

## Best Practices Success stories

### Success story 1: Claud Moses Swai of Kishisha village (Kisha group)

The beneficiary before joining Tusonge's program had an income of only 450,000, one (1) unproductive cattle, and a farm producing maize and sugar cane. The level of productivity was low due to low rainfall, lack of proper knowledge of farming practices, high rate of uncontrollable pests and diseases, and reliance on traditional farming methods. The living standard was low due to having a limited budget that was not enough to procure for the household needs and wants. The father was the only bread winner of the family and the mother was the family's caretaker. Due to the practices of the inputs gained from different TUSONGE'S training the beneficiary was capable of;

- a. Increasing capital from 450,000tshs to 2,800,000tshs.
- b. Application of traditional methods of controlling pests and disease
- c. Increased farm size by buying another plot
- d. Raised the household's living standards by having enough funds to afford quality education, and quality basic needs and wants
- e. Increasing income due to new investment and also allowing the women to also work and contribute to the household income.
- f. Bought 2 new productive cows
- g. Increase maize productivity from 1.5tones of maize to 3tones of maize per production season.
- h. Increasing other crops productivity through the adoption of ecological farming practices.

*"I must be thankful to Tusonge through their training I acquired knowledge on ecological farming practices and entrepreneurship the combination of these skills enabled me to produce organic products but also to attract customers, set appropriate prices for customers, retaining them and consequently generating adequate income....the good thing now the majority prefer organic product for health concerns"*



## Success story 2: Jackson Michael Munuo-Ivaeny

Before joining Tusonge's program the respondent had an income of 300,000tsh, un-renovated house, a farm, 2 beehives and 2 goats. The productivity was low and the income was declining due to meeting household needs. The respondent was struggling to afford quality education and also meeting all the households' needs and wants due to limited funds. The level of productivity was low limiting the production to only household consumption and leaving sugar cane to be the only cash crop depended by the household.

After the beneficiary joined Tusonge's program he acquired knowledge on entrepreneurship, Ecological farming and financial management skills that boosted the beneficiary's income. The following were the impact of the program on the household;

- Increase farm productivity due to the adoption of organic manure
- Increased agriculture income from a minimum income of 100,000tshs to 300,000tsh per season of production to minimum income of 500,000tshs to a maximum income of 1,500,000tshs per season.
- Installation of electricity in the house
- Increased bee hives from 2 hives to 10 hives
- Capable of affording school fees
- Increase household livestock example 2 more goats
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*"Tusonge has clearly added a value to my life, through the ecological farming training received I have been capable of improving my productivity not only on maize but also other products as well. Training on financial management, financial discipline, and saving and credit habits have provided me with adequate income to improve my household livelihood"*



### Success story 3: Solina Thomas Swale: Ivaeny

Before joining Tusonge's program the beneficiary was only limited to poultry farming and garden vegetable farming. The respondent had poor productivity due to limited resources and limited capital. Poultry farming was on small scale due to limited resources and also vegetable production had low yields due to the use of traditional farming practices.

After joining the program the beneficiary received the training inputs that helped the beneficiary to;

- Increase other sources of income like soap making and vegetable vending
- Increase income by 45% increasing poultry farm and vegetable production productivity
- Increased capital by 57% through saving and financial discipline practices
- Expanded the poultry farming project by adding a new poultry layering house
- Preparation of Composite manure for supporting the growth of the seeds
- Practice of 9 maize seeds holes plantation
- Finishing and renovated kitchen building
- Raised the house hold living standard. Capable of attaining quality household needs and wants
- Increased productivity of other crops due to the adoption of ecological farming practices.

*"I appreciate the efforts of Tusonge on empowering women's economic inclusion since it has clearly impacted my perception on financial management, farming practices, poultry farming and agriculture as whole. Through the organization ecological farming it has sharpened my knowledge on transforming from home needs based vegetable farming to business based vegetable production also different entrepreneurship trainings have increased my poultry farm productivity which has an impact on my income"*



#### **Success story 4: Selina Mmari-Ivaeny ward:**

Before joining Tusonge's program the beneficiary had limited knowledge on entrepreneurship, ecological farming practices, modern livestock farming practices, financial management. Also the respondent had limited sources of capital to invest on farming which limited production to household consumption only.

After joining the program the beneficiary was capable of attaining different skill and adopted the practices from the training and was capable of;

- Properly manage funds by keeping financial records, having financial discipline, and budgeting every income earned.
- Increased business capital from only 500,000tshs to 1,500,000tsh (by 33%)
- Offered 1 formal employment to a male youth
- Increased other sources of finance by buying a new motorcycle that generates an income of 5,000tsh per day
- Started pig farming
- Bought 1 new productive cow

*“Individually and also as a group we highly value the efforts of Tusonge on recognizing women as an important element on a sustainable community's economic increase. Different entrepreneurial training have raised our (women's) business perception different initiatives where shown by women such as adopted different entrepreneurial activities. Through practicing the trainings of the organization I have managed to attaing food security and initiating and development of sources of income”*



**Success story 5: Finehans Mahaza from Biriri ward: Through TUSONGE practical intervention on value chain, food processing, I am an expert to transform others**

Before joining the program the beneficiary had low income and was still relying on traditional modes of food processing without considered the environmental friendly. This limited an increase of income.

After joining the program TUSONGE CDO together with stake holders like SIDO provided different entrepreneurial trainings such as food processing i.e cassava, rosella wine, fruits and food spices. The knowledge was positive impacted my livelihoods due to the availability of a solar drier installed by TUSONGE in my ward as an alternative and safe way of food processing before go to the market. Through practiced the knowledge the following changes was observed.

- Ability to establish a local food processing industry in my village
- Disseminate the value chain knowledge to others
- Participated in local, regional and national farmers' exhibitions
- Increased income by selling processed products such as rosella wine, rosemary powder, packed honey, natural blended coffee, mangle pickle, tomato source, and chili source.
- Capable of attaining quality household needs and wants such as food, shelter
- Increased capital through saving and financial discipline practices

*“Honestly Tusonge has a played huge role on changing my financial state from relative dependency to self-dependent. Tusonge together with SIDO have provided me with the important knowledge on care economy that care for the people, profit and environment. Hence, food processing with the consideration of environmental hygiene have provided me with adequate funds to procure the household needs.”*



**Success story 6: Heavenlight Jackson-Biriri ward: Income increases have prompted a woman's ownership of property and decision making!!!**

Before joining Tusonge's program the beneficiary had limited understanding of women empowerment, food processing, ecological farming practices, and financial management. This led to having low confidence in decision making at the community and household level, financial dependent on a limited source of capital, low income, unable to attain quality household needs and wants.

But after joining the program the beneficiary adopted the training such as women's rights on ownership and decision making as a result they managed to attain what was capable of attaining the following;

- Financial independence through engaging in entrepreneurship
- Confidence in decision making at the community and household level
- Increased income
- Engage in food processing and develop products like rosella wine
- Bought 5 pigs that provide enough capital to produce for other livestock farm management expenses
- Bought one more productive cow
- Installation of a tap water system
- Raised the household living standard. Capable of attaining quality household needs and wants

*"Tusonge is the hero of women and youth economy and for the community at large. The organization has not only helped my household it has done the same to other households. The adoption of different programs of the organization has enabled to raise household earnings that's helped on improving livelihood. The organization has not only impacted my financial status but also my confidence on participating in different household"*

***Left photo: Interview with Heavenlight Jackson and (Right photo is poultry owned as a result of increased business capital.***



**Success story 7: Beneficiary 7: Ruwaichi Mkony (Azimio group):**

***Ecological farming techniques improved beneficiary's production***

Before joining Tusonge's program the beneficiary was attaining loss on productivity and also was using a lot of expenses on production that wasn't economically viable. The beneficiary also had limited access to the market hence only dependent on the farm gateway marketing. The beneficiary was only practicing rainy season production but also they had no good storage facilities.

After joining the program the respondent acquired knowledge on the alternative way of irrigation i.e drip irrigation and better storage facilities that are environmentally friendly. Thereafter, It become a turning point where I managed to take a loan from VICOBA groups as an additional business capital that I used to improve my farming methodologies such as the installation of drips in the home gardens as well as purchasing a better storage facility (2 tones storage can)

The practice led to the following changes.

- Increasing crop productivity by 50%
- High market demand for my farming products due to their storage security
- Increased income by 40% from adopting irrigation farming practices
- Availability of green vegetables for family use and business purpose in all season
- Encourage attaining a standard household livelihood (improved household livelihood)
- Discovered a new business i.e fish business where I have started to build a fish pond (Fish Farming)
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*“Through training acquired I have discovered that irrigation using drip promotes effective water consumption and also makes agriculture more productive and efficient as it gives assurance for harvesting even during dry seasons.”*



**Success story 8: Foibe Molel 60, from Biriri ward,** Before I got an ecological farming methods education via TUSONGE, I was relayed on traditional farming methods, I used chemical fertilizers in vegetable farming, bananas and beans, I was less likely about the effects of chemical fertilizers. But after participating in training to make composite manure I got lighter as I've successfully changed my agricultural practice and decided to abandon the use of chemicals and start natural processing tillage composite manure with the goal of getting quality farming products. Furthermore, didn't keep records on expenses and income earned, and I had also limited sources of funds. Through the adoption of these trainings, I have seen an increase in vegetarian income from 2000 a day to 8,000Tshs a day which led to the following:

- Bought 2 ploughs and 4 draught animals
- Increased poultry farming
- Affordability of 3 balanced meals per day
- Ability to cover health expenses
- installation of tap water system and electricity in the family house
- Made house renovation to turn it into the modern one (Mud house)
- Timely payment of school fees for my children
- Increased productivity by adopting ecological farming practices and not relying on traditional methods

*“The trend of changes was easily tracked due to proper record financial records, having financial discipline, and budgeting every income earned”*

**Adaptation of ecological farming techniques increased an income that promoted the affordability of basic social needs at family level.**



### **Beneficiary 9: Sekunda Giliad Owiso-Biriri ward**

Before joining the program the beneficiary had limited income due to a low understanding on ecological farming, savings, financial management, and agribusiness. The beneficiary was having low investment income and couldn't acquire any credit from a formal financial institution.

The following the impact of the program to the beneficiary's livelihood

- Increase in capital by 45% through accessing loan from the informal financial groups (VIKOBAs) under the program.
- Bought a new productive cow
- Properly manage funds by keeping financial records, having financial discipline, and budgeting every income earned
- Increased household income by including the female on economic activities such as entrepreneurship
- Raised the house hold living standard. Capable of attaining quality household needs and wants
- Increased productivity of other crops due to the adoption of ecological farming practices
- Bought one maize storage facility (200kg plastic drum)

*"I really appreciate the contribution of Tusonge's program on sharpening our understandings on proper financial management, proper management of the informal financial institutions, and ecological farming. The skills acquired helped on raising the productivity of my farm hence increased food security and income and also through VICOBA group I was capable of acquiring loans for investment. The organization's follow up mechanism gave us the privilege to share our fears and get consultation on concurring our fears and attain maximum profitable results"*

