

Tanzania RIU

Country Assessment Executive Summary



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Executive Summary

Context

Tanzania has a promising policy and economic environment in which the RIU could operate. GDP per person in Tanzania is around US\$300/year, which is low relative to most neighbouring countries. But the economy has achieved a steady growth since 2000 (averaging almost 6% over the period to date) and the proportion of people living in poverty has fallen over the last decade. The World Bank estimates that Tanzania needs GDP growth of around 6% a year to meet the MDG target of halving poverty by 2015. The Tanzania government poverty strategy (MKUKUTA) has a more ambitious target of halving poverty by 2010 which requires average GDP growth of 8% a year. Poverty is a major national problem. The Household Budget Survey shows inequality in Tanzania is low and stable, with a Gini coefficient¹ of 0.35 in 2001 (similar to Uganda but much lower than Kenya). Agriculture remains the largest sector in the economy and hence its performance has a significant effect on output and corresponding income and poverty levels. The sector accounts for about half of GDP and exports, and its importance is amplified through backward and forward linkage effects. Sale of agricultural products accounts for about 70 percent of rural household incomes. National data show significant progress towards the objective of a sustained 5 percent growth rate with an increase of the five year moving average agricultural GDP growth rates from about 3.3 percent from 1991 to 2000 to 4.3 percent over the 1999-2003 period.

Criteria

What is evident is that poverty is particularly severe in rural areas but there are serious efforts in place into which RUIP outputs can feed directly. The policies and programmes through which demand for research from the poor can be fed are either in place or close to implementation. There is an evident need – to which RUIP can make a significant contribution – for assistance to harnessing that demand and linking it to products

and activities so as to address the chronic poverty problems faced by Tanzania.

Opportunities:

- 1.** The Agriculture Sector Development Programme (ASDP) The key policy document for the agriculture sector is focused on increasing growth and accelerating poverty reduction.
- 2.** Farm Input Promotions (FIPS) is a technology supplier which seeks to build effective partnerships with farmers, public and private sectors.
- 3.** The Tanzania Fertiliser Partnership (TFP) The Tanzania Fertiliser Partnership is a collaboration of government agencies, private and public sector actors and a number of national and local organizations, who are participating in different aspects of the work addressing prioritized constraints along the entire length of the value chain.
- 4.** The Agricultural Council of Tanzania (ACT) The Agricultural Council of Tanzania is principally involved in networking and advocacy.
- 5.** Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) is a regional network of NGOs in 10 eastern, central and southern Africa countries. Its activities include both outreach programs and advocacy related to land use management, sustainable agriculture and food security.
- 6.** Promotion of Local Innovations (PROLINNOVA) Promotion of Local Innovations (PROLINNOVA) identifies Tanzanian innovators in the areas of agriculture and natural resources and assists them to promote their technologies.
- 7.** The Rural-Urban Development Initiative (RUDI) is a Tanzanian registered NGO poised to take over work of the Private Enterprise Development Activities (PESA) project. RUDI is in advanced stages of discussion to obtain a three year grant from a European donor to facilitate the farmers associations¹ transition to self-sustainability.
- 8.** MVIWATA is a Swahili acronym translated as the Nation Network of Farmer Groups in Tanzania. It differs from ACT as it

¹ The Gini coefficient measures inequality in the distribution of income. Its value ranges from zero to one, with zero representing perfect equality and one representing perfect inequality. Only Burundi, Ethiopia and Rwanda have lower levels of inequality.

represents only crop and livestock producers rather than the entire agricultural sector.

9. Kickstart is an NGO, effectively functioning as a non-profit enterprise. It is planning to get into advocacy, in addition to marketing, through sponsorship of a radio soap opera. Natural Resources

Natural Resources

1. Water MKUKUTA has adopted the development of irrigation and rainwater harvesting as one of the key strategic actions to reduce vulnerability to weather and achieve sustainable and broad based agricultural and economic growth.
2. Forests, wildlife, and fisheries MKUKUTA aims at conserving natural resources through policies which build local ownership of these resources, while at the same time a strong agricultural sector. The objective is to reduce rural poverty by providing additional income streams (besides agriculture) to the poor from the other rural sectors including forestry, wildlife, fisheries and tourism.
3. The Tanzania Natural Resources Forum (TNRF) based in Arusha, is an advocacy group working closely with the Participatory Forestry Management Department in the Ministry of Natural Resources. Its objectives are to sustain forests, empower villagers and improve livelihoods. While legislation and regulations are in place to attain objectives, it remains to be made to work—policy implementation based of good science.

Recommendations

The RIUP will not start new project or programmes, but will support existing programmes.

WHO There are mainly two areas where the RIUP will work with existing institutions or organisations:

- **Outreach programmes** The outreach programmes are those that work with farmer focused organisations. Most of these programmes work on poverty reduction issues. For

example: Prolinnova Initiative, Tanzania Fertiliser partnership. General assessments of the group: this group seems to be well organised and have some activities across the country.

- **Advocacy** The programmes that are dealing with advocacy are those that try to influence policy. However, there is need to fund capacity building initiatives in the advocacy group. Some of the advocacy groups are: The Agricultural Working Group, PELUM, MVIWATA

How to Achieve This

RIUP will use two tools to implement the approach:

Partnerships: The major objective for the RIUP to support partnerships is to create access to knowledge flows that contributes to the development, dissemination and uptake of a technology

Networks: In supporting networks, RIUP aims at facilitating the flow of technology and information among people, enterprises and institutions are key to the innovative process. Adding value to existing platforms

Adding Value

The RIUP will add value to the existing programmes through two major initiatives:

- Facilitating farmer experimentation rather than demonstration
- Data management to influence policy



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