



ACT NEWS LETTER

2023

Inside Issues

- 9th AAPC Highlights
- Leadership Academy Workshop
- FO4ACP Regional Knowledge Management
- YLIP Graduation Ceremony
- Field Mission
- Stakeholders Meeting
- Climate Change Regional Workshop
- Farmers Training on GAP
- Linkage Meeting

Upcoming Events

- 1st - 8th August, 2023 - Nane Nane Exhibition Mbeya - John Mwakangali Grounds
- 5th - 8th September, 2023 - The AGRF Africa's Food Systems Summit, JNICC Dar es Salaam
- 10th - 12th August, 2023 - Afro World Agri Food 2023, Dar es Salaam - Diamond Jubilee Hall
- 11th - 13th October, 2023 - Tanzania International Cashew Conference, Dar es Salaam - Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre
- 13th & 14th October, 2023 - Tanzania Poultry Show, Dar es Salaam - Ubungu Plaza

Top News



Article 2

Leadership Academy Workshop

The African Agribusiness Academy (AAA) organized highly impactful four-day training on Leadership and Innovation in Accra at the Gold Coast hotel, held from May 15th to May 18th, 2023, as part of the SFC initiative.



Article 3

FO4ACP Global Knowledge Management

The FO4ACP Global Knowledge Management Event served as a significant milestone in promoting knowledge sharing and fostering collaboration among Farmers' Organizations across the globe.

9th AAPC HIGHLIGHTS

From 13th to 14th April 2023, the Policy Analysis Group (PAG) hosted its highly anticipated 9th Annual Agricultural Policy Conference (AAPC) at the Dodoma Hotel in Capital Dodoma. With a captivating theme of ***"Tanzania's Competitiveness in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): Challenges and Opportunities in the Agricultural, Livestock, and Fisheries Sector,"*** this year's AAPC drew an impressive gathering of over 200 participants. From esteemed representatives of academia and the private sector to influential figures from research institutions, policy-making bodies, advocacy groups, and development practitioners, attendees flocked from Tanzania and beyond.

The conference served as a dynamic platform to assess the progress made in implementing policy reforms within the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) framework of the New Alliance on Food Security and Nutrition. Moreover, it stimulated engaging discussions on notable achievements, valuable lessons learned, persistent gaps that require attention, and strategic approaches to enhance competitiveness within the alliance. Delegates also delved into emerging issues that demand immediate consideration, ensuring a forward-thinking perspective.

With a comprehensive focus on Tanzania's readiness to seize the vast potential of the AfCFTA platform, the conference not only offered valuable insights but also provided practical guidance to traders on how they can effectively leverage the available markets. Experts shared strategic approaches and best practices to empower Tanzanian traders to capitalize on the boundless opportunities presented by this transformative trade agreement. ACT was proudly represented by its esteemed Chairperson, Dr. Jacqueline Mkindi, who delivered a compelling presentation on the abundant opportunities awaiting traders in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). With her expertise and deep understanding of the agricultural sector, Dr. Mkindi highlighted the potential for Tanzanian traders to venture into the AfCFTA and tap into new markets.

AAPC, a flagship event organized annually by the Policy Analysis Group (PAG), in collaboration with Agriculture Sector Lead Ministries (ASLMs) and 15 other influential organizations, including NGOs, academic institutions, and private sector associations, continues to play a pivotal role in fostering dialogue and shaping the trajectory of Tanzania's agricultural future. The 9th AAPC undoubtedly left a lasting impact, igniting fresh perspectives, and propelling the agricultural sector towards greater competitiveness within the AfCFTA landscape.



ACT was represented by Ms. Laetitia William, Mr. Khalid Ngassa, and Mr. Dionis Kawanara. They actively contributed to the design of the Business Model Canvas, which addressed market-related challenges faced by agricultural producers, ultimately supporting the growth and success of the industry.

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY WORKSHOP

The African Agribusiness Academy (AAA) organized highly impactful four-day training on Leadership and Innovation in Arusha at the Gold Crest Hotel, held from May 15th to May 18th, 2023, as part of the Beyond Farming Collective (BFC) initiative. The training brought together participants from prominent Agri-Food Industry Organizations (AFIOs) such as TAHA, ANSAF, SUGECCO, TFC, TAMPA, and TAWFA, among others.

The primary objectives of the training were to inspire and empower leaders and managers of member-based associations representing agricultural producers, processors, and traders. The aim was to equip them with the skills and knowledge needed to provide stronger and more effective leadership for their members.

The training delved into the development and enhancement of innovative and forward-thinking business models, emphasizing the importance of creating financially sustainable value propositions that cater to the specific needs of members. A seasoned trainer from KT Royal Tropical Institute, in partnership with Bopac from Nairobi, facilitated the sessions, ensuring a rich learning experience.

FO4ACP REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

The Pan African Farmers Organization (PAFO), in collaboration with its esteemed financial and technical partners, successfully organized the Farmers' Organizations for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (FO4ACP) Global Knowledge Management Event in Kigali – Rwanda from May 16th to May 18th, 2023. The event took place at the prestigious venue of the Lemigo Hotel.

The event was themed at **"Sharing the Knowledge that Makes Us Stronger,"** the FO4ACP Global Knowledge Management Event brought together Farmers' Organizations from various continents that are actively involved in implementing the FO4ACP program. This international gathering, hosted by PAFO, served as a vital platform for program partners to exchange invaluable insights and strengthen the implementation of FO4ACP.

During the event, Mr. Kolyang Palebele, President of PAFO, officiated and emphasized the ongoing need for progress, despite the notable achievements made thus far. Partners also took the opportunity to reflect on the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of FO4ACP, acknowledging the work that lies ahead to further optimize the program and ensure its long-term success.

Representing ACT, Mr. Obed Abraham, Project Lead, actively participated in the panel discussion, sharing best practices and insights related to the FO4ACP project's implementation in Mvomero. This collaboration is made possible through funding from the European Union (EU), the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), facilitated by the Southern Africa Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU).



The FO4ACP Global Knowledge Management Event served as a significant milestone in promoting knowledge sharing and fostering collaboration among Farmers' Organizations across the globe. The dedication and commitment of all participants further reinforce the collective goal of driving sustainable agricultural development and empowering farmers in the Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific regions.

YLIP GRADUATION CEREMONY

The Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU), in collaboration with Andreas Hermes Akademie (AHA-International), successfully conducted the "**Young Leader Incubation Programme - YLIP**" for aspiring agripreneurs across the SADC region. From April 25th to May 1st, SACAU organized an engaging physical session in Johannesburg, where YLIP participants had the opportunity to delve into the final modules of the program. The focus was on sharing best agricultural practices and exploring available opportunities in the sector.



This session was held in conjunction with SACAU's 2023 Annual Police Conference (AAP), which took place in Polokwane. The conference brought together 19 SACAU members from 12 different countries. Discussions revolved around the adverse effects of climate change and how National Farmer Organizations (NFOs) can effectively address these challenges. During their time in Johannesburg, YLIP participants not only gained valuable knowledge but also had the privilege of visiting two remarkable farms: Z22 and Marlo Farm. These farms showcased various agricultural practices, including the cultivation of vegetables, apples, rose flowers, and the rearing of beef cows. It was a unique opportunity for the participants to witness these operations firsthand.



At the conclusion of the Young Leader Incubation Programme, SACAU President Dr. Sinare Y. Sinare encouraged all graduates to utilize the knowledge gained throughout the program to enhance their respective businesses and make a positive impact in their home countries. As part of the delegation, ACT was well represented by Vice Chairman Mr. Jitu Soni and ACT Executive Director Mr. Timothy Mmbaga.



FIELD MISSION

From June 25th to July 4th, 2023, ACT successfully conducted a field mission across nine districts: Handeni, Kilindi, Kondo, Babati, Monduli, Meru, Hai, Siha, and Moshi Rural. This comprehensive initiative aimed to raise awareness and generate demand for Bayer Ag agricultural inputs among smallholder farmers within the project area. The dedicated team, consisting of ACT technical officers Mr. Khalid Ngassa, Mr. Obed Abraham, and Ms. Susan Masagasi, played a pivotal role in providing valuable guidance on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) while assisting farmers in exploring lucrative market opportunities for their produce.

The primary objectives of the field mission were twofold. Firstly, the team meticulously monitored the established demonstration plots, ensuring their optimal performance. Secondly, they installed demonstration boards to effectively showcase the tangible benefits and impressive results attained through the utilization of Bayer Ag agricultural inputs. Through this hands-on approach, farmers gained firsthand experience and witnessed the transformative impact of using these inputs, creating a strong demand within the agricultural community.

Collaborating closely with Bayer, this initiative aimed to enhance farmer productivity through the utilization of DEKALB seeds—a renowned and high-performing variety. The team was delighted to witness the positive outcomes of DEKALB seeds in most districts, as farmers expressed their satisfaction with the product's performance and its ability to elevate their yields.

In essence, the field mission served as a crucial means of evaluating the performance of demonstration plots, providing essential guidance to lead farmers, and identifying viable market opportunities.

The successful execution of this field mission underscores ACT's commitment to empowering smallholder farmers and promoting sustainable agricultural practices. Through strategic partnerships, technical expertise, and on-the-ground support, ACT continues to drive positive change and foster agricultural growth in Tanzania.



STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and CARE Tanzania joined forces to organize a significant two-day meeting on June 6 and 7, 2023, at the Nashera Hotel in Dodoma, Tanzania's capital city. The meeting brought together esteemed representatives from various public and private institutions, including ACT, ANSAF, SAGCOT, MoA, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MLF), Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender Elderly and Children, as well as government agencies from Iringa and Arusha, where the SCALE UP - Farmers Field Business School (FFBS) operates.

The primary objective of the meeting was to conduct a comprehensive review of the degree programs offered by SUA. This included Bachelor of Science in Applied Agricultural Extension, Bachelor of Science in Community Development (BSc. CD), Master of Science in Community Development (MSc. CD), Master of Science in Agricultural Extension, Master of Science in Agricultural Communication and Journalism (MSc.ACJ), Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural and Rural Innovation (PhD ARI), Doctor of Philosophy in Community, and Doctor of Philosophy in Community Resources and Development (By coursework and dissertation).

Dr. Rasel Madaha from SUA and Ms. Christina from CARE Tanzania presided over the meeting. Dr. Madaha emphasized the importance of aligning the agricultural extension curriculum with market demands and adapting to the evolving trends in the crop and livestock sectors. Ms. Christina shed light on the successful implementation of CARE Tanzania's SCALE UP Project - Farmers Field Business School (FFBS) in 62 villages of Iringa District Council, focusing on the sunflower and soya value chains.

The workshop served as a platform to gather stakeholders' opinions on the quality of the courses offered and identify areas for improvement. Key areas identified included streamlining the number of courses, exploring the possibility of combining similar units, and prioritizing practical knowledge through presentations and internships to develop competent professionals. Additionally, CARE Tanzania and SUA leveraged their longstanding partnership to integrate FFBS into the revised curriculum.

The collaboration between SUA, CARE Tanzania, and other stakeholders marks a significant stride towards improving agricultural education and aligning it with practical market needs. This initiative promises to nurture competent professionals who will contribute to the sustainable development of Tanzania's agriculture sector. ACT was represented by Mr. Khalid Ngassa, played an instrumental role in the meeting, providing valuable contributions to enhance the curriculum.



CLIMATE CHANGE REGIONAL WORKSHOP

The Southern Africa Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) successfully organized a Climate Change Regional Workshop on June 22nd and 23rd, 2023, at the Birchwood Hotel in Johannesburg, South Africa. The workshop brought together 87 participants from 12 countries who are esteemed members of SACAU. During the opening remarks, Mr. Ishmael Sunga, CEO of SACAU, emphasized the critical need for collaboration between governments, civil society, NGOs, and NFOs (National Farmers Organizations) in addressing the challenges posed by climate change. The regional workshop aimed to sensitize SACAU members on the significance of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in the development of the agricultural sector. It also aimed to identify and agree upon key common concerns for effective engagement of Farmers' Organizations (FOs) in NDCs and other climate-related processes.

One of the highlights of the regional workshop was the validation of research conducted in eight countries, titled ***"Assessing Engagement Mechanism for National Farmers Organizations (NFOs) in Climate Change-related Policies and Programs, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) Process at the National Level."*** Mr. Bertus Kruger, a consultant from Namibia, shed light on the opportunities for FOs to collaborate actively with governments in implementing the NDC agenda and supporting farmers in mitigating the challenges posed by climate change. ACT made a significant contribution to the regional workshop with its representatives, including Mr. Jitu Soni (Vice Chairman), Mr. Khalid Ngassa (Membership Manager), and Ms. Avelina Bernard (Policy Officer), actively participating and sharing insights. The Climate Regional Workshop served as a valuable platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and identification of strategic actions to address climate change in the agricultural sector. The commitment and engagement of participants demonstrated the collective determination to tackle the impacts of climate change and ensure a sustainable future for



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FARMERS TRAINING ON GAP

From May 3rd to 6th, 2023, ACT-Project Officer Mr. Obedi Abraham and ACT Membership Manager Mr. Khalid Ngassa organized a four-day training session on **"Good Agricultural Practices, System of Rice Intensification (SRI) Technologies, and Effective Use of Agrochemicals"**. The training aimed to equip farmers from Dakawa and Mkindo Irrigation Schemes in Mvomero district, Morogoro Region, with advanced farming techniques that improve water and resource use efficiency (WUE) and boost production in the face of a changing climate.

A total of 62 attendees (31 women and 17 youth lead farmers and 6 extension officers), participated in the training. Each lead farmer was expected to train 25 other farmers, which would bring the total number of trained farmers to approximately 1,500. The training not only provided farmers with various agricultural techniques but also served as a platform for learning, knowledge exchange, and discussions among extension officers and lead farmers. During the training, the focus was to ensure farmers receive comprehensive knowledge on the proper handling and usage of agrochemicals. This activity is part of the FO4ACP project (2019-2023), funded by SACAU, with a target of reaching at least 16,000 smallholder farmers, including women and youth, in the Mvomero district. The project focuses on providing climate-smart practices training, including the System of Rice Intensification and other Good Agricultural Practices, emphasizing proper agrochemical use.

Currently, the project has already reached 19,000 smallholder farmers in Mvomero (Mkindo and Dakawa). In its final year of implementation (December 2023), it aims to expand its reach to a total of 24,000 beneficiaries. The project's goal is to empower more farmers with sustainable and efficient farming techniques, ultimately improving their livelihoods and promoting agricultural resilience in the region.



Participants posed for a group photo during the GAPS training in MKindo

LINKAGE MEETING

On May 10th and 11th, 2023 ACT organized a two-day workshop on **"business linkages"** for farmers from Dakawa and Mkindo Irrigation Schemes in Mvomero district, Morogoro Region. The main objective was to facilitate and support business connections between agro-inputs service providers and smallholder farmers. A total of 74 participants attended the linkage meetings, including 62 lead farmers, 6 agro-dealers, and 6 extension officers from both Mkindo and Dakawa. During the workshop, participants engaged in discussions regarding pricing, payment procedures, product conditions, and other factors that contribute to creating a mutually beneficial business environment.

Farmers highlighted significant challenges they face since the introduction of the subsidy system, such as the timely availability of inputs and pricing issues. Additionally, limited access to finance poses further obstacles for smallholder farmers, hindering their ability to maximize available resources for optimal performance. These constraints are influenced by various factors, including pricing, risks, transactional difficulties, and the overall accessibility and ease of rural agricultural financing. The linkage meeting was part of the negotiation training provided to lead farmers through the FO4ACP project (2019-2023), which is funded by the Southern Africa Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU). The facilitators for the linkage meeting included Mr. Obedi Abraham and Mr. Khalid Ngassa from ACT Secretariat, along with Mr. Hoziel Foya, the ACT contact person in Mvomero



Mission & Vision

MISSION

To advocate, coordinate and provide support for a competitive and sustainable agribusiness.

VISION

A vibrant and prosperous sustainable Agricultural sector which is competitive and ensures food and nutritional security; and is private sector driven.

Editorial Board

- Mr. Timoth Mmbaga – Board Chair
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ACT Strategic Objectives

- To advocate for improved agri-business environment
- To strengthen the technical and managerial competencies of ACT members so that they can improve service delivery to their respective members.
- To provide and receive relevant information from and to ACT Members and other stakeholders for development of the agricultural sector in Tanzania.
- To support and strengthen the Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) at national and district level.
- To coordinate the Public and private sector initiatives towards the development of agribusiness in Tanzania.

This Is PFS

Partnership for Scale project, coordinates and facilitates different value chain actors and stakeholders under a Public Private Partnership (PPP). The project intends to complement and upscale achievements made during the previous phase (popularly known as TAP II). TAP II (October 2014-October 2019) thrived to stimulate agricultural growth in Tanzania through commercially oriented interventions and investments. The project is being implemented for 3 years i.e., from October 2020 to September 2023. It is managed by the Agricultural Council of Tanzania.

PFS Goals

The PFS goal is: Improved Food & Nutrition Security and Poverty Reduction. Income poverty is expected to be reduced by 17 percent and child malnutrition decreased by 5 percent.

Approaches

The TAP program, since its inception, has focused on working through partnerships that greatly contributed to its success in the preceding phases. PFS will adopt a similar approach where the key mode of operation will be guided by partnership building. The PFS Management, under ACT, will coordinate and assume a more facilitative role with minimal direct field presence to ensure that these partnerships are strengthened and desired outcomes are delivered.

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PFS is responsible to ACT Board of Directors