Improving Small Farms Operations in Tanzania


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UF/IFAS Miami-Dade County Extension Director Teresa Olczyk visited Tanzania in November 2013. She was invited by Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) to introduce the U.S. Extension model to multiple stakeholders including TAHA, Ministry of Agriculture, Crop Production and Cooperatives and the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and help these organizations develop collaborative agreements (MOUs) to work together on dissemination of practical information to small and medium farmers by the Tanzanian government’s and private Extension Services. The overall objective is to improve efficiency and skills of small to medium farmers by exchanging information on good agricultural practices, postharvest, food safety and business management and improving farmers’ knowledge through hands-on training, producing publications and coordination of efforts of these organizations to improve Extension Service in Tanzania. The CED had opportunity to visit several small and medium farms in two regions of Tanzania near Arusha and Morogoro and learned about simple postharvest technologies introduced by TAHA, SUA and other organizations helping small farmers not only to produce for the local market but also export fresh and dried produce to United Kingdom and other European countries. She was also invited to visit packing facility, seed improvement center, tissue culture lab and small “agribusiness incubator” for SUA graduates who want to start small agriculture related businesses. Several of these ideas and technologies could be potentially implemented by UF/IFAS Extension staff in their work with small farmers and agricultural businesses in Florida.

Agriculture in Tanzania: More than 25% of GDP, 85% of Tanzania’s exports, employs 80% of the work force; only 4% of the country land area in Ag.

Major cash crops: Coffee (largest export), tea, cotton, cashews, sisal, cloves; Vegetable and Fruit production is growing in recent years; Large amounts of produce never reach the market

Major obstacles: Poor pricing, lack of transportation, lack of storage, postharvest issues, lack of education, lack of funding and unreliable cash flow to farmers; Government concentrated mostly on cash crops, limited government service for small & medium produce farmers

Providers of Agricultural Extension Service: Mostly public sector: Ministry of Ag, Crop Production & Cooperatives, local governments (lack of funding-big problem); Other providers: NGOs, international corporations, Ag. importers, TAHA, farmer to farmer initiatives, other farmer led organizations, private consultants , very limited Extension like programs from SUA;

Main Issue: Lack of coordination of Extension efforts

Invitation to visit Tanzania: Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA); Dates: November 9-21, 2013

Funding sources: The Innovative Agricultural Research Initiative (iAGRI)

Main Objective: Introduce successes of the U.S. Extension model to multiple stakeholders: TAHA, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security & Cooperatives (MAFSC), Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) & others/ Bring information & knowledge gained to Miami-Dade County’s Ag. industry and UF/IFAS Extension personnel

Main locations visited: Arusha, Dar es Salam & Morogoro (TAHA, MAFSC, SUA, IAGRI), Small & medium farms, Government and private research institutions; Government Extension offices; NGOs; Private tissue culture lab. & vegetable packing facility

Educational materials shared with Tanzanian partners: UF/IFAS EDIS Vegetable Production Guide & other publications, information on Extension Advisory Committees; info on USDA, UF/IFAS “Solution for your life” & UF/IFAS Miami-Dade County Extension Websites & other resources

Meetings & discussions: Ministry of Ag. researchers & administrators, TAHA employees, farmers, Ag. businesses, NGOs & gov. employees, SUA faculty, students & graduates, IAGRI staff

Formal presentation for the high rank representatives of the Ministry of Ag., Food Security & Coop. about 100 Years of Extension Service U.S. & UF/IFAS and Miami-Dade Co. Extension program areas & collaborations with Ag. Industry in S. Florida

TAHA organizes small farmers, provides training on farming practices, postharvest, GAPs & helps with export to Europe

Modern Agricultural Technologies: Packinghouse and Private Tissue Culture Lab.

Solar Dehydrators & Simple Cooling Technologies

Ag Incubator @SUA