



Gender Action Learning System

VUASU Cooperative Union – Kilimanjaro, Tanzania

- Follow up with champions trained under CPT program.
- Quantify how many farmers have been reached by champions (outreach in 5 cooperatives).
- Changes from both champions and farmers trained on GALS in 5 cooperatives.
- Report to the District government with vivid changes in the society.

Grace Murungi

Local GALS expert consultant

Enriching, Skills and Action research Tanzania

Moshi

Kilimanjaro, Tanzania

HIVOS Regional Office East Africa

P O Box 19875 – 00202 Nairobi,

Kenya

Telephone: +254 725 451 729

Fax:

Introduction

The Coffee Partnership for Tanzania is a programme co-funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (around \$8 million) and three sub-grantees: Ecom Agro-industrial Corporation Ltd, Armajaro and Hanns Neumann Stiftung, managed by grantee DEG. The total costs of the programme is \$ 25,7 million. The programme started 1 September 2012 and will continue until 31 August 2016. The goal is the programme is to empower male and female farmers to take full advantage of the opportunities arising from the production of coffee and other products. The programme aims to double the coffee production yield and to increase net income, alleviate poverty and improve livelihoods of smallholder coffee farmers in Tanzania. The four main objectives of the initiative will be:

- Increasing productivity of coffee production in an economically, environmentally and socially sustainable way
- Strengthening links of coffee farmers to strong reliable markets, especially enabling them to profit from premiums paid for specialty and certified coffee
- Contribute to improved production of other crops and products and enhancing the sustainability of the overall project through social and environmental measures
- Managing the project and engaging stakeholders effectively to realize the project's objectives

The outreach of the programme will be 85.000 smallholder farmers. The outreach of ECOM was originally 35.000 smallholders and Armajaro is 25.000, totaling 70.000 smallholder farmers. Currently the figures for ECOM are 25.000, Armajaro is 15.000 meanwhile other partners are Hanns R Nuemann Stiftung is 25.000, DAE 10.000, Olam 5.000 and Tembo 10.000. Solidaridad and Hivos also participate in the programme, with own funding. One of the Hivos components, is the gender component working with Tutunze Kahawa Ltd (a subsidiary of ECOM), and CMS (partly owned by Armajaro). The output expected under gender component is 20 “champions” and 300 farmers (in the first 3 months) and 4-6 field staff trained in gender tools and system for scaling up in place.

In 2013, Dr Linda Mayoux and Bukonzo Joint were contracted by Hivos to introduce Gender Action Learning System methodology, 11 men and 9 women champions under Tutunze Kahawa Limited were trained in the VUASU gender program.

VUASU is a union was registered on 9th March 1984 with registration no. 4055. It is made-up of 17 Agricultural and Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS), 11 from Same and 6 from Mwangi district. The main business for VUASU is coffee but the AMCOS trade other crops e.g

ginger, Tutunze kahawa Limited in the CPT project selected 5 AMCOS to provide trainings and there were selected for GALS methodology, namely Bwambo, Gandu & Chome cooperatives (Same) and Vuchama & Raa cooperatives (Mwanga).

The 5 cooperative production has increased tremendously for season 2013-2014 the 5 cooperatives alone delivered half of the whole unions coffee totaling to 49 tons of coffee, despite the low yields of coffee this season the 5 cooperatives have producedtons and the season is still on going

There has been series of other trainings for the champions on livelihood and leadership tools trainings in February and July 2014 these trainings have not only led to changes on the lives of these farmers and has also influenced decisions on the boards of their cooperatives as well, In early 2014, Tutunze decided to close their operations in Kilimanjaro and concentrate in the Southern zone. However, Hivos kept interest in the Same GALS process where not only champions have been keen on the process with remarkable changes but also the board of 5 cooperatives as well as the management of VUASU.

The Champions in the area have already contacted the local government (District Agricultural & Cooperative Officer) and agreed to have a first forum on GALS in Same. so Hivos kept an interest to follow up the process since the Coffee partnership project is still going on till 2016

Proposed dates for followup and trainings

10 November 2014	Documentation - Photo shoot with Majority World
11- 13, 15, 17 Nov 2014	Follow up with champions in Same
14, 16 & 18 Nov 2014	Documentation & writing a report

VUASU follow-up & training on Challenge action tree on increasing coffee incomes

a) Bwambo AMCOS

On the 17th November, I set for Bwambo AMCOS in Vugwama Village to do the followup as commissioned by Hivos and also to conduct training on the GALS Coffee livelihood tool 1 which is challenge action tree for increasing coffee incomes. It is the first of the four livelihoods strengthening tools that are used into a GALS process.

Attendance = 6 male, 9 female

Champions present were= Anna Eliuze (F), Dinah Chediel (F) and Elinazi Mpole (M).

The training was opened with the leadership song; the song explains the roles of good leaders and qualities of good leaders and how people expect the good leaders to initiate development in the society after the song there was pairwise introduction where champions paired the participants that least know each other, the exercise took about 10 minutes

Due to limited time a few participants were allowed to mention what has been their achievements from the GALS process, the Chairman of the AMCOS who is also the chairman of VUASU union shared his gender changes in his household, he noted that his wife now brings coffee to the cooperative and the money is planned for by both in the household

He also mentioned that members of his cooperative elected a woman board member making two women on the board of the cooperatives

Other participants shared their changes which included having extra cows, well planned business, solar panel only to mention a few

Dinnah a GALS champions was selected by the farmers to be on board of Bwambo cooperative declined her intention of being a board member for fear of corruption she heard on the radion about unions but at follow up meeting she shared her leadership vision and explained how she wants to assist other women to be independent and try to teach each business skill as she has learnt from the GALS training, Dinner had just been advised by her children to move to Heduru town and was laying bricks for her new house in town

After a few examples from participants the CAT was introduced to the participants, card of different colours were given to participants to identify challenges that limit high production, marketing challenges and gender relations in the household

Explanations on the objective of the training CAT for increasing coffee incomes where explained to participants it was explained that farmers need to know what causes low incomes looking at production, marketing and gender relations in the family, challenges at all levels were mentioned and how finding solutions for each cause of the challenge should be identified in order solve the problems

Three different coloured cards were given to participants to draw challenges, one challenge was drawn on each card in line to the three main topics(production, gender relations and marketing) likewise same colours were given for solution lining above each challenge

Below is the outcome of the tree, the action points were left for the champions to identify and send them to the consultant and participants were asked to draw their individual CAT



Figure 1: Bwambo workshop

Below is the summary of Challenge Action Tree and main points discussed by participants:

Marketing solutions	Gender solutions	Production solutions
		Practice Good Agricultural Practices
Availability of transport		
Government support		
Increase in price of coffee	Coach/mentor others in same vicinity to allow other farmers to learn the GALS	
Trainings on cooperative membership to avoid farmers selling coffee to other buyers		Training in good agronomical practices
Construction of roads by village government in collaboration with farmers	Presence of love and working together in household	Use certified manure and inputs and identify reliable input suppliers

(3 male, 5 female)		
Production challenges	Gender challenges	Marketing challenges
Lack of transport due to poor roads (4 male, 3 female)	Fights in families among husband and wives	Lack of inputs(seedlings, fertilizers, pesticides) (7 male, 6 female)
Lack of money to pay for transport (2 male, 3 female)		Drought (6 male, 9 female)
Low coffee Price at the auction (7 male, 8 female)		Unsustainable agricultural practices (6 male, 9 female)
Selling to Open market due to poor prices offered by cooperatives (1 female)		Diseases and pests (6 male, 9 female)

b) Vuchama AMCOS

Attendance = 22 male, 9 female

Champion = Mustapha Msuya(M) who is also the secretary manager of the cooperatives

After a series of declined meeting, 21st November, the consultant went to Vuchama for followup and training on the CAT for increasing coffee incomes, unfortunately most of the participants that turned had never been trained on GALS, the trained farmers had gone to meet the minister of education who was opening a school in the area, so the champion suggested that we train on the vision journey considering the group as new, two of the trained groups were not present

Participants showed dissatisfaction with Tutunze kahawa limited withdrawing from the area and not delivering what was promised especially seedling when farmers had dug holes and prepared fertilizers for planting in the rainy season, Grace explained the reason why Tutunze kahawa withdrew from the North and also how the cooperatives had not prepared a proper plan for returning the loan for seedling, the seedling issue was always raised at every cooperative but satisfactory explanations were given to farmers

The ward Counselor of Mwaniko ward (Baraka A Mwanga) attended the training, he was impressed by the GALS process and advised farmers to take trainings seriously and not to expect payments from trainers instead pay the trainers for the trainings they offer, he promised to assist the champions with any assistance needed as issues of gender, planning, and budgeting is important for farmers

Msuya (Champion) is the secretary manager of the cooperative and the only champion in the area, is putting initiative on vanilla farmers and a group of 20 women were trained on GALS, Msuya complained about the open market where most the farmers sell their coffee, Vuchama has a micro climate and many farmers are diversifying with spices and Msuya is looking for vanilla buyers to add on the coffee crop in order for farmers to get more income

While discussing the vision journey, the new group most visions were bee keeping which is common in the area, construction of fish ponds, timber business and spices, the women were especially looking at animal husbandry and poultry

In the discussion farmers showed interest in becoming independent and partnering with other coffee trading companies blaming the union for not playing their role and accumulating debts in the cooperative bank plus cooperatives having high costs which comes back to farmers leaving them with little income while costs of managing coffee farms is increasingly becoming high

The consultant promised to speak to the manager of the union on partnering with other companies that offer loans for parchment advance and that uses warehouse receipt system to avoid high interest rates from the bank, however the challenge is still the registrar of the regional offices who still want cooperatives to borrow from the cooperative bank and process coffee Tanzania coffee curing company in Moshi



Figure 2: Vuchama soulmate exercise



Figure 3: Vuchama workshop

c) Raa AMCOS

After series of calls to Sakina Badi who is also the only GALS champion in the area, she planned the meeting on the 22nd of November, unfortunately someone passed on in the area and farmers went for the funeral!

No one showed-up at the cooperative office at Raa so we decided to visit the champion at her home, we were in the company of Raa secretary manager who thinks Sakina has a lot of work and cannot train GALS alone

Sakina had just been elected the Village executive officer and she is on the board of her SACCOS group at the cooperative

The GALS process in Raa is fading away considering Sakina being the only champion and her busy schedule, with Yansitha (Tutunze Kahawa Field officer) no longer in the area to give support Sakina seemed not to have shared with many farmers and has not attended the 2 phase of GALS livelihood trainings, however, she has managed to realize her visions, she has bought another cow added on the chickens and goats and has a bio gas construction which she admits has saved her time of fetching firewood and cost of paraffin

Sakina is a very active female member of Raa AMCOS and her contribution to the AMCOS is very remarkable

Champions profile

1. Sakina Badi – Raa cooperative



45years old is widowed, has 6 children (3boys and 3 girls) and has 4 grand children

2. Hassan Lesuka – Raa cooperative



62years old, he works on his coffee farm with his wife, he has 9 children and 5 grand children

He has managed to build a water harvest system and modern toilet; however he admits that he still planning for money alone

d) Gandu AMCOS

Attendance = 18 male, 4 female

Champions = Goodness PrayGod (F), Yona Elifadhi (M), Ahadi (M), Veronica Joseph and Abraham (M).

The visit took place on 3rd December ,All the initial champions attended the followup meeting and training of CAT for increasing coffee incomes, the meeting started with the leadership song as in Mbwambo AMCOS, PrayGod and Yona took the lead in the song that seemed new to the participants after the singing the consultant explained why they had to start with the leadership song being the preparation for the leadership trainings that will be conducted in the near future, participants were enthusiastic about the leadership training

The process of pairwise did not happen time was short due to rains that start in the afternoon and could make roads impassable in the mountains

The village Executive Officer, the chairman of the AMCOS and the secretary manager attended the meeting; the song became meaningful as the VEO who is a lady was present

Like in Bwambo the CAT exercise was the same, an introduction of the tool was given and cards of tree different colours were given to participants were asked one by one to put card on the flip chart, grouping them together

In Gandu the discussion touched many areas especially on gender, young women complaining about men not giving them money from coffee sales , an example being some men when they bring coffee to the cooperative they split it on different names so when they take half of the sales money to the women to plan for amidst so many need of the family, and the secretary manager admitted that is done

Issues of fake inputs were raised and farmers asked the consultant to connect them to reliable input supplier

Due to the rainy season the participants were asked to complete the actions of the things they want to change, 5 actions were to be highlighted and the actions were in presence of the VEO promised to work upon them and individual CAT were asked to be drawn in the notebooks



Figure 4: Gandu workshop

Below is the summary of Challenge Action Tree:

Production solutions	Gender solutions	Marketing solutions
Training (5 male, 4 females)		
Sorting the coffee careful (5 male, 4 females)		
Support from Agricultural Officer (5 male, 4 females)		
Increase of price of coffee (5 male, 4 females)		
Improve quantity and quality of coffee (5 male, 4 females)		
Use of water pumps (5 male, 4 females)	Being faithful and open to each other about income. (17 male, 6 female)	Open SACCOS at the AMCOS and save money to buy equipment's (21 male, 6 female)
Buy inputs through cooperatives (5 male, 4 females)	Better health services (21 male, 6 female)	Cooperatives to stand on their own; not depending on loans from KCBL (21 male, 6 female)
Good agricultural practices (21 male, 6 female)	Avoid drunkenness which causes conflicts and sexual immorality (21 male, 6 female)	Increase quality and quantity of coffee for a better price (21 male, 6 female)
Production challenges	Gender challenges	Marketing challenges
Diseases and pests (21 male, 6 female)		
Drought (21 male, 6 female)		Low price of coffee (21 male, 6 female)
Fake inputs (5 male, 4 females)	Family Conflicts (21 male, 6 female)	High coffee deductions (21 male, 6 female)
Climate change (5 male, 4 females)	Funerals (21 male, 6 female)	Poor quality (21 male, 6 female)
Inputs are expensive (5 male, 4 females)	Hiding coffee income between man and woman in the household (17 male, 6 female)	Lack of equipments eg: moisturemeter at the cooperative (21 male, 6 female)
Inadequate pesticides eg: leaf rust, CBD and stem borer	Men hiding coffee to sell separately at the cooperative	

(5 male, 4 females)		
Flooding (5 male, 4 females)		
High cost of production esp labour (5 male, 4 females)		
Unsustainable practices (5 male, 4 females)		

Summary of Challenge Action Tree – Gandu cooperative

Points that were discussed on why hide money from each other

- Women need money to buy household needs.
- Men would use two different numbers at cooperative so as to hide the income from women/their wives.
- So the solution is to sit down and make decision about their income

e) Chome AMCOS –

On the 1st of December, We met with the chairman, Tumaini Kitaa at the cooperative office. He told us no one had showed-up at the cooperative office although it communicated. We decided to visit champions at home to make their profiles. The reason GALS participants not showing up was the local primary campaigns going on, the police in Chome had denounced all public meetings

The decision was made to visit individual champions since we would not postpone until after the election time

Champions questioned had a concern about Tutunze's promise to provide seedlings, still it was explained why Tutunze kahawa limited never delivered seedling and that Tuntunze Kahawa limited had supported the coffee nursery which was being established at Mheza AMCOS and seedlings would be distributed to farmers but the question was to be handled by VUASU

Champions could not tell new numbers trained after June, and they said they would give the consultant the numbers

Mwalimu Taweli on of the former champions expressed concerns about VUASU union stating that farmers are sustaining the union without the union assisting farmers only coming to take coffee and Mill, he mentioned milling charges being high, curring loss being high and VUASU operations budget remaining high despite the fact that coffee season being one in a year but the costs accumulates monthly, other issues discussed includes cost of production especially

labor being high almost higher than the price of a kilogram of coffee offered at the cooperative, the unions lack of marketing skills not able edict auction prices and be in the first auctions which are always good, lack of information/ VUASU inability to give market/price information to farmers and lack of inputs, they mentioned how the union used to have a voucher system of inputs which was useful for farmers but later dropped it

Mr Kitaa and Mwalimu Taweli asked the consultant to arrange a date to visist Rafiki coffee (a private coffee milling company in Moshi)

1. Mwalimu Taweli Kihara – Chome cooperative



Mr Taweli_bought a cow (Fresian)

Has paid 3,000 bricks for the house and plans to finish foundation by June 2015.

He expects 130kg of parchement coffee this season compared to 84kg last season.

2. Hawa Acklend – Chome cooperative



35years old

Has 3 kids (1 male, 2 female)

Personal achievements

With her mother they have bought 400 bricks (for family house)

Currently harvesting maize in her shamba and she grows onions beside her restraint business

In June 2014, she received her share form VICOBA which she wants to use in boutique business

They have harvested 450kg of coffee compared to 100kg last season. Hawa takes care of her parents and her children

She grows onions and other vegetables where by the income is used to pay for her children's school fees

Photo shoot with Majority World

Majority World was contracted by Hivos to capture the story of Dinna Chediel who was trained under this methodology. It was firstly agreed for the photographer to join the team in Bwambo on 7th November 2014. Unfortunately it was postponed to 10th November but it couldn't materialize as there was no clear flow of communication.

Finally the date was agreed to be 4th December and so Mohamed Mambo - photographer from Dar es salaam came to Same. Work went on well despite the bad weather and car getting stuck in the mountains, Dinna was cheerful and made work easy for us. The pictures to be taken was to explain the below caption

The story will be about Dinah, a widow with 13 children, living in Bwambo, Same district in Northern Tanzania. When her husband died, her inlaws wanted to marry her and take her land. When she refused, they beat her up and took the land. She and her children went for days without eating. She persevered and went to court to get her land back. She succeeded. After this, she worked her way through a number of training programmes. Now, the future looks bright.

Dinah teaches people in her community about growing coffee, maize, beans and other crops, and sets up cooperations between farms. First we need pictures (portraits) of her against the background of her farm, if possible with her (13) children. Furthermore, we need pictures of her teaching others how to farm; we need to see her explaining things to other people.



Figure 5: Right - Dinna explaining Vision Journey and left – Vision during photoshoot

Conclusion

Followup schedule had to change several times to fit-in to the dates the farmers wanted. This was due to lack of constant communication between me and champions, funerals or absence of champion(s) in their area(s) and the rains so we had move early to the mountains in order to come down early.

The biggest challenge on the outreach of the methodology had been presence of several political and/or social-economic events in the second term of the year ie: June – December. Events include local government election, farming season, religious events eg: communion, weddings etc and other ceremonies.

From my own perspective the outreach has not significantly increase between June – November but champions promised to send the outreach to the consultant

In June 2014 it was reported that 472 (335 male, 137 female) had been reached in Same and Mwanga district. Out of the numbers 229 (120 male, 107 female) drew in the notebooks and 230 (200 Men, 30 women).