with rising conflict between farmers and investors and sometimes between farmers and pastoralists. Findings from these studies are used in different forums to advocate the need of improving operations.

2.3.3 Organizing forum at districts, regional, national and international level for discussion and recommendations on different policy issues

As a way of airing out farmers' voice, MVIWATA has been organizing forums that are conducted at village level, districts, regional or national level.



Most of the issues discussed on these forums focus on land rights, land ownership by farmers, payments of crop levies by farmers.

A number of meetings are also conducted between MVIWATA and policy makers at the level of district and national.

For example, one of the key policy issues that MVIWATA worked on in 2013 is land rights. As a way of facilitating farmers to voice out, MVIWATA facilitated farmers to participate in media programmes to air their views on land issues; On 31st January 2013, 9 (4 men and 5 women) MVIWATA members from Msowero, Mfuru, Mambegwa, and Dumila villages in Kilosa-Morogoro were facilitated to participate in a radio programme “*Haba na Haba*” which was recorded and aired by BBC Swahili. The issue under discussion was the land disputes between peasants and pastoralists in Morogoro region. Likewise, on the same day 15 (7 men and 8 women) MVIWATA members from Kilosa, participated in a live TV programme “*Malumbano ya Hoja*” organized and aired by ITV in Dar es Salaam. Farmers representatives were facilitated to participate in Kipima Joto live programme of ITV on land issues. Ms Margret Pantaleo, a farmer from Mvomero district participated in the programme.

Following this interventions to support smallholder farmers in Kilosa district in addressing land conflicts three results were attained, increased government engagement to ending a long term land conflict between farmers and investors in Mateteni village, increased awareness on land rights on the part of farmers and recovery of part of land from an investor. About 1,200 ha were returned to the villagers and redistributed following the interventions of the government under pressure from farmers.

As a way of facilitating farmers to discuss on land issues, MVIWATA organized a forum where farmers and researchers participated in this forum. The forum was organized during celebration of the international peasant day that was held in Morogoro on 16th April 2014. During this workshop a total of 70 (44M, 26F) farmers participated.

During this forum the Minister for land, housing and human settlement development was invited. The main issues discussed during this forum were involvement of smallholders on land planning and ownership. Different presentations were conducted indicating how the existing structure in Tanzania does not give power for farmer to make decision on land use



and management. Proposition was suggested that the new constitution which currently is under development should specifically consider smallholders farmers as owners of the land and being given power to decide on the use of land in the villages.



Mr. George Simbachawene, Minister for Land, Housing and Human settlement presenting during the forum

2.3.4 Use of media as tools for lobbying and advocacy

To ensure that the voice of farmers are raised out, media (Television, Radio and Newspapers) are invited in different forums and workshop conducted by MVIWATA for disseminating resolutions from those forum.

3.0 Recommendations and way forward

As UPS have been selected in participatory way between farmers and researchers, the implementation of UPS in each village need to be more participatory. During the implementation of UPS, all partners need to have common understanding on the methodology and requirements of each UPS so as to avoid contradiction during the implementation of UPS, especially due to the factor that partners may visit farmers at different time. As a way of harmonizing implementation of activities, there is a need to have partner meeting on regular basis so as to assess implementation of UPS and any challenges encountered so as to set strategies.

As a way of sharing experience, at some stages Trans SEC may need to facilitate farmers from the four case study areas to visit in other areas where similar UPS are being implemented for learning on how other farmers manage similar UPS and the advantages they get from it.



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As a way forward MVIWATA will continue making follow up on the UPS group so that they achieve intended objective but also later participate in the dissemination process of successful UPS. Village workshops will be conducted to ensure that farmers are active in UPS implementation.

4.0 Literature

Most of the information used has been obtained from MVIWATA reports which can be accessed from the organization website: www.mviwata.org.



5. Annex:

List of UPS related to the FVC that Trans-SEC is dealing with that were dealt with by MVIWATA along the FVC with different scales of intervention (national, regional, local).

Sheet of facts and figures (SFF)

UPS name: Formation of Production and marketing groups”

FVC component(s); Address the challenges of poor knowledge in production and selling of crops at lower prices

Description of the UPS: When farmers are organised together it becomes easy to be trained on various agronomic practices. The groups also help in collective selling and increase bargaining power of farmers.

Type of food crops applicable: applicable to all type of crops

Possible limitations: The possible limitation for this approach is when leaders lack skills on group management and record keeping which cause conflict among members.

Linkage to other FVC components: Applicable to all FVC

proved success in TZ, references: Proved for Sesame producer in Dodoma, vegetable producers in Kinole-Morogoro

UPS name: “Improved Production, crop spacing”

FVC component(s); key constraint addressed: Improve productivity per unit area

Description of the UPS: In most areas, farmers just through the seeds on land this affect the nutrition aspects lowering productivity per unit area. Planting using proper spacing allows better food distribution among the plants, facilitate increase productivity per unit areas and reduce the operation costs.

Type of food crops applicable: All

Possible limitations: NIL

UPS name: “Improved Production, use of improved seed varieties”

FVC component(s); key constraint addressed: Productivity of crops

Description of the UPS function in addressing one or more key constraints to FS): Most of the local seed varieties have low productivity, the use of improved seed varieties facilitate increase in productivity per unit area. What is required is not to bring new varieties but to improve the local for more productivity.

Type of food crops applicable: ALL

Specifics, dimensions, scale (30-50 words):

Possible limitations: Farmers have been reporting that new seed varieties are highly affected by pests; they are expensive to be afforded by farmers, make farmers dependants of external seed, sometimes not available when needed.

UPS name: “Use of manure”

FVC component(s); key constraint addressed: Adding nutrients to the soil and improving soil fertility and productivity



Description of the UPS function in addressing one or more key constraints to FS): Some of the land used by farmers for production have low fertility, farmers are being promoted to use manure in order to increase soil fertility

Type of food crops applicable: All

Specifics, dimensions, scale (30-50 words):

Possible limitations: Poor availability of enough manure

UPS name: “Facilitate Access to Market information”

FVC component(s); key constraint addressed: The challenges have been lack of transparency in selling crops and cheating farmers on the market prices

Description the UPS function in addressing one or more key constraints to FS): Access to market information facilitate farmers to be aware on the price of crops in different markets it also provide information on buyers, their location and quantity demanded. Access to market information have been facilitating transparency, negotiation capacities of farmers and promote farmers to sell their crops collectively in different markets.

Type of food crops applicable: All

Possible limitations: -In some cases traders are not happy with the system,
-If information are not checked properly before dissemination they may mislead farmers in decision making

Linkage to other FVC components: MIS can provide information on inputs required for production, extension services and post-harvest information

UPS name: “Crop Banking”

FVC component(s); key constraint addressed: Access to finance, selling of crops at lower price immediately after harvest, selling crops individually with low bargaining power

Description of the UPS function in addressing one or more key constraints to FS): In crop banking, farmers store their crops in warehouse and access loan from village savings and credit cooperative. Crops are used as collateral for farmers to access loan, this help farmer not selling crops immediately after harvest and facilitate collective selling

Type of food crops applicable: Mainly cereals

Specifics, dimensions, scale (30-50 words):

Possible limitations: Lack of financial institution in village to provide loan to farmers during storage, Price volatility where sometime during the storage price is high but during the selling the price is low

Linkage to other FVC components: The loan provided support in production, and management of crops before selling.

UPS name: “Formation of Village Saving and Credit Cooperative ”

FVC component(s); key constraint addressed: Farmers Access to finance

Description of the UPS function in addressing one or more key constraints to FS): The Savings and Credit Cooperative Society (SACCOS) are formed by



local people. People save money to accumulate the capital of SACCOS and later get loan from the SACCOS. This system support access of credit to local people who in most cases lack collateral for acquiring loan from financial institutions

Type of food crops applicable: All

Specifics, dimensions, scale (30-50 words):

Possible limitations: Management of SACCOS need skills and leadership commitments. One of the main limitations has been on poor leadership and poor management capacities, which hinder SACCOS operation.

UPS name: “Construction of Rural markets”

FVC component(s); key constraint addressed: Market Access to farmers

Description of the UPS function in addressing one or more key constraints to FS): Availability of market infrastructure attracts farmers and traders to come together and do business. This reduces the challenges of farmers lacking proper area of selling their crops. The use of market create transparency in selling crops and increase the price of crops as many traders meet at one point and creating competition in buying crops.

Type of food crops applicable: All crops

Specifics, dimensions, scale (30-50 words):

Possible limitations: Poor use of markets if stakeholders are not well involved in all process from construction, and if the markets are constructed in locations where they are not required/low demand.

proved success in TZ, references: MVIWATA rural markets

UPS name: “The Use of weigh scales and Quality control in selling crops”

FVC component(s); key constraint addressed: Selling crops using proper measurement units and avoid cheating of volume to farmers during selling, adding the quality of crops so as to increase selling price

Description of the UPS function in addressing one or more key constraints to FS): In most area farmers have been selling their crops without using proper measurement units like buckets, using this approach farmers lose volume of Kgs. So the use of weigh scales avoiding cheating in selling of crops.

Quality of crops is promoted in order to expand the market and to facilitate farmers selling their crops at relatively high prices.

Type of food crops applicable: All crops

Specifics, dimensions, scale (30-50 words):

Possible limitations: In most cases increase in quality does not necessarily lead to increase in selling price, there is low availability of weigh scales in villages.

UPS name: “Promote Value addition (processing) of crops”

FVC component(s); key constraint addressed: Facilitate selling crops at higher prices

Description of the UPS function in addressing one or more key constraints to FS): Farmers have been selling unprocessed crops like paddy, sunflower seed, maize seed etc. By doing this farmers sell their crops at low price while



more income is earned by middle men who buy unprocessed crops, process it and sell it directly to consumers.

Type of food crops applicable: All type of crops

Specifics, dimensions, scale (30-50 words):

Possible limitations: Lack of processing machines, poor knowledge on processing

Linkage to other FVC components (10-30 words):

proved success in TZ, references: