

The Bi- Monthly News-flash for AICAD Tanzania

1. FROM THE DESK OF COUNTRY DIRECTOR

Once again I would like to welcome our esteem readers to the 8th issue of the Tanzania Country Office (TCO) Bi-Monthly Newsflash. Our stakeholders and collaborating institutions who include, member universities, some government ministries, local government departments, non-governmental organisations, community based organisations, entrepreneurs, farmers and private citizens will get another opportunity to learn what the TCO has been doing in the past two months, as well as what is planned for implementation in the next two months of May and June 2009.



Prof. B. Tiisekwa

Under Research and Development you will read about adaptability trials of what might be the final phase of NERICA promotion in Tanzania as an AICAD/JICA project. You will also read about knowledge and technology dissemination of the research findings in low-cost housing. Other stories are on Information, Networking and Documentation, visits and personnel matters.

2.0 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

2.1 NERICA Long Rain Trial Adaptation Signing

NERICA adaptability trial research contract was signed on 7th March 2009. The signing took place at JICA Tanzania Offices between Dr. Masahiko Murakami for AICAD Tanzania and Mr. Khatib H. Khatib the Principal investigator of NERICA in the Ministry of Agriculture of Zanzibar. Main activities under the contract include land preparation, nursery preparation, field layout, sowing/transplanting and final activity report. AICAD is facilitating the project on promotion of New Rice for Africa NERICA which aims to improve the livelihood of local communities and revitalize them through dissemination of recommended (NERICA) varieties.

In Tanzania, the country office is coordinating adaptability trials in Zanzibar. This is the last long rain trial and selection of NERICA varieties will be done (with high yields and diseases resistant) that will be recommended for registration in this year.

2.2 Printing of Low Cost Housing (KTDP) Brochures.

The Tanzania country Office is coordinating implementation of dissemination of the low cost housing technology with respect to interlocking bricks. The brochures have been printed ready for distribution. The brochures will be distributed to all AICAD stakeholders' in both the Kiswahili and English language versions on the next quarter in order to disseminate the information on Low Cost Housing to many stakeholders.



The KTDP brochure that has been printed ready for distribution

Semi –Prefab Concrete Construction Techniques for Low Cost Housing is one of the AICAD sponsored Pilot call project completed in 2005 and approved for dissemination in Tanzania by the AICAD Knowledge and Technology Dissemination Committee. Semi-Prefab Technology”, is intended for reducing building construction time and cost as well as improving the quality of constructions. The speed of construction, lower cost, simplicity and quality aspects make Semi-Prefab accommodate techniques for poverty reduction. Among the structural elements that have been developed and studied is the Interlocking Bricks made from stabilized soil materials (ISSB).

3.0 INFORMATION NETWORKING & DOCUMENTATION

3.1 Printing of ICT6- IWRM Training Manual.

AICAD Country Office in collaboration with JICA prepared and printed a training manual for 6th In Country Training on Irrigation and Water resources management (ICT6-IWRM) in Kiswahili language. The manual will be useful for our stakeholders especially farmers practicing irrigation farming in Tanzania. The manual contains all materials used on ICT6-IWRM training and is expect to have high impact to the end users and hence improving the live hood of the community.



The training manual for ICT6-IWRM that has been printed for use in future trainings

4. INTERACTION WITH OTHER ORGRANIZATIONS

4.1 Visit at SIDO Headquarters, Dar es Salaam

A successful meeting was held between AICAD officers, the SIDO Marketing Manager and a Senior Economist from the Board of External Trade (BET) at SIDO Headquarters in Dar es Salaam on 21st April 2009 (depicted in the photo below). This meeting produced positive results and set the ball rolling in the preparations for the In Country Training on Export Trade on Commercial Crafts, expected to be conducted over the next four months



L-R: TCO Advisor (Dr. Masahiko Murakami), Senior BET Economist (Mr. Emmanuel Miselya), TCO Programme Officer (Mr. Richard Bruno) and SIDO Marketing Manager (Mr. Henry Mdede)

4.2 Meeting with Morogoro Municipal and District Health Officers on HIV and AIDS issues

On 20 April 2009, AICAD Officers visited Morogoro Municipal Headquarters to meet the officers' in charge of HIV and AIDS coordination. District and Municipal Officers were delighted to know AICAD and to learn our good intentions towards the fight of HIV and AIDS. We were provided with various posters and brochures to display at our office and others to distribute to our participants of training courses. They requested to introduce ourselves in writings so as to be recognised as partners in the fight of HIV and AIDS on permanent basis. The first photograph on the left below show some of the posters posted on the wall at the AICAD country office's entrance. This is in line with AICAD's performance contracting requirement as directed by the Headquarters. In the second photograph, the District AIDS Control Coordinator (DACC), Dr. Getrude Leby and the Municipal Dental Officer (MDO), Dr. Dafrosa Nhangha are posing with AICAD's officers.



HIV and AIDS Posters at the entrance of the AICAD TCO



L-R: Mr. Ayub A. Matumbo (AICAD ACD), Dr. Getrude Leby (DACC), Dr. Dafrosa Nhangha (MDO) and Mr. Richard Bruno (AICAD PO) soon after their meeting in Morogoro.

4.3 Visit SIDO Morogoro Regional Offices

SIDO Morogoro is an important collaborator in AICAD TCO Activities. The Assistant Country Director, Mr. Matumbo and the Programme Officer, Mr. Bruno took the early opportunity to meet the officials of SIDO Regional Offices for the purpose of knowing each other and discussing possible areas of collaboration in the current Unified Programme 2009 – 2010 activities. In the picture below, from Left to Right, are Mr. Ali Mtwale (Regional Technical Officer), Ms Evaclotida M. Kapinga (Business Development Officer and Trainee of Export Trade on Commercial Crafts), Mr. Ayub A. Matumbo (AICAD TCO ACD), Mr. Allen Mhize (Regional Credit Officer) and Mr. Richard Bruno (AICAD TCO PO).



SIDO Morogoro Regional Officials with AICAD Officers.

4.4 Meeting with the VETA Eastern Zone Director

April 2009 has been a month of introductions and visits for the new TCO officers. On the 20th, the ACD and PO visited VETA Eastern Zone Office in Morogoro, where they met the Zone Director, Mr. Sylvester Joseph Nyambo. They held a fruitful discussion with him whereby the VETA Director was delighted to learn more about AICAD and its mission of linking knowledge to application within communities in partner countries in Africa in order to reduce poverty. Mr. Nyambo acknowledged that at present VETA, unlike AICAD, was not putting any emphasis on the application aspect of the knowledge and skills they were impacting to their trainees. But in future they might want to emulate AICAD in monitoring and evaluating the usefulness of their trainings in the communities where those trainees came from as a way of ensuring that VETA remained relevant to the society it serves. As for collaboration with AICAD, the VETA Director welcomed the idea but warned that VETA's involvement would end at delivering trainings. Anything after training, such as application of knowledge or skills, will be out of his scope. In his opinion, capacity building was easy and straight forward, but whether someone will apply fully what he's capable of doing is rather tricky. "Do the professors of agriculture at SUA practice what they are teaching? Have you seen their farms?" He asked as if to illustrate his point.



Left is Mr. Sylvester Nyambo, the Eastern Zone Director of VETA.

5. ADMINISTRATION ISSUES

The arrival of New Programme Officer (PO)

I am delighted to take on the roles of PO at AICAD TCO from 2nd March 2009 and am very excited about the future of AICAD. Am also happy to join AICAD at this stage of its Development and am sure it will grow to cover all African countries. I strongly believe our institute will exceed its expectations and provide our clients with the kind of services/programmes that will mark us apart from other organizations.



Mr. Richard Bruno

6.0 UPCOMING EVENTS

- Knowledge Transfer and Dissemination Programme (KTDP): Brochures Distribution
- Preparation of the 7th In Country Training Course on Irrigation and Water Resource Management (ICT7-IWRM)
- Preparation of the 1st In Country Training Course on Export Trade on Commercial Crafts (ICT1-Export Trade)
- Community Empowerment Programme: Needs Assessment Survey (Knowledge and Technology needs)
- Preparation of the 9th Issue of Newsflash

Editorial Team

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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 Communication, Science and Technology & Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs