

# **Report on NCOS Food Security Campaign Workshop**

**COOPIBO /  
NCOS  
TANZANIA**

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**Volume I: Main Report**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2. THE WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS</b> .....	<b>3</b>
2.1 SUMMARY OF PAPERS PRESENTED .....	3
2.1.1 <i>WOMEN POSITION IN FOOD SECURITY IN TANZANIA</i> .....	3
2.1.2 <i>TANZANIA AGRICULTURAL POLICY: ASPECTS OF HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY</i> .....	5
2.1.3 <i>LOCAL STRUCTURAL AND CULTURAL CAUSES OF FOOD INSECURITY IN TANZANIA</i> .....	7
2.1.4 <i>THE IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE, FOOD AID AND FOOD RELIEF ON FOOD SECURITY IN TANZANIA</i> .....	9
2.1.5 <i>THE IMPACT OF STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMME</i> .....	11
2.2 RESULTING DISCUSSION .....	13
<b>3. RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS</b> .....	<b>15</b>
3.1 GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS.....	15
3.1.1 <i>Recommendations at Community Level</i> .....	15
3.1.2 <i>Recommendations at National Level</i> .....	16
3.1.3 <i>Recommendations at International Level</i> .....	17
<b>4. CLOSING REMARKS</b> .....	<b>18</b>

**NCOS FOOD SECURITY POLICY WORKSHOP**  
**PPF BOARD ROOM, LIFE HOUSE, 20-21 NOVEMBER, 1995**

## **1. Introduction.**

The co-ordinated campaign on the food security in Africa with the position of women as an entry point is an initiative of six Flemish non government development organisation NGDO, namely Broederlijk Delen, Coopibo, Oxfam - Wereldwinkel, Vredeseilanden, Wereldsolidaritat and NCOS.

The concept of NCOS and other NGDOs on the food security situation in the south is based on the realisation that the European public has only the a negative image of Africa. They conceived Africa as a continent of full of misery, corruption, unablensness, passivity etc. This negative image is not shared by all Europeans, the NGDO, for example has a balanced image of Africa but it lacks the up to date, concrete facts to support its correct position. The wrong image of Africa among the European people particularly the Belgians in some cases spills over to the Belgian government policy makers. This has a far reaching effect on the development co-operation. NGDO thus, decided to undertake a course that will among other things re-orient and give a balanced and correct image of Africa, and this was thought to be better done through organising a workshop that will up date and concretise the understanding of Africa among Europeans.

Food security is one among many alternatives that NGDO decided to use convincingly to achieve its mission of correcting the image and consequently triggering off actions. NGDO believe that food insecurity is caused by both local and international factors among them is North -South relations. NGDO could not go ahead and speak on behalf of south, thus it was found prudent and sound to request the south to speak for itself. The campaign intends to pinpoint the role played by international economic, financial, and agricultural policies in food security situation in Africa. The six NGDO believe that, food security matters transcend national boundaries to international forum and therefore deserves an international concern in solution seeking.

The six NGDO ultimate objectives in this campaign is to assist in improving the food security situation in the south by influencing the Belgian government development co-operation policy on Africa. Concisely the campaign is anticipated to culminate into the following:

- a) Concellation of debts of Africa low income countries.
- b) No trade liberalisation at the cost of Africa.
- c) Support from development co-operation to African food security initiatives

Broadly NGDO intend to influence the European union policies that have an impact on Africa through the Belgian government. Such policies are like the agriculture subsidy policy that leads to dumping of European agricultural surpluses in Africa. Food aid must be designed to be a developmental instrument and food security oriented, by ensuring among other things that the food aid does not compete with local food production but enhance local initiatives of food security. This can be achieved by assisting farmers in the south by allocating adequate resources to development co-operation. The demand of an increase from 0.3 % to 0.7 % of GNP to development co-operation by NGDO is aiming at putting more resources at their disposal to be channelled to farmers in the south. In this respect food aid is supposed to decrease progressively giving way to more local initiatives to attain food security.

The structural adjustment process being undertaken by African countries under the guidance of the international financial institutions must aim at sustainable development, and inward looking. Production for export should be second alternative after meeting of local demands, in this manner the campaign of the international financial institutions approach in implementing structural adjustment where production for export is the primary motive. Alternatively NGDO position on the structural adjustment is more focusing on local needs and sustainable development and foreign markets becomes secondary.

The concern of the workshop was mainly to focus on the impact of both macro and micro economic policies on the individual and household food security situation. Local causes of food insecurity were closely analysed to augment the international causes in an attempt to transcend a traditional of each side (internal and

## 2. The workshop Proceedings

### 2.1 Summary of Papers Presented

#### 2.1.1 WOMEN POSITION IN FOOD SECURITY IN TANZANIA

*By Marjorie Mbilinyi*

Programme Co-ordinator: Tanzania Gender Network Programme

The author of the paper started by looking at the main problems of food insecurity at both individual, household or community and national level. She outlined signs of food insecurity as malnutrition, seasonal hunger, and famine which generally are caused by lack of food - sufficiency, in production, or problems of storage, transportation and marketing. The paper cautioned that adequate supplies of food at any level do not guarantee that there is food security. This will always depend on access to these foods by different categories of the community (sex, age or family status). There are cases where young children have suffered malnutrition not because the food supplies are inadequate but due to denied access to these supplies by their parents.

The paper acknowledges that women often have the least access to adequate food for consumption, because priority is given to males. This is proved by statistics given by Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC) survey which concluded that the majority of women are malnourished (80% of pregnant women suffer from anaemia, 52% from protein - energy malnutrition). Male and female children have also shown high rates of malnutrition and the immediate cause is inadequate food intake. The presenter points out that gender differences in food consumption commonly focus on meat; young girls and women need to consume more milk and other sources of calcium and protein, than men because of physiological differences associated with biological reproduction. Patterns and level of work which interfere with a viable food consumption pattern may also be associated with women malnutrition. During periods of high labour demand for example, women and men may only consume one meal a day, after returning from the farms. The author recommends that policy interventions will need to consider food consumption patterns and changes in farming systems at household level.

The author acknowledged that food shortages (low productivity) may have different effects on women and men, because of gender defined roles and responsibilities. For example men often migrate in search of wages work during periods of food scarcity, leaving wives to support the household in their absence. The cash remittances and/or food sent home by migrant workers may provide substantial part of household needs, but usually such wages are not enough to support the food needs of the migrant worker, let alone provide a basis for remittance back home.

Causes of food insecurity at household, level were identified as:

- poverty or low income,
- low food crop production,
- gender inequality,
- insufficient access to fertile land, livestock, farm inputs,
- inadequate supply of labour,
- gender discrimination in extension services,
- inadequate marketing and communication infrastructure.

The paper revealed that women have less access than men to the following: fertile land, to family support from other adults, to control of land within farm household headed by men, to and control over farm inputs and farm equipment. Women have been marginalised as a result of Structural Adjustment Policies (SAP) and they have less access to and control on cash income. The little cash they have is mainly used to provide food for the family, especially children while men are free to use cash incomes for personal

between food and cash crop has a gender dimension because women are devoid of powers in local farming systems. The presenter argued that the decline in family labour has also affected food production. This decline is a result of increasing commoditisation; automigration of youth (male and female), resistance of women, youth against patriarchal farming systems and AIDS disease.

On research and extension services, the author said that most of the research and extensions modules have been focused on male farmers. This is because most of the research and extension packages are directed to cash crop or export crops which are commonly dominated by male farmers. The assumption here is that a farm household economy is a single united farm family headed by a man, who has full control over decision making about resource allocation and use, and has access to unpaid family labour. But historically this is not always the case. Women and men have separate economic roles or activities, including different farming systems for different crops. On marketing and communication, women are more disadvantaged than men. Marketing systems have tended to discriminate women in favour of men. At community level, the most significant causes of food insecurity are structures of power and differential ownership and control of resources along class, gender race/ethnic lines.

The freeing of market forces without any form of state regulation and support of the majority poor has led to escalating levels of poverty and wealth. Also automigration of young women and men has reduced the available labour supply in these communities with probable negative effects on food security at community and household level. Environmental degradation has also increased as a result of exploiting land for profits as well as growing population pressure, a reduction of traditional forms of farming, e.g. crop rotation and intercropping of various crops. The paper outlined some more causes of food insecurity at national and international level. Structural adjustment policies, food aid as well as the social mood in the North expressed in growing racism, sexism, and indifference towards the plight of the poor/disadvantaged in the South, were singled out as causes of food insecurity.

The author outlined some strategies adopted by Tanzania women to combat food insecurity. Below is a list of these strategies:

- prioritisation of food crops rather than export crop farming,
- undertaking off-farm economic activities to earn some cash to buy other necessities,
- formation of small women economic groups,
- organising at grassroots level for purpose of lobbying for different kinds of economic and social policies.

The author concludes by providing some recommendations specifically directed to the Northern partners which are intended to facilitate their support for NGOs who endeavour to promote women's empowerment and equality.

- i) Reassess macro economic policies in terms of their impact on gender relations and the creation of an enabling environment for women's projects, and access to food security.
- ii) Reassess priorities for different categories of women, taking into account food security, income, wage and employment issues, on the one hand, and safety and environment issues, on the other.
- iii) Promote a full employment policy in rural and urban areas, such that women and men can acquire a viable income and have access to food security and other resources, without having to migrate.
- iv) Emphasise institutional building for local and national NGOs oriented to women's/gender issues, by means of capacity building and support for other activities which lead to greater self-financing, giving particular attention to intermediary or advocacy groups.
- v) Support networking, outreach and lobbying activities among local and national NGOs oriented to women's/gender issues, so as to create alternative pressure groups capable of advocating macro policies in the interests of grassroots women (and men).
- vi) Encourage participatory approaches in organisation, training and planning, using gender and animation

- viii) Support research on the impact of SAP and changes within Southern Africa on gender relations, and specifically, women's access to and control over income, resources, and decision-making at all levels.
- ix) Clarify the specific target of women (and men), and their multiple roles and identities, and anticipate the impact of their social positions on food security and specific project activities.
- x) Support efforts to reduce women's work in reproduction, to improve technologies e.g. in food processing, storage and transport, and encourage social responsibility at all levels and alternative divisions of labour by gender and age.
- xi) Support expansion of good quality education at all levels for women in particular, including higher education, in formal and informal systems.
- xii) Support generation and communication of information about women's and gender issues and about related NGO activity, especially among women's/gender oriented groups themselves.
- xiii) Support local and national NGO which aim, in theory and practice, to empower women and the community and promote transformative gender relations and social transformation at all levels.

## **2.1.2 TANZANIA AGRICULTURAL POLICY: ASPECTS OF HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY**

*By D. Biseko*

**Economist Ministry of Agriculture**

The author started by saying that despite the Government's efforts to ensure national and household food security, we haven't made the required success. The paper dwells on the National Agricultural Policy in relation to food security. The strategies and progress made, together with overview of the current situation. The paper starts by defining food security as an "access by all the people, at all times to food for a healthy life". Tanzania's goal is to achieve national food self-sufficiency and improve, the nutritional levels of her people. Food production should not only match with population growth, but farmers must produce extra for sale in order to meet other needs.

The objectives of 1983 national agricultural policy are indicated as increasing crop production, providing adequate farm inputs, improving pests and disease control, improve storage facilities, enhancing agro-mechanisation and ensuring fair and stable crop prices. The policy underscore the importance of irrigation farming and water conservation improvement of agricultural technology, enhancement of extension services, and increase in budgetary allocation to the agricultural sector, and improving crop marketing outlets. The author acknowledges the inadequacy in the first agricultural policy, this necessitated its revision and updating. The revised policy is a result of changes in the overall Government economic policies whereby the role of the private sector and trade liberalisation are recognised. The introduction of economic recovery programmes is intended to bring positive results, and good signs are emerging, e.g. most of farm inputs supply and crops marketing are handled by private entrepreneurs, which has greatly improved farm inputs availability, competitive crop prices, and steady food supplies to the urban consumers at reasonable prices.

In 1991, the Government released the Comprehensive Food Security Programme (CFSP), a multipronged approach to food insecurity alleviation. The programme addressed eight issues:

- ⇒ Food insecurity among the vulnerable groups,
- ⇒ Inefficient marketing systems,
- ⇒ Poor transportation and communication network,
- ⇒ High post-harvest crop losses,
- ⇒ Food demands outstripping supply,

A number of interventions were planned to cater for these issues, including improvement in environmental conservation measures, health and nutrition education. In the transitional period, there is an increased attention towards downsizing of Government activities and upsizing the role of the private sector in agricultural development. The new agricultural policy focuses on promoting crop production and marketing by providing the right signals to producers so that they can allocate resources efficiently between various farm and non-farm activities. The Government activities are catalytic, as exemplified by the research and extension services. Thus the reform process has included rehabilitation of these services, including regulatory and advocacy functions.

The presenter points out that in the 1995/96 crop season, Tanzania has enough food to meet domestic demand. The total national food (main) production is forecasted to reach 7.334 million tons out of 4.4 million tons will be cereal. This is close to 22 percent higher than last season's production. It is believed that the increase is a result of high fertiliser use and low cases of adverse weather. Even though about 20,000 of maize are estimated to be required as emergency food aid (for drought stricken areas and refugees), this amount can be bought from domestic markets. A special mention is on Export Crops Production. These have provided a significant part of the cash income to farming households which has enabled them to gain access to food markets. During the pre-reform period, export crops were subjected to severe control under the monopoly of Marketing Boards. This led to low returns to producers. Cash crops which have significant impact on small farmers are: coffee, cotton, cashewnuts, tobacco, tea and pyrethrum. In general, farmers are now getting higher farmgate prices, a result of competitive market conditions. Increased incomes have enabled farmers to gain access to consumer goods and farm inputs. These are strong incentives to increase food and cash crop production.

The agricultural extension services had suffered a decline due to underfunding and neglect in the 1970's. Much attention was on the promotion of the parastatal sector at the expense of public services to smallholder farmers. Towards the end of 1980s the Government with assistance from the World Bank and the African Development Bank formulated the National Agricultural Extension Rehabilitation Project. Its main objective was to increase Government's capacity to serve farmers. This entails strengthening extension management, organisation, co-ordination, supervision, upgrading the infrastructures and logistic support. Attention is also given to the improvement of staff efficiency through regular training and adequate funding. Many farmers are offering land to establish adoption plots. Tailor made technological packages are offered to farmers during regular training sessions. Positive results are emerging in the form of increased production of maize, paddy and sorghum. It is hoped that farmers will be able to sustainably increase food production through use of modern farming practices.

The 1983 National Agricultural Policy placed, great emphasis on communal land and block farming as legitimate modes of production. Today, after re-examining the issue, the Government acknowledges the importance of individual peasant farming and the need to secure land legally so that one can invest and make the necessary improvement. It is after owning a land that one can willingly make long term investment, e.g. in soil conservation, irrigation, tree planting and reducing environmental degradation. The author says that the nutritional aspect has been an area of concern. Malnutrition is an endemic problem in Tanzania mainly due to widespread poverty and ignorance. Lactating mothers and children are the most affected. The current national programme of action (NPA) to improve mother and child health and nutrition is a multisectoral drive. However, the Ministry of Agriculture in view of its lead role of promoting Household Food Security, is spearheading the campaign. NPA recognises that food accessibility and feeding practices are directly linked to low food intake. Low feeding frequencies and low energy density of staple foods are the most immediate causes of children's malnourished state. Micronutrient deficiencies notably vitamin A, Iodine and Iron are also common. More fundamental causes of low food intake include women's work load and limited family income. This programme is not adequately funded, especially local budgetary contributions are very low and intermittent.

On Agricultural Marketing, the presenter observes that private grain trade is efficient but faces powerful constraints to further development. The efficiency of the system arises from the ease of entry and in transportation of food stuffs. Although there is specialisation and professionalism in the marketing chain, the success can be contributed to the large number of small private traders. It has been established that most of the rural producers in remote areas deplete their stock a few months after the harvest. The main reasons are lack of proper storage facilities or to obtain cash to meet other farmers' immediate needs. This is a typical characteristic of the transient food deficit which is most common in Tanzania. Improvement in the market performance brought about by the increase in the cash outlay among traders, together with improvements in the transport network, and provision of storage facilities could help alleviate this problem.

### **2.1.3 LOCAL STRUCTURAL AND CULTURAL CAUSES OF FOOD INSECURITY IN TANZANIA**

*By Ms. Hidaya M. Missano*

**Senior human nutritionist - Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre, Dar es Salaam.**

The author started by saying that food security is the extent to which there is enough supply, its stability and accessibility to meet the food needs of a particular society at any given period of time. She argues that in achieving food security it is necessary to:

- Ensure a safe and nutritionally adequate food supply both at national and household levels.
- Have a reasonable degree of stability in the supply of food throughout the year.

A household is said to be food insecure when it fails to acquire food to meet its dietary food intake in terms of quantity and quality. In the rural areas food security is basically determined by the levels of food production, whereas in the urban centres it is determined by the levels of income or purchasing power. It is estimated that about 30 tons to 35 percent of Tanzania households are food insecure. This is a resource poor population.

The presenter stresses that achievement of food security depends on three things.

- Food availability and stability of supply,
- Economic and social accessibility to food,
- Food intake and utilisation.

She goes on to say that food insufficiency leads to malnutrition. In Tanzania, there are four main nutritional problems affecting our communities:

- Protein energy malnutrition,
- Iron deficiency anaemia,
- Iodine deficiency disorders,
- Vitamin A deficiency.

Factors affecting food security are: Availability and stability in its supply, both of which depend on local production, ability to import, and efficiency of distribution systems. In Tanzania food production depends mostly on rain-fed agriculture, which is subjected to droughts, floods and poor rain distribution. Furthermore, unpreparedness plus low response capacity to such disaster situations has often led to severe food crisis in many areas.

Other factors affecting food production include low farming technology, putting more attention on cash crops at the expense of food crops (in terms of inputs, credits extension services, and resource allocation). This is contrary to the national policy. The paper shows that although Tanzania enjoys the biggest agricultural potentials among all Eastern and Southern African countries, yet it is a sleeping giant. For, out of the 40 million hectares of arable land under rain-fed conditions, only 7 million hectares were cultivated in 1988/89. To date, this hasn't changed much. Similarly, some 144,000 hectares are under irrigation which is far below the potential.

The author argues, that food availability is often hampered by distribution problems. This is due to two main factors. First, areas with high food production capacities are around the borders of the country, thus making food transportation expensive and complicated. Second, storage facilities and marketing systems are far from satisfactory. Studies have shown that producing both cash and food crops, is advantageous compared to producing only one of the two. In areas with multiple production the rate of malnutrition is generally lower and are more responsive to interventions than others. In areas where food crops are also used as cash crops



The crop marketing system has passed through a number of changes. For instance, the per-independence pattern consisted of a multichannel system, predominantly free market with limited Government control. Later, primary societies handled farmers crops, passed them over to the co-operative unions, and finally to the marketing boards for final sale. This system eliminated the private trader. This pattern faced a number of problems resulting into poor service and unjustifiably small crops prices. Hence the Government promoted multi-purpose co-operative societies with the objective of having all villagers as members of the society, and a village as a primary and direct agent. However the mentioned market arrangements handled grains and cash crops, other commodities like fish, fruits and vegetables are still being distributed in the open market system. Trade liberalisation has opened up doors for the private sector in the trading of agricultural commodities. However, marketing operations are hampered by: lack of adequate storage facilities, insufficient information and communication system, inadequate food marketing infrastructure, and absence of standard units of trade. Trade liberalisation meant that crop prices are determined by supply and demand. The Government role in this issue is to set an indicative price to safeguard both producers and consumers' interest. Another role is to keep aside some cereals (Strategic Grain Reserve) for use at times of food shortages.

Food transportation relies heavily on roads, and to a lesser extent on rail. The present transport system is grossly inadequate and is one of the main constraints to movement of food. This explains why certain parts of the country can have recurring food insecurity, while national production figures indicate a state of food adequacy.

Ms. Missano maintains that women have a very important role in ensuring household food security. They are the main producers of food, they also assist in the production of cash crops. Women are also in income generating activities which supplement the family income which at times is used to purchase food. The author concludes by saying that although Tanzania has issued several policy declarations over the past 25 years, which to a certain extent have had an impact on the increased production, their implementation has not been sustained.

## 2.1.4 THE IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE, FOOD AID AND FOOD RELIEF ON FOOD SECURITY IN TANZANIA

*By Dr. Camillve S. Sawio*

Department of Geography, University of D'salaam

The author started by summarising the key causes of food insecurity in Tanzania and most of third world countries. He argues that the faulty development policies, and endemic food shortages, as well as environmental deterioration and unequal global trade relationships are major causes of food insecurity in these countries. He goes on to say that food aid and food relief for emergency purpose are but palliative solutions. He expounds more by recommending that the planning processes should have paid a particular attention to rapid population growth, food shortages, malnutrition and famine, unequal trade patterns, and deterioration of national resource base. The presenter suggests that even the current rural poverty experienced by the country is due to the neglect of the above in the planning process. 60% of the rural Tanzanians live relatively below the poverty line because they cannot eat adequately and few have access to quality food. The author further pinpoints stagnant economic and agricultural policies as compounding the problem. The Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) have increased the burden of the rural poor, especially women.

Apart from these policies, food insecurity is also a result of improper land use, lack of adequate, and appropriate agricultural techniques, implements and inputs, inadequate transport facilities/infrastructure natural disasters like floods, neglect of women role in food production and processing and over-dependency on external support. Before discussing the impact of food insecurity in the global context, the author defined some key concepts of food security and there after went on assessing food security status in the country. The country as whole is food insecure because of decline in crop production, inflation, failure to procure insecticide and fertilisers and supply of adequate transportation. Failure to procure enough foreign exchange to buy the necessary inputs as well as food imports imply poor returns in international trade. Food security if is assessed using "food security status indicator" which attempt to show the composite food security situation of a country, puts Tanzania food security status as fair. Tanzania's thrust on international trade has mainly emphasised the cash or export crops and put less emphasis to food crops. The country's six traditional export crops have continued to dominate export earnings though there has been wide fluctuation of prices in world markets. World market price fluctuations (normally declining) have negative impacts of food security, since they reduce the purchasing power of most households who depend on these crops. In a nutshell, the noticeable impacts are as follows:

- export performance in global markets is poor, fluctuations in price discourages producers and reduced purchasing power.
- low prices translates into inability to procure other inputs such as seeds, fertilisers, insecticides, and veterinary drugs
- emphasis on traditional cash crops tends to foster neglect of food crop sector.
- low prices implies inability to purchase tracks and fuel to be used to improve transportation especially in the rural areas.

The paper however sees that the trade liberalisation has brought a shift in export procedures where there is now an effort to promote non traditional food and non-food exports. The enhancement of non-traditional exports has a positive impact in that it will broaden the revenue base of most producers as well as the tax base for the nation as a whole. An anticipated income will definitely increase the purchasing power of business people though it is still questionable on the majority of the poor. However, unless sustainable method of resource management are adhered to, food security may be eroded through:

- Excessive cutting of trees for timber, leading to deforestation, which in turn cause soil erosion eventually low yields in food and export crops.
- Unsuitable catch of marine resources (fish. whales) causing heavy deduction and bringing endangered

- Exportation of horticultural products abroad may deprive certain households of nutritious green and leafy vegetables if knowledge is lacking of their consumption and value.

The other side of trade liberalisation, said the author, is the massive imports of food and other consumer goods from the developed countries to the third world. This may pose a great threat to food security in Tanzania in terms of:

- Dis-incentive to produce more local food.
- Enhanced introduction of foreign food tastes such as consumption of bread instead of yams, sweet potatoes or cassava.
- Increase introduction of packaged foods that have lived long on shelves and which are chemically processed.

The presenter also touches on the issues of food aid and food reliefs. He argues that food aid is part of food security systems all over the world. Food aid are used in time of distress and low production. Though for the past 10 years there is an indication that the food is declining in the country, but there is still some food aid donation coming from Australia, Japan and European countries.

Like food aid, food relief services are essential to address disaster scenarios: war victims, floods victims, refugees, epidemic stricken populations, etc. In the past few years, Tanzania has received large quantities of food relief for an influx of Rwanda/Burundi refugees. However, it is worthy to note that:

If food aid is prolonged and remain unchecked can lead to decline in domestic production,

Food aid can become a political liability,

Food aid often used as a political weapon especially where endemic wars have disturbed the food production systems and pauperised many poor landless people,

Too much food relief ungeared to development projects may result in loss of settlements, assets and loss of initiatives.

The author concludes by mentioning steps to be taken in order to improve food security in the country as:

Practical efforts to improve domestic intra-regional food trade as well as inter-regional trade, especially the SADC region.

recognising that strategies of food aid and relief are only short term in design.

promoting better and more productive land uses including environmental conservation measures.

increasing efforts to be less reliant on imports in the interest of political freedom.

enhancing improvement of domestic transport infrastructure, food markets and food distribution systems and preservation facilities.

helping and enabling urban and rural households to find employment opportunities in both the formal and informal sectors to improve food security and nutrition.

made. Other factors contributing to low productivity are: Low level of agricultural technology, poor condition of physical infrastructure, and unequal resource endowment among the regions. He also reasons that a general neglect of peasants, livestock keepers, traditional fishermen, together with inadequate research, poor extension services, lack of skilled manpower, have compounded the above mentioned constraints. In terms of food security, the long standing Government policies of taxing farmers by paying low producer prices in order to subsidise urban consumers have often contributed to food shortages and insecurity.

On marketing, the government policy has consistently been that of public intervention. Numerous changes in agricultural marketing have been made since independence, but most of them are centred on marketing arrangement and the resulting relocation of marketing facilities and pricing. Long term effects to improve marketing efficiency through investment in infrastructural facilities, development of market information systems and market liberalisation have always been inadequate. Although the Government set producer prices for export crops and staple grains, such prices were not high enough to compensate for the rising cost of agricultural inputs, cost of living, and transportation charges. The implication of rapid decline in remuneration to agricultural efforts made agricultural activities less attractive compared to non-agricultural ones.

By the mid 1980 it was apparent to the Government that the state regulated system was unsustainable both financially and administratively. Thus came the introduction of several reforms. Removal of maize flour subsidy, substantial increase in producer prices, removal of internal trade barriers to food movements and partial import liberalisation. Later, the Government decontrolled producer prices of food crops, except sugar. Since then, producer prices announced by the Government are indicative (floor) prices only. Subsequent positive changes were made to the effect that large commercial farmers are allowed to export their own produce. Market liberalisation has had some positive impact. Food supplies increased significantly. Even in years of below-average rainfall, there was no reversal of the trends in food supplies. Consequently, producers achieved significant income gains and real consumer prices depreciated. The market liberalisation have had some negative impact as well. Remote rural households, particularly those in food deficit areas have been affected. Many of these do not produce adequate amounts of food to last till next harvest. Neither do they generate adequate income to purchase food. Farmers located in food surplus but poor transport areas are experiencing lack of primary markets to sell their produce.

The author observes that even though producer prices have been increased significantly in normal terms, in real terms they have hardly increased. This decline is caused by increasing market margins of traders. He argues that improving agricultural production requires both direct investments (i.e. crop development through research and extension services, pest control, better seeds and farm implements, irrigation and market research). Indirect investments include all expenditures undertaken to improve the provision of supportive services such as physical infrastructure, education, energy, health and water. Studies conducted by the presenter show an average household has 6 people, while the average hectareage is 1.5 hectares. Farming is the main occupation in rural Tanzania, non-farming employment plays a very small role and this has negative implication on household food security.

Until now all land in Tanzania is owned by the state which sets aside land for certain purposes e.g. forestry, game reserves and farming. Each household is entitled to some land, the size of which depends on the need. Land ownership within and outside village boundaries, attached with official leases is encouraged. Thus the question of land ownership cannot be raised when considering factors causing food insecurity. Access to labour is one of the main factors influencing agricultural production. It is a very important input to all farm operations because mechanisation is not widely practised. And where it is practised, non-mechanised operations require even more labour due to expansion of cultivated area. Family labour is the key source of labour for smallholder. To a large extent, the size of family labour influences the size of land to be farmed. Most hired labour is used on very profitable crops.

Availability of agricultural inputs and the degree of technology influence both the size of the land to handle and productivity. Cost, transport bottlenecks and inefficiency of marketing systems play part in non-availability of farm inputs. Some places do not receive preferential allocation, particularly fertilisers hence poor production. Adoptability of new technologies is another important issue. Farmers are always risk averse, they cannot take up and use a new technology until they are convinced it is profitable. This is where the extension services comes in. Extension service is the major source of information on the availability, productivity and utilisation of agricultural technology. Generally, extension services is lacking in many ways, and this explains in part, farmers' poor performance.

Extension has to demonstrate to farmers that if appropriately used, recommended inputs should make

author also touches on factors which influence food availability and accessibility in rural households. Food can be obtained via own production, exchange, gift or aid, and purchase from markets. Purchase is only possible if households generate income from non-farm activities or from sale of cash crops.

Unlike large commercial farmers who respond to price and national market conditions, smallholder are more affected by local market conditions in as far as food security is concerned. Small farmers' decisions are influenced by the economic environment in which they find themselves. Market conditions change drastically between the pre-harvest and post-harvest periods. The degree of trade activities in a given area depends on the accessibility in terms of physical infrastructure, volume of crop for sale and its price, as well as Government policy on agricultural marketing.

On food consumption, it is noted that in most rural areas the average number of meals is 2 during the hungry season compared to 3 during the period immediately after crop harvest. Foods shortage and inability to purchase them from local markets affects the number of meals, which also affect the welfare of young children who should get at least three meals per day. This also adversely affect the non-marketed food (breast milk). The incidence, intensity and duration of breast feeding and appropriate introduction of weaning food can determine the nutrition, health and mortality risks of the young ones.

Response to food shortages comes in many ways: Reduce the number of meals per day Hire out family labour which in rural areas is sometimes paid in terms of food. Increase production of both main staples and minor crops like sweet potatoes and yams. Sale of livestock is done when the food situation has reached the famine level. One may ask why farmers are unable to increase food production to a level that would satisfy food requirements. The limiting factors are: poor technical know how, unavailability of inputs (seeds, fertiliser and pesticides), poor extension services, low producer price, and transport constraints. Furthermore, farmers refrain from producing more food because of storage problems which are: insects, moisture, theft and fire. Storage losses may range from 5 to 100 percent.

## **2.2 Resulting Discussion**

The following were the issues pointed out by the workshop participants as relevant to food security.

- It was disturbing for international funding institutions to pressurise the third world countries to do away with food subsidies whereas this is encouraged in the developed world. Tanzania should make deliberate effort to encourage and promote traditional but now neglected foods, e.g. yams, pumpkins, sweet potatoes and many types of leafy vegetables. These are capable of enduring harsh environmental/climatic conditions, thus guarantee our food security.
- Crop loss is not only caused by bad weather and insects, but also by field vermin, e.g. pigs, monkeys, rats, and birds. Concerted effort should be made by relevant bodies ( e.g. Ministry of Agriculture, Game department, and Early warning department) to contain crop vermin.
- Organic farming is not given the weight and attention it deserves. The use of natural and organic materials in our farming systems will not only lessen dependency on industrial chemical inputs which are expensive, but will also preserve the environment and its biodiversity.
- The general trend of youths moving from the rural areas to urban centres is mainly caused by our attitude towards farming. It is for the rural poor who have no choice but to farm. Given the necessary support (education, finance, infrastructure, and social amenities), youths can be allured to stay in the villages.
- Some workshop participants were of the opinion that the establishment of agricultural Trust Fund for the purpose of giving credits to farmers and farm inputs agents, is a positive move. However, care should be taken so that the receivers should avoid possible embarrassment and harassment.
- Unplanned disposal of hazardous wastes /chemicals can result into food insecurity. Peoples health could be endangered through direct contact (food and poison) or systematic infiltration through the growing food plants.
- Pan territorial food crop pricing has its merit and demerits. It is aimed at giving producers a uniform

- Similarly, overhead costs incurred by co-operatives and unions are an unnecessary burden to the poor farmers, because these (middle men) could be avoided by creating direct business links between primary societies and the end buyers.
- Introducing and popularising appropriate rural technology e.g. oxenisation, clay-cement crop storage structures and peoples health. As much as possible locally available materials and traditional skills should be utilised.
- Uncontrolled annual fires which devastate thousands and thousands of hectares of our natural ground cover and crop fields, is another cause of food scarcity because the land is depleted of its natural fertility through removal of the top soil and destruction of growing crop

## 3. Recommendations and Resolutions

At the end of the workshop the participants recommended and resolved the following

### 3.1 General Recommendations

1. It is recommended that Tanzania's agricultural strategy should emphasize the progressive modernisation of small farm units. Technical innovative packages should aim at small farmers who produce the bulk of both food and cash crops.
2. Because agricultural land is generally abundant, there is more room for smallholder to expand the area under cultivation. However, there is a need for research and extension services to focus on simple and practical technologies. These should be determined on the basis of local socio-economic factors.
3. Small farm development strategies should encourage the development of the domestic capacity to manufacture simple, low cost and more appropriate farm equipment such as animal-powered plough and planter.
4. As it has been established that peasantry farming does not produce enough to meet all the family needs, the Government should design strategies to increase rural off-farm employment opportunities.
5. Improvement of infrastructure in rural areas would facilitate and improve farmers performance, as it contributes significantly to reducing transport costs and hence improve food accessibility and marketing system. Village Governments and local institutions should get involved.
6. The role of the private sector in agricultural marketing cannot be overemphasised. Government policy should be to further encourage and support this sector so that it can expand its marketing activities both vertically and horizontally.
7. As the Government run co-operatives/unions are being phased out, farmers' co-operatives should be well trained so that they can support locally initiated marketing institutions. In addition, private credit institutions should be encouraged to develop in the rural areas so that farmers' organisations can get credit.
8. There is a need for capacity building within the Ministry of Agriculture to analyse food security situations, and provide accurate information to all interested parties.

#### 3.1.1 Recommendations at Community Level

1. Steps should be taken to assist smallholders in their struggle to increase agricultural production and promote off-farm activities geared towards improving household food security.
2. Extension staff should be available to small farmers on regular basis well equipped with technical packages originating from our research institutions.
3. NGOs and local authorities should encourage farmers initiate other income generating activities in order to be able to purchase food in times of shortages.
4. Farmers should get access to credits at reasonable terms to enable them purchase inputs, farm implements and construct storage and food processing facilities.
5. Low level of agricultural technology and dependence on seasonal rains have largely contributed to poor performance. It is recommended that farmers should be trained and assisted to embark on small scale irrigation, as well as revive traditional irrigation systems.
6. There is a need to train farmers on the efficient utilisation of agro-waste and by-products, e.g. as a source of domestic energy and animal feed.
7. Wherever possible, non-traditional foods should be introduced and promoted in order to supplement shortfalls of staple foods. This also means changes in food eating habits.

8. Farmers should be involved in negotiating crop producer prices and work wage earnings. For this will reduce sale disputes and encourage villagers to offer their labour.
9. There is a need to promote food production side by side with cash crops, this should guarantee not only household food security, but also cash to meet pressing family needs.
10. Deliberate move should be made to facilitate small business education and household budgets which are necessary in enhancing rural people's economy.
11. Village Governments and local NGOs should meet regularly to discuss on food and nutrition education, and on food availability and affordability issues. These are necessary conditions for attaining food security.
12. Villagers should play a key role in opening up and maintaining rural feeder roads as they will contribute significantly to the accessibility of the remote areas and hence improve crop marketing system.
13. Malnutrition is a major cause of low work input and high child mortality. For intake should be improved in terms of quantity, quality and frequency. Special emphasis should be on breast feeding and providing proper weaning foods.

## **.1.2 Recommendations at National Level**

- 1(a) One of the causes of low food production in Tanzania is the unreliable rainfall. It is therefore recommended that:
  - i) More emphasis put on irrigated agriculture because rainfed agriculture is increasingly becoming unreliable.
  - ii) Ways of efficient utilisation of water catchment sources for irrigation as well as small lakes at both small scale and large scale level should be encouraged.
  - iii) Rehabilitation of existing large irrigation schemes so that they produce at their optimal level.
- 1(b) Agricultural Extension Services
  - i) Appropriate extension service policy should be developed to suit the farmers need. The approach "regarding farmers as partners in development.
  - ii) Participatory approaches should be used to make sure that the traditional/indigenous foods are respected and researched so that they can be recommended fully as fit for human consumption and nutritional needs.
  - iii) The agricultural extension institutions should incorporate the training in participatory methodologies which is currently lacking in their syllabi.
2. Promotion of appropriate food storage facilities, distribution and accessibility to competitive markets.
3. Encourage private large small scale processing of food stuff.
4. The existing policies on food security should be operationalised.
5. Consumer protection policy should be introduced.
6. The structural adjustment policy should be reviewed to favour food security policies/programs. The removal of subsidies to farmer should have incorporated other economic support systems to the farmers.
7. Low income as one of the causes of food insecurity could be tackled appropriately by:
  - i) Increasing employment opportunities,



- iii) *Re-introduction of strong saving and credit schemes. This should be coupled with sensitisation and education to farmers.*

### **3.1.3 Recommendations at International Level**

1. *It is recommended that international organisations/institutions, e.g. the World Trade Organisation, should collaborate with food deficit and surplus nationals to work out fair price systems between exporting and importing countries.*
2. *Developing countries should strive to improve domestic income levels through fair and reasonable wages and any other income generating systems.*
3. *They should also raise foreign exchange levels as well as clear debts through improved agricultural products, and raise the standards of manufacturing and exporting services.*
4. *Formulate, plan and encourage transfer of appropriate food production, distribution and processing technologies between South and South countries.*
5. *Enhance transfer of workable and sustainable food production technologies, e.g. Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture and Permaculture, between North and South.*
6. *Create and maintain pressure groups to plan appropriate and fair trade systems between North and South.*
7. *Donors and NGOs should design strong implementable control rules of food aid and relief transfer from developed countries to developing countries.*
8. *Where appropriate, donors and NGOs should supply monetary and technical support to initiate food security improvement strategies in the South.*
9. *Efforts should be made to promote participatory and interdependent programmes to support disasters and hazard victims beyond "food-for work" programmes.*
10. *Educators, planners and animators should promote traditional food production, storage processing and distribution systems from 'the South at: National and Household levels.*
11. *Food policies (whether or donors or recipients) should be justly constituted and resulting conflicts fairly dissolved.*
12. *Effect the ban of exportation and importation of expired and contaminated food stuffs from North to South or vice versa.*
13. *Encourage south-south dialogue related to food security, and establish a common stand on food issues.*
14. *Farm input subsidies, good as they could be, should be examined carefully. They could have negative result.*
15. *Similarly, devaluation and quarter systems should not be embraced blindly, they often contribute to low income earnings from farm produce.*

## 4. Closing Remarks

The "Tanzania food Security Campaign" Workshop was befittingly closed by Coopibo and FAO participants who made very pertinent remarks:

### *Coopibo TZ (Mr. Bottelberge - The Country Co-ordinator)*

The workshop will allow CoopiboTZ and NCOS to improve targeting at food insecurity in its projects. The strength of this workshop were the very good presentation by the resource person and the mixture of participants who came from government, NGOs, press and international organisations.

Whereas it is a pity that not many fieldworkers attended the workshop, Coopibo Tanzania will make sure the seminar proceedings will reach the about 200 fieldworkers working in the Coopibo projects.

All Coopibo projects will try to prioritise their interventions by looking at those factors causing food insecurity that are really most important and that can indeed be dealt with at the local level.

Coopibo Tanzania will also urge Coopibo Belgium and NCOS and their militants to continue the struggle in Belgium against international causes of food insecurity.

### *FAO Tanzania (Ms. Marjan Boonzaayer - Programme Officer Nutrition-FAO)*

*She started by saying that FAO highly recommends NCOS for facilitating this important workshop. It was timely and relevant, especially if one looks at the downward trend of food production we are currently witnessing. She informed the meeting that FAO has always been the "Improvement of food production and nutritional status at household level" She noted that all the five papers presented were factual, well researched, and reveal very interesting points on the prevailing food situation. Further more, she said that the degree of participation in the ensuing discussion was quite high and encouraging.*

*She was of the opinion that the workshop recommendations and resolution are very pertinent, if implemented by all players in the game, could go a long way to ensure the country's food security. She assured the meeting that FAO will continue playing its part through lobbying, encouraging and supporting Tanzania struggle's to attain food self sufficiency.*

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# Malnutrition still rampant in Tanzania

By Correspondent  
ZEPHANIA UBWANI

MALNUTRITION is still rampant in Tanzania despite substantial increase in food production in the last few years.

Agricultural and nutrition experts want the government to initiate ways which would ensure adequate food supplies to the people.

The experts who met in Dar es Salaam recently noted high levels of malnutrition in the country, saying it had been aggravated by lack of price incentives to food producers and gender-biased land ownership.

The experts drawn from ministries, NGOs, research institutions and universities concurred that food security which is "access by all people at all times to enough food" was still elusive for the majority of Tanzanians especially to vulnerable groups like women and children.

"Women have the least access to adequate food consumption because of the prioritisation given to male consumption, especially at the household level" said Prof. Marjorie Mbilinyi of the University of Dar es Salaam.

Like the many young children are not fed enough meals and suffer from malnutrition even though a family has enough food at its disposal, she said.

According to Prof Mbilinyi, the majority of Tanzanian women are malnourished as measured by the incidence of anaemia.

A recent survey by the Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC) found out that 80 per cent of pregnant women suffered from anaemia and 52 per cent from Protein-Energy Malnutrition (PEM).

"High rates of malnutrition are also found among both male and female children and it may be that the majority of adult men especially among the poor majority — are also malnour-

ished "the academic researcher pointed out.

He cited gender inequality, insufficient access to fertile land and gender discrimination in extension services as among the major causes to food insecurity at household level in Tanzania.

For instance, women have less access to fertile land than man and yet they are major food producers at household and community levels.

An agricultural survey carried between 1986/87 to 1990/91 indicated that the number of households headed by women increased from 6.2 per cent to 17.5 per cent but an average size of planted areas was only 0.21 to 0.30 hectares for women-headed households compared to 0.61 to 0.70 hectares for men headed households.

The proportion of households headed by women may be much higher. According to the 1988 population census, 45 per cent of women were unmarried (divorced, separated or widowed) compared to only 14 per cent of men.

"This is a highly significant difference and suggests that women have less access to family support from other adults, be they in rural or urban areas" Prof. Mbilinyi told the workshop.

The 1988 World Bank report estimated that about 6.6 million people in Tanzania were chronically food insecure. Most of these are found in the poverty prone groups.

These included 700,000 rural households with holdings too small to provide sufficient subsistence food, two million rural households with household earning below the absolute poverty line, 150,000 persons who are rural minimum wage earners working in the estates and state farms and 600,000 low income workers in urban areas.

Among the general groups are pregnant women estimated around 1.5 million and children

under the age of five (about 2.6 million) who are also food insecure specific groups.

A nutritionist with TFNC Mrs Hidaya Missano cited four main nutritional problems affecting communities in Tanzania namely Protein Energy Malnutrition (PEM), iron deficiency anaemia, Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) and vitamin A deficiency.

She said inadequate food supply was one of the factors responsible for food insecurity in Tanzania. In 1988/89, for instance, it was estimated that about 49 per cent of the population lived in food deficit areas.

The 1992 drought which had a negative socio-economic impact on food availability involved about 2.6 million people (or 14.6 per cent of the total population) who are estimated to have food shortage in affected areas.

Inaccessibility to land was also mentioned as another stumbling block to increased food production despite the 1983 national agricultural policy which placed emphasis on land tenure and sustainable land use by small holders.

It was earmarked that by the end of 1991 the government would have surveyed, demarcated, registered and titled about 1,200 of 8,500 villages and 200 villages issued with certificate of occupancy.

"The exercise is still going on although at a very slow pace. Access to land in Tanzania has also been biased in favour of men who can inherit land while women cannot do so" one expert told the workshop.

The workshop held at the NIC Life House along Sokoine Drive in Dar es Salaam was organised by COPIBO, an NGO dealing with rural development.

# Irrigated agriculture wanted in Tanzania

Guardian 22/11/95

By Michael Haonga

It is high time Tanzania embarked on full swing irrigated agriculture instead of relying largely on rain-fed agriculture.

"Rain-fed agriculture is increasingly becoming unreliable and incompatible with the 21st century's science and technological race".

This was one of the observations arrived at the end of a two-day "Food security" workshop which ended at the Dar es Salaam Life House yesterday.

The workshop underlined the need for efficient utilization of water catchment sources for irrigation well as lakes at both small and large scale levels.

On creation of favourable environment for increased food produc-

tion and food security, the workshop called for payment of economic price to producer crops and living wages to employees.

It was noted that the country would continue to suffer from food deficit if prevailing hardships facing the producers and employees were not tackled in a scientific and economic viability form.

Promotion of appropriate food storage facilities, distribution and accessibility to paying markets were also cited as necessary steps towards creation of such enabling food security environment.

On consumption habits, the workshop cited the importance of traditional food efficient preparation to maintain the original fresh and natural taste as opposed to that of imported varieties.

## Food shortage caused by poor supply policies

By SEMU MWAKYANJALA

POOR supply and distribution of foodstuffs from production centres to needy areas plus cultural activities were yesterday described as some of the major causes of food shortage in the country.

Participants in a two-day

workshop on food security campaign meeting at Parastatal Pensions Fund (PPF) boardroom in Dar es Salaam noted that poor processing storage were other drawbacks affecting supply of food.

Food security, which entails sufficient food for all and at times for an active, healthy population was said to have not been attainable in the country partly because of poor processing storage policies.

The seminar, sponsored by the National Centre for Development Cooperation, an umbrella international non-governmental organisation from Belgium, viewed seasonal famines and hunger, malnutrition and food imports as signs of lack of food self-sufficiency in the country.

They said people living in certain areas are unable to purchase enough qualitative food on the market because of transportation and storage problems.

Participants said production levels from rural areas are largely affected by poor environment as most farming is dependent on natural rains which are unreliable in terms of amount and occurrence.

Participants observed that food security could be achieved through a dual strategy in increasing production and availability plus increased income levels for farmers in the country.

The Guardian Tuesday Nov 21, 1995 NATIONAL NEWS

# Millions of Tanzanians face starvation - paper

By Michael Haonga

OVER 6.6 million Tanzanians face starvation due to poverty and food insecurity in Tanzania.

This was revealed yesterday at a two-day workshop on "Food Insecurity in the Country".

Presenting a paper on "Women's position in food security in Tanzania," Professor Marjorie Mbilinyi of the University of Dar es Salaam cited a number of causes of food insecurity in the country.

He listed the causes at national and international levels to include; "SAP, the worsening terms of trade at the global level, the increasing and deepening incorporation of the Tanzania economy and its people into the global and society and the hostile social mood in the North".

She said, "these phenomena

contributed to the rise in poverty and food insecurity" adding that "African markets have been flooded with relatively cheap rice, flour, sugar, and dairy products, driving local farmers out of business, harming both women and men farmers and their families".

The observation appeared to be in contrast with another paper by D. Biseco, an economist in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock development who said the country's 1995/96 food production projections showed the country to be self-sufficient in food.

"In the 1995/96 marketing season, the country has enough food to meet domestic demand. Total national food production is forecasted to reach 7,334 million tons, 21.7 percent higher than last year's production of 6 million

tons," observed the economist.

But a number of factors were pointed to contribute to food insecurity despite such eye-catching production including poor storage facilities, poor distribution patterns from regions of plenty to food deficit regions not to mention the effect of famine.

In her paper on "Local structural causes of food insecurity in Tanzania", Ms. H. Missano of the Tanzania Food Nutrition Centre (TFNC) called for the government to step up efforts to fight food destruction caused by famine and ensure effective distribution of food produced in the country.

The two-day workshop has been organized by the National Centre for Development Corporation (NCOS) of Belgium in collaboration with COOPIBO of Germany.