

Press release (reference materials)

China Agricultural University Starts its “Into Rural Africa Actions” in Tanzania

The “Action of Sharing Chinese Agricultural Technology with African Rural Communities”, which was participated by students and professors, was initiated by China Agricultural University in the summer of 2018. It’s the second ground-breaking event right after its “Joint Program of Scaling up the Maize Labor Intensification System in Morogoro, Tanzania”, to embrace the China-Africa Cooperation Forum summit. China Institute for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture of China Agricultural University organizes the Chinese Ministry of Commerce. Sponsored “Seminar for Modern Agricultural Technology Extension and Transfer Mechanisms in Tanzania” with support from Sokoine University of Agriculture and Morogoro Regional Secretariat. The Institute organized 9 professors from the fields of agronomy, food science and nutrition engineering, animal medicine, economics management, animal science, engineering to share technology experience with some 40 Tanzanian Agricultural extension workers from Morogoro and Dodoma. The seminar is being held in the Tanzania-China Joint Research Center for Agricultural Development, another cooperation program initiated by CAU and the Sokoine University of Agriculture. The Regional Commissioner of the Morogoro Region Hon. Dr. Kebwe Stephen Kebwe, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture of United Republic of Tanzania Hon. Dr. Mary M. Mwanjelwa(MP), the Chief Representative of Economic and Commercial Representation of China Mr. Lin Zhiyong, the Deputy Vice Chancellor of SUA (Academic) Prof. Peter R. Gillah on behalf of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Raphael T. Chibunda, the Dean of China Institute for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture of CAU Prof. Li Xiaoyun, gave the welcoming remarks at the opening of the seminar.

For the following 15 days, 40 Tanzanian village agricultural extension workers from Morogoro region and technical staff from Ministry of Agriculture will have chance to explore modern Chinese technologies ranging from farming, livestock breeding and disease treatment, mechanization and food processing with lecturers largely from CAU through both indoor discussion and field visit. SUA lecturers will also share with participants Tanzania’s policies and practice in agriculture.

At the same time, the college of humanities and development studies in China Agricultural University updated the three-year undergraduate internship in Africa into a more comprehensive African life-experience Action, which is participated by undergraduate, master, and doctoral students of CAU. China institute for south-south Cooperation in Agriculture organized 21 students from the college of humanities and development studies to rural areas in Africa to gain a better understanding of the country and to assist relevant field research.

Participating in global development, especially through South-South cooperation, supporting agricultural development in developing countries is an important part of China Agricultural University's overall development strategy and an important strategic move in the new era. Over the

past decade, CAU has carried out a series of explorations in South-South agricultural cooperation in Africa, Asia and Latin America, with the most typical efforts in Africa. In the end of 2017, CAU set up the China Institute for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture (CISSCA) to further promote its South-South oriented exchanges, research and practice. With the support of the International Poverty Reduction Center in China, the Ministry of Science and Technology, PRC Embassy in Tanzania, the Economic and Commercial Representation of the PRC in Tanzania, China National Agricultural Development Group and Tanzania, CAU establishes two village-level poverty reduction centers in Morogoro Region which achieved good results - the local farmers' maize yield and income both increased significantly. Most recently, CAU and Morogoro Regional Administrative Secretary decided to scale up the current project to 1000 household in 10 Tanzanian villages. China Agricultural University will rely on the China Institute for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture /Belt and Road Institute for Agricultural Cooperation as a comprehensive platform to promote the fact-oriented comprehensive out-going project, and at the same time drive the teaching, research and social services of relevant departments to go out.

Annex: Program Profile



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Belt and Road Institute for Agricultural Cooperation (BRIAC)
China Institute for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture (CISSCA)

A Brief Introduction to “Tanzania-China Joint Program of Scaling up Maize Labor Intensification System in Morogoro Region”

I. Program Background

Tanzania has been developing rapidly since the end of 1990s. The average growth rate of its GDP has reached 7%, and the growth rate of agriculture is up to 4-5%. However, the number of poor people has not decreased significantly, and the connection between economic growth and poverty reduction is not obvious, resulting in the phenomenon of "isolated island" in economic

growth. Agricultural population accounts for 80% of Tanzania's population, and it is an important solution to its economic development and poverty reduction to enhance agricultural productivity and increase added value. In the past, the assistance for agricultural development in Africa mainly focused on two aspects: (1) promoting the development of market mechanism and commercial agriculture; (2) strengthening domestic governance and promoting the capacity building of administrative organs. These measures laid a solid foundation for the development of the agricultural sector in African countries, but the phenomenon of "isolated island" in economic growth reminds us that in the next stage, more effective methods are needed to bridge the current gap between economic growth and poverty reduction among smallholders and to support the overall national industrialization and structural transformation. Attentions are needed for two problems, namely the low level of agricultural productivity in Africa and the weak mechanism linking the local government and the smallholders in Africa.

China has accumulated unique experience in promoting rural development based on smallholders, reducing poverty and accelerating the process of industrialization. During the six years from 2012 to 2017, China Agricultural University carried out a meaningful development test in Tanzania and designed a community-based development model based on China's development experience and the actual situation in Tanzania. By sharing the working mode of going to the countryside of the Chinese local governments, the university supported local governments and local universities and research institutions to establish organic links with the local rural communities, thus presenting China's labor-intensive and low-capital investment agricultural technology solutions. After this community-based development model was demonstrated in two project villages, the yield of maize - local staple food increased by 2-3 times, the ability of local governments to support development was greatly enhanced, and the linkage between local governments and universities and local rural communities has been strengthened.

II. Program Overview

In 2012, Secretary General of the Prime Minister's Office of Tanzania headed a delegation to visit China Agricultural University, and expressed on behalf of the Tanzanian government the hope that China Agricultural University could cooperate with Sokoine University of Agriculture. Subsequently, the Secretary General requested Sokoine University of Agriculture to establish contact with China Agricultural University. On this basis, the two universities signed a bilateral cooperation agreement in 2012. In 2014, Chairman of China Agricultural University Council and the President of Sokoine University of Agriculture both headed a delegation to visit their counterpart university. In the same year, the then Tanzanian President Mr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete visited China Agricultural University during his state visit to China and was awarded an honorary professorship.

In this context, China Agricultural University chose Morogoro region to share China's agricultural development experience by piloting a demonstration project that aims at poverty reduction through enhanced agricultural productivity. Its underlying concept is to increase the local

peasants' productivity by using improved local seeds, available local labor and farmland in light of the local circumstances in Tanzania. Through analysis of conditions of local agriculture and rural communities which is generally rain-fed and short of funding, the project introduced a solution of increased labor-input combined with improved farming technics in weeding, thinning, deep ploughing and soil loosening and with zero or limited amount of chemical fertilizers. In this sense, the project intended to realize the loop of increased labor input, increased employment in farming sectors and increased income for local peasants.

Over the past six years, the ongoing projects have generated positive results for local peasants. In the context of low capital investment, relying merely on intensified labor input and the use of improved varieties, more than 500 rural households in the two project villages raised the yield by 2-3 times, arousing high attention of the Tanzanian government and relevant international organizations. The project is commended by the then Chinese ambassador to Tanzania as "a star project acclaimed by both the president and the rural people, thus becoming a good example of China-Africa cooperation". The project's partner organizations in Tanzania are the Planning Commission of the President's Office, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Regional Administration and Local government, Morogoro (including four layers from regional to village government authorities) and Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania.

The first phase project is a labor-intensive and low-investment maize production technology demonstration project in PeaPea Village supported by the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC). So far, this project has directly benefited more than 200 rural households in this village, covering more than 1000 mu of maize field, increased the maize yield from 66 kg per mu to nearly 200 kg per mu, and the maize production technology has been extended to four neighbouring villages. The demonstration work in PeaPea Village has a great social impact in Ludewa, Kilosa District and the Morogoro Region. The village-level poverty reduction learning center has become a brand of Chinese poverty reduction work in Tanzania, arousing high attention from Chinese ministries including the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Science and Technology and the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development (LGOP) as well. The Foreign Aid Department of the Ministry of Commerce has carried out several rounds of discussions on this specific project. The village-level poverty reduction learning center has become a brand of China's countryside working style. The technology has also been extended via competitions in the Kilosa District.

The second phase project is a foreign aid project supported by China's Ministry of Science and Technology (Tanzania-China Joint Research Center for Agricultural Development) implemented by China Agricultural University (CAU) under the bilateral agreement on scientific and technological cooperation. This project has set up a cooperation center in Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA). At present, SUA's 400 square meters of housing has been renovated. Both sides arranged exchange visits of professors in the field of agriculture, animal husbandry, resources and environment. China Agricultural University has conducted two

upland rice breeding experiment. At the same time, a small science and technology park was built on the campus of SUA to show Chinese agricultural technology. China Agricultural University, SUA and the Morogoro regional government formed a joint research team and selected Mtego wa Simba as the demonstration village and four surrounding villages as the extension villages. Up to now, more than 200 households, 1/2 of the total, in this village have become demonstration households, and the maize yield of them were increased by more than 2-3 times.

For an effective dissemination of China's agricultural experience in Tanzania, the project has organized six batches of Tanzanian senior officials to receive training in China. The training participants are all permanent secretaries of relevant ministries such as the Ministry of Agriculture, headed by the chief minister, chief secretary and permanent secretary of the President's Office as well as the Morogoro Regional Administrative Secretary. A total of more than 150 Tanzanian senior officials, chief executives, technical experts and peasants took part in the training in China. CAU also received nearly 20 faculty members of SUA for short-term training and long-term degree education. At the same time, CAU researchers and students were received by the former Tanzanian President and Prime Minister for several times, and have established close contacts with Tanzanian ministries, local governments, universities and Chinese embassy in Tanzania. Their research and practice have also been widely recognized and praised.

III. The next-phase project: the Tanzania-China Joint Program of Scaling Up

Maize

Labor Intensification System in Morogoro Region

To extend the impact of the previous phases of projects for more local peasants and share China's development experience in a wider range, since 2018, China Agricultural University, the Morogoro regional government and Sokoine University of Agriculture will continue their cooperation on a new project aiming to increasing the yield of 10,000 mu (approximately 1647 acres) maize field for 1,000 households in ten villages of Morogoro region, Tanzania. It is called the Tanzania-China Joint Program of Scaling Up Maize Labor Intensification System in Morogoro Region, or the "Double One Project ("Qian Hu Wan Mu" in Chinese language)" for short.

Overall objective: To increase the yield of local staple food and the income of local peasants by sharing China's "two experiences" in agricultural development. The "two experiences" here refer to "the Chinese experience of government supporting agricultural development" and "the Chinese experience of labor-intensive agricultural technology".

The 3 specific objectives: First, to explore how China-Tanzania agricultural cooperation supports a effective interaction between local four levels of governments, research institutions and rural communities and seek to design a set of community development solutions that will benefit the development of local agriculture and the improvement of peasants' livelihood; second, to explore the development of local agricultural technological solutions that can increase agricultural

production and people's livelihood through China-Tanzania agricultural cooperation, specifically, the demonstration of China's labor-intensive technology; third, to explore how to share with the world the experience of China-Tanzania cooperation in agricultural development and poverty reduction in a more effective and extensive way.

Under the guidance of the above mentioned objectives, the project content mainly covers the following aspects: firstly, supporting Tanzania's regional, district, town and village-level governments to establish and improve the development oriented performance evaluation mechanism and strengthening capacity building of different stakeholders to support the pilot villages to benefit from Chinese agricultural technology and increase both yield and income local communities; secondly, supporting the cooperation between Tanzanian research institutions and local government agencies, enhancing local governments' decision-making ability and local research institutes' research ability through capacity building, data management and exchange of experience, and strengthening the mechanism linking the two; thirdly, supporting the spread of effective project models through diversified international exchanges, and boosting the world-wide sharing of experience in China-Africa cooperation on poverty reduction and agricultural development.

The project is creative and innovative. It utilizes funding from various channels and make good use of development knowledge and project management experience from different parties so as to achieve mutual reference and advantage complementation between research and action, between China's development experience and the actual development reality in Africa, and between different international development experience.