



## Success Story

### Women Smallholder Farmers in Tanzania Influence District Agricultural Budget, Improving Extension Services

August 2021 - Following training by the PSA Alliance partner MIICO, women smallholder farmers in the Mbozi district of Tanzania advocated for improved access to quality extension services, resulting in an increase in the local extension budget for 2021/22.

Over 10 days in October and November 2020, MIICO trained 396 women across five villages in Mbozi on local budgeting processes, budget analysis, agroecological practices, as well as advocacy skills – such as public speaking and community mobilisation.

While completing a budget analysis and community score card during the trainings, the women smallholder farmers recognised that the quality of extension services provided in the district is not adequately meeting the needs of farmers. There were too few extension staff and no extension facilities, and, in past years, the district council had failed to allocate budget for farmer field schools, soil testing, and trainings on the production of local varieties of seeds.

Through the District Women Farmers' Forum, the trained women wrote a letter to the District Agriculture, Irrigation and Cooperative Officer (DAICO) at Mbozi District Council, asking that these issues be addressed. The Women's Forum then held a meeting with the DAICO, where they explained their concerns face-to-face. The DAICO promised to act.

In response, the issues raised by the Women's Forum were incorporated into the district's agriculture departmental budget. Budget was allocated for purchasing of extension facilities (motorcycles), establishing farmer field schools, and facilitating soil testing, as shown below.

S/N	Activity	Amount (TZS)
1	Purchase of 3 motorcycles for 3 extension staff to improve administrative and day-to-day activities of agricultural department, by 2022	7,640,001.60
2	Establishment of farmer field schools for seed production and trainings on seed production, by July 2022	40,000,000.00
3	Facilitation of soil testing in 2 wards of Ihanda and Itaka, by July 2022	3,557,600.00
4	Budget allocation for renovating Iyula irrigation scheme to assist women to produce food crops	40,000,000.00
5	Training of women on environmentally friendly seed production	40,000,000.00

For more information on Partnership for Social Accountability (PSA) Alliance, visit <http://copsam.com/psa/>, or email [psaalliance@actionaid.org](mailto:psaalliance@actionaid.org).

To follow the PSA Alliance on Twitter or Facebook – see @PSAAlliance.