

TANZANIA



Growing Is Learning

Annual Project Impact Report

Reporting Period:
July 2019 - June 2020

Thank you for your support

Women farmers in Tanzania make up 54% of the agricultural workforce, yet they struggle to earn a living and provide nutritious food for their families. They have been excluded from becoming agricultural leaders, despite having generations of farming experience behind them — limited by customs and traditions which disadvantage them when it comes to education, access to finance and decision-making.

CARE has been working in the rural district of Iringa in Southern Tanzania since 2017 to train local women in the production of soya — a highly nutritious, climate resilient crop that helps to enrich soil health.

Thanks to your support, small-scale women farmers have increased their production and income through soya bean farming, with 616 farmers (435 women/181 men) harvesting 19,481kg of soya beans in the last season.

When women farmers have more equal access to valuable resources and skills, they can build a sustainable, resilient agricultural sector — and provide their families with nutritious food and education, paving the way for them to lift themselves out of poverty.

Several factors impacted the project this year, including COVID-19, heavy rainfall and local government elections. However, with your support, CARE adapted to these circumstances and supported the Iringa community. The project has been extended for another year to complete activities.

Quick facts



Nearly 50% of the population lives below the poverty line.



Most families in Iringa eat just one meal per day.



Women make up 54% of the agricultural workforce.



What you've helped achieve this reporting period

July 2019 – June 2020

Supporting Tanzanian farmers during the COVID-19 pandemic

CARE Australia is monitoring and responding to COVID-19 around the world — pivoting projects to include teaching vulnerable people the best ways to protect themselves from disease, and taking extra precautions to reduce the risk of spreading infection for, and from, our own staff and partners.

Restrictions on group gatherings and movement prevented several project activities from being completed. These included linking farmers to financial services, engaging them in field days, gathering case studies, plus Community Score Card meetings and annual workshops.

Thanks to your support, CARE was able to assist 1,937 farmers (1,379 women) in response to the pandemic. CARE partnered with local radio to raise awareness of the disease and inform approximately one million listeners across four regions about the disease, hygiene and social distancing. CARE also contacted 600 people via SMS and phone calls to inform them about safeguarding against the virus, gender-based violence, nutrition and fraud.

These farmers were provided with a mask, information poster and TZS 30,000 (approx 18 AUD) in emergency cash payments. 15 villages were also provided with hand washing stations, and posters on nutrition, hygiene and social distancing.

The ability to continue some project activities via phone and use of community-based trainers, paraprofessionals and village leaders, shows that the project has high potential for future sustainability.

Enabling women to increase their farming productivity, income and family's nutrition, as well as supporting men to influence positive community change

Thanks to your support, 25% of farmers (18% women) have improved their livelihoods through soya farming. Farmers in the region have a greater appreciation for the advantages of soya farming and more are feeding their families with this good source of protein.

15 Farmer Field and Business Schools were established in 15 villages. 388 farmers were trained in soya production (283 female/105 male), harvesting 20,400 kg of soya bean in the last season.

By educating women farmers on improving the quality of their product, as well as the importance of packaging, materials and branding, 7% of all women earned additional income from soya farming.

435 women farmers (exceeding the target of 365) had improved relationships with, and easier access to, suppliers of seed, herbicides, rhizobium, insecticides and pesticides, via the agro dealer input model, which enables them to order their needs via mobile phone and have it delivered by a paraprofessional.

CARE led two sessions which were attended by 57 females and six males to discuss the rights of women and children. These sessions also highlighted the importance of sharing the workload between men and women during planting season. In addition, 215 people across 10 villages attended community meetings which focused specifically on the rights of children, as women and children are particularly vulnerable to being exploited for labour.



Supporting women farmers to enter the profitable soya market by linking them with local markets and financial services

51 female producers were trained in business management, negotiation skills and sales and marketing strategies, as well as branding and packaging, to increase their profitability in soya farming.

32 of these women gained access to quality packaging materials and 2,500 branded materials were printed.

By establishing cooperative societies, CARE has given women farmers easier access to, and improved bargaining power within, the markets (as well as long term business sustainability).

CARE reached 2,436 farmers (2,033 women, 403 men) by training 83 Village Savings and Lending Associations (VSLA) on financial literacy and entrepreneurship. 30 of these VSLA groups established dedicated agro-funds so they could collectively save for additional farming inputs, including seeds and equipment for the upcoming season.

CARE also trained three people (including one woman) from the partner organisation, Women and Poverty Alleviation in Tanzania, on financial management. This information was then shared with 30 paraprofessionals (including 15 women).

Farmers in all 15 villages have recognised the advantages of farming soya after the gross profit margin per acre reached TZS 70,468.50 (approx 42 AUD), compared to TZS 12,000 (approx 7 AUD) per acre at baseline. A public-private charter to improve soya beans in the region is in the final stages of being signed by stakeholders.

Promoting Climate Smart Agricultural practices

10 farmers (including four women) established official seed farms which will allow local farmers to buy seeds more easily.

Heavy and prolonged rainfalls between October 2019 and May 2020 made it a particularly challenging farming season. CARE worked with the Tanzania Meteorological Agency and district agricultural departments to educate farmers on how to minimise this impact.

Disability inclusion

Although specific strategies to include people with disabilities were not reported in this period, figures show that 30 men, 39 women, 7 boys and 11 girls with disabilities all benefited from project activities.



CASE STUDY

Growing a prosperous future

49-year-old, Agatha Mkyula, is a mother of six children who has been working hard as a farmer in Ibumila village in Iringa. In the past three years, the realms of possibility have opened for Agatha, after participating in CARE's Growing Is Learning project.

While working as a lead farmer, Agatha was given training on the best practice in agriculture, in particular, in soya farming. She was also trained in home gardening, food types and nutrition, as well as business and finances, entrepreneurship and gender-based violence.

CARE partnered with private company, Sundy Merchant Co. Ltd. to help local women farmers improve their competitiveness and networks with suppliers and paraprofessionals — Agatha was one of the women who benefited greatly.

It was a huge step for Agatha to start her own small-scale processing of a soya bean drink and nutritional flour, and to then receive training on branding and packaging, which she now proudly sells as 'Sote Lishe', which means 'nutrition to all'.

"It was an eye opener to go from training in processing to start doing it and selling products," she says.

Agatha learnt the difference that better quality packaging and proper branding could have on her product and sales.

"I used to process 10kg of soya bean which I would pack in soft plastic and would take about a month to sell in my village. It didn't contribute much to my family's income. But after the training and changing my packaging and branding, I am selling my products in shops around town, at the national farmer's exhibition and I am selling out and making more money."

The opportunity to improve her sales and profitability has also meant that Agatha has been able to connect with other entrepreneurs and buyers, and she is optimistic about what the future holds.

"My product is now good looking, well preserved for a longer time, and it has all the competitive advantages which means increased sales and, of course, increased income for my family," Agatha says.

With your support, CARE will continue helping women like Agatha by equipping them with the knowledge, skills and confidence to lift themselves out of poverty through farming.





If you would like more information about this project and how you can be involved, please contact:

CARE Australia
info@care.org.au
or call 1800 020 046

care.org.au



Australian Aid 



It starts with equal