



Gertruda Domayo, with her granddaughter, works in her soybean field in Nakahegwa, Tanzania. [Sara A. Fajardo]

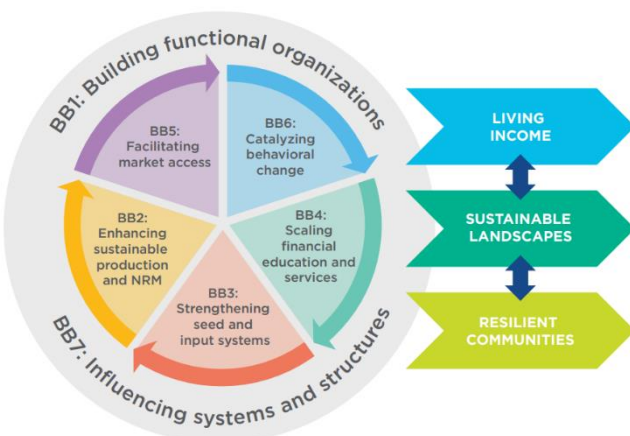
# Agriculture and Livelihoods

## Sowing the Seeds of the Future

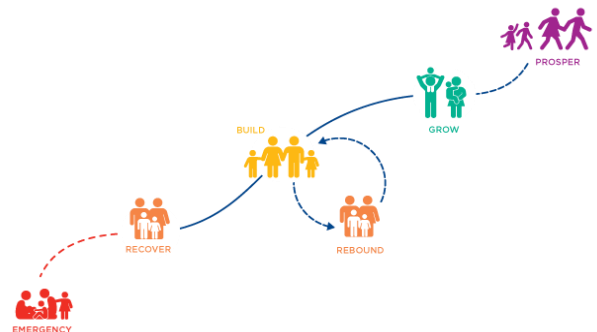
Tanzania's agriculture sector plays an important role as a key driver for economic growth since the country gained independence. Agriculture accounts for 28% of the national GDP, 24% of national exports, and employs 65% of the national workforce. The crucial role of the agricultural sector has led to the significant increase of investments to improve efficiency and productivity, a key objective of the national Five-Year Development Plan 2021-2026, which aims to curb challenges related to climate change, limited financial access, and the global supply chain block that have led to weakening production, rising food insecurity, and cyclic poverty.

Catholic Relief Services Tanzania places smallholder farming families at the heart of our mission. Envisioning a future where people achieve dignified and resilient livelihoods in flourishing landscapes, we offer farmers access to tools and resources that enable them to move from subsistence farming to becoming contributors to the local and global food supply. Using the **Pathway to Prosperity** model, we assist smallholder farm families obtain critical skill sets that strengthen their capacities to improve productivity, empower business practices, and expand their access to inclusive financial services.

## CRS Agriculture & Livelihoods Programming



Building Blocks of CRS Ag & Livelihoods Theory of Change



CRS Pathway to Prosperity model

We utilize the **Skills for Marketing and Rural Transformation (SMART Skills)** approach to empowering communities to thrive. Traditional development interventions often focus on helping farmers strengthen their capacity in just one skill at a time. In contrast, our SMART Skills approach aims to strengthen all skills farmers need to create effective and sustainable linkages to markets. We adopt this approach to

improve our farmers' access to information, training, services, and opportunities that increase their productivity, assets, and income.

### Soya ni Pesa Project (Soybean is Money)

Soya ni Pesa (SnP) (2012-2018) is a USDA Food for Progress Program (FFPr)-funded project in partnership with 3 diocesan Caritas -Njombe, Songea, and Mbeya, and Women and Poverty alleviation in Tanzania (WOPATA) in Ruvuma, Morogoro, Njombe, and Songwe regions. Implemented in the Ruvuma, Morogoro, Njombe, and Songwe regions, SnP assisted smallholder farmers in increasing their soybean and poultry productivity and expanding their access to the market and supply chains through private sector engagement. Farmers were introduced to row spacing farming methods and other agricultural practices that improved production yields. Simultaneously, the farmers were trained in collective marketing to improve their marketing and pricing leading to better sales and profits for all. Overall, SnP engaged 11,602

*The project is helping all of us ... from the children to the grandchildren, starting with me. We can now manage to cater for our daily needs.”*  
- Gertruda Domayo,  
Soya ni Pesa farmer

farmers from an initial group of 398 and expanded the initial 509 hectares of land in soybean production to 6,484 hectares. SnP farmers traded 13,182 metric tons of soybeans— 20% above the targeted volume.

### Kahawa ya Kesho (Coffee for Tomorrow)

Kahawa ya Kesho (KyK) was a CRS-funded four-year (2018-2022) project implemented jointly by CRS and the Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung (HRNS) foundation. The project aimed to improve and develop diverse livelihood opportunities for youth aged 18 to 35 living in coffee farming communities of Mbeya and Songwe regions. The project supported

*29 out of the 39 youth producer groups formed were officially registered as Community Based Organizations at the District Council level, giving members access to financial assistance from the local government.*



*By adopting hybrid coffee plants, Juhudi Edward from the Nkuyu Group shares how this has improved his coffee production despite climate change.*  
[Will Baxter]

youth engaged in coffee production to improve their access to modern coffee production methods, credit services, and to promote gender equality in the business. KyK supported 178 female and 278 male farmers directly and 314 female and 504 male farmers indirectly through the production, Savings and Internal Lending Community (SILC), and gender awareness trainings. Due to improved and sustainable production, youth farmers are now able to access financial assistance, better supplies, and a wider coffee market.

### Growing Hope Globally (GHG)

CRS Tanzania places great importance on investing in the youth and agriculture to improve livelihoods. Building on the success of the Kahawa ya Kesho project, CRS, with funding from Growing Hope Globally (GHG), is implementing a project (2021-2025) to assist youth farmers of common beans and maize in the Mbeya district council. GHG aims to improve their productivity and value chain engagement as well as to increase their access to agricultural and financial services and support. CRS is leveraging on partnerships with SILC and the private sector to assist in providing access to credit, loans, and affordable social insurance opportunities that our youth farmers can utilize to purchase better seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides. With GHG, CRS is also putting emphasis in ensuring gender equity in the households by incorporating gender equity awareness trainings. CRS hopes that with the GHG initiative we can expand our assistance to youth farmers in building brighter futures for them and the Tanzanian agricultural sector.



*GHG participants with the maize they harvested. [Jennifer Lazuta]*

### Looking Forward

Smallholder farmers are among the most vulnerable to livelihood shocks such as adverse effects of climate change and supply chain blockages. Inadequate financial support and limited market access have reduced the productivity of our farmers, limiting their potential to rise above poverty. We look forward to investing in innovative and scalable opportunities with diverse stakeholders, boost employment and entrepreneurship, enable equitable access to finance and labor-saving technologies, and promote climate-smart agricultural activities.