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FOOD SECURITY
POLICY

TANZANIA

Agricultural Sector Policy and Institutional Reform Strengthening (ASPIRES) Project



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MISSION AND GOALS

The objective of the Agricultural Sector Policy and Institutional Reform Strengthening (ASPIRES) project is

- to accelerate Tanzania's adoption of **more effective policies and programs,**
- to drive **broad-based agricultural sector growth,** and
- to improve **household food security and nutrition,** and **reduce poverty.**



BACKGROUND

Tanzania has achieved rapid economic growth over the past decade. Yet smallholder farmer productivity remains low, and rural poverty, malnutrition, and inequality remain pervasive. Key contributors to this situation are under-provision of basic public goods; an unpredictable policy environment; and limited voice for private sector and civil society in the policy-making process. Redressing these problems is necessary to create an enabling environment for inclusive, broad-based, and sustained agricultural sector growth.

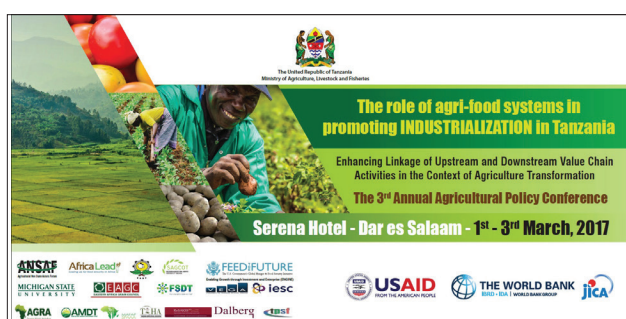
In this context, the Agriculture Sector Policy and Institutional Reforms Strengthening (ASPIRES) project works to accelerate Tanzania's adoption of more effective policies and programs in order to drive broad-based agricultural sector growth, improve household food security and nutrition, and reduce poverty. ASPIRES is organized around four areas of action: collaborative research; policy advisory and coordination; capacity building; and policy advocacy and communication. Jointly, these aim to reduce the policy evidence gap and establish a foundation for more inclusive, transparent and sustainable processes of policy formulation.



ASPIRES KEY ACTIVITIES

Emphasis on policy engagement for policy change, supported by collaborative applied policy research

ASPIRES works with the Policy Analysis Group (PAG) to facilitate regular policy dialogue; consults regularly with policy makers in and beyond the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries; establishes stakeholder working groups for many of its studies, and uses these to guide its research and policy engagement; supports the Annual Agricultural Policy Conference (AAPC); and engages Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and other partners in applied research.



Demand-driven research on specific policy topics, supported by longer-term research on fundamental forces of change

ASPIRES responds to direct Government of Tanzania requests, for example with studies to inform agricultural commodity board reforms and the Local Government Finance Act. At the same time, ASPIRES studies fundamental forces of change such as changing land ownership patterns and changing diets, both of which drive profound changes in the country's agrifood system and broader economy. Together, demand-driven research paired with more fundamental research, and wedded to policy engagement, help drive improved policy making.

Support to the piloting of selected interventions emerging from its research and policy engagement

For example, with President's Office – Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) and other organizations, ASPIRES is coordinating a pilot system of an e-payment for local taxes, following a recommendation that emerged from an earlier Michigan State University study of tax practice in rural areas.

Commitment to building human and institutional capacity for policy research and engagement

ASPIRES provides regular formal training, in-service training through collaborative research, and institutional support. For example it contributed to the creation and strengthening of a Policy Resource Center and a Market Intelligence Unit within the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

ABOUT

The Agricultural Sector Policy and Institutional Reform Strengthening (ASPIRES) project is part of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy funded through USAID. The project is coordinated by Michigan State University in collaboration with IFPRI and the University of Pretoria. Partners in Tanzania include Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MALF); Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA); President's Office – Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG); and most recently Tanzania Food and Nutrition Center. Additional funding resources come from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (GISAIA: Tanzania), and USAID through Feed the Future Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab: Tanzania.

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