

CISTI project facilitates review and approval of six training modules on agriculture production

By Getrude Mbago

THE execution of the Curriculum Implementation Support for Training Institutes (CISTI) project has facilitated review and approval of six new training modules for agriculture production on certificate and diploma levels.

The move facilitates production of more competent graduates who will help bring solutions to various agriculture challenges, but also promote organic farming. The new improved courses include crop production, horticulture, irrigation engineering, land use management, food technology and human nutrition as well as agro-mechanization.

The project is implemented by the Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture. CISTI project is aimed to support public and private training institutions to produce graduates with enough knowledge, skills and expertise in climate change, environmental management and organic farming.

Kashindy Salum, assistant project manager from SAT said the three-year project benefits students and tutors from 29 agricultural Training Institutes in the country.

Addressing journalists recently in Morogoro, Kashindy said the project intends to ensure that every year, more than 3,000 Tanzanian students acquire the necessary skills so as to spur organic and sustainable farming in the country.

He said the project is carried out from 2020 to 2022 and it is funded by the Liechtenstein Development Services (LED) and coordinated by the government.

According to him, the project also involves training tutors and garden-attendants on organic gardens' management using natural botanical extracts so as to enable them to impart the knowledge to their students easily.

"SAT is working closely with the ministry of agriculture, especially the Division of Training, Extension Services and Research (DTER). The division supervises, oversees, advises, and controls the quality of curriculum implementation in the Ministry of Agriculture Training Institutes (MATIs)," he said.

He highlighted that with the changes, organic farming will become one of the new modules taught to all students of agriculture at 29 agricultural training institutes in Tanzania. These institutes will put into practice revised curriculum, which signposts a remarkable step towards more sustainability and equality in the vital economic sector. Students will profit from six completely new modules that comprise ecological and socio-economical

aspects.

"The project has supported construction of 16 demonstration gardens with screen houses, open field gardens with drip irrigation systems and backyard gardens for practical lessons in nine Agricultural Training Institutes (ATIs). 5,178 students participated in practical activities as well as 2,090 farmers have been reached with education on organic farming through Farmers' Open Days," he said.

Kashindy further said that the project has also reached 1,867 people with organic farming education through public lectures as well as printing 3,000 copies of five Training Manuals and distributed to 29 ATIs.

The project has also supported 77 farm/garden managers to get hands-on organic gardens management training at SAT Farmer's Training Centre in Vianzi, Mvomero District.

He said a total of 222 tutors got capacity building on Competence Based Education and Training (CBET) and got official certification as tutors.

According to him, the long-term impact goal of the CISTI project is to have competent technical personnel who work effectively to meet the demand of Tanzania's agriculture sector, increase climate resilience and strengthen livelihoods of small holder farmers, thus alleviating poverty and food insecurity for sustainable development.

"At outcome level, the project purpose is to support public and private training institutions to produce graduates who are in line with the need of the country through successfully integrating and implementing organic agriculture, gender, environmental management, cooperatives and communication skills through the new training curriculum for agriculture on certificate and diploma levels," he said.

The review of the curriculum is taken as a high-end process that would bring remarkable changes in the agricultural sector in terms of the education provided to the devotees of agriculture and the practical skills instilled in them and having these skills earned cater for the demands in the agricultural field, cooperatives and gender related issues, while securing income and alleviating food insecurity.



SAT is working closely with the ministry of agriculture, especially the Division of Training, Extension Services and Research (DTER).



Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima pictured at a meeting in Dodoma city yesterday presenting a chronological progress report on the ministry since Tanganyika's Independence on December 9, 1961. It's all part of routine by government ministries during the countdown to the upcoming commemoration of Independence Day. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

TIRA, BoT commend Exim Bank for new bancassurance services

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) and the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) have commended Exim Bank Tanzania Limited for its new bancassurance product that will contribute to further penetration of insurance services.

Dubbed as "Bima Tu, Malipo Tuachie," - the product targets at encouraging the bank's customers and the public to draw for different insurance covers offered by the bank in collaboration with its partners.

Speaking at the weekend in Dar es Salaam during the launch of the product, TIRA licensing and marketing manager Hillard Maskini said in implementing the new service, Exim Bank has partnered with 10 major insurance companies in the country to provide its customers with the best insurance services including, Health Insurance, Travel Insurance and Life Insurance.

government is to expand the scope of the penetration to provide insurance services to the Tanzanian community which currently has only 28.6 percent access to the service.

Financial Institutions Manager at BoT Nasser Omary said the partnership would, among other things, increase the scope of access to customers and the general public and thus boosts the insurance industry while improving banking services in the country.

"The increase in the use of Insurance services in the country through financial institutions, as well as other direct benefits to the citizens themselves is also a benefit to stakeholders such as banks, insurance agencies and the government," said Omary.

Speaking earlier at the event, Exim Bank Chief Executive Officer Jafari Matundu said that in making the service a success, the bank has already prepared or some of its specific staff for providing services in

Acting Head of Insurance Services, Melchizedec Muro said through the service Exim bank will provide loans that will enable payments for insurance services of various kinds via 10 insurance firms that work together with Exim bank and borrowers will continue to slowly repay the loans while benefiting by the insurance services provided.

"That is the reason we decided to come up with "Bima Tu Malipo Tuachie" Muro said while mentioning the firms that work together with Exim bank as including Jubilee Insurance, FIST Assurance, Heritage Insurance, GA Insurance, Alliance Life Assurance and Britam Insurance.

Others are UAP Insurance, ICEA Lion General Insurance, Strategies Insurance, and Alliance Insurance Corporation.

Muro further said that in providing the service, Exim bank has mobilised itself to make sure it provides adequate education to the people on insurance services in