Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima (MVIWATA)

Annual Report 2011





New Members of MVIWATA Board of Directors & the Executive Director

Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima Tanzania (MVIWATA)

P.O.Box 3220

Morogoro –Tanzania Tel/fax: 023 261 4184

Email: <u>mviwata@morogoro.net</u>

FEBRUARY, 2012



Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima Tanzania (MVIWATA) is a national farmers organisation which brings together small holder farmers from all regions of Tanzania in order to have a common voice to defend economic, social, cultural and political interests of smallholder farmers. Founded in 1993, MVIWATA aspires to empower smallholder farmers through strengthening their groups and networks, facilitating communication and learning, capacity building events and, lobbying and advocacy so that they are capable defend their interests. MVIWATA was formed to address challenges facing smallholder farmers. Among those were lack of a strong organisation of small scale farmers in the country, exclusion of small scale farmers from decision making process on matters that touch the welfare of small scale farmers and under-representation or complete lack of representation of small scale farmers in decision making bodies. Other challenges addressed by MVIWATA are those related to economic empowerment such as limited access market and financial services in rural areas accompanied by low prices of agricultural produce. To answer to those challenges, MVIWATA has been implementing development project to support rural farmers through capacity building interventions.

Activity implementation status for 2011

In 2011, MVIWATA implemented various development projects and lobbying and advocacy activities to address a number of challenges faced by smallholder farmers particularly its members geared towards achieving the five strategic objectives. Activities that were implemented can therefore be summarised as follow:

- Facilitating formation and strengthening of production and marketing groups and link them with extension service providers to increase productivity
- Capacity building for smallholder farmers on production, entrepreneurship, financial management, business skills, leaderships skills, group and network management, and lobbying and advocacy
- Facilitating farmers access to reliable markets through construction of market structures, access to market information through MAMIS and linkage of farmers with traders
- Facilitating farmers access to financial services through formation and strengthening of rural microfinance institutions
- Facilitating farmers and community at large access to information through various programs disseminated through MVIWATA communication unit
- Organising and participating in campaign, lobbying and advocacy events at all levels
- Awareness creation and capacity building interventions for farmers on cross cutting issues and its impact on development

- Networking and partnership building between MVIWATA members and other stakeholders at all levels
- Capacity building for MVIWATA staff and leaders to ensure future sustainability
- Monitoring and evaluation of organizational capacity and the progress of MVIWATA programmes

Methodology and methods used during the implementation

During the implementation of the above activities, MVIWATA applied different methods and tools to ensure effective participation and high quality work in service delivery to achieve expected results. Village based residential trainings, awareness creation meetings and exposure visits were used by MVIWATA staff. Highly qualified experts from specialised consultancy firms and collaborating partners where hired to complement MVIWATA technical staff to build capacities of members and smallholder farmers in general. To ensure ownership and sustainability of activities and programmes, MVIWATA members from various groups and networks were directly involved in planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of activities. Collaboration and partnerships with other development partners, local government authorities and allies was strengthened and for some specific activities, they were directly involved in planning and implementation process.

Who supported MVIWATA interventions in 2011?

During the year 2011, MVIWATA interventions were financially supported by different development partners collaborating with MVIWATA either through its head office and/or through middle level networks. Among those include but not limited to the European Commission, Swedish Cooperative Centre, Irish Aid, Rural Livelihood Development Company, VECO, Oxfam, Trias, Agriterra, Foundation for Civil Society, McKnight Foundation, Some district councils and MVIWATA own contributions.

Summary of key achievements recorded during the implementation period

The achievements that were realised by MVIWATA during the reporting period fall under outcomes and results indicated under five intervention areas indicated in its strategic plan and annual work plans for 2011. Through sensitization and mobilization activities, smallholder farmers and other stakeholders have increased their understanding about the work of MVIWATA and its mission to advocate for farmers interest. Local government authority and other stakeholders have increased their support through provision of office facilities and technical expertise. Farmers' capacities were strengthened at all levels through various interventions. A number of activities were implemented by members at all levels to advocate for issues of farmers' concerns including the need for transparency in distributions of agricultural inputs subsidies, export ban, access to market and market information, land related issues, human rights and effective farmers representation in decision making bodies. MVIWATA members from Chamkoroma and Kibaigwa wards in Kongwa district organised protest to react against misuse and corruption associated with

the distribution of agricultural input subsidies through voucher system initiative while about 1,000 farmers from Kiteto district organised demonstrations against evections of smallholder farmers from their traditional land for game reserves and conservation areas.

A total of 96 farmers groups and 28 primary networks joined MVIWATA. For instance, MVIWATA Monduli, MVIWATA Manyara, MVIWATA Ruvuma, MVIWATA Singida, MVIWATA Shinyanga, MVIWATA Iringa, and MVIWATA Mbeya reported a remarkable increase in membership both individual members and groups and networks members. During the same period, eight middle level networks were financially supported by different partners either through development project directly or through MVIWATA head office to implement development activities.

A total of 6,297 people including MVIWATA members, leaders, staff and smallholder farmers in general were reached through lobbying and advocacy interventions that were carried out by MVIWATA and its collaborators. In collaboration with other members of the Tanzania Land Alliance (TALA), MVIWATA delegates managed to meet two Parliamentary Standing Committees on land, environment and natural resources management. The meeting aimed to lobby and advocate for the amendments of the land acts and related policies so that they are responsive and addressing real needs of smallholder farmers. A total of 50 members of Parliament and other government officials from land and agricultural leading ministries attended the meeting.

On economic empowerment, MVIWATA accomplished the construction of three new semi-whole sale markets structures with social centres with the aim to facilitate rural farmers access to reliable markets and better price for agro produce. The completion of these markets has increased the number of markets constructed by MVIWATA from 6 to 9 markets namely Kibaigwa (Dodoma), Kinole, Nyandira and Tawa (Morogoro), Mkata (Tanga), Igagala (Njombe), Igurusi (Mbeya) and Matai and Kasanga (Rukwa). Through capacity building interventions substantial changes were observed in terms capacities; income at each market has increased and management of business activities has improved at MVIWATA constructed markets.

During the same period, MVIWATA registered tremendous increase in number of value chains initiatives supported by MVIWATA and partners. The achievements realised through these chains range from improved skills for farmers on land management, crop and animal husbandry, entrepreneurship and business skills development, networking, group formation and strengthening, formation and management of rural financial institutions (SACCOS and VSLAs), and management of collective marketing for agro produce. A total of 94 new social economic and producer groups members of MVIWATA were formed and strengthened.

Three (3) SACCOS of farmers were formed and strengthened in Handeni, Kyela and Ludewa districts. Through capacity building and sensitisation activities, a total of 351 small scale farmers (169 Male and 182 Female) were capacitated on financial and operational

management skills of farmers financial institutions. In Morogoro region, farmers who are engaged in microfinance activities (SACCOS) together decided to put their strengths together to establish one strong microfinance company at region level which will help them to solve problems and challenges of capital to enable them to invest in more remunerative and farming activities. The process has started and an interim steering committee was established to assume management responsibilities during the transition period.

In terms of linkage with financial services, various market stakeholders from around MVIWATA constructed markets were linked to financial institutions including formal banks. Through these linkages, stakeholders and MVIWATA members were facilitated to access to loans for investment in agriculture and other remunerative businesses. For example, 45 blockers from Mkata (Tanga) were facilitated to get loans amounting to Tshs 22,500,000 from Kinole SACCOS while 28 farmers from Igagala (Njombe) were facilitated to access to a sum of Tshs 9,640,000 from Ng'anda SACCOS.

All constitutional meetings were successfully organised as per constitutions. In October 2011, MVIWATA organised a two day annual general meeting that was held in Morogoro on 24th and 25th. A total 240 participants including 176 MVIWATA members from MVIWATA constituency all over the country, 30 representatives from development partners, representatives from different Ministries and local government authorities collaborating with MVIWATA, 22 staff of MVIWATA and 13 representatives from different local media were facilitated to attend the meeting. During the same meeting, new Board members of MVIWATA were elected for a period of three year.

On other hand two council meetings for leaders from national and middle level networks. The meetings created a platform for leaders of MVIWATA to share information and reports on implementation of various activities per members, the status of memberships, successes and challenges faced by members. Members used that opportunity to provide recommendations and advice to MVIWATA board of Directors and the management on actions that need further interventions to address challenges that emerged through the sharing process. Technical and staff meetings were organised by MVIWATA at different occasions to discuss the progress, achievements and challenges faced by staff and members along the implementation of different projects in order to make adjustment and provide advice on appropriate ways to improve the situation.

Some of the challenges and lessons from the implementation

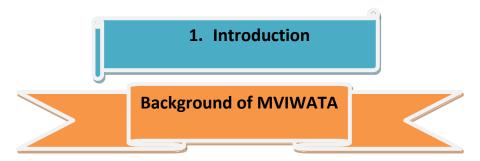
Despite a number achievements and results recorded in 2011, MVIWATA experienced as well some difficulties and challenges which to some extent affected the achievement of intended outcomes and reduced the organisation efficiency and performance. One is the limited capacities of MVIWATA to sustain competent and adequate human resource available within the organization due to low internal and limited financial resources to implement its strategic plan. Another challenge is low capacities of members and leaders

on leadership and management of groups and networks at middle level and grassroots level. Due to the positive results recorded by MVIWATA through its interventions in addressing social, political and economic challenges faced by smallholder farmers in some areas, majority of members and farmers in general have over expectations from MVIWATA support which doesn't much with the capacity of the organization. Poor communication and exchange of information both horizontally and vertically is another challenge that hinder farmers to access to crucial information and learn from the fellow farmers. However, it was observed that capacity enhancement for smallholder farmers through their groups and networks at all levels and coalition building with likeminded organizations are of paramount importance to influence change through lobbying and advocacy.

Way forward

To address a number of challenges faced by MVIWATA and achieve the intended outcomes, the following are key actions to be implemented now and in near future:

- To increase activities for mobilisation and sensitisation of members to increase memberships that will lead to increased collection of internal revenue through membership fees,
- To ensure harmonisation of MVIWATA interventions at all levels and that of partners into one master plan to avoid duplication of efforts and conflicts of interests among parties,
- To meet current members needs and address the real farmers concerns, the current strategic plan of MVIWATA will be reviewed to reflect current needs,
- In order to strengthen lobbying and advocacy strategy of MVIWATA, more research and surveys shall be conducted and synthesise existing information for L&A
- MVIWATA will pursue maintenance, improvement and updating its membership database
- To keep members and the public well informed, MVIWATA will continue to strengthen its communication and information unit to improve sharing of experience and best practices among members. MVIWATA will ensure promotion and expansion of MVIWATA radio programmes by using more local media to reach more farmers in rural and for visibility
- To improve access to market and market information, MVIWATA will continue support promotion and expansion of MAMIS to reach more farmers towards commercialisation as sources of internal income



Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima Tanzania (MVIWATA) is a national farmers organisation which brings together small holder farmers from all regions of Tanzania in order to have a common voice to defend economic, social, cultural and political interests of smallholder farmers. Founded in 1993, MVIWATA aspires to empower smallholder farmers through strengthening their groups and networks, facilitating communication and learning, capacity building events and, lobbying and advocacy so that they are capable defend their interests. MVIWATA was formed to address challenges facing smallholder farmers. Among those were lack of a strong organisation of small scale farmers in the country, exclusion of small scale farmers from decision making process on matters that touch the welfare of small scale farmers and under-representation or complete lack of representation of small scale farmers in decision making bodies. Other challenges addressed by MVIWATA are those related to economic empowerment such as limited access market and financial services in rural areas accompanied by low prices of agricultural produce. To answer to those challenges, MVIWATA has been implementing development project to support rural farmers through capacity building interventions.

Strategic Intervention Areas of MVIWATA

Currently, MVIWATA is implementing a five year Strategic Plan (2010/14) with five main strategic intervention areas which are:

- Organising farmers into strong groups and networks to have common voice to advocate for their interests;
- Strengthening lobbying and advocacy capacity of farmers to influence policy process;
- Empowering farmers economically through initiatives such as saving and credit (microfinance), market linkage, and development of entrepreneurship skills;
- Building capacity of MVIWATA members, leaders and staff on cross cutting issues (HIV/AIDS, gender and climate change); and
- Strengthening institutional development of MVIWATA



The structure of MVIWATA provides four different categories:

- Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- The Council which comprises of representatives from leaders of middle level networks and members of board of directors
- Board of Directors constituted by 9 members who are elected by the Annual General Meeting (AGM) every after three years.
- Management (Secretariat) headed by the Executive Director.

The Middle Level Networks (intermediary levels is composed of farmers' networks at regional and district level, while the Grass root level are networks of farmers groups and local producers at village and ward level.

Currently, MVIWATA has a membership of 15 middle level networks in 12 regions and 2 districts namely Chunya, Dodoma, Iringa, Kagera, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Mbeya, Monduli, Morogoro, Rukwa Ruvuma, Shinyanga, Tabora, Tanga and Zanzibar.

Main interventions carried out in 2011

In 2011, MVIWATA implemented the following activities to address challenges under the five strategic objectives:

- Facilitating formation and strengthening of production and marketing groups and link them with extension service providers to increase productivity
- Capacity building for smallholder farmers on production, entrepreneurship, financial management, business skills, leaderships skills, group and network management, and lobbying and advocacy
- Facilitating farmers access to reliable markets through construction of market structures, access to market information through MAMIS and linkage of farmers with traders
- Facilitating farmers access to financial services through formation and strengthening of rural microfinance institutions
- Facilitating farmers and community at large access to information through various programs disseminated through MVIWATA communication unit
- Organising and participating in campaign, lobbying and advocacy events at all levels
- Awareness creation and capacity building interventions for farmers on cross cutting issues and its impact on development
- Networking and partnership building between MVIWATA members and other stakeholders at all levels
- Capacity building for MVIWATA staff and leaders to ensure future sustainability
- Monitoring and evaluation of organizational capacity and the progress of MVIWATA programmes

Who supported MVIWATA in 2011?

During the year 2011, MVIWATA interventions were implemented through MVIWATA national office and Middle level networks. These interventions were financially supported by different development partners collaborating with MVIWATA either through its head office and/or through middle level networks. Development partners who supported MVIWATA activities during the reporting period include but not limited to the European Commission, Swedish Cooperative Centre, Irish Aid, Rural Livelihood Development Company, VECO, Oxfam, Trias, Agriterra, Foundation for Civil Society, McKnight Foundation, Some district councils and MVIWATA own contributions. The implementation of 2011 benefited smallholder farmers from areas where MVIWATA has ongoing project interventions; MVIWATA members, leaders and staff; market stakeholders (processors, cargo porters, middlemen) around MVIWATA constructed markets and members of rural financial institutions supported by MVIWATA. This report provides therefore an overview of MVIWATA activities implemented from January to December 2011, major achievements realised, lessons and challenges encountered along the implementation process. The main components of this report include the executive summary, background of MVIWATA, methodologies used during the implementation, description of major activities implemented in 2011 to address challenges under each strategic intervention, key achievements, lessons and challenges faced during the implementation process.

2. Approach and methodology

To implement its activities of 2011, MVIWATA applied different methods and tools to ensure high quality work in service delivery and achievement expected results. Village based residential trainings, awareness creation meetings and exposure visits were used by MVIWATA staff. Highly qualified experts from specialised consultancy firms and collaborating partners where hired to complement MVIWATA technical staff to build capacities of members and smallholder farmers in general. To ensure ownership and sustainability of activities and programmes, MVIWATA members from various groups and networks were directly involved in planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of activities. Collaboration and partnerships with other development partners, local government authorities and allies was strengthened and for some specific activities, they were directly involved in planning and implementation process. On lobbying and advocacy, MVIWATA organised and participated in advocacy events for its members including training events, campaigns, fact findings missions and fora at local, national and international levels. Successful stories, cases studies and best practices on MVIWATA interventions were documented and shared with members and the public through MVIWATA through the communication unit including quarterly newsletters, weekly radio

programs, website and monthly bulletin. Additionally, various public media were used to disseminate key lobbying and advocacy messages to the public to influence change to ensure conducive environment for smallholder farmers.

3. Detailed account of activities implemented in 2011

3.1 To organise farmers into strong groups and networks to have common voice to advocate for their interests

Sensitisation of farmers towards formation and strengthening of farmers' groups and networks

Through its vision and mission, MVIWATA aspires to become a strong farmers organization able to guarantee effective smallholder farmers participation and representation into socio-economic and policy dialogue process at various levels. To fulfil this mission, various sensitisation and mobilization meetings, workshops and learning visits were organised by MVIWATA at all levels to facilitate formation and strengthening of farmer groups and networks with a strong voice to lobby and advocate for farmers interests and to increase MVIWATA membership. During the reporting period, many activities focused more on creating awareness for farmers, community members and MVIWATA leaders on the importance of joining together to have one common and strong voice to advocate for interest for farmers. These activities were conducted at all levels using MVIWATA staff, empowered MVIWATA leaders and promoters. As result from sensitization and mobilization works, smallholder farmers and other stakeholders have increased their understanding about the contribution of the work done by MVIWATA on livelihoods of the people and its mission to advocate for farmers interest. The year 2011 recorded an increase in MVIWATA membership both in terms of individual farmers, groups and local networks.



Some MVIWATA members and leaders of producer groups, associations and primary networks during capacity building and mobilisation workshops

In areas where MVIWATA was recently introduced, new farmers groups and networks were formed at village and ward levels. A total of 96 farmers groups and 28 primary networks were formed and joined MVIWATA. For example, a total 102 individual farmers acquired membership of MVIWATA in Kyela and Ludewa only. The same initiatives were undertake by all MVIWATA middle level networks to strengthen existing and new groups and networks. In areas where MVIWATA is operating, there is acknowledgeable support and strong from local government authority and other partners particularly

through provision of office facilities and technical support to farmers.



New MVIWATA members in a group photo after acquiring their membership

Facilitating formation and strengthening of farmer groups and networks by Middle Level Networks

From January to December 2011 all middle level networks members of MVIWATA organised and facilitated various meetings and capacity building events to mobilise farmers towards formation and strengthening of viable and strong farmers groups and networks. These interventions targeted to increased the numbers of memberships, improve capacities of farmers through their groups and networks, leaders as well as for technical staff. Other activities that were conducted targeted partnership building with other service providers to create synergy, coalitions building and networking for lobbying and advocacy for the benefit of farmers. As result from these interventions, the year 2011 registered an increased number of individual farmers, groups and primary networks that were formed by MVIWATA middle level networks who acquired new membership of MVIWATA.

Middle level networks which reported remarkable increase in memberships are MVIWATA Monduli, MVIWATA Manyara, MVIWATA Ruvuma, MVIWATA Singida, MVIWATA Shinyanga, MVIWATA Iringa, and MVIWATA Mbeya. Various socio-economic groups were initiated, strengthened and supported to develop their business plans. They facilitated establishment of rural financial institutions and strengthening their capacities on leadership skills, group/network dynamics and management of financial institutions. On lobbying and advocacy, farmers demonstrated their capacities through undertaking lobbying and advocate actions to advocate for issues of concerns including the need for transparency in the distributions of agricultural inputs subsidies through voucher system initiative, imposed export bans, poor access to market and market information, land related issues, human rights and effective farmers representation in decision making

bodies. As result from capacity building and advocacy work done by middle level networks to strengthen capacities of their members, different farmers members of MVIWATA were invited and participated in various fora that were organized by local government institutions and other stakeholders. The number partners supporting middle level networks have increased their support to development initiatives being addressed by middle level to answer to farmers' needs. Both MVIWATA middle level and primary networks were able to organise their annual general meetings as per their constitutions. Eight middle level networks namely Monduli, Manyara, Dodoma, Morogoro, Iringa, Mbeya, Rukwa and Shinyanga were supported by MVIWATA partners either directly and/or through the national office to implement development various activities.

Establishing and maintaining MVIWATA membership database

To ensure growth and sustainability of MVIWATA, one of key tasks performed by MVIWATA is to establish and maintain MVIWATA membership database which contains reliable information of members and their respective activities. The database is in place now and what is done now needed is to upload new information to get up to date membership status. The initiative of establishing MVIWATA database is currently supported by various development partners mentioning few such the European Commission, Swedish Cooperative Centre, Irish Aid, Agriterra and others.

A number of meeting for MVIWATA leaders available and feed into MVIWATA database and staff at all levels were conducted to discuss appropriate modalities and develop tools for collecting information about members, their activeness and activities are implementing in they their undertakings. Immediate actions were recommended and now all networks leaders are in the field assessing and collecting information about their respective members. Through these discussions, it was agreed that information about memberships shall be

by June 2012.



Monitoring the development of farmer networks at middle and grass root level.

To ensure quality work and service delivered to members, MVIWATA organised four board meetings to enable MVIWATA leaders share with implementing staff the experience and progress from ongoing activities. Through these meetings, project and networks reports were presented and shared to provide an insight of the implementation status, key achievements realised and some challenge faced by implementers for comments and directions. Follow up and backstopping visits were organised to assess staff, leaders and members performance capacities in implementing the planned activities, the level of community participation in various projects. From these assessments, monitoring and evaluation activities of 2011 revealed an increased participation and commitment of community members towards MVIWATA initiatives and more intensively in areas where MVIWATA was implementing development projects. The commitment of farmers and increased participation of farmers was demonstrated through positive actions through which farmers undertaken to integrate new approaches imparted to them to address production and food security issues, market access, lobbying and advocacy and cross cutting issues such as gender, HIV/AIDS and land/environmental related challenges.

3.2 Strengthening lobbying and advocacy capacity of farmers to influence policy process;

During the year 2011, a total of 6,297 beneficiaries reached through lobbying and advocacy interventions that were carried out by MVIWATA and its collaborators. Among those include smallholder farmers members of MVIWATA, leaders of farmers groups and networks at all levels, technical staff and community members in areas around MVIWATA constructed markets. The efficiency and results that were obtained through these interventions are the attributes from better collaboration with various actors and contributions of MVIWATA staff through Lobbying and Advocacy activities carried out, activities that were conducted by members at middle and primary level networks as well as some specific actions that were taken by empowered farmer groups, networks and individual members of MVIWATA at village, ward and district levels .

Conducting research to identify key issues for lobbying and advocacy

During the reporting period, MVIWATA participated into various research studies and surveys that were commissioned by MVIWATA itself or by its collaborators. In April 2011, MVIWATA staff participated into two fact finding missions on land conflict that were organised by TALA to assess economic, social and environment impact in areas whereby pastoral communities were evicted. The first study was conducted in the Southern Highlands zone and coastal zone respectively while the second study was conducted in

Lake zone. The study in the Southern Highlands and costal regional involved Mbarali District in Mbeya, Kilwa, Bagamoyo, and Lindi districts in the coastal zone. In Lake zone the study involved Tarime, Serengeti, Musoma and Bunda districts. The findings from these studies were compiled and shared with all members of TALA for actions. To strengthen the country structure and strategies for lobbying and advocacy of TALA, TALA organized an exchange visit for leaders for its members to Kenya, Uganda, and Zambia to learn and share experience with activists from visited countries on lobbying and advocacy interventions specifically on land related issues. In December 2011, MVIWATA conducted another survey to assess the extent to which farmers in rural areas are facilitated to and linked to financial providers to get loans for investment in agriculture through the special window for agricultural loans at Tanzania Investment Bank. The survey also tried to investigate on available opportunities and challenges likely to be associated with the implementation of this initiative.

Other surveys that were commissioned and conducted by MVIWATA in 2011 targeted to improve production systems, entrepreneurship skills development and marketing of farm producer through influencing policy changes to create conducive environment for farmers to engage seriously in farming and marketing activities. Among those include a research study to review existing agricultural and marketing related policies to identify gaps that need to be addressed for increased marketability of farm produce and recommend appropriate ways and strategies to improve production and marketing of agro produce for the benefits of small scale farmers, research study on marketing to identify available opportunities, challenges and possible key agro- produce with big market potentials for promotion and support; a study to assess the brokerage activities carried by actors around MVIWATA markets and recommend the best and appropriate long term and sustainable ways to strengthen brokerage systems at MVIWATA markets and a study to assess the current status and types of Business Development Services (BDS) provided by actors around MVIWATA markets and recommend the best and appropriate long term and sustainable measures to improve BDS services delivery for the benefit of smallholder producers for future sustainability. All these studies identified so many challenges and gaps that need to be addressed by MVIWATA and recommendations on best and appropriate ways to improve the situation. A number of advocacy issues and policy gaps that deprive smallholder farmers from access services, be it extension, input supply, production, marketing and access to credit for investment in economic activities were identified.

Organising campaigns and farmers forums on key issues and challenges facing small-scale farmers

One of the core business of MVIWATA is lobbying and advocacy to influence change on policy process, social, economical and other aspects of farmers interest. To fulfil this mission, MVIWATA organised lobbying and advocacy campaigns and forums at national, middle and primary level networks to advocate for smallholder farmers interests. These

activities were carried out by MVIWATA members, smallholder farmers taking the forefront. Among the issues that were advocated by farmers include land issues to promote equal access, utilization and ownership by smallholder farmers; access to market for better prices of agro produce and access to financial services to promote investment in agriculture and other profitable enterprises by smallholder farmers.

Other issues that were advocated include the role of smallholder farmers in the formulation of the new Tanzania constitution; distribution and access to agricultural inputs by farmers; export ban on farm produce especially cereals and inclusiveness and farmers participation in decision making processes. Cross cutting Issues such as environmental conservation and climate change, gender equality and HIV/AIDS prevention were also addressed through lobbying and advocacy to improve skills on ways for mitigating the impact of such issues by smallholder farmers.

On 06/12/2011, MVIWATA organised a national forum in Morogoro to reflect on the destiny of smallholder farmers after 50 years independence of Tanzania Mainland. The forum involved MVIWATA leaders from primary level networks, middle level networks and national level, members, academicians, journalists, politicians and friends of MVIWATA. Through this forum, participants came up with nine recommendations that were presented to the director for Policy planning at the Ministry of Agriculture during a one day visit of MVIWATA leaders to the Ministry for learning on CAADP implementation process which was organised by ESAFF.

At different occasions, farmers' fora were organised and facilitated by MVIWATA middle level networks in Arusha, Pwani, Mbeya, Ruvuma, Rukwa and Manyara regions to reflect on various issues and challenges faced by farmers in those respective areas. Among issues that were discussed by farmers through these fora include lack of access to market and financial services by smallholder farmers, land grabbing, land conflicts between farmers and pastoralists, export ban on cereal crops, and poor distribution of agricultural inputs subsidies.

Other fora that were organised by MVIWATA involved market stakeholders from areas around MVIWATA constructed markets such as smallholder farmers representing MVIWATA and producer groups, traders, processors, financial services providers, local government authority, Microenterprises development companies, TCCIA, NFRA, and MVIWATA leaders. Market stakeholders discussed issues such as land conflict between farmers and pastoralists, land conflict between farmers and investors, the role of smallholder farmers in the formulation of the new Tanzania constitution double payment of taxes by tax collectors from districts or commissioned agencies, crop quality control and the need of appropriate modalities for buying cereals by NFRA from smallholder farmers.

Of picture of MVIWATA members and representatives from its collaborating and partners organizations during a one day forum to reflects on the challenges faced by smallholder farmers on social, economical and political aspects



Lobbying and advocacy interventions targeting promotion of value chain development for specific commodities were also implemented to influence policy change to support production and marketing few commodities being promoted by MVIWATA. Among commodities that are currently promoted by MVIWATA just to mention few include: (1) rice/paddy in Mbeya, Morogoro, Singida and Tabora regions; (2) vegetables and fruits crops in Morogoro region; (3) maize in Dodoma, Tanga, Iringa and Rukwa regions, (4) fish industry in Rukwa region, (5) cassava crop in Pwani region, (6) and goat and onion in Manyara regions. Based on challenges and gaps that were identified though fact findings missions, research studies commissioned and carried out by MVIWATA, and impact assessment missions, various farmers fora, exposure visits and capacity building events were organised at village, ward, district, regional and national levels to create awareness of the people on the economic potentials and benefits of such commodities in improving food security and the livelihood of the people in order to mobilise the them, government and other stakeholders for support toward promotion of these commodities.

Alliance building with other organisations for lobbying and advocacy

In 2011, MVIWATA organised and participated into National and International events that were organised by its collaborators and partners. At national level two fora with national representation were organized to discuss key issues of farmers concerns. In December 2011, representatives from MVIWATA primary level networks, middle level networks and

national level, academicians, journalists, politicians, representatives from local government institutions, development partners and friends of MVIWATA participated into a one day forum to commemorate the 50thAnniversary of Tanzania Mainland since its independence. The forum involved 189 participants. Another national forum was organized during its annual general meeting that was held in October 2011 in Morogoro. At total of 257 representatives from primary, middle level and national networks, representatives from development partners, representatives for central and local government institutions, representatives from local public media and MVIWATA staff participated in this forum.



During these events, various themes were presented and discussed by participants. Participants to the annual workshop shared and discussed various themes shared through presentations including the followings: (1) Marketing policy and participation of various stakeholders, (2) Partnership between farmers organization and the district council in running rural market and the experience of MVIWATA, (3) The opportunities and Constraints for managing business in East Africa Community, (4) The position of smallholders farmers in the process of developing the national constitution, and (5) The rights and accessibility of information to smallholder's farmers in the villages from remote areas of Tanzania. Through these sharing, participants concluded that the government should learn the modal established by MVIWATA in running the markets through partnership between private and public sector.

They agreed that much lobbying should be done to ensure that our marketing policies are facilitating creation of conducive marketing environment for selling crops and that there is effective involvement of farmers in development of various policies and regulations. During the reflection forum on 50 years of Tanzania independence, participants reflected on the destiny of Tanzania smallholder farmers after 50 years independence particularly the prevailing economic situation and income at household level in rural area. at the end of the forum, a declaration composed of nine recommendations to be presented to the government was developed and agreed by participants. On other hand, MVIWATA and other members of the Tanzania Land Alliance (TALA) participated in a one day meeting

with two Parliamentary Standing Committees on land, environment and natural resources management. The meeting was organised by Tanzania Land Alliance to lobby for the amendments of the land acts and related policies so that they are responsive and addressing real needs of smallholder farmers. Lobbying and advocacy organizations which were represented in the meeting were MVIWATA, HAKIARDHI, PINGOS Forum, UCRT, LEAT, WILAC, and LHRC. A total of 50 members of Parliament attended the meeting. A part from members of parliament and TALA representatives, other participants were the Ministry of State, Vice President Office for Environment, Hon Theresia Hoviza; the Deputy Minister for Land and Human Settlement, Hon Goodluck Olemedeye; Deputy Minister for livestock development and fisheries, Hon Benedict Olenang'aro; other MPs and government officials from land and agricultural leading ministries. MVIWATA also participated in international exchange visits, fora and campaigns that were organised by La Via Campesina, an international movement for farmers based in France.

Partnership building with central and local government authority

Through market development initiatives, collaborate **MVIWATA** with various government institutions to ensure that there is ownership and massive public participation in running rural market constructed. Among public partners collaborating with MVIWATA in this area include Agriculture leading Ministries, Ministry of East African Community. Others are regional administrative authorities and district councils where MVIWATA market are constructed. In 2011. **MVIWATA** continued to strengthen these relationships through organised workshop trainings for stakeholders from areas around **MVIWATA** constructed markets. objectives of these workshops were to inform the public about the market related initiatives undertaken by MVIWATA in its respective markets, to collect views from various stakeholders on appropriate

management of the markets and to define roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder in market management. To demonstrate their support and appreciation to the partnership, some districts namely Sumbawanga, and Igurusi allocated some financial resources to support rural market initiatives implemented by MVIWATA.



Building capacities for MVIWATA leaders and members on lobbying and advocacy

To increase the voice and participation of smallholder farmers in lobbying and advocacy, MVIWATA organised and facilitated training workshops and sensitisation meetings for members and leaders of primary networks in Chunya, Kiteto, Simanjiro and Mkuranga districts and for middle level steering committee members in Singida region to impart them with skills and knowledge on how to lobby for changes. The training workshops were attended by smallholder farmers from producer groups and primary networks members of MVIWATA, other village members, village government leaders, and leaders of MVIWATA networks at ward and district levels. On top of that, participants to these workshops were trained on leadership skills, accountability and management for groups and primary networks. Other areas covered by the training programmes were promoters' skills development for members from areas around MVIWATA markets to ensure growth and visibility of MVIWATA memberships.

Smallholder farmers are now confidents to take actions to advocate for their interests

As result from increased confidence and skills for MVIWATA leaders and members on lobbying and advocacy, thousands of smallholder farmers from Chamkoroma and Kibaigwa wards in Kongwa district organised protest against misuse and corruption associated with the distribution of agricultural input subsidies. On other hand, more than 1,000 farmers from Kiteto and Kongwa districts organised demonstrations to react against evictions of smallholder farmers by the district leaders from their traditional land to leave space for reserves and games conservation area.



Pictures of farmers from Kongwa and Kiteto districts during demonstration against the decision of the government to reallocate their land for game reserve and conservation areas

The manifestations were conducted at Kibaigwa in Kongwa district where farmers with their farm implements and machineries blocked Dar es Salaam – Dodoma highway for some hours to pressurise the government in Kiteto District to take actions and allow them to continue use that land for farming activities. Smallholder famers from nine villages of in Kiteto district namely Lendolai, Mlimahamba, Laitini, Mbigiri, Kutelimeinyi, Seseni, Laipela, Kimarai and Kisima are victims of the eviction. During these farmers movements, MVIWATA provided support and guidance to its members to enable effectively demand their rights.

3.3 Empowering smallholder farmers economically through promoting rural saving and credits, market linkages, and entrepreneurship skills development

Facilitating access to market and market information for rural farmers

To improve the livelihood of smallholder farmers, MVIWATA implemented different activities to facilitate access to reliable markets and market information. Activities to promote access to market and market information aimed to secure sustainable access to locally produced food crops for urban and rural populations at less volatile producer attractive prices. Such activities were implemented in areas surrounding old and newly constructed markets of MVIWATA with financial support from the European Commission and other partners. In 2011, more focus was on finishing the three new semi – whole sale market infrastructures built by MVIWATA at Igurusi, Matai and Kasanga areas.



Picture of newly MVIWATA constructed market structures before completion in Igurusi (Mbeya) and Matai and Kasanga (Rukwa).

The completion of the three markets structures has increased the number of rural markets constructed by MVIWATA from 6 to 9 markets namely Kibaigwa (Dodoma), Kinole, Nyandira and Tawa (Morogoro), Mkata (Tanga), Igagala (Njombe), Igurusi (Mbeya) and Matai and Kasanga (Rukwa). Similar initiatives to promote market access were carried out in Mkuranga district in Pwani region, Chunya and Kyela districts in Mbeya region, Ludewa district in Iringa, Igunga district in Tabora region, Manyoni district in Singida region and Simanjiro district in manyara region.

To ensure sustainability, proper use and management of constructed market structures, MVIWATA facilitated formation of market boards companies without share capital for the newly constructed markets and continued to strengthen the capacity of old market boards. The market boards are generally responsible for the management of the markets. All market boards are registered as companies limited by guarantee without share capital.





Pictures of some accomplished MVIWATA markets in actions

Various meetings and workshops were held between MVIWATA, district council and other market stakeholders to expose them and learn from MVIWATA' experience on formation and management of semi-whole sale markets. To increase commitment and use of the markets by larger community members and stakeholders, MVIWATA conducted a lot of awareness creation

events to inform the public on the potentials of community managed rural markets (collection and selling centres) through national, regional and local stakeholders workshops, meetings with district officials, ward and village leaders, and through use of various media such as radio and TV programs, newsletters, bulletin and MVIWATA website.

Building capacities of staff and directors of MVIWATA market Boards

To strengthen MVIWATA markets, capacity building trainings were conducted for directors and staff of the existing and new market boards to improve their capacities on market management and financial managements aspects. Residential trainings on financial management and bookkeeping were conducted to staff of each market on quarterly basis and these trainings has resulted in substantial improvement of financial management and bookkeeping skills for market staff. Other trainings that were organised by MVIWATA targeted to improve skills of market board members on leadership and market management. Through these trainings, board members were also trained on the roles and responsibilities of directors in managing the markets, organizational development and budgeting.

Generally the topics covered were on leadership, roles and responsibilities of directors of the market boards and the role of partnership building in managing market operations. strengthen To understanding on role and responsibilities, memorandum of Understanding ("Hati Rasmi"), internal agreement relationship between MVIWATA and market Board representatives ("Makubaliano ya ndani"), all of which describe the roles and responsibilities of

directors of the market boards were used as tools during training sessions.

Market boards members listening to the facilitator during a training workshop



On other hand, newly recruited managers and staff of new markets (Matai and Kasanga (Sumbawanga) and Igurusi (Mbarali) as well as elected market board members underwent intensive trainings on financial management and administrative matters to ensure proper internal financial control (accountability) of market revenues, record keeping (payments, expenditures (ledger)), budgeting and planning and finally preparation of financial statements (balance sheet, income statement, trial balance and cash book analysis). Capacity building trainings on internal organization development were also conducted to ensure quality services delivery in respective markets in order to establish and implement developed market by-laws and business plans

A series of cross visits between market board members and staffs were organised at all MVIWATA constructed markets to learn from successes and how to overcome challenges at market by using available opportunities and to get insights on how experienced board members and staff are managing their markets. During the visit, participants were able to learn on how to manage different market operations, internal organization of the markets

from entrance to exit, services and their management (e.g. reception, weighing, loading and off loading, storage, drying, parking, toilets etc). They also got an opportunity to learn about office arrangements, preparations and storage of documents e.g. minutes.

Board members used that opportunity to share experience on the process and challenges of recruiting new markets staff and formulation of contracts for management staff. Another issues that they were able to learn from the visits was the management of partnerships of partners with diverse objectives especially ways for strengthening the relationship between the market board and local network, how market board organise meetings with local networks and how the feedback from the market reaches various stakeholders e.g. groups around the market, MVIWATA middle level network and the district council.

As result from that, substantial changes have happened. This is demonstrated through improved capacities and skills of market board members in planning and management of finances at respective markets. The services offered by the market boards have improved and the income earned at each market has increased as well. For example to cite here is Mkata market which was not well operating before which raised its income up to an average of Tshs 500,000 per month.

Establishing and promoting Market Information System in MVIWATA

Among key challenges that deprive smallholders farmers from the right for accessing to better price for their produce is the lack of access to reliable market information including actual price for agro produce from urban markets where these produce are sold to final consumers. In order to facilitate access to accurate and reliable information, MVIWATA continued to improve and strengthen its market information system, an SMS based software used to receive, store, process and disseminate various market information to users. As part of advancement to MVIWATA market information system, new components were incorporated in the system. Currently, users can obtain information on demand and supply of produce for specific commodities and up to date price information by sending a request SMS to 0654 555 884.

Through the system, user are able to access information about sellers and buyers with their quantities to buy or sale. MVIWATA is now working hard to see how buyers and sellers can also put indicative prices at which they want to buy or sale their produce. A total of 25 markets from Tanzania and Kenya have been integrated into the system and price information collectors from those markets regularly provide to MVIWATA information on current prices for various commodities traded at those markets. After feeding the data in the software, the information is disseminated to MAMIS representatives in MVIWATA constructed markets and surrounding villages where it is after posted on information notice boards for access to farmers and other users. To

increase awareness to farmers and other stakeholders on the use of market information and to ensure that many users are accessing to price information, MVIWATA market officers conducted various mobilization and sensitization meetings to inform them about the system in order to increase their confidence for price bargaining.

Such activities were conducted in 210 villages of Tanga, Morogoro, Pwani, Dodoma, Iringa, Tabora, Shinyanga, Arusha and Manyara regions whereby an average of 45 stakeholders form each village participated in meetings. Through these sensitizations meetings, number of markets incorporated into MAMIS has increased from the initial 12 markets which were covered in 2010 to 25 markets in 2011 from Tanzania and Kenya. An average of 3,000 users were accessing price information per month through the hub. So far, market information is also disseminated through MVIWATA radio programme aired via radio Maria once per week and is accessible in 17 regions in Tanzania and from the website of MVIWATA: www.mviwata.org.



Supporting value chains development for commodities relevant to small scale farmers

Facilitating economic empowerment for rural communities and members is one of the main objectives of MVIWATA. During the reporting period, MVIWATA implemented capacity building trainings for small scale farmers and other actors on production and value addition to promote value chain development for different crops of important economic value for farmers including cassava, sunflower, maize, paddy, onion, Irish potato and goat. Value chain development interventions were implemented by MVIWATA through its members in different geographical regions of Tanzania.

Capacity building workshops and learning visits were organised by MVIWATA for small holder farmers and members to improve their knowledge and skills on key aspects of production, sustainable land use and natural resources conservation, value addition, business skills and marketing. Representatives from those value chains were capacitated on the formation and management of producer and marketing groups and associations, land management, production systems, entrepreneurship and business skills.

In 2011, MVIWATA in collaboration with its collaborators and development partners supported development and strengthening of various value chains in areas around constructed rural markets and areas where there is ongoing implementation of development projects. Among value chains that were supported maize value chain in Dodoma, Iringa, Rukwa and Tanga regions; rice value chain in Tabora, Manyara, Morogoro and Iringa regions. Other chains promoted are vegetable and fruits related value chains in Morogoro region; cassava value chain in Mkuranga of Pwani region; goat and onion value chain in Simanjiro and fishing industry in Rukwa region.

Through Lake Nyasa project implemented in Ludewa (Njombe) and and Kyela (Mbeya) districts, smallholder farmers were facilitated to prioritise some few crops and livestock of more economic value for support through value chain development approach. Through these interventions, a number of achievements were recorded at farmers level which range from improved skills for farmers on land management, increased skills on crop and animal husbandry, entrepreneurship and business skills development, networking, increased capacities on group formation and strengthening, formation and management of rural financial institutions (SACCOS and VSLAs), and management collective marketing for agro produce.

Cassava value chain development in Mkuranga district

A total of 50 cassava producer groups with an average of 14 members/ group are involved in cassava value chain development in Mkuranga district. This project is implemented in partnership with VECO Tanzania. To ensure effective participation of smallholder farmers in the value chain, MVIWATA organised capacity building workshop trainings to improve their skill on production and marketing of cassava produce, entrepreneurship and business skills, record keeping, management of producer groups, gender equality, communication and conflict resolution. Other themes covered were use of existing MVIWATA market information system to access better prices and understanding of MVIWATA philosophy as way to increase active memberships for sustainability purposes. As result from capacity building interventions, cassava producer groups have come together to form MVIWATA primary networks to increase networking, communication and experience sharing among members.

In 2011, 4 primary farmer networks at village level namely Mwambaya, Kalole, Misasa and Kolagwa organized one forum each to discuss issues that affect the livelihood of farmers and the community welfare at large. Issues that were discussed include but not limited to the need for standardized weighing balances and measurement units for use in selling cassava produce, strengthening relationship and harmonization between cassava producer groups and other groups in those villages and the challenge of lack of access to social services such as health and extension services. So far, 6 processing centres have been established and are at final stage of accomplishment. Although not well finished, 3 of them

are well functioning and engaged in the production, processing and marketing of cassava flour and other derivatives.

Sunflower value chain development in Chunya district

Sunflower value chain development is being promoted in Chunya through *Sustainable Food Security Programme phase II implemented through partnership between MVIWATA and VECO* Tanzania. To realise planned and expected outcomes, MVIWATA conducted in 2011 a need assessment to identify challenges and constraints related to sunflower value chain development for lobbying and advocacy to stimulate support to the initiative.

Among issues that were identified and addressed through capacity building and lobbying and advocacy interventions include poor implementation of the government subsidised voucher system and distribution of agricultural input subsidies to farmers, low involvement and participation of smallholder farmers in policy formulation process, lack of access to reliable markets and market information for agro produce, land related issues and export bans on agro produce.

To share these findings with key stakeholders, MVIWATA organised meetings and fora at village, wards, district, regional and national levels to discuss sunflower values chain related challenges and together find solutions and appropriate ways to deal with them. At different occasions, smallholder farmers through their primary networks organised meetings and fora at village level to share these challenges and seek village government support to their cause in favour of sunflower production.

Additionally, MVIWATA continued to strengthen its primary and middle level networks at all levels and commercial farmers' organisation (CFOs) involved in sunflower production to ensure that they are capable to lobby and advocate for conducive policy environment supportive to the development of sunflower value chain.

Various partners meetings and fora were conducted by MVIWATA to facilitate sharing of experiences and lessons on various aspects affecting production and marketing of sunflower products such as land management and crop husbandry practices, management and harmonization of CFOs and farmers network activities, conflicts resolutions and marketing. These interventions increased also networking and collaboration among sunflower value chain actors. Exchange visits were also organised for sunflower growers for learning purposes.

Supporting development of value chain in Kyela and Ludewa districts

In 2011, MVIWATA continued to support value chain development initiatives for various commodities of high economic potential for farmers in Kyela (Mbeya) and Ludewa (Njombe) districts through *Lake Nyasa Ecosystems and Livelihoods project*. The interventions targeted to achieve the set project' outputs and outcomes. The implementation involved activities related to sensitization, mobilization, awareness creation of the target groups on the project and MVIWATA objectives. Capacity building trainings were conducted for smallholder producers on production systems, land management, marketing, entrepreneurship, business development and on the impact of cross cutting issues like gender and HIV/AIDS on development.

Other activities that were implemented are those related to post harvest management, selection of valuable agro-enterprises, linking smallholder farmers to potential stakeholders in the value chain, capacity building on financial service, establishment of demonstration plots for crops with high economic potential prioritized by farmers, market information system, and lobbying and advocacy. To increase the outreach, residential trainings were organized at village level to increase farmers' participation. This methodology has resulted into increased efficient use of resources, reaching more farmers and spread effect of the interventions. The expectation is that more impact in terms of productivity, income, land management and business management will be recorded at household level in 2012.

At of 2,992 (58% being men and 42% being women) smallholder farmers from 94 social economic groups (55 groups from Keyla district and 39 groups from Ludewa district) from 26 villages (10 villages of Ludewa district and 18 villages from Kyela district) and 14 wards (4 wards of Ludewa district and 10 wards of Kyela district) and other stakeholders participated in these activities. These statistics are more less 3 times the statics of 2010 and the number of economic groups and coverage of the project have increased as well.

Value chain development around MVIWATA constructed markets

Activities to promote access to market and market information aimed to secure sustainable access to locally produced food crops for urban and rural populations at less volatile producer attractive prices. These activities were implemented by MVIWATA with support from the European Commission and little funds from local government authorities in areas around old and newly constructed markets of MVIWATA. To stimulate actors involvement and participation in the development of value chains for commodities traded through these markets, MVIWATA implemented various activities to facilitated farmers improve productivity and marketing of those commodities. Other activities that were

implemented in this regards are those targeting formation and strengthening of rural financial institutions, institutional development and strengthening of market board companies and access to services through support and promotion of Rural Microenterprises Development to improve service delivery by Business Development Services (BDS) providers. Capacity building trainings, exposure visits and sensitization meetings were organised for business service providers around the markets to enhance rural microenterprises access to business services. Members of the target groups and associations were therefore trained on production systems, quality control, business management and entrepreneurship skills, record keeping and monitoring of their business. Some of BDS providers were linked to Small Industry Development Organisation (SIDO) to get experience and for technical support on how to improve their business through improved processing and packaging for their products.

Onion and goat value chain development in Simanjiro district

MVIWATA continued to support value chain development for onion and goat through partnership and collaboration with VECO Tanzania. The project is implemented in 10 villages from 4 wards in Simanjiro district. A total of 45 producer farmer groups with an average membership of 25 members are directly benefiting from the project. Among those groups, 23 are involved in the development of onion value chain and 22 in the development of goat value chain. During the reporting period, capacity building trainings, exposure visits and sensitization meetings were organised for farmers to ensure increased production and marketing of onion and goats in Simanjiro district. A number of value chain related issues were advocated by MVIWATA to influence changes on issues of farmers' concerns that negatively affects development of commercial farmers organizations (CFO's) and farmers Networks.

Among challenged that were addressed include poor transport and communication infrastructures (Roads and Irrigation systems), low participation and representation of farmers in decision making organs such as village and ward development committees, Multiple taxation on farm produce (At district level), access to market and market information and access to extension services. Through assessment carried out by MVIWATA, 8 potential markets namely Hedaru, Same, Himo, Moshi/Mbuyuni, Arusha/Kilombero, Nairobi/Wakulima market, Mombasa/Kongowea market and Taveta were identified as market outlets for onion and goats.

However, to ensure linkage and better use of identified markets, smallholder farmers from commercial farmer organizations and leaders of MVIWATA primary networks were sensitised on the use of existing market information system within MVIWATA to get up to date information about prices of farm produce from different markets a baseline for price negotiation and bargaining power.

Paddy/rice value chain development in Manyara, Tabora, Singida and Morogoro regions

During the reporting period, MVIWATA in collaboration with Rural livelihood Development Company implemented various activities to support development of paddy/rice value chain in Manyara (Babati), Morogoro (Mvomero), Tabora (Igunga) na Singida (Manyoni) regions through *Enhancement of Farmer Organization, Provision of Agronomic Skills and Better Marketing* project. The interventions under this project targeted to increase capacities of rice producer groups and associations on production systems and application of improved agronomic practices, land management and collective marketing for paddy/rice. Other aspects that were covered through capacity building interventions include leadership and management of group dynamics, formation and strengthening of producer groups and associations, formation and strengthening of rural financial institutions (SACCOS and VSLAs), record keeping and monitoring and evaluation. Also farmers were capacitated on post harvest management techniques, marketing and market information system, entrepreneurship, business development, learning through establishment of demonstration plots to increase the outreach, and lobbying and advocacy.

Promoting rural entrepreneurship development at grassroots level

With financial support from Agriterra, MVIWATA implemented a one year project to support agribusiness and entrepreneurship development for smallholder farmers at grassroots level. However, prior to starting the implementation of the project, MVIWATA conducted rapid survey studies to identify gaps and opportunities in the agriculture and market related policies to support entrepreneurship development at grassroots level and recommend on appropriate ways to improve the current situation. Other studies that were conducted aimed to investigate and map out commodities of high economic value and with market potential whose value chain development will have more impact in improving the economy status and livelihoods of smallholder farmers in the target regions.

Unfortunately and due to late signing of contract agreement between MVIWATA and Agriterra, it was not possible to implement all activities that were planned except preliminary surveys and some basic capacity building workshops for famers and MVIWATA staff on project conceptualization and on financial management to improve internal financial control. Other activities that were supported through this partnership are those which targeted to support development and sustainability of the rural tourism project implemented by MVIWATA members in Rushoto district. The aim of this project is to enhance capacities of smallholder producer farmers and their networks or associations to engage effectively in commercial agriculture through improved entrepreneurship skills development and through facilitating market linkages and linkages with financial services

providers. It is anticipated that through this project, smallholder farmers will be economically empowered and finally become active members of MVIWATA who are capable to contribute to MVIWATA through membership subscription fees. Having so many active members will in turn increase MVIWATA internal funds that will lead to future financial sustainability of the organization.

Supporting smallholder farmers to engage in rural tourism business in Lushoto District.

During 2011, MVIWATA collaboration with Agriterra continued to support its primary farmer networks in Rushoto district to engage effectively in rural tourism business as a means for income diversification for smallholder farmers. Farmers from Lushoto district particularly Kwalei and Kwekanga wards were capacitated on coordination and management of rural tourism industry to increased their income. To ensure proper management and sustainability of the project, MVIWATA facilitated capacity building workshops and sensitisation meetings for members, leaders of local networks involved in the project and community members to engage in the business. Four camping sites are in place and are used to accommodate visitors. Although the frequency and numbers of visitors is not high to these camps, farmers have been capacited to engage in tourism business and are well positioned to provide quality services to visitors such as accommodation, quality meals, entertainment and tour guiding.



Outside and inside overview for rural tourism camping sites that are managed by MVIWATA members in Rushoto District

All the camping sites are managed and owned by farmer networks and the income collected through these facilities are shared between individual owners of the camping huts, farmer networks and tour guides. To ensure quality service delivery by farmers, one trained tour guide was recruited by MVIWATA to provide them with technical support to farmer networks leaders and owners of camping huts and to promote establishment of market linkages with tourisms industries from different countries. The experience from this project since its inception has demonstrated high economic potentials and soundness not only in improving income of smallholder farmers and local communities but also in the conserving natural ecosystem services through increased commitment of farmers to invest

in the project. Other benefits that were realised by farmers through this project include linkage of farmers from Rushoto district to visitors from different angles of the world, an ample opportunity for them to learn from other culture and earn more income.

Strengthening rural financial institutions to enhance farmers access to financial services

During the reporting period, MVIWATA with support from its development partners implemented various activities to facilitate formation and strengthening of new rural savings and credit groups, associations and cooperatives that are managed by farmers themselves. Other activities that were implemented during this period targeted to build capacities to existing SACCOS networks in Morogoro, Dodoma and Kilimanjaro regions to ensure better service delivery and sustainable management of these rural microfinancial institutions.

Among the activities that were organised by MVIWATA to achieve the above objectives include sensitization and mobilisation meetings for members and non members of these SACCOS to increase memberships and the number of SACCOS. Exposure visits and capacity building trainings were conducted leaders and members on leadership, management and operation of SACCOS to enhance learning and sharing experiences from well and least performing financial institutions. Follow up interventions were organised to assess the progress of existing SACCOS and MVIWATA credit funds in Dodoma, Morogoro and Kilimanjaro regions. Another objective of follow up missions was to assess the impact of these institutions and the extent to which they are contributing to improve the livelihood of members and surrounding communities at large.

To increase it capacities to serve more members through rural financial institutions, MVIWATA implemented activities targeting the establishment of a regional financial institutions in Morogoro region that will serve its members through individual SACCOS. To achieve this, MVIWATA organised visits and consultation meetings with members of MOMFISECO union and other none member SACCOS to collect views and ideas that will help to in establishment of one strong farmers managed microfinance company in Morogoro region. A total of nine (9) farmer managed SACCOS were visited in Mvomero, Kilosa, Ulanga and Kilombero districts through which 52 individual members (37 Men and 15 Female) were consulted and embraced this idea.

The outcomes from the consultation meetings were shared during a two day workshop that involved 36 participants (22 male and 14 female) representing farmers managed SACCOS. The aim of the workshop was to develop strategies and modalities for the establishment and operation a regional microfinance company in Morogoro. Nine (9) members were selected to form an interim committee to assume the transitional phase towards the establishment of the company. A small task team was also formed. The role this task team was to ensure that more studies and consultations are conducted to come

up with guideline and clear procedures for the establishment of Morogoro Microfinance company within short time.

In areas where MVIWATA is relatively new particularly in Kyela and Ludewa districts of Mbeya and Njombe regions respectively, various sensitisation meetings and training workshops were conducted to facilitate formation and strengthening of farmers managed financial institutions (SACCOS and VSLAs) and to enhance their capacities on leadership, management and operation of these institutions. In Kyela and Ludewa only, a total of 351 small scale farmers (169 Male and 182 Female) were capacitated by MVIWATA in 2011 and three (3) new SACCOS of farmers were established and strengthened in Handeni, Kyela and Ludewa districts.



Farmers listening carefully MVIWATA facilitator during training session on financial literacy in Kyela and Ludewa districts

Promoting cereal crop banking to improve financial services

In 2011, MVIWATA conducted various activities to improve financial service delivery around constructed markets and cereal growing areas through promoting and strengthening cereal crop bank. Among activities conducted include exchange visits for farmers and MVIWATA leaders to well performing cereal banks to learn from their experience. Participants in collaboration with MVIWATA facilitators used these learning visit opportunities to determine new kind of financial arrangements needed between RMEs and MFI. Training workshops were organised for members to capacitate them on crop banking systems especially procedures and requirements for establishing new cereal banks and on how to implement crop banking initiatives in their undertakings. The impact from these activities was the increase in quantities of cereals that were traded on MVIWATA markets and/or stored in the existing cereal banks as well as the amount of loans that were accessed by producer farmers who are members of established crop banks from surrounding SACCOS for investments in agriculture and other economic activities. For example, 28 farmers stored about five hundred (510) bags (51,000 kg) of maize in the warehouse between August and November 2011 only. A loan amounting to Tshs

5,500,000/= was disbursed by the SACCOS to cereal growing farmers engaged in cereal banking while waiting for better and higher prices.

3.4 Building capacity of MVIWATA members, leaders and staff on cross cutting issues (HIV/AIDS, gender and climate change)

Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in MVIWATA programmes to create awareness to members, leaders and staff

During the reporting period, MVIWATA continued to support various initiatives gearing towards enhancing HIV/AIDS prevention and education programme as well as supporting PLWHIV/AIDS programme at middle and primary network levels. Different topics on HIV/AIDS were introduced and discussed by participants trough various trainings and workshops that were organised by MVIWATA. MVIWATA through its national office and middle level networks continued to support and strengthen capacities of established economic groups and enterprises on the impact of HIV/AIDS on development as a means to stimulate its members to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS and increase their income and access to other social services.

To ensure effective engagement in HIV/AIDS mitigation, MVIWATA conducted various activities to identify key stakeholders specialized in VCT and PLHIV to eplore potential areas for collaboration. Four stakeholders providing services on HIV/AIDS matters and orphans in Mbeya and Rukwa regions were visited and interviewed to understand their capacities for service provision. Various meeting were held with different stakeholders with HIV/AIDS interventions both NGOs and government institutions to seek for collaboration. Participants to these meetings were drawn from Olive Branch dealing with Children care, Walter Reed, Mbeya Medical Research Project and MVIWATA representives. The meetings helped to reflect on possibilities for improving partnerships and collaboration in implementing HIV/AIDS related interventions and other social activities in Rukwa and Mbeya regions.

Facilitating members, leaders and staff to participate in international events/forums on HIV/AIDS

December 1st of every year is an international world AIDS day. In 2011, MVIWATA in collaboration with other partners facilitated its members, leaders and staff to participate in the celebration the International world AIDS day. A total of 4,900 people participated in the world AIDS international event. Among participants to the international world AIDS day of 2011 include community members from villages around all markets, leaders of MVIWATA at all levels and local government leaders at village and district levels.

During the world AIDS day, different activities were performed including education on HIV/AIDS prevention measures, promotion and distribution of condoms and sensitisation of youth groups, women and men to attend voluntary counselling and testing. To ensure adequate participation, MVIWATA organised sports events and arts to disseminate messages on the impact of HIV/AIDS on development. A total of 300 T-shirts with a massage sensitising community against HIV/AIDS infestation were printed and distributed to participants in areas around MVIWATA markets at Igurisi, Kibaigwa and Morogoro. As results from these activities, 649 (358 men and 291women) persons attended HIV voluntary testing and counselling in Morogoro and Mbeya. Among 649 tested people, 23 persons who were tested positive were linked to specialised doctors and care and treatment centres (CTC) for more support.



Gender Policy for MVIWATA in place and functional

To ensure proper gender mainstreaming in MVIWATA, a consultant was hired to develop MVIWATA gender policy that should provide guidance to MVIWATA on how to integrate gender activities into the organizational plans and projects. The draft of MVIWATA gender policy was presented to MVIWATA board of directors and technical staff for inputs and comments. The policy was accomplished and it is in place and operational.





Building capacities of MVIWATA members, leaders and staff on gender

To ensure that gender aspects are taken into consideration, the concept of gender was integrated and mainstreamed in various activities that were implemented by MVIWATA at all levels. The aim of these activities was to ensure gender equity through facilitating women groups to participate and benefit from MVIWATA interventions, join and become members of networks and associations of MVIWATA. In all activities i.e. elections of representatives for the different groups and networks, trainings and exposure visits women were encouraged to participate. Also specific trainings on gender were conducted to MVIWATA members, leaders and staff at all levels and at different occasions to strengthen their capacities

Coalition building and participation of MVIWATA into gender related issues events

In collaboration with partners like Oxfam, MVIWATA facilitated more than 6,000 members from rural areas in Manyara, Arusha, Mbeya and Morogoro to participate in International Women Day being celebrated on March 8, every year. Among those, 45 members were facilitated to join other participants of the national festival in Dar-es-Salaam. MVIWATA support to women members participation at the World Women's Day event demonstrated its valuable commitment to addressing gender related challenges through mainstreaming.

MVIWATA mainstreamed climate change into its programmes through strengthening capacities of leaders, members and staff

To address climate change related challenges, MVIWATA implemented activities targeting to improve capacities of its members improve production while preserving the environment. Training workshops were organized to ensure that smallholder farmers have adequate capacities to identify and apply innovative ways and best practices on production that are user friendly and conserve the environment. The workshops were facilitated by experienced people from collaborating institutions and MVIWATA staff. The facilitators tried to explain to farmers the main factors leading to land degradation among which human activities constitute the major one. Through the subsequent discussions, farmers were able to understand to what extent they are contributing to environmental destruction and climate change in general. Some among destructive practices that were mentioned include shifting cultivation, bush fire, uncontrolled and over grazing, and the use of excessive chemicals.

To protect the environment from the impact of climate change, participants were advised to increase the use animals manures and compost with moderate application of inorganic fertilizers where necessary. Organic manure was advised due to its high potential for preserving soil moisture, improvement of soil texture, improvement of soil microorganisms and in improving soil fertility status. Where the land is sloppy, farmers were advised to use terraces and live contour bands. Another aspect of land management that was discussed is tree planting practice in areas surrounding water sources and mountains to reduce land degradation. However, it was observed that there is double effect from tree plantation as at one point, the activity helps to address land degradation while on other hand it helps promote forestry industry which in turn will increase income to farmers through selling forest products in the near future. For example, a total of 551,650 trees of different types were planted by farmers at the end of December 2011. In many villages especially in the southern highlands, farmers have established tree nurseries with about 373,850 tree seedlings that were ready for planting by December 2011.



A demonstration plot set by farmers on land management practice and tree nursery with seedlings of Cyprus ready for transplanting: Ludewa district

Other activities that targeted to address climate change are those that were implemented to support MVIWATA primary farmer networks in Rushoto district to engage seriously rural tourism business as a source of income through protection and conservation of existing natural resources and attractions. Coordinated and managed by farmers, the project has demonstrate high potential and soundness not only in improving income for smallholder farmers and local communities but also in the conservation of natural ecosystem services through increased commitment of farmers to protect their environment.

3.5 Strengthening institutional development of MVIWATA

The institutional capacity strengthening interventions carried out in 2011 targeted to improve capacities of MVIWATA as an organization at all levels to ensure that the organization has sufficient organisational, functional and financial capacities to plan, implement, monitor its programmes and communicate to members the resulting outcomes. To ensure effective service delivery to its members, technical support initiatives to MVIWATA National, Middle Level and local level Networks were implemented to enhance staff and leaders' competencies in various field of interventions through tailor made trainings and backstopping missions. Areas that were addressed through these trainings include project planning and implementation, leadership and network management, good governance, monitoring and evaluation and on financial management.

MVIWATA organised its Annual General Meeting

In October 2011, through financial support from various development partners, MVIWATA organised its annual general meeting that was held in Morogoro for two days 24th and 25th. The first day is generally used to share experiences and best practices from members and discussion of key issues of farmers interest prevailing depending circumstances while the second day is used for the annual general meeting. The meeting involved 240 participants including 176 MVIWATA members from MVIWATA constituency all over the

country, 30 representatives from development partners, representatives from different Ministries and local government authorities collaborating with MVIWATA, 22 staff of MVIWATA and 13 representatives from different local media. Swedish Cooperative Centre represented other development partners through it representation by Mr George Onyango from its office in Nairobi Kenya. The AGM provide an opportunity for participants to discuss various themes on issues affecting the livelihood of small scale farmers in Tanzania.





MVIWATA elected its new leaders

MVIWATA is an autonomous and legally registered national farmers organisation that is governed by agreed rules and regulations. The year 2011 was an electoral year for new Board members of MVIWATA. One of the agenda for the annual general meeting was the election of new members of the Board of director of MVIWATA as per constitution. During that process, new 9 members of MVIWATA board of Directors democratically elected were

representative members who attended the meeting.



Newly elected Board Members

MVIWATA facilitated its Council Meetings for Leaders

As per constitution, MVIWATA organised two council meetings for leaders from national and middle level networks. The meetings creates a platform for leaders of MVIWATA to share information and reports on implementation of various activities per members, the status of memberships, successes and challenges faced members. It also create an opportunity for providing recommendations and advice to MVIWATA board of Directors and the management for actions on issues that need to be implemented to address

challenges that emerge through the sharing process.

A leader from MVIWATA Zanzibar presenting a report during one of MVIWATA council meetings in Morogoro



Staff capacity development to improve performance

To improve the organizational performance and communication, MVIWATA organised and facilitated various capacity building interventions for its staff and leaders through workshops, technical meetings, exposure visits and participation into capacity development activities organised by collaborators. These for aaimed to facilitate interaction among MVIWATA staff, familiarization and orientation of new to MVIWATA programmes. Other objectives were to share update information of ongoing interventions and the status thereof, challenges and future plans and to create common understanding on proper modalities for harmonising MVIWATA core business with partners objectives.

Quarterly technical meetings were organised by MVIWATA at different occasions to discuss the progress, achievements and challenges faced by staff and members through implementation of different projects and appropriate ways to address them. Both staff and leaders were facilitated to attend capacity building meetings and workshops that were organised by development partners and collaborators to improve technical capacities of members to provide better services to the target groups to achieve the intended objectives. In areas where there are field staff attached to ongoing project, MVIWATA organised technical backstopping and couching missions in the field to equip the project staff and leaders with required knowledge and skills for effective implementation of planned activities.

4. Achievements realised by MVIWATA during the reporting period

The achievements that were realised by MVIWATA during the reporting period fall under outcomes and results indicated in five intervention areas indicated in its strategic plan and annual work plans for 2011. These achievements are summarised hereunder against the main strategic intervention areas of MVIWATA.

MVIWATA has strong farmers groups and networks with common voice and capable to advocate for farmers interests

Through sensitization and mobilization activities, smallholder farmers and other stakeholders have increased their understanding about the work of MVIWATA and its mission to advocate for farmers interest. Local government authority and other stakeholders have increased their support through provision of office facilities and technical expertise.

Through increased capacities on lobbying and advocacy, farmers were able to advocate for issues of farmers' concerns including the need for transparency in distributions of agricultural inputs subsidies, export ban, access to market and market information, land related issues, human rights and effective farmers representation in decision making bodies.

At different occasions, farmers were invited and participated in fora that were organized by local government institutions and other stakeholders and consequently, the number of development partners supporting middle level networks have increased to support development initiatives that address farmers' needs. In terms of organisational growth, MVIWATA membership has increased both in terms of individual farmers, groups and local networks and in areas where MVIWATA was newly introduced, new farmer groups and networks were formed at village and ward levels.

For example, 96 farmers groups and 28 primary networks joined MVIWATA through which a total of 102 individual farmers acquired membership of MVIWATA in Kyela and Ludewa only. Middle level networks that reported remarkable increase in membership are MVIWATA Monduli, MVIWATA Manyara, MVIWATA Ruvuma, MVIWATA Singida, MVIWATA Shinyanga, MVIWATA Iringa, and MVIWATA Mbeya. In 2011, eight middle level networks were supported through project by different partners directly or through MVIWATA head office to implement development activities.

Strengthening lobbying and advocacy capacity of farmers to influence policy process;

During 2011, a total of 6,297 people including MVIWATA members, leaders, staff and smallholder farmers in general were reached through lobbying and advocacy interventions that were carried out by MVIWATA and its collaborators. A total of 189 participants including MVIWATA leaders from primary, middle and national level networks, members, academicians, journalists, politicians and friends of MVIWATA were facilitated to participate in the national forum for commemoration of 50 years of independence of Tanzania Mainland in which participants reflected on the destiny of smallholder farmers after 50 years of independence. Participants in that forum came up with nine recommendations that were presented to the government through the directorate for Policy planning at the Ministry of Agriculture during a one day visit for MVIWATA leaders to the Ministry to acquire information and learn on CAADP implementation process. The visit was organised by the Easter and Southern Africa Farmer Forum (ESAFF) in December 2011.

In collaboration with other members of the Tanzania Land Alliance (TALA), MVIWATA delegates managed to meet two Parliamentary Standing Committees on land, environment and natural resources management in 2011. The meeting aimed to lobby and advocate for the amendments of the land acts and related policies so that they are responsive and addressing real needs of smallholder farmers. Among organizations that were represented in the meeting include MVIWATA, HAKIARDHI, PINGOS Forum, UCRT, LEAT, WILAC, and LHRC. A total of 50 members of Parliament attended the meeting including the Minister of State, Vice President Office for Environment, Hon Theresa Hoviza; the Deputy Minister for Land and Human Settlement, Hon Goodluck Olemedeye; Deputy Minister for livestock development and fisheries, Hon Benedict Olenangaro and other government officials from land and agricultural leading ministries.

As result from increased farmers' confidence and lobbying and advocacy skills, MVIWATA members from Chamkoroma and Kibaigwa wards in Kongwa district organised protest to react against misuse and corruption associated with the distribution of agricultural input subsidies through voucher system initiative. About 1,000 farmers from Kiteto district also organised demonstrations against evections of smallholder farmers to live their traditional land for game reserves and conservation areas.

These manifestations were conducted at Kibaigwa in Kongwa district where farmers from the two districts with their farm equipments and machineries blocked Dar es Salaam – Dodoma highway for many hours to pressurise the government in Kiteto District to revisit their decision and allow them to continue use that land for farming activities as it was before. Through communication unit, MVIWATA contributed much in providing reliable and accurate information to farmers on issues related to farmers concerns as a way for

empowering them with evidence based facts to support their lobbying and advocacy interventions.

Empowering farmers economically through initiatives such as saving and credit (microfinance), market linkage, and development of entrepreneurship skills

At the end of 2011, MVIWATA accomplished the construction of three new semi-whole sale markets structures with social centres with the aim to facilitate rural farmers access to reliable markets and better price for agro produce. The completion of these markets has increased the number of markets constructed by MVIWATA from 6 to 9 markets namely Kibaigwa (Dodoma), Kinole, Nyandira and Tawa (Morogoro), Mkata (Tanga), Igagala (Njombe), Igurusi (Mbeya) and Matai and Kasanga (Rukwa). To enhance operationalisation and management of these markets, a number of capacity building trainings were conducted to improve capacities of market board members on leadership, planning and management of business operations at markets. By end of 2011, substantial changes were observed in terms capacities; income at each market has increased and management of business activities has improved at MVIWATA constructed markets. During the reporting period, Mkata market in Tanga region which was not functioning before managed to raise its income up to an average of Tshs 500,000 per month over the last three months.

To enable more market users to obtain more and accurate information on demand and supply chain for agro produce, MVIWATA directed more its efforts in the improvement and expansion of the market information system. Currently, market users can provide or access market information about sellers and buyers and quantities available to buy or sale. Further improvement are underway to ensure that buyers and sellers are using MAMIS to indicative prices at which they are wish to buy or sale their produce. The number of markets integrated into MAMIS has increased from 12 markets in 2010 to 25 markets 2011 from Tanzania and Kenya. An average of 3000 users were accessing market information per month through the hub.

During the same period, MVIWATA registered tremendous increase in number of value chains initiatives supported by MVIWATA and partners. The achievements realised through these chains range from improved skills for farmers on land management, crop and animal husbandry, entrepreneurship and business skills development, networking, group formation and strengthening, formation and management of rural financial institutions (SACCOS and VSLAs), and management of collective marketing for agro produce. A total of 94 new social economic and producer groups members of MVIWATA were formed and strengthened.

Economic interventions that were supported by MVIWATA to farmer groups in 2011 were very diversified. One of entrepreneurship activities that were promoted include rural tourism initiative in Rushoto district with the aim to promote natural resources management and income generation by smallholder farm families. Through this project,

the experience demonstrated high potential for the project not only in improving income for smallholder farmers and local communities but also in conserving natural ecosystem services. Other benefits realised by farmers through this project include linkages of smallholder farmers from Rushoto district with the rest of the world, an ample opportunity for farmers and visitors o learn from each other and earn more income.

Three (3) SACCOS of farmers were formed and strengthened in Handeni, Kyela and Ludewa districts. Through capacity building and sensitisation activities, a total of 351 small scale farmers (169 Male and 182 Female) were capacitated on financial and operational management skills of farmers financial institutions. In Morogoro region, farmers who are engaged in microfinance activities (SACCOS) together decided to put their strengths together to establish one strong microfinance company at region level which will help them to solve problems and challenges of capital to enable them to invest in more remunerative and farming activities. The process has started and an interim steering committee was established to assume management responsibilities during the transition period.

Three new market companies were formed, strengthened and registered with MVIWATA and the district councils as shareholders of the companies. This increased the number of market board companies from 6 to 9. At these markets, the services offered by market boards have increased and improved leading to increase in income earned by each market board. More than fifty rural microenterprises (RMEs) present at each market had were linked to service providers and facilitated by MVIWATA to access to non financial services, e.g. trainings, packaging materials. The attitude of market stakeholders towards business management has changed, a result of what market boards are capable to develop plans for their business, keep records and estimates the selling price.

In terms of linkage with financial services, various market stakeholders from around MVIWATA constructed markets were linked to financial institutions including formal banks. Through these linkages, stakeholders and MVIWATA members were facilitated to access to loans for investment in agriculture and other remunerative businesses. For example, 45 blockers from Mkata (Tanga) were facilitated to get loans amounting to Tshs 22,500,000 from Kinole SACCOS while 28 farmers from Igagala (Njombe) were facilitated to access to a sum of Tshs 9,640,000 from Ng'anda SACCOS.

Building capacity of MVIWATA members, leaders and staff on cross cutting issues (HIV/AIDS, gender and climate change)

By end of 2011, 387 (222 men and 165) persons attended HIV voluntary testing and counselling (VTC) in Morogoro while 262 (136 M, 126 F) persons attended HIV voluntary testing (VTC) at Igurusi in Mbeya following mobilisations and sensitisation activities that were carried out by MVIWATA and its members organizations. Among those, 23 persons

who were tested positive were linked to specialised doctors and care and treatment centres (CTC) for more support. In relation to gender, equal participation and representation of MVIWATA members and leaders was emphasised. However currently, gender representation in leadership varies depending on the nature of the association. For instance, the percentages of men is observed to higher than that of women in group and networks leadership while women representation and activeness in socio-economic groups is higher than men. For having a gender policy in place, gender balance and equality will be emphasised through all interventions due to take place from now onwards.

On environmental aspect, activities carried out by MVIWATA to promote natural resources management and land conservation helped farmers to understand the link between production and land management and how they influence each other. Farmers have realized more possibility and potential to earn money income through investment in rural tourism and forest management industries particularly by intensifying tree plantation on none fertile land to improve and conserve existing ecosystem services. The investment in these industries not only help farmers to increase income but also to sustain land ecosystems and conserve the environment. For example, farmers in Ludewa district managed to plant a total of 551,650 timber and fruit trees in 2011 only. In all participating villages, farmers have established tree nurseries which count for 373,850 tree seedlings now ready for planting. The projections were that at least 842,860 tree seedlings should be planted by December 2011.

Strengthening institutional development of MVIWATA

All constitutional meetings were successfully organised as per constitutions. In October 2011, MVIWATA organised a two day annual general meeting that was held in Morogoro on 24th and 25th. The meeting enabled participants to share experiences and best practices in their undertakings and to discuss key issues of farmers interest prevailing depending circumstances. A total 240 participants including 176 MVIWATA members from MVIWATA constituency all over the country, 30 representatives from development partners, representatives from different Ministries and local government authorities collaborating with MVIWATA, 22 staff of MVIWATA and 13 representatives from different local media were facilitated to attend the meeting. During the same meeting, new Board members of MVIWATA were elected for a period of three year.

As per constitution, MVIWATA organised on other hand two council meetings for leaders from national and middle level networks. The meetings generally create a platform for leaders of MVIWATA to share information and reports on implementation of various activities per members, the status of memberships, successes and challenges faced by members. they also create an opportunity for members to provide recommendations and advice to MVIWATA board of Directors and the management on actions that need further interventions to address challenges that emerged through the sharing process. To improve

organizational and staff performance, MVIWATA organised and facilitated various capacity building interventions. Technical and staff meetings were organised by MVIWATA at different occasions to discuss the progress, achievements and challenges faced by staff and members along the implementation of different projects in order to make adjustment and provide advice on appropriate ways to improve the situation.

4. Lessons, challenges and constraints encountered along the implementation

Despite the achievements and results recorded in 2011, MVIWATA experienced as well some difficulties and challenges which to some extent affected the achievement of intended outcomes and reduced the organisation efficiency and performance. Among the challenges include limited capacities of MVIWATA to sustain competent and adequate human resource available within the organization. MVIWATA has low internal and limited financial resources to implement its strategic plan. Additionally , while many donors put aggregate resources to the governments, there is little or no support from governments to support MVIWATA initiatives.

For being a lobbying and advocacy organization, MVIWATA need to have competent and skilled members and staff capable to carry out an in-depth analysis of current policies and programmes to come up with tangible and well researched evidences for lobbying and advocacy to influence change. Another challenges is low capacities of members and leaders on leadership and management of groups and networks at middle level and grassroots level. Due to the impact of MVIWATA interventions in addressing social, political and economic challenges faced by smallholder farmers, MVIWATA members and farmers in general are expecting much support from MVIWATA which doesn't much their expectations.

Many farmers have not yet mobilized into strong groups so that they are capable to defend and advocate for their rights. They are still much dependant on national level and this can be associated with limited capacity for farmer groups and networks to mobilize internal resources to run their business. Poor communication and exchange of information both horizontally and vertically is another challenge that hinder farmers to access to crucial information and learn from the fellow farmers. However, it was observed that capacity enhancement for smallholder farmers through their groups and networks at all levels and coalition building with likeminded organizations are of paramount importance to influence change through lobbying and advocacy.

6. Way forward

To address a number of challenges faced by MVIWATA and achieve the intended outcomes, the following are key actions to be implemented now and in near future:

- To increase activities for mobilisation and sensitisation of members to increase memberships that will lead to increased collection of internal revenue through membership fees,
- To ensure harmonisation of MVIWATA interventions at all levels and that of partners into one master plan to avoid duplication of efforts and conflicts of interests among parties,
- To meet current members needs and address the real farmers concerns, the current strategic plan of MVIWATA will be reviewed to reflect current needs,
- In order to strengthen lobbying and advocacy strategy of MVIWATA, more research and surveys shall be conducted and synthesise existing information for L&A
- MVIWATA will pursue maintenance, improvement and updating its membership database
- To keep members and the public well informed, MVIWATA will continue to strengthen its communication and information unit to improve sharing of experience and best practices among members. MVIWATA will ensure promotion and expansion of MVIWATA radio programmes by using more local media to reach more farmers in rural and for visibility
- To improve access to market and market information, MVIWATA will continue support promotion and expansion of MAMIS to reach more farmers towards commercialisation as sources of internal income