

# The Impact of Agriculture Resource Center on Dissemination of Agricultural Innovations to Youth and Women Farmers



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## INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is termed as backbone of most African countries economy, and its mainstay of not less than 75% residents. But not much efforts are made to improve African farming, as the results still majority farmers are smallholder working hard in traditional ways

facing many challenges including food insecurity due to low production and high postharvest losses. Always extension services is blamed to be the source of poor performance of the sector. In efforts to improve extension services, the Kinondoni Municipality established Agriculture Resource Centre. Fig I.



Fig I. Group picture main office

## **OBJECTIVE**

The main objective of the establishment of the Centre was to fill the gap of knowledge transfer, from research centers or universities to reach majority poor farmers. Since most of innovations are stalked on shelves in research centers or universities libraries and very few are displayed during professional shows and expos in which few farmers afford to visit and learn, even those who are able to visit the exhibition time is too short to grasp anything. Poor linkage between Universities, Research Centers and Extension Service providers sometimes is blamed to be the problem.

# INTERVETION

Generally farmers are ready to adopt any sound farming practice, provided the innovation is worthwhile and suit their farming system. As Local Government Authority responsible for people's welfare, through Department of Agriculture decided to establish the Agriculture Resource Center near the farmers for easily access to majority poor farmers. The center was established, equipped and put into full function. The response is astonishing since traditional methods like field visits and onsite training programs are 450 per year in 2017. fig III. The number is expected to go three times this year. expensive and accommodates very few farmers.

# **PURPOSE**

The purpose of establishment of Agriculture Resource Center is to bring modern farming practices from various institutions and Agricultural Expo and exhibition close to local farmers. The approach is to practice the modern farming practice at the Centre and bringing lo-

cal women and youth farmers for theoretical and hands on practical training on selected GAP. Many demonstration plots are introduced at the Center including Drip irrigation system, plastic mulching, vegetable nurseries and gardens, fruits tree farm plots etc.



Fig II. Vegetable demo plot—plastic mulch

#### **OUTCOMES**

About 800 young and women farmers registered to visit the Centre and appreciate the training. Two International Institutions visited and agreed to work together, Tanzania only Agriculture University (Sokoine University of Agriculture) accepted our work and agreed working together. Therefore the impact of the project. Due to higher demand of farming skills, the Center plans to establish various tailored training programs which will improve farming and create employment to young men and women.

# Number of farmers visiting the Center

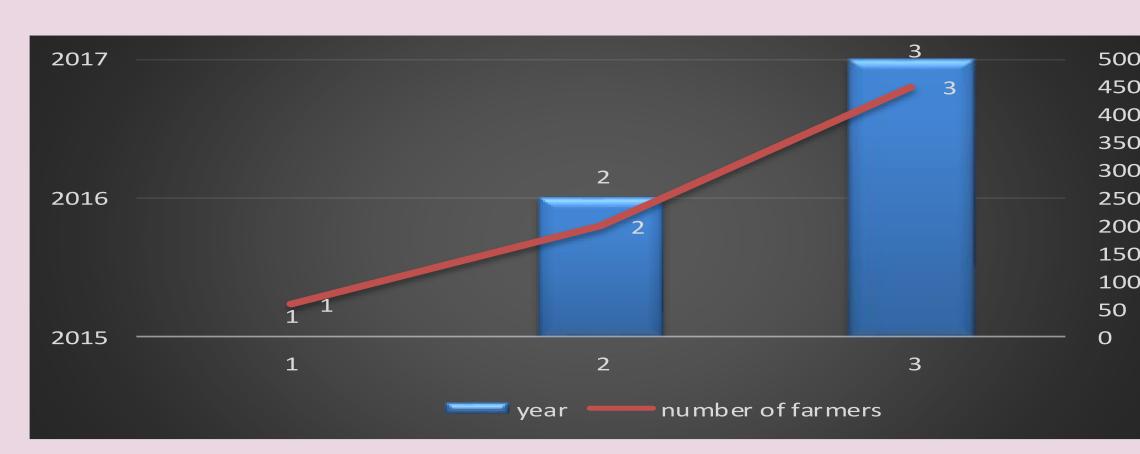


Fig III. Farmers attendance

The records show that number of farmers visiting the Centre increased from 60 in 2016 to

This experience definitely, proves that farmers needs hands on training to enhance understanding rather than theoretical packages with fruitless video presentations. Since they show much interests on practical training and they opt to spend much time on demo plots than in class room. Visiting a farmer alone cannot bring a change to the way small farmers perform. From this project we learned that participating farmers in hands on activities make them believe and learn fast the best way of doing it. And this can be achieved by establishment of ac-

cessible local farmers training Centers with facilities, like demonstration plots demonstrating modern farming practices, and best training fa-



Fig IV. Inside Seminar Room

Fig V. Practical training Drip Irrigation

## CONCLUSION

The implications to the extension services; This project proved that extension services can be improved and reach great number of women farmers and youth by working with them in groups whereby the groups are identified and their training needs analyzed by the extension staff from local areas, working with Centers staff then training programs are prepared according to the specific group needs. The results of this project give much support to field extension workers, whereby team work and practical training programs brought new trust from women and youth farmers. It can be concluded that intensive practical training at Agriculture Resource Centers near local poor farming communities, being effective and sustainable approach to reach women farmers and youth.

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