



**Agrónomos  
Sin Fronteras**

**ACTIVITY REPORT**

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*December 2020*

## **AGRÓNOMOS SIN FRONTERAS FOUNDATION**

The work of the Foundation continues, since its inception, focused in Tanzania, continuing the work of training, associations and agricultural extension focused on improving agriculture in the south of the country, often for subsistence. Taking into account the importance of women's empowerment, giving them priority in being part of the Projects and will continue in 2021. Its maximum representative in Tanzania continues to be Klaus Caesar Poppe.

The team of Agrónomos Sin Fronteras in Spain continues to be led by its Director, María Quiroga, who is the visible face of the Foundation and is responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees, as well as ensuring that the actions on the ground continue. She maintains continuous contact with the team in the field and went there in February, restricting the rest of the year's scheduled trips because of the COVID-19. He is expected to travel to the field in early 2021, if the health situation permits.

ASF now has a new objective to pursue: to generate real progress in Tanzania's horticulture so that people working in the sector can access more competitive markets. The Iringa region (where ASF has all its projects) has been identified as having enormous potential in this sub-sector; therefore, a project (funded by USAID) was launched in 2018 with the objective of improving the horticultural value chain. This is how ASF started 80 groups of farmers who have managed to have their own vegetable garden with the great benefits this brings: not only have they increased their income, but they have also seen their diet improve thanks to the introduction of these new products, which are often in short supply within the families.

This project ended in June 2020; ASF has begun another project that will allow the work of enriching the horticultural value chain in Tanzania to continue thanks to a consortium of five entities in which Agrónomos Sin Fronteras (*Agronomists Without Borders*) participates.

It is a project financed by the European Union and based on the development of agrifood clusters: that is to say, interconnected networks will be created within the sector so that producers, agrifood industries and market networks work as a single entity and this will translate into greater profitability of the value chain. ASF's work continues to be to accompany horticultural producers so that they can join these clusters and benefit more from their production. This is an ambitious project, but one that is tremendously motivating, because it could mean a change in the horticultural subsector in the region where the Foundation has been working for 16 years.

The challenge is also in Spain, where the Foundation was born. It is a matter of making the Projects known in our own country and trying to get all the people or entities in the agricultural sector that want to collaborate for the improvement of agriculture in other countries to join this beautiful initiative.

## Activities in Tanzania

### Field Projects

Over the years Agrónomos Sin Fronteras has set up three agricultural schools and two cooperatives. The current projects continue in the line of these five centers with continuous activity in all of them. In the centers, training plans are developed and given to farmers. These trainings include gender, environment, etc. The aim is to transfer this knowledge to their own gardens to improve their agricultural production.



The cooperatives are still active with 269 and 115 members respectively.

For some time now, the Foundation has been promoting horticulture, for several reasons; first, because the Iringa region is, of the regions of Tanzania, the one with the greatest horticultural potential and, second, because the Foundation has identified the lack of this type of food in the region's diets.

#### **1. Project funded by USAID:** Strengthening Smallholders Farmers' Livelihoods for Sustainable Economic Development in three Districts of Iringa Region, Tanzania

On August 1, 2018, Agronomists Without Borders began a 24-month program with the objective of establishing 60 new communal gardens (along with the 30 groups that the Foundation already had in place thanks to other programs and that also formed part of the Project) where groups of farmers from the areas of Ihanzutwa and Kilolo have received training in horticulture, drip irrigation management, the environment, marketing, finance, etc.

By the end of the first year of the project (30-Jul-19) 40 of the new groups with drip irrigation were already installed on half an acre of land. In July 2020, the Project was concluded, leaving 80 units perfectly installed and in full operation. During the two years, 3300 training sessions/workshops were held in about 50 villages, which have helped these groups to increase incomes, expand market opportunities and improve nutrition of small farmers, while enhancing the participation of women and youth in the horticulture value chain.

#### **2. Project funded by the Junta de Castilla y León:** Purchase of productive equipment to support communal gardens in Mufindi District, Tanzania

The intervention has made it possible for ASF to purchase a tractor, with trailer and corresponding equipment for the farmers' groups that have been formed under the USAID-funded project. Specifically, the tractor has been moved to the District of Mufindi, where ASF collaborates with a greater volume of groups that are dedicated to the field.



Despite the fact that the groups of farmers have seen their production improve since the beginning of the program in August 2018; it has been identified that they still work in the field with manual tools, which causes them to invest a lot of time and labor, making these hard tasks often inefficient. Given the lack of agricultural machinery, producers continue to use tools such as: hoe, shovel, rake, etc. For all these reasons, a request was made to acquire a tractor in the Mufindi area and this has been done. Thanks to this, farmers will increase the production of their crops, since they will be able to cultivate large areas in less time and with a much higher quality of their products, benefiting 4,554 people (2,842 women).

The acquisition of this machinery has, therefore, an enormous value of complementarity and consolidation of the USAID project.

### **3. Project funded by European Union: Building Inclusive and Competitive Horticulture Businesses in Tanzania's Southern Highlands**

The European Project started in June 2020. The overall objective of the action is to improve the performance of the horticultural sector in Tanzania, the inclusion of smallholder farmers in it and their contribution to employment creation and food and nutrition security in the regions of Iringa, Njombe, Mbeya, Songwe and Katavi. The action has two specific objectives:

Specific Objective 1: To increase the profitability of the horticultural sector for small farmers and traders. In this regard, interventions will focus on: increasing productivity and efficiency along the value chain (increasing margins for all actors in the chain due to reduced transaction costs and improved production and subsequent handling to the harvest); constant supply and improvement of product quality through the support of community-based organizations and links to business development services; reduction of post-harvest losses and rejection rates of products by buyers through investments in pre-



qualification and collection centers.

Specific Objective 2: To increase the competitiveness of the horticultural sector. Interventions will focus on: improving coordination between small and medium farmers, facilitating product aggregation.

### **New opportunities**

One of the biggest problems Tanzania still has is the infrastructure and way of managing water; although there is an abundance of it, its use is not always optimized. Agronomists Without Borders, from Tanzania, has identified that the irrigation channel that runs through the lower part of the city of Iringa is in poor condition and, therefore, it intends to find funding to make a project that will rehabilitate the channel and benefit the 512 families of farmers who have been identified in that area of Iringa.

The municipal government of Iringa is informed about the project and wants to be involved in all its stages, both during the project and, once it is finished, when it will be totally involved in keeping the canal in good conditions and in forming an irrigation community that will empower the farmers and become owners of the project itself.

### **Institutional Relations**

The institutional relations of the Foundation in Tanzania have continued throughout 2019, and special relations are maintained with the following entities:

- Municipal Government. At all times it has shown interest in collaborating in the Projects, visiting them and giving support in the calls through letters of support and key information from the country to strengthen them. Especially now that they want to start the rehabilitation of the canal.
- SFEO. SFEO is a non-profit organization that tries to promote entrepreneurship among farmers in several regions, including Iringa. We intend to attend different calls together.
- Cáritas. Although the contact between ASF-Foundation and Cáritas is almost weekly and since the beginning of the Foundation, whenever there is a visit from Spain to Tanzania, a meeting is organized to update the topics and continue collaborating as much as before. Cáritas has a presence in the three areas where ASF has the agricultural training centers.
- MBEZI. The collaboration with MBEZI has allowed many groups of farmers to move to Dar Es Salaam for sale. This company is dedicated to the transport of fresh products and therefore to put them on sale in more competitive markets. It is an agreement that has favored the logistics of sale.
- Farmer to Farmer is an initiative that focuses on certain agricultural value chains, identifying needs at all levels, from production to marketing. It assists Agronomists without Borders in leadership training for both local staff and cooperatives.
- The European Project, thanks to its cluster-like working methodology, has made all the entities of the consortium start contacting many companies dedicated to different parts of the horticultural value chain. This is what ASF has also started to do.