

**Introduction of  
Lekitatu Irrigation Scheme,  
Meru District,  
Arusha Region, Tanzania**

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# Background (1/2)

1961: Manyata Lekitatu village started

1975: Divided into 2 villages (Manyata and Lekitatu)

Main activities before: Livestock keeping and traditional irrigation (in small areas)

2001: Construction of irrigation facilities completed through River Basin Management and Small-holder Irrigation Improvement Project (RBMSIIP) supported by World Bank

# Background (2/2)

- Total area of Lekitatu village: 836 ha
- Total area under irrigation: About 600 ha
  - Paddy: 400 ha
  - Upland: 200 ha (Beans: 100 ha, Maize: 72 ha, Vegetables: 28 ha)
- Water sources: Ngarasero spring, Nurangimam spring and Tengeru river
- Farming households: 596 (Population: 2,950)
- Main activities at present: Crop production, livestock production, fish farming, petty businesses, etc.

# Farmers Training (1/2)

1997: First training on improved irrigated rice cultivation at KATC (15 farmers participated)

1998: Training on irrigation and scheme management at KATC (20 farmers participated)

## ***Changing Lekitatu village with:***

- *Expansion of irrigation areas through rehabilitation of irrigation facilities*
- *Adoption of improved rice cultivation technologies through training*

# Farmers Training (2/2)

## Before training

- Paddy yield: 6-8 bags per acre (1.2-1.6t/ha)
- One season per year
- Planting late maturing varieties (Supa India)

## After training

- Paddy yield: 25-30 bags per acre (5.0-6.0 t/ha)
- Two seasons per year
- Planting early maturing varieties (Wahiwahi, Saro 5)



***With making efforts of establishing 2 cropping seasons, operation and maintenance of irrigation facilities, agro-mechanization, and rice marketing***

# Farmers Organization (1/3)

1997: Formation of farmers organization with 15 members

## Objectives

- Improving irrigation farming
- Improving the livelihood of farmers
- Uniting farmers and collecting water fees
- Enhancing access of farming inputs to members
- Conserving water resources
- Providing credits to members

# Farmers Organization (2/3)

- Structure: Board (9 members), Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer
- Six committees: (1) Planning and finance; (2) Operation; (3) Maintenance and rehabilitation; (4) Supervision; (5) Education; and (6) Marketing
- Membership fees:
  - Membership entrance fee: Tshs.1,000/=
  - Share: Tshs.5,000/= (Maximum: 10 shares)
  - Annual fee: Member (Tshs.3,000/= per acre); Non member (Tshs.5000/= per acre )
  - Water fee: Tshs.15,000/acre for outsiders

# Farmers Organization (3/3)

## Achievements

- Self employment
- Increase paddy yield and income
- Organized market (price)
- Improve food security and livelihood
- Increase membership (from 15 to 175)

***Became a model scheme  
(training other irrigation schemes)***



# Challenges

- High cost of farm implements
- High cost of farm inputs
- Poor accessibility during rain season
- Lack of common warehouse for storage

***Management of a newly established Saving and Credit Cooperative Society (SACCOS)***

# Way forward

- Increase water fees
- Improve irrigation system
- Construction of storage warehouse
- Introduction of warehouse receipt system
- Increase number of farm implements
- Purchase of milling machine
- Shift from paddy to rice selling