

# Empowering Smallholder Youth and Women Farmers on Rice Postharvest Management and Marketing

(RIPOMA)

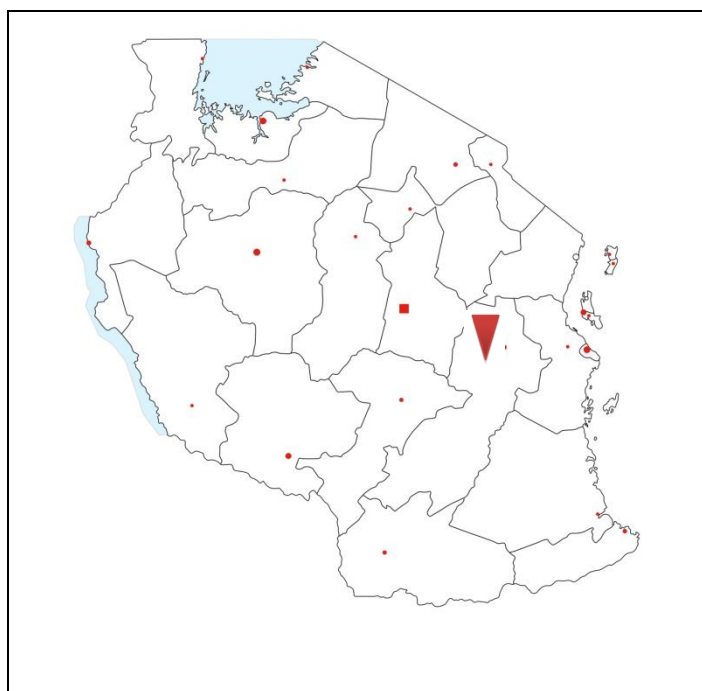


In partnership with the European Union

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The project "Rice Postharvest Management, RIPOMA" developed by HELVETAS and its partners, aims at empowering smallholder women and youth farmers on Rice Postharvest Management and Marketing through capacity building in Good Agricultural Practises, Market systems, Financial services and investment in postharvest Infrastructures.



## Key Information

Sector: Agriculture

Lead Partner: HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation

Other Partners: CODERT, SIDO, DBB and JRT

Budget: EUR 1.875 million (EU funding 1.5 million)

Duration: 2017- 2020

## Background

The National Agriculture Policy (2013) identifies rice as a crop with high potential to increase national and farmers' incomes. About 25% of the national rice production comes from Mbeya and Morogoro regions.

The Tanzania rice sub sector is fast growing with an average growth rate of 8.2% p.a. However, this subsector especially in Morogoro region is hampered by several challenges including reliance on rain due to lack of sufficient irrigation infrastructures, low productivity, high post-harvest loss, insufficient storage and processing capacity, poor road infrastructure, limited access to affordable finance and credits and weak market linkages.

Two studies 2012, 2015 conducted by HELVETAS in central corridor regions, Morogoro inclusive revealed that rice farming is dominated by subsistence farmers (aged 19-45 years) with more than 75%. The studies also found that ownership of assets, in particular land and farm implements is dominated by men, although women form 60-80% of the agricultural labor force.

Overall results indicated that youth and women play a significant role in rice and maize farming and therefore special attention to empower them with technical and entrepreneurship skills as well as ownership of assets is urgently needed, to reduce poverty and foster job creation and poverty reduction.



## Project Details

To contribute to economic development and reducing poverty in SAGCOT through improved rice value chains and market linkages of smallholder farmers. To achieve this objective, the project addresses the challenges mentioned in Morogoro region, Kilosa and Mvomero districts, by implementing the following activities:

Capacity building and training of rice producers (farmers) on Postharvest Technologies; Strengthening technical services provision on postharvest management (PHM) and input supply chains; Raising awareness on National Rice Development strategy and advocating for the existence of PHM strategy; Training farmers on entrepreneurship and market Linkages; Promote market research through visits, trade fairs and media; Support on construction and rehabilitation of storage facilities; Capacity building on operations and management of farmer groups and Warehouse receipt system; Creation and capacity building of saving and lending system; Training farmers on Good agricultural practices, gender and social equity, HIV/AIDS, environment and Management Information system.

The project uses the **market system development approach** collaborating with public and private sectors and ensuring project's sustainability. Ministry of Agriculture orients LGAs on rice strategy, CODERT facilitates on access to finance, SIDO trains farmers on entrepreneurship and market linkages, Mkindo FTC trains lead farmers on GAP and PHM. Additional sub-contractors on rice value addition and best technologies in harvesting and storage are involved.

RIPOMA project is funded by the European Union (with 80% contribution) and HELVETAS (with 20% contribution).

## Expected Results

In the first year of project implementation, RIPOMA hired and trained project staff. Strong relationship was established with relevant authorities at local, regional and Ministry level. Community detailed need assessments in the target project villages. MoUs established through formal agreements with the partners. Project start up workshop conducted to staff, partners and government officials, Steering/advisory committee formed, 24 target villages were sensitized on the project, 70 rice farmer groups established along with 70 demo plots, saving and credit, 71 lead farmer farmers and 70 CRPs trained at established and RIPOMA, 62 farmers trained on rice value addition and 4 rice value addition infrastructures constructed and 67 farmer groups started saving and lending.

The main end result is the final beneficiaries (15 rural people) improve the life as well as benefit from sustainable increased income and improved food security. By 2020, the project will benefit/ invest:

- 15,000 rural people
- 3000 farmer households
- 100 farmer groups
- 100 lead farmers
- 100 community resource persons (CRPs)
- 40 villages and their extension officers
- 10 artisans
- 9 farmer associations
- 6 warehouses for storage and marketing
- 5 cooperatives
- 15 agro-dealers & 15 rice millers

Furthermore 100 saving and lending associations (VSLA) will be created and provide micro-scale financial intermediation. With the capacitated CRPs will contribute to longterm group stability and sustainability.

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