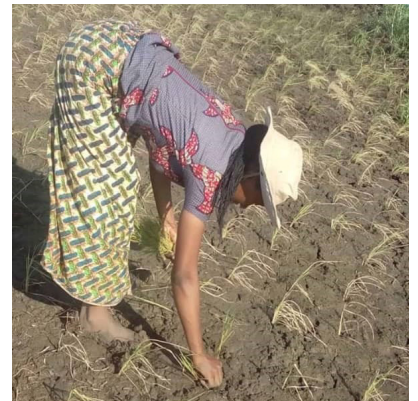


AMBITIOUS FARMERS

in Tanzania



*Almost 1,000,000
farmers,
organised in
more than 307
cooperatives*

**AGRI
TERRA**



FOR COOPERATIVES



“My maize yield increased from 7 bags to 13-15 bags.”

INTRODUCTION

Ambitious farmers in Tanzania

Agriterra reaches almost 1,000,000 farmers, organised in more than 307 cooperatives.

We interviewed 7 farmers from Tanzania to find out if their situation has been changed since they are member of a cooperative.

How was their situation several years ago (or before their membership), what has happened during their membership, what were the most significant changes in their situation and how did the changes come about?

Read their stories...

ERASTO MLELWA

TANZANIA NJOMBE DISTRICT VILLAGE:

**Erasto (40 years) has one wife and four children.
He is a cattle breeder with cows and goats.
He is a member of IHALULA AMCOS since 2010.**

Erasto Mlelwa became a member of the cooperative for three reasons:

1. Because of the benefits of being a cooperative member, such as selling yield as a group and setting a better price for his yield.
2. Easy access to the yield market.
3. Easy access to agricultural inputs such as fertilisers and seeds.

Changes

Before his membership the situation of Erasto wasn't good. He was only able to harvest seven bags per acre. Life was very tough. He couldn't pay the school fees for his children, the family income was low, and he barely managed to save his family. He couldn't buy agricultural inputs either.

Luckily his situation changed. The most significant changes that took place for him are:

- ✔ Increased maize yield from 7 bags to 13-15 bags.
- ✔ Knowing the best maize practice, such as the correct use of fertilizer per acre.
- ✔ He began livestock keeping of different animals, like cows and goats
- ✔ He was capable to buy home furniture like radios, television and chairs.

IHALULA AMCOS

Total members: 63
36 men and 27 women

AMBITIONS OF ERASTO

1. To get motorcycles as means of transportation that will enable him to bring agricultural inputs to the farm and carry water and pesticides for spraying crops.
2. To create income to get access to social services such as electricity at his home.
3. To buy modern agricultural equipment.
4. To enlarge more farms after obtaining modern agricultural equipment.

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Agriterra is an agri-agency founded by the Dutch agricultural sector and professionalises cooperatives and farmer organisations worldwide to better serve the needs and interests of their members. By their success they make an important contribution to employment and sustainable economic development.

WWW.AGRITERRA.ORG



PATENTUS MLIGO

TANZANIA
NJOMBE REGION
VILLAGE: IHALULA

Patentus (65 years) is a cattle breeder with 10 cows and also a maize farmer. He is member of the cooperative IHALULA AMCOS since 2010.

Patentus Mligo became a member of the cooperative because he liked the services that it provided such as inputs supply and a market for the farmers' produce. He joined IHALULA AMCOS in 2010 when the cooperative started to be active.

Economic situation

The economic situation of Patentus before joining the cooperative was so bad that he could barely provide his family with basic needs such as food, shelter and clothes. Some of his children couldn't go to school because he didn't have the money to pay their school fees.

The social situation was very bad, too. Almost all the community members were cultivating with their own poor experience. The production was barely enough for their survival and too low for doing business, which resulted in poverty.

“Due to the several trainings within the cooperative I am now better aware of farming activities.”



Changes

Patentus says that his life has changed a lot. The most significant changes that have taken place for him after becoming a member of the cooperative are:

- ✔ Thanks to the several trainings within the cooperative he is aware of farming activities now. He has gained enough knowledge to take good care of the crops in order to get better production.
- ✔ He is now able to pay the school fees for his children.
- ✔ His income has increase by almost 80%!
- ✔ He has also bought more farms for more cultivation activities.

IHALULA AMCOS

Total members: 63
36 men and 27 women

The cooperative was there since 90's but it was not active. It started to be active in 2010.

AMBITIONS OF PATENTUS

1. To buy a car. for transportation during farming activities.
2. To build a house that is bigger than his current house, which is very small.
3. To own a market for selling inputs supply to other farmers within his village.

SADALA CHACHA

TANZANIA
CHALINZE / COAST REGION
VILLAGE: VISEZI

Sadala (40 years) is Chairman of CHAURU LTD. He is member of the cooperative since 2004.



In 2004, Sadala sent an application letter to become a member of CHAURU LTD. He paid the registration and entrance fees and bought two shares.

His social, economic and family situation wasn't good. The harvest was very low and there was a lack of education and information on the best farming methods.

As a member of the cooperative, Sadala hoped to practise agricultural activities in the cooperative. He also hoped to get benefits from the cooperative, such as access to irrigation infrastructure, seeds and pesticides.

AMBITIONS OF SADALA

1. To see the cooperative moving forth towards development
2. Agriculture to create more employment opportunities and source of income to farmers
3. To get capital from farming to start a big business

CHAMA CHA WAKULIMA WA UMWAGILIAJI RUVU (CHAURU LTD)

Total members: 534 men and 366 women

The farmers here are producing paddy through irrigation.

Changes

The most significant changes that took place for him after becoming a member of the cooperative:

- ✓ The harvest increased from 35-40 bags per acre to 60-70 bags per acre.
- ✓ His income increased, so he can pay the school fees of his children.
- ✓ The living standard raised.

“Being a member of the cooperative has changed everything in my daily activities.”

ERNEST MLIMBILA

TANZANIA
NJOMBE RURAL DISTRICT
VILLAGE: LUNGUNYA

Ernest (60 years) is a farmer (Irish potatoes and maize) and also board member of ISOWELU AMCOS LTD, since November 2017.

Ernest Mlimbila became member of ISOWELU AMCOS LTD for three reasons:

1. To obtain inputs on credit
2. To have a common and better market for selling his yields
3. To have a strong voice

Changes

The benefits of membership are:

- ✓ Farmers are practising good and modern farming methods.
- ✓ Farmers are frequently receiving trainings and advice regarding farming activities from various local and international organisations.

Those changes have increased the income of the farmers as well as their farming knowledge and skills. Finally, they have been ensured the presence of surplus foods.

“Before I became member of the cooperative the situation was worse, especially the availability of seeds. Seeds were bought in for a higher price. Also there was no market for selling my yields. The presence of middle men was a very serious problem to me and other farmers.”

ISOWELU AMCOS LTD

Year of establishment: 2017
Total members:
139 men and 280 women

AMBITIONS OF ERNEST

1. To continue raising income by practising good and modern farming methods
2. To widen his farming activities by using new varieties of potato seeds.
3. To obtain more training and advice to improve farming activities.



ALLY OMARI SALEHE

TANZANIA
MVOMERO REGION
VILLAGE: KUNKE

Ally (68 years) is a male farmer and member of Turiani Cane Outgrowers since 2014.

Ally Omari lives in a family of 13 in total. His family consists of Ally Omari himself, his two wives, six children and three elder sisters. After having been into contact with a board member and other members of Turiani Cane Outgrowers and with other crop growers of the primary cooperative society limited (TUCOCPRCOS LTD), Ally became a cooperative member. The main reason for Ally to become a cooperative member was to become more socially active.

Knowledge

Ally participated in the programme and trainings conducted by Mtibwa Outgrowers Association (MOA), which helped him to gain knowledge, skills and techniques on cooperative level regarding the production of canes, such as planting canes, harvesting canes and occupational safety and health of a farmer during cane farming. This led to economic growth and an improvement of Ally's livelihood.

He used to be a member of Mtibwa Outgrowers Association, but he decided to become a cooperative member of TUCOCPRCOS LTD instead. TUCOCPRCOS had proven to be a strong organisation that conducts harvest issues on time and treats every member equally.

“I became a member of the cooperative to connect with other people and to learn how a cooperative works with its members, but I have also acquired knowledge, skills and techniques in cane farming.”



Changes

As a member of the cooperative Ally has created a suitable environment for growing. Through his efforts, he managed to improve his situation economically, socially and culturally in his community.

The trainings of the cooperative taught him to minimise hazards and maintain safety in his farm.

Ally is satisfied: “Being part of the cooperative, I managed to improve my economic situation compared to years ago. I’ve also learned how to maximise the farm’s profitability.” The membership has improved Ally’s welfare and even his living standard has changed compared to his situation before TUCOCPRCOS.

TUCOCPRCOS LTD

Total members: 3318
2395 men and 923 women

The main crop is sugarcane, but they also have other crops. Sugarcane is an important commercial crop in Tanzania.

AMBITIONS OF ALLY OMARI SALEHE

Ally desires to conduct modern agriculture. He would like to expand his farms by obtaining more acres to produce more tonnes of cane. He also wants to buy two tractors that would help him manage his large farms.



EVELINA BOSCO

TANZANIA
CHALINZE / COAST REGION
VILLAGE: VISEZI

Evelina (25 years) is female member of CHAURU LTD since 2019.

Evelina harvested just to have food. She became a member of the cooperative to get benefits and opportunities like access to residential land to build a house or a farm where she can plant cashews and vegetables.

Evelina says her income has increased and that she sells her harvest to others now as there is enough food.

“Those changes give us different opportunities such as setting up a business and getting better education.”

AMBITIONS OF EVELINA

1. To become a businesswoman with a big business that sells farm products like paddy and cashews.
2. To open a processing industry.



CHAMA CHA WAKULIMA WA UMWAGILIAJI RUVU (CHAURU LTD)

Total members: 534 men and 366 women

The farmers here are producing paddy through irrigation.

CHEDY RASHID NGUMBI

TANZANIA
IRINGA MUFINDI REGION
VILLAGE: KIKOMBO

Chedy Rashid (43 years) is board member of Utolera Amcos. He became member in September 2017. He has a wife and three children to take care off.

Chedy Rashid Ngumbi explained why he became member of Utolera Amcos:

1. To have better market for his yield.
2. To get education concerning the best practice of cultivating maize and beans.
3. To obtain agricultural input on credit.

Before he became a member, his situation was not good. It was difficult to get agricultural inputs like seeds and fertilisers.

Chedy Rashid didn't find a market for his yield. He had no experience in cultivating other crops than maize and he used poor agricultural tools like a hand hoe.

Changes

The benefits of membership are:

- ✓ Using the best farming tools like a tractor, a chopping machine and weed spray.
- ✓ Increase the number of farms from 50 acres to 100 acres.
- ✓ Building a warehouse to store the yield.

“My income increased and I got more knowledge about farming and I improved my farming skills.”

UTOLERA AMCOS

Year of establishment: 2017

Total members: 49 men and 26 women

AMBITIONS OF CHEDY RASHID

1. Being the largest farmer with 400 acres
2. To obtain more training for better farming activities
3. To cultivate other crops like avocado
4. To build a crop processing factory





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