

# MEATU DISTRICT COUNCIL



## DISTRICT AGRICULTURE SECTOR INVESTMENT PROJECT-DASIP

### PROGRESS REPORT 2009/2010 QUARTER IV

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2010

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Most funds for implementation of investment micro projects were released towards the end of Quarter IV in the FY under review.

As at June 30, 2010 the District Council Authority had received a cumulative total of Tshs. 385,438,500 from PCU. The funds were set for implementation of various activities in both **Community Planning and Investment in Agriculture** and **Farmers Capacity Building** Components as shown in the Table below.

Component	Sub-component	Amount budgeted (Tshs)	Amount received (Tshs)	Amount spent (Tshs)	Balance
Community planning and investment in agriculture	Community investment micro projects	267,414,000	180,204,500	9,127,500	171,077,000
	Agriculture Technologies	116,077,000	28,923,000	28,923,000	0
Farmer Capacity Building	Farmers training	92,300,000	176,311,000	157,911,000	18,400000
<b>Total</b>		<b>475,791,000</b>	<b>385,438,500</b>	<b>195,961,500</b>	<b>189,477,000</b>

The overall implementation status under Community investment micro projects sub component is far behind the Annual Plan of Work (APW) following non-transfer of funds from PCU. This was caused by misunderstandings between District Council Authority and PCU over expenditure of Tshs. 176,000,000 that had been erroneously transferred by PCU towards construction of Malwilo-Lingeka feeder road under **Medium Scale Investments** sub component.

In view of the above, much time was used to chart out initiatives to break the stalemate than implement the planned projects. Following the scenario, implementation of most investment projects will start in the first Quarter of FY 2010/2011, as a consequence of late fund releases.

Projects to be implemented include 3 crop storage facilities, 2 micro irrigation schemes, 1 feeder road and 1 chaco dam. Physical and financial implementation progress reports will be quarterly submitted alongside planned projects for FY 2010/2011.

However, 7 small tractors (popularly known as *power tillers*) have been procured. The 6 tillers were procured with funds released in FY 2009/2010 and 1 with carried over funds from FY 2008/2009.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The main objective of the District Council in Agriculture sector is '*Quantity and Quality of Economic Services and Infrastructures Improved*'.

Major activities/micro projects towards achieving this objective include construction of crop storage facilities, livestock dipping facilities, chaco dams, rural feeder roads and micro-irrigation schemes. Others include farming implements and farmers and staff capacity building.

Following delayed funds releases up to the Quarter under review, the major task was to continue with supervision and monitoring of services provision for completed projects and farmers training through FFSs Methodology in 30 villages.

## 2.0 ACHIEVEMENTS

### 2.1 Livestock dipping facilities

- After completion of 3 livestock dipping facilities funded in FY 2007/2008 and 5 facilities funded in FY 2008/2009, a total of 28,827 head of cattle, 6,532 goats and 3,008 sheep have access to reliable dipping services at Bukundi, Mwangwila, Isengwa, Minyanda, Mwangayi, Mwakaluba, Usiulize and Lubiga villages.

It is expected that livestock mortality rate from tick-borne diseases will be reduced from 75 % to 25 % by 2013.

### 2.2 Crop storage facilities

- There are 5 fully operational crop storage facilities at Mwabusalu, Mwamanongu, Mwambiti, Mwakasumbi and Paji villages. Field survey records have shown that grain post harvest losses have been reduced from an average of 60 % to 10 % where the facilities are properly used like in Mwabusalu village.

### 2.3 Small tractors (power tillers)

- Presence of small tractors is a landmark achievement in the district *agro mechanization* domain. It is expected that proper use and maintenance of the implements will contribute immensely towards improved agricultural production and productivity. Proper care of the implements will need to be adhered to.

## 3.0 OVERALL STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

As narrated earlier, implementation of investment projects was marred by a state of lack of funds for the aforesaid reasons. Annexes 1 and 2 attached herewith show the detailed situation on a case-by-case basis as regards to physical and financial implementations.

### **3.1. Village Micro Projects and Agricultural Technology Sub component**

With the exception of a crop storage facility at Mwashata village, all other funded projects have not yet started. Construction of crop storage facility at Mwashata village is on the right track. The building has reached the *lentel* level. Funds for other projects have been transferred to village project bank accounts at Itaba, Mbushi, Mwakisandu, Lata, Bukundi and Tindabuligi villages.

Invitation of tenders from eligible and reputable bidders and commencement of works are scheduled for Quarter I, 2010/2011.

### **3.2 Medium size Rural Infrastructure sub component**

The District Council Authority has earmarked project site for Irrigation Scheme at Mwachwila village with a total of 100 ha. Consultants engaged by PCU have arrived and were introduced to the Authority as a first step to put the envisaged intervention into effect. Cooperation will be extended to the consultants as required in the subsequent project development stages.

### **3.3 Farmer Training Sub component**

In this sub component, farmers' participatory training through 180 PFGs was undertaken. The training is in the final stages, and 4,111 farmers are expected to graduate in a ceremony scheduled for July 2010.

## **4.0 ISSUES AND CHALLENGES**

The following are the recorded major challenges and issues in the FY 2009/2010.

### **4.1 Late fund release from PCU**

Late fund releases have resulted into delays and postponement of projects planned for execution as per Annual Plan of Work.

### **4.2 Low community contribution spirit**

Community members are not responsive enough towards fulfillment of their mandatory contributions for their own-identified interventions. This leads to delays in implementation and/or reduced sense of ownerships for the completed projects, e.g. there is relatively little progress in mobilization of contributions from beneficiaries for *power tillers*.

### **4.3 Late and/or failure to open bank accounts**

There has generally been delayed opening of bank accounts for channeling funds from PCU as directed. Most affected areas include disbursements of mini-grants and PFGs undergoing training through FFS methodology.

## **4.5 Drought**

This has negatively impacted on the results of FFS, most of which involved field crop enterprises.

## **4.6 Money-based over expectations by PFG members**

Some PFG members look upon FFS as an economic venture rather than a learning ground. In that sense, they would wish to divide among themselves little funds for plots inputs and other training materials than pursue training modules in the provided season-long curricula. This leads to member drop outs and poor cooperation in FFS activities.

## **5.0 MEASURES TAKEN**

During the implementation period, some coping up measures and initiatives have been taken to mitigate the effects of the above stated challenges. Some of them include:

- To raise Tshs. 176,000,000 from Council's own-sources and re-channel the same to DASIP-eligible micro projects and Agriculture technologies so as to break the year-long deadlock that led to withholding of funds by PCU.
- To continue with sensitization campaigns towards timely contributions from community members and other beneficiaries.
- To procure some indispensable inputs for PFGs in order to operate in accordance with season farming calendar. Failure to do so would lead to failure of farmers' training through FFSs in all 30 villages.
- To enhance persuasive strategies to PFG members to view the training as opportunity for skills and knowledge acquisition that would later bring them benefits through increased production for their farm-based enterprises.

## **6.0 STRATEGIES IN THE FY 2010/2011**

In the FY 2010/2011, the following course of action will be adhered to.

1. To hasten implementation paces for project whose funds are available.
2. To continue with community contribution mobilization campaigns
3. To enhance participatory monitoring in project sites and periodic evaluations.

## **7.0 WAY FORWARD**

In the implementation District Agricultural Development Plan (DADP) 2010/2011, stress will be put on the following:

### **7.1 Sustainable services from the projects**

To enable the community members prepare a well-defined plan for sustainable utilization of completed projects; namely dip tanks, feeder roads and crop storage facilities. Capacity building programs for village Project Committees will be formulated and implemented in each of 30 villages.

## **7.2 Community involvement and participation**

To enter into memoranda of understanding with beneficiary communities in villages on modalities to ensure their compliance to contribution obligations and acquisition of quarrel-free projects sites. This will be done before funds are transferred to their respective village bank accounts.

## **7.3 Peer knowledge and skills transfer**

To ensure that knowledge and skills gained in season-long training through FFSs are transferred to farmers' individual common fields for improved crop and livestock production. The stress will also be laid to attain a multiplier effect by using graduated farmers to train their fellow farmers.