



ASSISTING POPULATIONS AT RISK OF FOOD INSECURITY IN THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

The agricultural sector in the United Republic of Tanzania (crop production, livestock, fisheries and forestry) represents about 23 percent of the country's GDP, with a contribution of around 30 percent in Zanzibar. Agriculture crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries are also key providers of employment and livelihoods for the rural population and therefore contribute to the reduction of poverty in the country. The Agriculture Statistics Strategic Plan process showed weaknesses in agricultural statistics in the country. These are mainly the result of low awareness among district-level management of the importance of evidence-based policy and data use, a lack of control on data collection and reporting at district and village levels from central line ministries and statistics offices, both on the mainland of the United Republic of Tanzania and in Zanzibar, and the lack of skills in survey methodology, data analysis and data quality assessment. The project aimed to address these issues and contribute to the implementation of Strategic Goal 3 of the Agriculture Statistics Strategic Plan, namely to "rationalize statistical operations and processes, improving quality and relevance to users of agriculture statistics data".



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project provided support for the development of improved methods for early warning and crop forecasting, to respond to the demand of decision-makers at all levels with more reliable and timely estimates. Assistance was provided to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries in upgrading crop forecasting methodology, in cooperation with the National Bureau of Statistics, and field-testing the new methods in two regions of the country, Kagera and Tanga.

IMPACT

Staff capacity in the key institutions was enhanced in terms of improving the reliability of crop forecasting data. These institutions will be able to support one another in future technical or methodological challenges, exchange experiences and good practices in discussing the model, share additional variables to collect through field agents and ensure quality control and data validation. Once the model has been developed, validated and pilot tested, it can run with only marginal input from human resources and additional data collection. The proposed crop forecasting method has the advantages of greater precision and higher accuracy with smaller samples, which also means lower data collection costs.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 366 000

Duration

March 2016 – December 2017

Resource Partner

FAO

Partner

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

Beneficiaries

Populations at high risk of food insecurity, Early Warning and Food Security Unit, field-level staff, government authorities

ACTIVITIES

- User data requirements for crop forecasting assessed, in particular the preliminary and final forecasts for area, yield and production of the main food crops at national level.
- Methodology proposed, based on a crop modelling approach, using satellite data integrated with real time information to provide a simple yet robust method, with the following elements: (i) maximizing the use of existing systems and infrastructure, (ii) ensuring consistency and comparability with the existing official statistics and (iii) improving data quality and reliability.
- Field testing of methodology carried out at 52 survey points allocated in all of the districts within Morogoro Region.
- 31 extension officers from all districts in Morogoro Region trained on the new questionnaires and on digitized data collection.
- Crop-cutting operations held in July 2017, including checks on the accuracy of crop-cutting procedures and measurement of crop harvests in some enumeration areas.
- Results validated by stakeholders during three-day technical workshop in Morogoro in December 2017.
- Pilot implementation of crop forecasting data collection system conducted in the regions of Kagera and Tanga in January 2018.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Project Code

TCP/URT/3504

Project Title

Support to the Implementation of Agriculture Statistics
Strategic Plan: Improving the reliability of crop forecasting data

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