



Fund for Innovation  
and Transformation

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EMMANUEL RELIEF AND REHABILITATION INTERNATIONAL OF CANADA

# Empowering Women Farmers in Tanzania with an Agricultural Technology Hub (ATH)

## Context

The communities in Mwanza Region, Tanzania, are 90% rural and agricultural. While Tanzania has seen good economic growth overall, rural areas continue to be the poorest, with up to 20-30% identified as food insecure and another 30% at risk of becoming food insecure. Rural women are disproportionately burdened by manual farm labour and providing for their families. Emmanuel is testing an innovation to support women farmers by addressing gender inequality in land ownership, access to training, decision making, and access to credit.

## The Innovative Solution

Supported by FIT, Emmanuel Relief and Rehabilitation International of Canada and Emmanuel International Tanzania tested an innovative approach that placed women as central Agricultural Technology Hub (ATH) Master Trainers to provide innovative agricultural training, leadership, gender training, and community gender sensitization to women and men farmers. The ATH's were centers for women and men to receive in person and video-based training and access farming equipment.

## Advancing Gender Equality

The Gender Equality Strategy (GES) addressed the root causes of gender inequalities in land ownership, decision making and access to credit that hinder agricultural production and food security for households in the Lake Zone. Emmanuel Relief advanced gender equality through three approaches: addressing knowledge gaps in agricultural practices; engaging communities in gender sensitization training; and training on accessing agricultural supports such as credit for farming purposes and decision making.



### COUNTRY

Tanzania

### AMOUNT

\$169,100

### TESTING PERIOD

10 months

Ended March 2023



**GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE (GE3)**

**THEME: AGRICULTURE**

# Testing Framework

The innovation used a pre-post testing methodology. Nine Master Trainers were trained as front-line agents of the testing phase, equipped to monitor and assess progress throughout testing. They were supported by 3 types of external expertise, including: Expert mentors (EIC, THRIVE), Agricultural Technology experts (EIC, Simusolar) and gender experts (AWO, EIC). Participant-led feedback was established at the ATH locations, entering user experience and agricultural data to EIC management via an online app using simple questionnaires. This data was then uploaded via smartphone to the EIC project manager to facilitate ongoing monitoring and evaluation. Ongoing data monitoring was important in determining how the solution and information campaigns could improve, as well as how community and family discussions regarding the Innovation and socio-cultural situation have changed before, during and after the testing period.

## Results and Impact

- Nine female Master trainers trained 330 (239 women, 91 men) catalyst farmers in low-cost organic agricultural methods using a video-based curriculum accompanied by practical demonstrations.
- Gender partner Action for Women Organization (AWO) successfully trained 283 participants (217 women, 66 men) in 6 groups on a variety of contextualised gender-in-agriculture training seminars. This training contributed to a shift in perception of all male participants towards an acceptance of women holding leadership positions and making financial decisions.
- Access to agricultural credit was increased for 42 women and 8 men farmers.
- Food security increased from 29.3% at baseline to 59.04%. This improvement occurred within a period of only 10 months and is expected to continue due to the participants' newly acquired knowledge and skills. The farmers grew maize, beans, chickpeas, carrots, spinach, Artemisia, Chaya, mint etc.

## Key Lessons

1. Frequent data collection provided a better picture of the impact of the innovation and removed pressure from the endline data collection process.
2. The switch from online to offline video-based training allowed for more efficient training because there were no more internet connectivity issues.
3. The ATHs became central points for the community where government agriculture officers could deliver training sessions to community members making the hubs a space that the project and government could work together.

“When my mother started gardening, I became encouraged by helping her to irrigate the garden so she could get school materials like books, pen.” – Young girl from Luchecele

“Before the bare land wasn't used for any production but for now people are using the surrounding area to produce more vegetables.” - Participant

### PARTNER ORGANIZATION

- Emmanuel International Tanzania

### TARGET PARTICIPANTS

Direct participants included 239 women and 91 men, in 3 communities Katunguru, Nyanyuge and Luchecele.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

[Fund for Innovation and Transformation](#)

[Emmanuel Relief and Rehabilitation International of Canada](#)

### ABOUT FIT

The Fund for Innovation and Transformation supports Canadian small and medium-sized organizations (SMOs) testing innovative solutions that advance gender equality in the Global South.



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