

and local investors). MVIWATA has been very active in land rights matters, especially in partnership with Land Rights Research Institute (HAKIARDHI) who together with other 5 organisations have formed a Tanzania Land Alliance (TALA). Together, we have investigated human rights abuses in land issues, to push for bringing the perpetrators to justice; defence of evicted families as the case was in Mbigiri Village in Kilosa District; Itete Ulanga District. Through TALA, we have engaged legislators and the government in amending Land Act of 1999 and its recent by laws.

In partnership with Misereor MVIWATA has facilitated provision of customary titles to 727 persons (244women and 483 men) as a way of ensuring land security to the farmers.

In terms of trade advocacy, MVIWATA with other parts especially in Trade Coalition have worked hard to ask the government to look at the implications of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) before signing, which happened to be a successful action.

In 2012, MVIWATA was awarded by Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) FANRPAN, a movers and shakers award in recognition of policy advocacy work that MVIWATA has been doing.

Gender and HIV/AIDS: In terms of gender actions, the work of MVIWATA has gradually and systematically increased gender awareness amongst smallholder farmers paving the way for some women to participated more actively in development and economic activities. Training on leadership and exposure of farmers through gender programmes such as festivals has increased women engagement in economic activities. In Arusha for example, the intervention of MVIWATA Arusha has enabled women who are involved in handicrafts making to get a fair prices on their products by linking them to markets in Sweden in which about 260 women producers of handicrafts have been trading handicrafts of about Euro 155,500. In this way changing lives of rural families.

MVIWATA supported creation of social centres in Matai, Igurusi and Kasanga rural markets in which market users, especially farmers can access voulutantry counselling, care and treatment in which local organisations, namely SHIDEPHA and Olive Branch provide VCT services. 1500 persons ask Hasira are estimated to receive VCT services per year from these three centres.

Market Access: For the last ten years MVIWATA embarked on promotion of rural markets infrastructures as a way of linking producers to markets in their production areas. The initiative has aimed at improving market conditions and accessibility of production areas by traders. Nine rural markets have been constructed through this initiative. Kibagwa market on its own has contributed 665,493.00 tons of maize from 2004 to 2012 in worths T Shs 188,468,208,000.00 (about Euro 90m Euro 1=Tshs 2100). The markets constructed by have contributed substantially to feed the cities but also contributed in generating income to over 100,000 smallholder farmers around the markets. On the other side the markets have created huge economic impact in market locations increasing economic activities and therefore creating employment apart from contributing to the local government revenue. In 2013 alone Kongwa District Council collected T shs 329,404,055 as levy from Kibagwa market.

Market information system: To address the challenges of is access to market information to smallholder farmers, since 2010, MVIWATA designed and gradually improved an agricultural marketing information system, abbreviated as (MAMIS) to smallholder farmers have made informed decisions basing on correct price information. Ever since the system has recorded about 73200 in 2012 and 2013 and benefitted not less than 15,000 persons which have used this information. The system has linked markets users covering 27 rural and urban consumer markets and has provided the service that was never available before. In 2013, 224 tons of maize worth 147,600,000/= were purchased through the system. The system has attracted not only market users but also many actors whoh have been attracted to learn how the system works.

Financial services: In terms of financial services, at least 100 smallholder savings and credit cooperatives and associations have been created and supported by MVIWATA in its endeavor to facilitate access to financial services to

smallholder farmers in Tanzania. About 500,000 farmers per year are able to access loans of an average T.Shs 5 billion per year. By 2013, an average of T.Sh 10 billion loans have been given to 17,871 members half of whom are women. The loans have been used to transform lives of smallholder farmers by increasing their production and address social challenges such as school fees and medicines. .

Food security: Over 10000 smallholder farmers have benefitted from the programmes to support agricultural production. Farmers which have undergone training in production have been able to increase their production and therefore have more food and income from the production. The food security has also been improved through the cereal banking systems in which at 4000 farmers are engaged in the system in Morogoro, Dodoma and Njombe regions to mention a few.

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Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima Tanzania. (MVIWATA)

*“ Mtetezi wa Mkulima ni Mkulima Mwenyewe”
“The defender of a farmer is a farmer!”*

MVIWATA in a nutshell

Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima Tanzania (MVIWATA) is a farmers’ organisation which unites small holder farmers in order to have a common voice in defence of economic, social, cultural and political interests of smallholder farmers. It is the National Network of Small-scale Farmers Groups in Tanzania.

MVIWATA was founded in 1993 by 22 innovative farmers from Morogoro, Iringa, Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, Rukwa and Dodoma regions for the purpose of creating a farmer-to-farmer exchange forum. Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) through its Strengthening Communication Project (SUA-SCOM) which guided the initial process in the formation of MVIWATA.

It was registered in 1995 under the Society Ordinance Act (Reg.no.SO8612), in 2000 as the Trust Fund. In 2007 MVIWATA received a compliance certificate under the NGO Act of 2002 (Reg.no 1930). The national office of MVIWATA is situated in Morogoro town.

Our Goal: To unite smallscale farmers (including all small holder producers, whose livelihood depend on land such as pastoralists and fisher folks) in order to defend their interests and address together the challenges of farmers.

Our mission: To strengthen farmers’ groups and networks, facilitate communication and learning among farmers for the purpose of defending the interests of small scale farmers

Our vision: To become a strong national farmers’ organisation that will guarantee small-scale farmers’ participation



MVIWATA Annual General Meeting, as a tool to strengthen democracy in the organization



President Jakaya Kikwete congratulates MVIWATA Senior Officials at the FANR-PAN award to individuals and institutions, MVIWATA won the award as recognition to its efforts in liberating small scale farmers



President of United Republic of Tanzania, Dr.Jakaya Kikwete launching the Igagala Market in Njombe built by MVIWATA under European Union funding.

and representation in socio-economic and policy dialogue process as well as monitoring social and economic development processes at all levels.

The slogan of MVIWATA is “ *Mtetezi wa Mkulima ni Mkulima Mwenyewe*”, literally means, “The defender of a farmer is a farmer!”

Objectives of MVIWATA

- 1. To facilitate communication among small scale farmers in order to build collective strategies for defending farmers interests
- 2. To facilitate exchange of knowledge, experiences and skills on farming and activities which aim at improving the livelihood of farmers
- 3. To represent smallholder farmers in matters and decision making bodies of interests to small holder farmers

Strategies of MVIWATA

- 1. Organising farmers into strong groups and networks through, through which farmers attain common voice platforms to advocate for their interests.
- 2. Capacity building of small-scale farmers on lobbying and advocacy through training .
- 3. Economic empowrment of small scale farmers through creation of projects such as savings and credit, cereal banks, rural tourism and other rural enterprises
- 1. Affiliation with national and international networks and organisations for lobbying and advocacy purposes. These include La Via Campesina, the International Land Coalition (ILC), the Eastern and Southern African Farmers Forum (ESAFF), Eastern African Farmers Federation (EAFF), Participatory Ecological and Land Use Management network (PELUM)

Programmes and projects

Current programmes include the following;

- 1. **Project Supporting MVIWATA Strategic Plan** which funded by Irish Aid
- 2. **Involving Small scale farmers in Policy Dialogue and Monitoring for Improved Food Security in the East African Region**, the project is funded by the European Union and implemented in partnership between ESAFF, MVIWATA and GRET.
- 3. **Enhancing the skills of Farmer Organizations under MVIWATA Network for Improved Market Opportunities, Increased Income and Improved Livelihoods.** The project is implemented in Mbarali, Njombe, Mvomero, Kiteto and Kongwa districts funded by AGRA
- 4. **Strengthening MVIWATA Networks and Producer Groups on Agribusiness and entrepreneurship Skills**

Development to Ensure Financial Sustainability, the project is implemented in Morogoro, Shinyanga and in Kilimanjaro and is funded by AGRITERA

- 5. **Farmers’Voice Project to Contribute to the Empowerment of Smallholders’ Participation in Food Security related policy processes in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda**, funded by European Union and MVIWATA is part of partnership.
- 6. **Strengthen Advocacy Capacity of smallholder Farmers in Reinforcing Accountability and Resource Availability in Agricultural Sector**, funded by TRUST-AFRICA
- 7. **Nafaka Project**, funded by USAID through Feed the Future Programme and MVIWATA implements a portion under subcontract by ACDI/VOCA which is the implementer.
- 8. **Lake Nyasa Ecosystem and livelihood project** implemented in Kyela and Ludewa districts, funded by SIDA through We Effect.
- 9. **Farm Risk Management for Africa project (FARMAF)**, funded by European Union in collaboration with Agrinatura
- 10. **Malimbichi Project** which aims at development of horticulture sector in Morogoro, Mvomero and Ruaha Valley. The project is funded by EU through EDF and is implemented by MVIWATA in partnership with Gret.

Membership

MVIWATA has three types of membership

Ordinary members, which fall into two categories;

- a) farmers groups
- b) individual farmer whose membership is acquired through the group. The farmer becomes a member of MVIWATA automatically after his/her group or network has been registered as a member.

Organisation, association and networkswhich are owned by small-sccale farmers and whose objectives are compliant with the mission of MVIWATA can be eligible for membership

Associate members

Is any person, institution or a group of people, who cannot become ordinary members but whose contribution can be outstanding and can enhance the mission of MVIWATA. Currently, MVIWATA has over 150,000 individual small-scale farmers through their groups

Partners

Partners of MVIWATA includes the governments of United Republic of Tanzania, Revolution Government of Zanzibar,

Republic of Ireland through Irish Aid, European Union, Swedish Cooperative Centre (We Effect) of Sweden, Agriterra of Netherlands, Trias of Belgium, Gret of France, Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and ACDI/VOCA of United States of America. Earlier MVIWATA worked with such organisations as French Agency for Development (AFD), Oxfam, VECO of Belgium, IFAD, MS of Denmark and Intermon.

Membership

MVIWATA is a member of La Via Campesina, International Land Coalition (ILC), Eastern and Southern Farmers Forum (ESAFF), East African Farmers Federation (EAFF), Participatory Ecological Land Use Management network (PELUM), Agricultural Non-State Actors (ANSAF), Inades Formation Tanzania and Tanzania Land Alliance (TALA).

Achievements

Organising small scale farmers in Tanzania: MVIWATA has facilitated organisation of small scale farmers in Tanzania in groups and networks starting from village level to the national level. Step by step MVIWATA has been building membership in all regions of Tanzania to reach at least 150,000 members and over 2 million beneficiaries of MVIWATA interventions. The groups and networks have participated in sustainable production, savings and credit activities, markets and social activities.

Advocacy work: MVIWATA has participated effectively in advocacy work on land, trade and markets, seeds protection and recently process on national constitution There has been increased engagement of farmers in national, regional and international policy issues. This has been attributed by the recognition of MVIWATA as a key player in national policies resulted in participation of MVIWATA representatives in committees and decisions making bodies in research bodies, government agencies and in national consultations. Most recent has been effective participation in the national dialogue on constitutional changes in which two members of MVIWATA were appointed by the President of United Republic of Tanzania to become members of the Constitutional Assembly.

Generally land issues have been one of the hot issues in the local context of Tanzania. The main issues are the security of local smallholder producers, increasing conflicts between farmers and pastoralists on one hand and small holder producers (pastoralists and farmers alike) with large scale investors (normally, large foreign companies



Veronica Sophu, a smallholder farmer,who is also the deputy chairperson for MVIWATA Board as she contributes in the Constitution Assembly recently



A section of Igurusi market, in Mbarali Mbeya, the market was built by MVIWATA under European Union funding.



MVIWATA members drying fish at the newly built Kasanga Fish Market in Ruvuma.



Experts performing artificial insemination on a cow



Smallholder farmers in a session of learning best agronomic practices at one of demonstration plot



A section of Kibaigwa Market in Dodoma. The market has significant contribution to market system, improving farmers lives and to Kibaigwa town growth



A guest house in Lushoto Tanga that was built under the Rural Tourism project. The project is implemented by MVIWATA in collaboration with other partners



Vice President Dr Garib Billal touring the Igurusi Rice Market in Mbarali, Mbeya.



A forum to debate New Constitution. Open dialogue is one of ways used by MVIWATA to empower its members