

The Bi- Monthly News-flash for AICAD Tanzania

1. FROM THE DESK OF COUNTRY DIRECTOR

This is the last issue for 2008. It has been a busy year in which efforts were all focused at fulfilling AICAD's obligation according to planned activities. Considerable achievements were attained as reported in our previous issues. We are grateful to our stakeholders who supported us in achieving the ambitious targets of AICAD. The New Year 2009 is next door, and as always, every one of us has his/her own plans for the year. While we as members of the AICAD family work towards the same goal, I am taking this opportunity to wish everybody a prosperous happy new year so that as we re-unite on the 5th January 2009 everybody will be carrying high energy for the rest of the year.



Prof. Bendantunguka P. M. Tiisekwa, Country Director

This issue covers implementation of activities for the period (November – December 2008) and outlines planned activities for the period (January-February) 2009. You will read on the implementation of the 6th In-Country Course on Irrigation and Water Resource Management (ICT6 - IWRM), Report of Monitoring and Evaluation of the 2nd In-Country Training Course on Value Addition (ICT2-VA). This issue also give a brief report on the celebration of AICAD day at the Headquarters in Juja, Kenya.

2. TRAINING & EXTENSION

2.1 Report of the Monitoring and Evaluation for ICT2-VA

The leader of the team for evaluating the 2nd in country training course on value addition (ICT2-VA) submitted the first draft report on 2nd November 2008 for review and final approval. The report was later finalised and approved for submission to the headquarters. The monitoring and evaluation exercise took place between September – October and involved field interviews with trainees in Mvomero, Morogoro Rural, Mgororo Urban and Kibaha districts.

2.2 Implementation of the ICT6-IWRM

The Sixth In-country Training Course on Irrigation and Water Resources Management (ICT6-IWRM) was implemented in accordance with the plans outlined in the 5th issue. The course was held at the Institute of Continuing Education (ICE) of the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) in Morogoro from 10th-28th November 2008; targeting small holder farmers from Kwala, Dutumi and Mwembengozi villages of Kwala Ward of Kibaha District Council. Generally the course aimed at imparting knowledge and skills to farmers for improving productivity through irrigation farming, adopting irrigation technologies and management of the related resources. The course was officially opened by **Prof. Joseph Kuzilwa**, the Vice Chancellor of Mzumbe University and closed by **Eng. Method Ishengoma**, the Eastern Zonal Irrigation Engineer who also offered certificates to successful graduates.



The Guest of Honour Prof J Kuzilwa in a Group photograph with participants after the opening



Eng. Method Ishengoma reading the closing speech before awarding certificates to participants

Majority of the facilitators were from departments of Agricultural Engineering, Crop Science, Food Science & Technology, Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness, Soil Science, and Agricultural Education & Extension SUA. Others came from Morogoro Municipal Council Department of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Cholima Agro-Scientific Research Institute and Mkindo Farmer Training Centre. The course involved brief class sessions and field practices, covering modules on Principles & Methods of Irrigation for small-scale farmers, Rain Water Harvesting & Storage Techniques, Effects of Irrigation on Soil and Environment, Crops Production Methods (Production and Management of Field and Horticultural Crops), Pesticides Management and Application, Extension Methods and HIV/AIDS in Farming Communities. Other aspects included Organization and Management of Water Users Organizations and Self-help Groups, Study Tour on Farmer Field School to Mkindo Farmers Training Centre, Irrigated Agriculture as Business, Marketing Strategies for Agricultural products, Farm Records Keeping and Action Planning.

3. VISITORS

3.1 AICAD Executive Director Visits the Country Office

On 7th November 2008, the Executive Director for AICAD **Prof. Andrew Gidamis** visited the Country office and held a day meeting with country office staffs. The Director had the opportunity to share with the country office new developments at the Headquarters and the human resources requirements at the Country Office following departures of the Assistant Country Director. He was also briefed on the progress in implementation of country office activities for the period January – November 2008, challenges and prospects for future activities. The country office was glad to have the ED



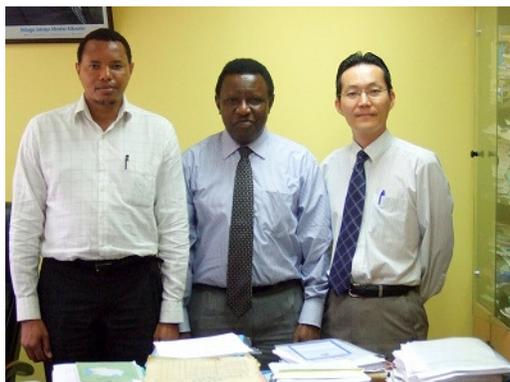
Prof Gidamis with Tanzania Country Office Staffs

4. EXTERNAL VISITS

4.1 Courtesy Call to the Vice Chancellor for Mzumbe University

As part of Country Office efforts to strengthen the cooperation with AICAD member universities, the Country Office paid a courtesy call to Mzumbe University and held discussion with the Vice Chancellor **Prof. Joseph Kuzilwa** on 4th November 2008. The purpose of the visit was to inform the VC on the ongoing as well as planned activities and request him to officiate the 6th In-Country Training Course on Irrigation and Water Resources Management (ICT6-IWRM).

In his remarks, Prof Kuzilwa noted the need for AICAD to explore the experiences of other institutions that have succeeded in funding researches and learn better modalities for supporting this function. He encouraged AICAD to spend more time with grass root communities for deeper understanding of needs and expectations before designing the research interventions. He agreed to be the guest of honor during the opening ceremony of the ICT6-IWRM. Mzumbe is one of AICAD member Universities. Others are Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Open University of Tanzania (OUT), University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), University of Dodoma (UDOM) and the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA).



The VC for Mzumbe University Prof. J Kuzilwa (c) with AICAD Tanzania Officers. To the left is Daniel Mghwira and to the right is Dr. Masahiko Murakami

5. Celebrations of AICAD Day

In order to mark the AICAD's birthday biannually, AICAD holds an AICAD day every two years. This year's AICAD day was celebrated at AICAD Headquarters in Juja, Kenya on 14th November 2008 which coincided with the AICAD's first Annual Members Forum. The celebration was preceded by a number of events that included official opening followed by a visit to the exhibitions, tree planting and entertainment. Tree planting was very spectacular in the sense that very member present was given a tree to plant. The event was also covered in the various newspapers across the AICAD member states of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. More coverage begins in the next issue.

6. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Final Evaluation of 4th Call Research Projects
- Community Empowerment and Networking Programme (CEP)
- Preparation of the 4th In country Training Course on Enterprise Development (ICT4 - ED)
- Preparation of the 7th Issue of Newsflash

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Member Universities: Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Mzumbe University, Open University of Tanzania (OUT), University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), University of Dodoma (UDOM) and the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA).

Participating Ministries: Ministry of Communications Science & Technology and Ministry of Finance & Economic Affairs