

# PASSPORT TO COFFEE EXPORT (PACE) PROJECT



**ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE  
2024**

## **Executive Summary**

This is an activity report for the month of June 2024 for a ***Passport to Coffee Export project “PACE”*** under the ***Agri-Connect Program***. The **overall objective** of the PACE project is to ***promote sustainable and inclusive sector development through a robust export-oriented coffee value chain by 2024***. This project is being implemented together with a lead applicant Solidaridad Eastern and Central Africa Expertise Centre (**Solidaridad**) and the government institution through Tanzania Coffee Research Institute (**TaCRI**). The project targeted to reach **22,500** coffee farmers in three regions of Tanzania namely; **Ruvuma, Mbeya and Songwe**.

During the reporting period of June 2024, Envirocare successfully conducted 20 village sensitization campaigns on gender inclusivity in two regions of Mbeya and Songwe to advocate for women and youth empowerment, women's rights, and promote nutrition sensitivity. Additionally, the organization continued to supervise and mentor VSLA and incubation groups on entrepreneurship skills, business management, record keeping, resource mobilization and Planning. Nutrition activities, climate change education, and gender inclusivity training (EMAP curriculum) were also provided by lead farmers and gender champions at the village level.

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## 1.0 Activities Implemented

### A1.1 Provide training to farmers on innovative agro system-climate & nutrition-sensitive and good agricultural practices.

Lead farmers with support from field officers and extension workers continued with monthly training sessions, focusing this month on nutritional issues such as malnutrition and strategies to cope with the effects of climate change. A total of 17,153 famers attended the trainings as shown below.

District	Males trained farmers	Females trained farmers	Male youth trained farmers	Female youth trained farmers	Total
Mbinga TC	757	400	803	354	<b>2,314</b>
Mbinga DC	3,158	1,639	2,944	1,472	<b>9,213</b>
Nyasa	209	86	253	85	<b>633</b>
Mbeya DC	444	244	150	130	<b>968</b>
Mbozi DC	2,111	628	1,025	261	<b>4,025</b>
<b>Total</b>					<b>17,153</b>

### A3.1 Train farmers, community leaders and value chain actors on gender inclusivity

#### A3.1.1 Sensitization campaign on gender inclusivity and nutrition sensitive

ENVIROCARE Conducted 20 sensitization campaign on gender inclusivity in Mbeya and Songwe regions to advocate for gender equality, women and youth empowerment, women's right and promote nutrition sensitive. Main issues addressed include;

- Gender equality, Gender Based Violence, women access to land, inheritance rights for women and girls, women involvement and participation in decision making bodies, access to education for girl, and
- Nutrition sensitivity to eliminate malnutrition and stunting.

The campaign covered 15 villages in Mbeya region and 5 villages in Songwe region. A total of **2,528 (1,396 males and 1,132 females)** community members were reached directly through the campaign as shown in the table below.

MBEYA DC						
No.	VILLAGE	AMCOS	DISTRICT	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1	ISENDE	ISENDE	MBEYA DC	76	74	150
2	MAPITA	MATAWE	MBEYA DC	53	58	111
3	IZYIRA	IZYIRA	MBEYA DC	94	67	161
4	INUKA	INUKA	MBEYA DC	32	52	84
5	MSHEWE	MSHEWE	MBEYA DC	58	41	99
6	ITETE	ITETE	MBEYA DC	67	49	116
7	IGALUKWA	IGALUKWA	MBEYA DC	57	36	93
8	IDIWILI	UMALILA	MBEYA DC	74	65	139
9	IWOWO	IWOWO	MBEYA DC	46	46	92
10	LUSUNGO	LUSUNGO	MBEYA DC	44	59	103

11	MWAMPALALA	MWAMPALALA	MBEYA DC	87	43	130
12	IZUMBWE I	IZUMBWE	MBEYA DC	50	95	145
13	ITIMBA	ILUNGA	MBEYA DC	53	39	92
14	IDUGUMBI	CHAPAKAZI	MBEYA DC	121	101	222
15	IWALA	MWALYEGO	MBEYA DC	59	56	115
	<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>971</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>1,852</b>
<b>MBOZI DC</b>						
16	HEZYA	HEZYA	MBOZI DC	49	11	60
17	NKANGA	NKANA	MBOZI DC	99	69	168
18	ITAKA	ITAKA	MBOZI DC	88	58	146
19	MSANYILA	MSANYILA	MBOZI DC	101	55	156
20	ITEPULA	ITEPULA	MBOZI DC	88	58	146
	<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>425</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>676</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>1,396</b>	<b>1,132</b>	<b>2,528</b>

The organization also conducted a radio program at ACCESS FM radio (Frequency 100.9mHz) in Mbeya region to advocate for the same issues highlighted in the sensitization campaign. This program aimed to raise awareness among a broader audience beyond Mbeya DC. During the session, we received numerous calls from listeners who were following the program on their radios. They asked questions and received answers from our team. A total of **217** people were reported to follow-up the program through access to online radio. (Source; ACCESS FM RADIO – MBEYA).



*From left Ms. Luiza Leon project officer from Envirocare, in the middle legal officer Advocate Justus Zegge and Mr. Christopher Rupia nutrition officer from Mbeya DC conducting a radio program at Access FM Mbeya.*

## Issues addressed during the Sensitization Campaign

### ▪ Gender Inclusivity

Gender inclusivity was a key issue of concern addressed during the campaigns. The community members were emphasized on the importance of the participation of both women and men in various development aspects. Men were taught and emphasized to include women in decision-making at both the family and community levels, highlighting that women's contributions are crucial to development. The gender analysis revealed that decisions, including those involving capital from selling crops (such as coffee) and family properties, are often made by men without including women, which undermines women's rights to decision-making. Men were also encouraged to assist women with household activities and child-rearing, as this involvement can reduce the risk of violence against children when both parents share responsibilities.



*Hon. Chemli Ndema councilor from Igamba ward opening the campaign at Itepula village Mbozi DC.*

### ▪ Land laws, law of marriage and law of succession

Furthermore, land laws, law of marriage and law of succession were highlighted to promote gender inclusivity and women's rights. The Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania recognizes women's rights and prohibits gender-based discrimination. Land laws provide equal rights for women to own, acquire, and inherit land, while succession laws allow women to inherit property and assets from their parents and husbands. The Law of Marriage Act mandates equality between spouses and requires the registration of marriages.



*Advocate Jerry January addressing land laws during the campaign at Msanyila and Hezya village Mbozi DC.*

#### ▪ **Nutrition Sensitive**

The campaign also addressed nutrition issues facing the two regions. Various topics were covered from the food based dietary guidelines (FBDGs) including the knowledge on balance diet from the six food groups for women, men, and children to improve overall health and well-being. Pregnant and lactating women were advised to consume healthy and ample meals to prevent stunting in unborn babies and ensure sufficient milk production for their children. Women were encouraged to exclusively breastfeed their babies for the first six months without giving any additional food or water, as it was observed that many women give their children porridge and water during this period, which is not good to their growth and health. Some even give children alcohol to make them sleep, which is dangerous. After six months, feeding children healthy and diverse meals from the six food groups was emphasized.



*Ms. Helena Kingu nutrition officer, Mbozi DC providing nutrition education to community members at Itepula village Mbozi DC.*

Men were encouraged to support their spouses in ensuring the availability of food at home and to accompany them to clinics during pregnancy and after childbirth. This support helps create a happy and healthier family. Additionally, adults were urged to maintain a balanced diet, avoid risky behaviors such as using tobacco and drinking alcohol, and stay physically active every day to reduce the risk of non-communicable diseases like diabetes. They were also advised to keep their home environment, food, and water safe and clean to prevent diseases, and to drink clean, safe water instead of sweetened drinks every day for good health.

#### ▪ **Gender Based Violence (GBV)**

Awareness-raising sessions on gender-based violence (GBV) affecting women, men, and children were delivered to community members attended. They were sensitized to understand GBV issues at their communities that was manifested in various forms, including physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence. This has been witnessed in coffee farming, where women contribute labor but are excluded from decision-making when the coffee is sold and the income is acquired. Community members were directed to channel their cases related to GBV at village offices and police stations. The officers also stressed that parents should never condone any form of violence, particularly rape, by accepting cows, goats, or money as a means to settle these cases, as this is not the appropriate way to address and end violence.



*OCS Lusajo Mwaipopo from Itaka ward addressing GBV issues during the campaign at Msanyila village Mbozi DC.*

### ▪ **Economic empowerment**

The community members were reminded of the financial opportunities available at the government, through the community development offices, which allocates 10% of its revenue to provide interest-free loans to women, youth, and people with disabilities for a period of one year, aiming to empower them in various business ventures. The community development officers in both Mbeya and Mbozi districts urged women and youth to take advantage of these opportunities to enhance their income-generating activities when the application window for these loans reopens.



*Program Manager Amos Mbwambo from ENVIROCARE speaking with community members during the campaign at Izumbwe I village*

### **A3.1.2 Training on EMAP**

During this reporting period, farmers were trained on the Men's Curriculum covering eleventh and twelfth weeks. The eleventh week focused on taking responsibility, aiming to help participants recognize their thoughts, feelings, and emotions, and to take responsibility for their emotions and actions. The twelfth week addressed the consequences of violence, aiming to help participants understand the impact of violence on individuals, families, and communities. A total of 176 men were trained, with 79 from Mbeya DC and 97 from Mbozi DC and 104 Men from Ruvuma region.

### **A3.2 Identify, train and promote suitable opportunities for economic empowerment for youth and women by engaging in commercialized agricultural practices.**

ENVIROCARE managed to supervise and strengthening capacities of women from **17** VSLAs

groups in Ruvuma region on business skills, planning, resource mobilization, and record keeping. The VSLAs groups visited are; *Sisi kwa Sisi and Chapakazi from Buruma AMCOS, Iohindo and Tuelimike from Longa AMCOS, Muungano and Badilika from Mtawala AMCOS, Tujitume from Nyoni AMCOS, Tuelimike from Litembo AMCOS, Vumilia from Lituru AMCOS, Asante ndola from Lukanzauti AMCOS, Upendo na Amani from Kihereketi AMCOS, Matumba from Lugari AMCOS, Wema from Mhekela AMCOS, Amani from Mhagawa AMCOS, Halima and Heshima itawale from Pilikano AMCOS, Juhudi Litindo Asili AMCOS.*

The activity aimed to address the unique challenges faced by these women's groups and to equip them with the necessary tools to improve their entrepreneurial ventures. Various aspects of business management were covered, including strategic planning, effective resource utilization, and meticulous record-keeping. The program strengthened the women members of the VSLAs groups with practical knowledge and skills to be directly applied to their businesses, thereby improving their operational efficiency and financial sustainability.



*Member of Heshima Itawale group from pilikano Amcos after receiving and sharing the knowledge during the mentorship activity*

### **Savings from VSLAs groups**

VSLA groups continued their savings and loans meetings from January to May 2024. In Mbozi DC, the groups collected a total of 40,960,200 TZS, which included 36,607,000 TZS in savings and 4,353,200 TZS for the social fund. In Mbeya DC, the total collected was 23,422,100 TZS, with 19,721,900 TZS in savings and 3,700,200 TZS for the social fund. In Ruvuma region, the total collected was 50,771,000 TZS, with 41,114,000 TZS in savings and 9,657,000 TZS for the social fund.

Women have shown positive engagement in coffee farming by starting to own their own farms. In Mbozi DC, Mary Kamwana (51) from the Ipyana AMCOS and TAWOCA VSLA group owns a plot with 100 coffee trees planted in 2021, which she obtained from the AMCOS. This year, 2024, will mark her first harvest. In Mbeya DC, Maria Andekisye (60) from the Masala VSLA group in Isende AMCOS owns a farm in Masala, Isende village, with 89 coffee trees planted in 2021. She acquired the seedlings from her children and purchased some from the AMCOS for 5,000 TZS each.



*Coffee seedlings owned by Masala VSLA group and one of the group members*

### **A3.3 Conduct, mentorship and incubation initiatives to youth and women led enterprises**

ENVIROCARE managed to supervise and strengthening capacities of women and youth from 7 Incubation groups in Ruvuma region on business skills and leadership skills. The groups include; ***Aardvark from Buruma AMCOS, Warrior group from Longa AMCOS, Tumaini from Mtawala AMCOS, Jikmboe from Nyoni AMCOS, Jitegemee from Litembo AMCOS, Winners group from Lukanzauti AMCOS and Kahawa kwanza from Kihereketi AMCOS.***

The supervision of the activities implemented for women and youth aimed to reinforce the learning outcomes and support the ongoing development of the incubation groups, promoting long-term success and economic resilience. Furthermore, program represents a significant step towards empowering youth and women entrepreneurs in the Ruvuma region, contributing to broader efforts of sustainable development and economic empowerment.

The training was successfully conducted throughout the days as planned. The training objective was achieved as all topics delivered were well understood by the participants. The training will have the impact on;

- Improved nutrition knowledge
- Improved understanding of Men and Women on the rights of women to own land and other properties
- Increased thoughtful and awareness on participation of women and youth in the coffee value chain.

[illegible]

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- Improved understanding of Men and Women on the rights of women to own land and other properties
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*Project officer from Envirocare Luiza Leon presenting on gender analysis findings on campaign session at Mapita village Mbeya DC respectively.*

### **3.0 Challenges encountered and solutions**

- Low capital and the unavailability of raw materials for entrepreneurship activities, such as soap and petroleum jelly production continue to be significant barriers to production efforts.
- The harvesting period has impacted negatively the attendance of community members at sensitization campaign activities.

### **4.0 How can Solidaridad contribute for addressing the challenges for long term in the future?**

- NA

### **5.0 Monitoring and Evaluation**

- Envirocare would like ask Solidaridad to share M&E reports so that we can easily understand the progress of the project towards reaching of the project targets.

### **6.0 Plan for the coming month**

- Provide training to farmers on innovative agro systems-climate & nutrition-sensitive and good agricultural practices
- Train farmers, community leaders and value chain actors on gender inclusivity using the Economic and Social Empowerment (EA\$E) and Engaging Men in Accountable Practices (EMAP) methodologies
- Identify, train and promote suitable opportunities for economic empowerment for the youth and women by engaging in commercialized agricultural practices and,
- Conduct, mentorship and incubation initiatives to youth and women led enterprises.