



The Bi-Monthly Newsflash from AICAD Tanzania Country Office

FROM THE DESK OF COUNTRY DIRECTOR

Dear readers, welcome once again to this 16th Issue of our Bi-Monthly Newsflash that reports country office activities in the months of July and August 2010. Under Research and Development (R&D), we have technology dissemination on low cost housing using interlocking stabilised soil bricks and new developments in community empowerment programme for women food processors. Under Training and Extension (T&E), we read reports on Grassroots training on value addition of processed foodstuffs and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of past training in Export Trade of Commercial Crafts. Under Information Network and Documentation, the Country office worked on Nanenane farmers' agricultural show as well as the third AICAD Day commemorations. Under Administrative Matters, there were departures as well as recruitments of staff. Please carry on reading to see the details.



Prof. Bendantunguka Tiisekwa,
Country Director.

1. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

KTDP-Low Cost Housing Technology Dissemination

On Saturday 28th August 2010, AICAD TCO officers visited the National Housing & Building Research Agency (NHBRA) at Mwenge-Dar es Salaam. The purpose of the visit was to meet top management and hold further discussion on the collaboration in disseminating low cost housing technology that uses interlocking stabilized soil blocks. The Director General, Eng. Dr. G.M. Kawiche and Consultancy Manager, Dr. Simon H. Kintingu, took part in the talks. In the end it was agreed that the agency would coordinate with Dr. Makunza of Dar es Salaam University and produce a working proposal for dissemination. The proposal, to be finalized soon, involves conducting seminars and practical demonstrations to youth building brigades at Kilosa and Kimamba townships in Morogoro Region. Heavy rains and floods destroyed many residential areas early this year



The NHBRA's Director General, Eng. Dr. G.M. Kawiche, showing AICAD officers interlocking bricks that were made by NHBRA at their Mwenge office in Dar es Salaam. (Sat. 28th August 2010)

at the two townships making this technology timely as it could assist greatly in the reconstruction of the two areas.

2. TRAINING AND EXTENSION

Grass Root Training on Value Addition

Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) Morogoro Regional Office staff, (Food Technologist - Joan Stephen and Senior Business Development Officer – Evaclotida Kapinga), together with AICAD ex-trainees from Morogoro Municipal, namely, Ms Dotto Tillilo, Mr. Emmanuel Moshia and Ms Grace Msongole), submitted to AICAD TCO a proposal for grassroots training on Value Addition of agricultural produce. AICAD TCO accepted the proposal and was happy to collaborate with SIDO and the ex-trainees because the objectives of the proposed training were in line with AICAD's mandate and requirements.



Grassroots training on Value Addition at SIDO Morogoro, 12th -23rd July, 2010.

Targeting farmers and food processors from five wards of Morogoro Municipal, the training aimed at empowering 20 participants with current knowledge on post-harvest handling, value addition, market research, group formation & management and accessing sources of funding and financial services. The venue for the grassroots course was the SIDO Morogoro Regional Office training facility. It was SIDO's in-kind contribution. The course was implemented from 12th – 23rd July 2010 and was closed at ceremony officiated by a senior official from Morogoro Municipal Council.

Forging Closer Ties with Morogoro Municipal Council in the Struggle against Poverty

On 18th August 2010, the Assistant Country Director (ACD), Mr. Ayub A. Matumbo and the Programme Officer (PO), Mr. Richard Bruno paid a courtesy call to the Morogoro Municipal Director, Mr. J.A. Simbeye. It was an opportunity for AICAD TCO to improve its visibility and that of its activities. The Municipal Director was glad to learn, for the first time, about AICAD and its mission. He was happy with the idea of collaborating with AICAD in the process of linking knowledge to application within the Morogoro town communities through AICAD training programmes.

One view suggested during the meeting was that Morogoro communities could benefit much more from the outreach and extension services of the several surrounding Universities. The Principal Economist of the Municipality wished that university extension services were “institutionalized” so that newly generated knowledge and technologies could be disseminated to the community more regularly in a predictable manner. An example was sited of Mzumbe University (MU) situated in the outskirts of Morogoro Municipality. MU was renowned for its professors of economics and managerial sciences. The skills packaged in AICAD's “Enterprise Development” course could directly and appropriately be disseminated through MU's permanent outreach programmes.



AICAD officers briefing Morogoro Municipal Director and some Heads of Municipal Departments, about AICAD's Mission.

The eager municipal director requested AICAD ACD and PO to make a formal presentation of AICAD and the areas in which AICAD wished to collaborate with the Municipal Council, to all Municipal Council Heads of Departments. TCO officers accepted the request and agreed to prepare and come back another time.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Export Trade Course on Commercial Crafts

From 23rd to 28th of August 2010, AICAD TCO conducted M&E for its First In-Country Training on Export Trade of Commercial Crafts (ICT1-ET). 26 out of 29 ex-trainees were visited and interviewed using a well prepared instrument (questionnaires) which enabled the team to extract all the important information. The team was composed of Mr. Ayub Matumbo, Mr. Richard Bruno, Miss Magreth Kinyau (AICAD TCO – Intern student) and Mr. Leons Mtana (Expert on Handicrafts and a former resource person for the ICT1-ET). The findings from the reports show that 72 % of beneficiaries had managed to increase the size of their business ranging from 7 to 78%. Further more 17% of the beneficiaries were able to capture foreign markets and were exporting their products to countries such as German, China and USA. In terms of disseminating the knowledge to others, there was a tremendous success. Within six months following the training, more than 150 other entrepreneurs received training from 19 ex-trainees. One beneficiary managed to design five

(5) new products and was currently in the process of patenting them. The fruits of ICT1-ET were already visible. AICAD's mission was succeeding.



M &E team interviewing some of the beneficiaries of ICT1-ET. The middle photo shows some of new products designed by Mr. January Nasake of Mbezi Juu, Kinondoni District of Dar es Salaam Region.

3. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME (CEP)

Stakeholders Meeting for CEP

A stakeholders meeting was held on 11th of August 2010 at Kibaha to follow up and discuss CEP progress and direction. The meeting was attended by 20 food processing women group members, TCO staff including Advisor, a CEP expert from JICA, SIDO Coast Region Business Development Officer – Mrs. Bahati Malangalila, and a Community Development Officer, Mrs. Mary Msoffe representing Kibaha Urban District Executive Director and the local government.

This stakeholders meeting was preceded by an internal preparatory meeting held at AICAD TCO offices a day earlier and also attended by the CEP expert from JICA, Mr. Sitoshi Chikami.



Members of the stakeholders meeting discussing CEP progress

The stakeholders meeting facilitated sharing of CEP progress and problems as experienced by the women groups. Issues like, having a central processing unit where each member of the groups could access to process their products, were fully discussed. Each stakeholder declared what they could contribute to the CEP effort.

- (a). The Group members organized themselves and appointed their individual group leaders to form one strong task team which could speak with one voice on behalf of all three women groups. The team was assigned to meet the Kibaha Town Council Director and ask for a contribution from local government in form of a building which could be used by the groups as a processing unit.
- (b). AICAD on its part promised to provide various training courses and some in-kind contribution of some processing machines if the groups would have a building to house them.
- (c). On the other hand SIDO promised to support the groups in managing the processing unit whereas
- (d). The local government shall provide the land to the women groups where they can build their processing unit in future.

The stakeholders meeting resolved to wait until the end of November to allow the women groups find/hire a building, while in the meantime AICAD could carry out activities on training (value

addition, entrepreneurship and quality control) and conducting market surveys for the women's products.

A Visit to SIDO Dar-es-Salaam Regional Office

On 13th of August 2010, TCO officers together with CEP expert Mr. Sitoshi Chikami made a visit to SIDO Dar-es-salaam Regional Office at Kipawa, along Nyerere Road. The purpose of the visit was to see and learn about the composition of a processing unit. (e.g. kinds of machines and equipment, how the unit was managed, etc). One representative of the women groups, Mrs. Flora Mwaikono, accompanied the visiting team to visit SIDO's processing unit and learn from it.



AICAD TCO staff with CEP expert visited SIDO Dar-es-salaam.
[In the left photo, SIDO's Food Technologist - Mr. Inyas Frederick, takes the visiting team around the processing unit. In the right-hand-side photo, are L-R: Mr. Sitoshi Chikami, Mr. Ayub Matumbo, Mr. Inyas Frederick, Dr. Murakami, SIDO Regional Manager - Mr. H.S.S. Meena, Mrs. Bahati Malangalila, Miss Margaret Kinyau and Mrs. Flora Mwaikono.]

The team also visited Shop-rite supermarket along Nyerere Road, with some sample products from the women groups to make enquiries on their market suitability. The idea was to link producers (women groups) and the buyer (supermarket).

Courtesy call to Coast Regional Commissioner

On 25th of August 2010, Assistant Country Director and Programme Officer paid a courtesy call to the Coast Regional Commissioner (RC), Hajjat Amina Mrisho Said. The purpose of this, first ever visit, was to formally introduce to the RC, AICAD TCO and AICAD activities in Kibaha Districts and hence the Coast Region where the RC was the highest government official. The visit was also used to share with the RC, the progress of CEP in Kibaha Urban District and find out how the RC could assist women groups to access/acquire an empty public building for establishing a food-processing unit. Unfortunately the regional government had no spare empty buildings at Kibaha, but the RC was willing to assist the women groups by allocating them land for building such a unit, if they applied in writing. This good news was quickly relayed to the women groups.



Library photos: The Coast Regional Commissioner Hajjat Amina Mrisho Said seen when closing ICT1-ET in February 2010.

4. INFORMATION, NETWORKING AND DOCUMENTATION

Nanenane Farmer's Agricultural Show and AICAD Day

Nanenane Agricultural show is one of the vibrant farmer's shows in Tanzania, held from 1st - 8th of August every year. At Nanenane, farmers and other stakeholders exchange knowledge, technology

and establish networks for marketing their products. Each year AICAD TCO participates in the Eastern-Zone Agricultural Show which incorporates the four (4) regions of Morogoro, Coast, Dar es Salaam and Tanga. The Nanenane grounds are situated approximately 15 km from the AICAD Tanzania Country Office, along the Morogoro–Dar es Salaam highway. Nanenane exhibition provides AICAD TCO the opportunity to publicize itself and share with the public what AICAD does and the achievements it has had. Moreover, it provides a chance for AICAD TCO to learn from others new technologies and ways to improve our own programmes. AICAD TCO always gives chances to her ex-trainees to participate in Nanenane and explain to the public how AICAD’s training has helped them to achieve success in their farming and business activities. For two consecutive years AICAD TCO won trophies for good quality products, well arranged and managed (attractive) pavilion and capacity building for entrepreneurs for poverty reduction.

On 8th of August 2010, AICAD TCO celebrated AICAD Day with the theme “Ten Years of Linking Knowledge to Application among Partner Countries in Africa for Poverty Reduction”. The country office organized special AICAD day coverage with Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC1) on top of the news supplement that was published by a popular English news paper the Guardian on 7th August 2010. The coverage included an interview with the Country director who presented AICAD’s core functions and activities in the member countries and an explanation on the purpose of the country office’s participation in Nanenane. He also introduced the ex-trainees who were also interviewed. Two ex-trainees explained the role of AICAD in supporting training programmes and how they benefited from the AICAD’s trainings. Their presentations were also aired by the TBC1 TV channel on the evening of 5th August 2010.



AICAD TCO pavilion during Farmer’s exhibition, AICAD TCO won trophies

5. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

AICAD TCO Gets an Intern Student

AICAD TCO every year gives chance to university students to join and work with AICAD staff at the country office. This enables students to learn from the programmes that AICAD implements. They acquire knowledge and skills which add to their experience. This year AICAD received an intern student from Sokoine University of Agriculture named Magreth Kinyau who was pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness.



Miss Magreth Kinyau

Departures

Ms Josephine Kimambo who was working as an Accounts Assistant at AICAD TCO ended her contract on July 30th 2010. AICAD wishes her all the best in her future life.



Miss Josephine Kimambo

New Accounts Assistant joins AICAD

AICAD TCO carried out an interview for a new Accounts Assistant on 18th of August 2010. Four applicants were short listed and invited to attend the interview. The successful candidate was expected to report for duty at the beginning of September 2010. This happened to be Mr. Mboka Kibale, a holder of an Advanced Diploma in Accountancy from the Institute of Accountancy Arusha and a former teacher of Kwiro secondary school, Ulanga district. Mr. Kibale is warmly welcome to join the fraternity of AICAD staff when he reports at TCO.



Mr. Mboka Kibale, the
new Accounts Assistant

6. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Preparations for ICT4-ED that is to be conducted in collaboration with Morogoro Municipality
- 12th – 15th October: Monitoring & Evaluation of ICT7-IWRM at Kibaha
- Further preparations of Low Cost Housing Technology Dissemination with the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) and the National Housing and Building Research Agency (NHBRA)
- Preparations for Symposium of University Outreach Activities 18th – 19th October 2010 at AICAD HQs.
- Preparation of the 17th Issue of Newsflash

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