

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Maasai women do most of the food production, firewood and water gathering, and cooking, but share little in the financial resources of Maasai families.

When women have money, they tend to spend it on necessities and children's schools, in contrast to the normal spending by men. This project will, through participatory demonstration, facilitate women to produce vegetables and fruits for cash and to improve nutrition. With greater purchasing power, not only will the supply of necessities and education of children increase, but their status, rights, and independence will improve.

Present practices are rapidly destroying the soil, water, and forestry resources around them. Changing livestock raising practices is mandatory, but men's beliefs and self-image related to livestock will make necessary changes difficult. This project will teach practices to protect soil, water, and forestry resources, as well as environmentally compatible crop production.

It is hoped that environmentally wise practices will spread to other parts of the community. Thus, the main objective of this project will be to improve the financial position and environmental awareness of women, which will improve the supply of necessities, the status of women, education of children, nutrition of the community, and long-term health of water, soil, grass land, and forestry resources.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project will be centered in Lendikinya Village, twelve kilometers southeast of Monduli, Arusha, Tanzania. Maize (corn), livestock (cattle and goats), some pulses, and small amounts of vegetables and fruits are raised.

Few cash crops are produced. Forests are disappearing due to cook fires and grass lands are being overgrazed, both causing serious soil erosion and water runoff.

Water is in short supply, and must be carried long distances, between the two rainy seasons which have a total rainfall of 700 mm. Vegetables produce poorly in the rainy seasons due to pests and in limited amounts in the dry season due to water shortage.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

Fighting poverty by explore and leverage agricultural potentials through creating awareness and adaptation through sustainable modern agriculture. **OUR MOTIVE**

Sustainably work with the community to bring immediate changes through; teamwork, participatory research, holistic exposures, supply and application of knowledge so as to bring immediate and effective solutions.

PROBLEMS ANALYSIS

The members of the project are in dire need to develop them, but could not afford the provision of basic inputs and technical know skills. The major problems faced by the project and which it will try to address are the lack of the most appropriate agriculture inputs and technical skills to restart normal production activities. These inputs include farm equipment, seeds, planting materials, and fodder conservation for livestock feeding. The community lacks technical skills such as; off-season production, crop rotation, soil fertility amendments, affordable crop protection skills, and post-harvest handling skills.

Other issues:-

- **Low nutritional status at the family levels** - The neglect of the women in development activities - Lack of entrepreneurship skills and a need for a targeted market.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Increase the welfare and status of women (and consequently their children) through training and participatory garden demonstrations on food production (particularly vegetables) and soil, water, and cooking wood management and conservation.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Improve agricultural practices among small farmers, particularly women, through education and participatory projects - Improve the financial status of women - Increase the status, rights, and independence of women - Strengthen leadership, productive, and entrepreneurial capacity of women - Increase the education of children - Improve health through increased consumption of vegetables, fruits, and pulses and clean drinking water - Protect water, soil, grass land, and forestry resources through sustainable agricultural and other specific conservation practices

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Depending on the availability for funds, the project intends to do the following:-

- Introduce horticultural crops and technologies, both production and post-harvest, appropriate for the locality and farmers - Methods used will include: on-station participatory demonstrations, on-farm field visits, and short course and workshops - Find quality planting material and resources needed for their production - Provide on-farm consultation to address such topics as cultural practices, pest and disease management, and harvesting - Improve marketing through produce quality, marketing opportunities, and ideas for value-added products - Network and collaborate with other similar development agencies in East Africa - Provide nutrition and water safety education classes - Teach entrepreneurship to women in the community - Educate and demonstrate wise environment resource management related to soil erosion, rainfall runoff, and forestry and grass land management

PROJECT SUPPORT DURATION

The project is soliciting assistance for a period of seven (7) years. Thereafter it will be in position to finance its operation from the revolving fund that will be established.

PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

The direct project beneficiaries would be the project members and their household members from the project's selected village. A total of 1500 women farmers and their families are expected to be initially benefited directly.

PROJECT METHODOLOGY

The methodology to be adopted by the project is the participatory approach. The Village Garden Project operates in the villages. The project will operate a communal farm (demonstration centre) at the project's headquarter at the same time distribute available inputs, skills and other assistances to the project's beneficiaries.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND CONTRIBUTION

We are looking forward to get the community participate and contribute to this project. During the implementation of the project, beneficiaries (community) would contribute the:

- Both skilled and unskilled labor - Local materials (sticks/woods, stones, sand etc.) – A piece of land for construction of demonstration center.

- Other services such as; leadership and security

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The under mentioned are just some of the strategies that will be carried out to achieve the set objectives:

- Community mobilization and sensitization for the further understanding of the project. - Training of the Village Garden Project's executives and animators on the planning, implementation, monitoring and management of especially agricultural project. - Registration of targeted beneficiaries (Women and youths in farming families within the operational communities). - Purchase and distribution of viable seeds. Saing'orie Sangau and the trained executives of Village Garden Project will ensure that certified seeds approved by the Tanzania Official Seeds Certification Institute (TOSCI) are being distributed. - Supervision, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of project activities. - Organizing women and youths into groups with their representative leaders in order to make it easy during evaluation. - Planning for regular meetings with the project's executives to discuss on our progress and areas of improvement.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

It is expected that with the provision of funds, the project will be able to achieve its objectives. The maintenance of the project will enhance by two (2) types of account that will be established. In addition to these, the restorative expenditure would be met from the revolving fund, after termination of donor fund in which this will enhance the project continuation in case donor funding is later terminated.

IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT

The depletion of the forest and tree crop, due to demands for fuel wood and timber activities has increased run off and soil erosion especially on derived watersheds leading to loss of soil nutrients, situation of waterways and damaged to water sources. The Village Garden Project when fully implemented will try to embark on activities that will conserve the environment. These will be together with the use of cover crops, terraces and encouragement of fallowing cropping system.

ROLE OF WOMEN

Basing on our simple research and experience, women produce about 61% of the food crop requirements and handle the processing of food crops such as maize and beans. In addition,

Women are responsible for food preparation, childcare, and house management, which influence their time and energy for agricultural activities.

Through experience, women in our communities have showed the courage in making changes to lives of the young generation through the support they have been giving to these in schools and even these who are not in schools. Therefore, through having the Village Garden Project in the rural areas and having women involved in the project, the change we want to see will have a good access to be seen.

The Village Garden Project has identified a need to integrate women into mainstream development, which requires an expansion of the scope for knowledge and skills. There are many areas where women development programmed with varying objectives can be implemented such as this project. PROJECT

REPLICABILITY

This project when fully implemented will serve as a model/ pilot project, which will be replicated in other areas of the country.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The project members and community are responsible for monitoring project implementation and made necessary recommendations at general and executive meetings for effective decision making.

Observations, field visit and group discussions will form part of the participatory monitoring methodology.

In addition to the above, specialized monitoring teams will be requested from both public and private implementing agencies to conduct in-depth the project evaluation and to make necessary recommendations for better project implementation and replication.