

MEATU DISTRICT COUNCIL



DISTRICT AGRICULTURE SECTOR INVESTMENT PROJECT-DASIP

SEMIANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2008/2009

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Annex 1: General Implementation Statuses of microprojects in the 1st Half of FY 2008/2009

Annex 2: Implementation Status for Activities under Farmer Training Sub-component Quarter II -2008/2009

Annex 3: Proposed Plan and Budget for FY 2008/2009

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INTRODUCTION

In the 1st Half of the year under review, the major task has been to supervise and monitor implementation process for 9 projects, whose funds were carried over from FY 2007/2008 and to inaugurate those that were completed. Parallel to this major overall activity, preparation of season long Farmer Field schools (FFSs) continued in all 30 villages covered by the Project.

2.0 PLANS IN THE 1ST HALF OF FY 2008/2009

The annual plan was to accomplish 9 2007/2008 projects, implement 21 new community investment microprojects and installation of 6 units of Agricultural Value Adding technologies for the FY 2008/2009- at a cost of Tsh.833,945,000 (community contribution inclusive).

In the 1st quarter, the District Council planned to clear the backlog and commence implementation of 2008/2009 Plan in the 2nd quarter (Annex No.3). However, no funds have so far been received to date regarding implementations of micro-projects in FY 2008/2009.

3.0 ACTUAL OVERALL STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of projects/activities (by Sub-Components) in the semi annual period under review is as concisely depicted hereunder:

3.1. Village micro projects and agricultural technology Sub component

1. 3 Dip tanks at Mwagwila, Bukundi and Isengwa villages.
2. Construction 3 of grain storage facilities at Mwaokoli, Mwabusalu and Mwambiti villages
3. Construction of 1 micro- irrigation scheme at Mwangudo village
4. Construction of 9 km rural road stretch: Mwandulubiga – Mwangayi

With the exception of micro-irrigation scheme at Mwangudo village and crop storage facility at Mwaokoli village, the rest of the projects are completed and ready for use for the intended purposes.

3.2. Medium size Rural Infrastructure sub component

Construction of 20 km rural feeder road: Malwilo-Lingeka-Mwashata

So far, 17.5 km of earthwork is completed at a cost of Tsh.176, 000,000. However; this project has been removed from the list of DASIP funded projects following settlement of misunderstandings that surrounded the transference of funds to district DASIP bank account by PCU and expenditure of the same by District Council Authority for the project in question.

In effect therefore, the project is now District Council-funded and that the latter is in the process of raising funds (Tsh.176, 000,000) from other sources for re-allocation to respective villages for implementation of 2008/2009 Village Plans in accordance with PCU funding procedures.

3.3. Farmer Training Sub component

In this sub component, a total of 180 Farmer Field Schools (FFSs), 6 in each of 30 DASIP-supported villages have been formed. The FFSs are meant for season-long farmer training in 2008/2009 farming season. A total of 30 Farmer Facilitators are already identified, trained and made aware of their roles and responsibilities in the course of training.

- Overall physical and financial statuses of implementation for micro-projects/activities are indicated in the Annexes No.1 and 2.

4.0 ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

4.1 Poor community contribution

As was reported in the 1st Quarter, this has been a greater setback in timely projects completion.

4.2 Low capacity for community members to manage projects.

This takes the form of failure and/or lack of commitment by the community members to use and manage projects after completion and inauguration. This is particularly salient in projects with service fees component e.g. dip tanks.

4.3 Late funds transference from PCU for implementation of 2008/2009 plan

To date, the district council has received no funds for implementation of micro projects set out for this FY. Now that this is the 2nd Quarter, the remaining implementation period is only quarters 3rd and 4th. If funds will not be released in early January 2009, general 2008/2009 implementation plan will be adversely disrupted.

4.4 High costs associated with preparation of micro irrigation schemes

These projects require collaboration with Zonal Irrigation Technicians in the areas of reconnaissance and detailed surveys and designs. In this case, relatively large amount of funds are spent in preparatory stages at the expense of the size of real physical structures.

4.5 Incapacity of beneficiaries to contribute in cash.

Implementation of projects whose nature require community members to contribute in cash is generally difficult. Such projects take long time to completion, while others are never completed at all without bail-out from some other sources of funds. The case in point is Mwangudo micro irrigation scheme.

5.0 LESSONS LEARNED

In the course of implementation, several lessons were learnt. The latter need to be tackled for improved efficiency in project implementation and sustainable management of economic and service providing projects.

The following were the observed situations.

5.1 Use of chargeable services

Farmers and livestock keepers are not motivated in using services that are associated with payment of service fees. This is observable in utilization of livestock dipping facilities at Isengwa na Mwajolo villages. Strategies to counteract this situation included:

- 5.1.1 More advocacy and sensitization campaigns to the livestock owning community segment on socio-economics associated with usage of livestock dipping infrastructure.

5.1.2 To advise central government on the need to increase the scale of subsidy on *acaricide*. The current market price for *acaricide* is at Tsh.19, 000- 22,000 per liter (subsidy inclusive). Alone this is a disincentive to most livestock keepers.

5.1.3 To make dipping services compulsory with punitive measures spelt out to livestock owners.

5.2 Position of microprojects in agriculture sector

Microprojects in the much politicized Education and Health sectors take precedence over those in the Agriculture sector. This leads to difficulty mobilization of community human, financial and material resources to meet 20 % of 50 % contribution commitments.

6.0. ACTIONS TAKEN AGAINST CHALLENGING SITUATIONS

6.1 Increased involvement of Leadership

To continue with the involvement of civic and government executive leaders at ward and village level in sensitizing community members to meet their contribution commitments

6.2 Exploration into possibilities of co-financing

To continue efforts to sensitize and mobilize complementary financial resources from beneficiaries themselves at Mwangudo micro-irrigation scheme and government (Local and Central) and non governmental Institutions.

6.3 Capacity Building and enhancement

To train Village Project Committee Members in project management basics on a case by case basis.

6.4 By-Laws

To instigate the process of formation of by-laws that enforce compulsory accessing of various services e.g. compulsory livestock dipping.

7.0 PLANS IN THE 3rd AND 4TH QUARTERS 2008/2009

In the 2nd half of FY 2008/2009, the District Council Authority is planning to do the following:

- 7.1 To request PCU to release funds within early January, 2009
- 7.2 To conduct capacity strengthening course to Village Project Supervision Committees on procurement procedures at the community level
- 7.3 To transfer funds to the respective village bank accounts and undertake close participatory monitoring and supervision of implementation process at all villages on 'an eyes on- hands off' arrangements.
- 7.4 To implement Medium Size Community Investment projects, namely 20 km rural feeder road and irrigation scheme.

8.0 WAY FORWARD

In the 2nd part of the annual implementation Plan, stress will be put on the following:

8.1 Measures to put in to use completed 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.

8.2 Measure to ensure community involvement, participation and contributions

To enter into memoranda of understanding with communities in villages implementing 2008/2009 micro projects on modalities to ensure their contribution and acquisition of quarrel-free projects sites. This will be done before funds are transferred to their respective village bank accounts.

