

Africa Rising – Phase II

Project Duration

October 2017 – September 2020

Budget

\$3,000,000

Focus Areas

Morogoro, Iringa, and Mbeya regions

Implementer

International Institute of Tropical Agriculture

Partners

District Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock Cooperatives Offices; ACDI/VOCA; International Center for Tropical Agriculture; Agricultural and Horticultural Research Training Institutes; and Meru Agro Seed Co.

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Africa Rising Phase II activity collaborates with the Feed the Future Tanzania Nafaka (“Grains”) activity to address persistent constraints to smallholder agricultural productivity and rural well-being in three focus regions (Morogoro, Iringa and Mbeya). This includes introducing resilient crop varieties, diversifying and increasing food supply and income sources, improving nutrition, and addressing soil and land degradation.

The activity engages a wide range of experts to achieve its objectives, including researchers, members of farmers associations, village-based agricultural advisors, agro dealers, and processors.

These efforts help smallholder farmers apply the latest technologies, practices, and innovations in their work.

Through these partnerships, NAFKA and Africa RISING work together to:

- Introduce and promote improved and resilient varieties of food crops (maize and rice)
- Spread sustainable agriculture practices such as crop rotation to improve soil health and improving varieties of seed
- Protect land and water resources and foster agricultural biodiversity

- Improve household nutrition by introducing and expanding guidelines for assisting small-scale farmers in producing legume crops (soybean, groundnuts, and beans)
- Introduce and promote management technologies immediately following harvest to reduce losses and bring quality up to market standards

RESULTS

By introducing improved varieties and better management practices, Africa RISING and NAFKA together are expected to improve productivity, incomes, and nutrition for 54,000 smallholder maize, rice, and legume farm households. As a result of these efforts, about 60,000 hectares of smallholder farmers' land will be operating with improved technologies as a result of project assistance by 2020.

In addition, the use of technologies — including improved mechanical shelling, solar-drying for grain, and storage in sealed hermetic bags — will minimize food waste and exposure to environmental contaminants, such as mold-based aflatoxin, in over 190 villages.

The activity has already introduced nutrient-rich vegetables adapted to local conditions within approximately 6,000 households. Furthermore, Africa Rising, in collaboration with Nafaka, has trained and supplied 233 Quality Declared Seed producers. These seeds generate additional revenues while increasing the availability of improved rice and legume seed varieties to smallholder farmers. Quality Declared Seed production is anticipated to generate over 360 metric tons of improved seed varieties, worth almost \$275,000 USD (650 million Tanzanian Shillings).