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Multi-Stakeholder Analysis in the Implementation of Upgrading Strategies (UPS) for Enhancing Food Security in Tanzania: Regional Differences between Morogoro and Dodoma

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Abstract

The challenges of the current food systems in Tanzania are given mainly by the increasing food demand, unpredictable climate and rural poverty. There is a strong need to improve the current smallholder agricultural production system in order to increase the system's resilience against future hazards and to improve rural livelihood. This can be done by adapting local agricultural systems through the implementation of upgrading strategies. The Trans-SEC project aims to improve the food situation of the rural poor population by implementing food securing upgrading strategies (UPS) along local and regional food value chains through a participatory platform. The UPS are presently being tested and adjusted to site-specific settings in four villages of two districts, which are located in two different regions in Tanzania. The success of the UPS to a major extent relies on the interactions among the stakeholders. The aim of this study was to understand the stakeholders' social relations that enhance the success of the different UPS. We present the outcome of a social network analysis among the different stakeholders in the different UPS groups. Individual interviews were carried out with different stakeholders followed by the application of the Net-Map tool. Interviews were carried out across the 24 UPS groups; participants were selected through group specific criteria in order to represent the most relevant stakeholders of the groups. Focus group discussions were implemented on each group to jointly discuss the outcomes of the Net-Maps, getting additional insights of the group. Our results explain the roles of the stakeholders, their motivations and relationships. These results are compared between the regions and case study villages in order to further understand the regional differences and driving forces in the performance and success of the UPS. Understanding these relations enables the enhancement and success of long-lasting sustainable UPS solutions.

Keywords: Net-Map, social mapping, upgrading strategies