

FACT SHEET

LVCD Project

World Vision



“I have become a daring and creative entrepreneur. I now use my wealth to send my niece and nephew to school so they can pursue their dreams.”

LVCD stands for Local Value Chain Development, meaning end-to-end strengthening of businesses practices within an agricultural community. Rural Tanzanians experience a poverty trap whereby economic isolation guarantees the failure of individual attempts at increasing incomes. Farmers cannot improve crop quality because hybrid seeds are not available or affordable. Increasing yields does not necessarily lead to higher incomes as they lack market access. Furthermore shortage of capital and know-how prevent them from starting businesses to satisfy community needs. LVCD holistically addresses these challenges by creating linkages with suppliers, markets, lenders and business partners. Farmers form Producer Groups which are led through a collaborative process to identify and boost their competitive advantages. Currently many utilize new irrigation technologies or add crop value through processing and packaging. They concentrate their production on high-margin

crops and establish local businesses to produce quality seeds. LVCD market facilitators connect them to distant markets, ensuring steady demand and fair prices. All this is accomplished with facilitation and coaching by World Vision resulting in community empowerment and sustainable transformation.

Project Goal

To help impoverished communities increase incomes and resilience by envisaging farming as a business: boosting competitive advantages, adding value to crops, promoting entrepreneurship and developing marketing capabilities.

Key Results

- **7000** farmers have been reached out of a total goal of 9000 by project end.
- **152** Commercial Producer Groups were formed incorporating over 3000 farmers.
- **544** household water pans were dug to irrigate 150 acres of land during dry season.
- **3** large-scale irrigation schemes were developed benefitting 3978 farmers.
- Rice, maize, sunflower seeds, vegetables, honey and mangos were chosen as high-margin focus products.
- **3** seed businesses were established to supply local farmers.
- **5** local suppliers of agricultural inputs were chosen and connected to Producer Groups.
- **786** entrepreneurs in 32 villages were identified for integration into local value chains.
- **58** market facilitators were trained to help Producer Groups establish market linkages.

Lessons Learned

- Encouraging focus on select crops builds economies of scale and increases gross margins.
- Commercial relationship building and linkages between farmers and other value chain actors creates a virtuous cycle of economic empowerment.

- Savings Groups help develop social networks as well as creating opportunities for saving and lending.
- LVCD should not be treated as a stand alone project, but should be integrated into regular programming.
- All key actors must be involved from project onset.
- Mutual benefit is key to long-term success in connecting farmers with commercial partners.
- Focus first on quick-wins to build confidence and momentum, then pursue longer term interventions.

Life-of-Project Spending

through September 2015

71% of project
funding to date

\$975,000

Project Timeline

June 2012

September 2016

“I’ve been transformed in my soul about water but also in love; that it is more important than hatred. I happily share my things and give to others who are more needy.”



Project Partners

- Vision Fund Tanzania - Nzega Branch
- Yarra Tanzania Limited
- World Agroforestry Centre
- Tanzania Organic Certification Association
- Nzega and Igunga Local Government Authorities
- The Government of United Republic of Tanzania

Contact

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***“Being educated
in modern farming
methods has made my
small plot more productive
giving me more capacity for
other work and extra time to
spend with my children.”***

