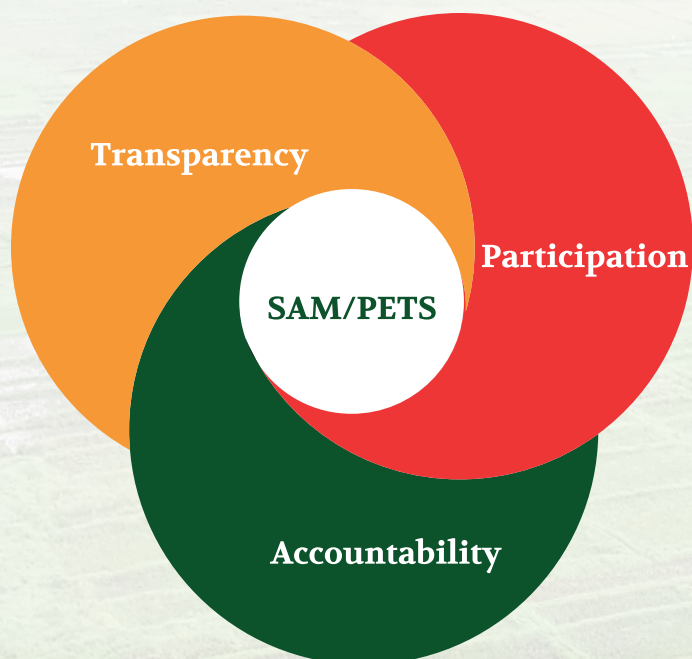


Policy Brief

Accountability in Public funded projects and service delivery: Lessons from Agriculture Cluster



Background information

Agriculture is the most important sector of Tanzania economy, contributing 28% of GDP, employing 58% of population and contributes about 30% of total export. However, the sector is still underdeveloped and its contribution to economic development is still below potential. One of the Agricultural Sector Development Plan (ASDP II) milestones is to improve governance and accountability. Accountability by key actors in implementation of public agricultural projects is therefore of crucial importance to ensure quality delivery of planned public services. However, inadequate accountability has been found to be among challenges facing LGAs in implementing development projects.

Agriculture Non State Actors Forum (ANSAF) with support from Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) has been leading Agriculture Cluster Members (ACMs) which involved other Seventeen (17) Civil Societies Organizations (CSOs) to conduct Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM) and Public Expenditure Surveys (PETS) in nineteen (19) LGAs namely Mufindi, Bukoba Rural, Mvomero, Kyela, Songea Rural, Tunduru, Ifakara, Mlimba, Chunya, Mbarali, Mbeya Rural, Nyasa, Iringa, Mbeya, Njombe, Namtumbo, Iringa, Mbinga and Gairo Districts Councils. The purpose of this initiative was to support LGAs to improve quality services delivery in the agricultural sector. Evidence suggests that SAM and PETS highly contribute to improved governance and accountability hence better quality of service delivery resulting in an increased income for both government and citizens especially women and youth. This policy brief documents some key lessons drawn by ACMs from SAM and PETS conducted from 2017 to 2020.

About SAM and PETS

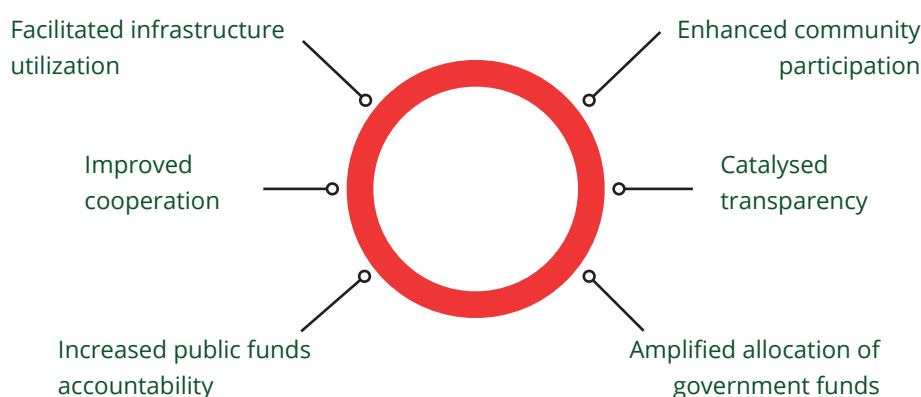
SAM and PETS are human rights based participatory approaches which ensure constructive citizen engagement in holding the government accountable on their decision-making processes and public resources oversight to ensure effective public agricultural service delivery is realized.

SAM and PETS are premised on three key principles:

The benefits of the approaches is the enhanced interaction between duty bearers and rights holders. And the growth of confidence amongst community members in holding the government into account as far as sector budget and policy implementation is concerned.

Contribution of Agriculture Cluster CSOs through SAM and PETS

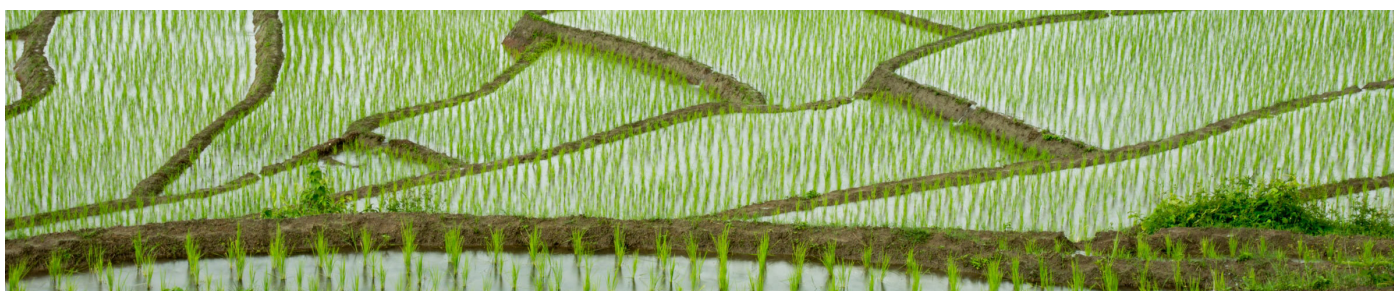
1. Facilitated utilization of unused infrastructures including Farmers Extension Center (FEC) in Kyema, Katerero ward in Bukoba District and Uturo and Mbuyuni rice mills in Mbarali District.
2. Enhanced community participation in implementation, completion and maintenance of public funded projects. For example, smallholder farmers that benefit from the Masaka irrigation scheme in Iringa DC agreed to improve water supply channels. Small-scale traders in the Kemono market in Bukoba agreed to contribute towards improvement and maintenance of the market. In Mkangawalo, the community agreed and contributed money to build a rice mill in Mlimba DC.
3. Improved duty bearers and decision makers cooperation in SAM and PETS activities. These include; District Commissioners, Councilors, LGAs Executive Directors and other LGAs staff.
4. Catalysed transparency in service delivery in LGAs at village, ward and districts level. This has been witnessed in villages such as Utengule Usongwé, Ijombe and Maendeleo in Mbeya District. Village and ward financial reports are viewed at the village and ward government offices boards with meetings being held for further transparency.
5. Increased accountability in management of public funds. This was evident in Songea, where the Songea Rural DC returned TZS 126,000,000 for construction of Nakhuga irrigation scheme which was previously reallocated to other activities.
6. Amplified allocation of government funds into completion of projects. The Lukenge irrigation scheme in Morogoro was allocated TZS 44.7mil by Ministry of Agriculture, TZS 91mil by District Council and the community contributed TZS 41mil. Tangeni market in Mvomero was allocated TZS 25mil by the district. There is also a plan in place to construct at least 1.5 Km irrigation channel every financial year. In Ruvuma, Namtumbo DC has planned to improve Namahoka irrigation scheme channels.



Despite all constraints to teams involved in SAM and PETS, the approach has been accepted in all districts involved in this pilot. Though at different levels and limitations.

Factors limiting accountability in agriculture sector

- 1. Inadequate use of information technology:** Most public information that could be stored online on LGAs websites, made available through notice boards or libraries was not available. Local Authorities websites do not have documents that can be accessed online and most of the information available is outdated. Access to information is also hindered. In some cases, there was no clarity on how information can be accessed or provided. Some LGAs shared information without requiring a written request while in others, the SAM/ PETS team had to write a letter to request. In the latter situation, some of the project's information was not accessed. Generally, there have been inadequate backup and access to information in LGAs offices even those that could be stored and made available through public domains.
- 2. Complete projects not utilized for intended objectives:** There are several projects which are complete but not utilized for intended purposes. Most of such projects are those involving construction of buildings and acquiring of assets for example, Katerero Ward Agriculture Resources Centers (WARC) and Bushasha warehouses are used as village and ward offices in Bukoba DC; Mbako paddy processing center and butcher used as office in Kyela DC; Lupa market is used as court in Chunya district; Kamwene WARC has been rented out and used as private training center in Mlimba DC; and Makwale Artificial Insemination Center is used as court in Kyela.
- 3. Limited number of staff:** Inadequate number of public servants at LGAs level including extension officers' limits access to technical support and service to smallholder producers. Ward Agriculture Extension Officers are also being delegated to act as Village and Ward Executive Officers (WEO and VEOs) and given the duty of collecting LGAs revenues in markets. Case studies were drawn from Busale ward in Kyela DC; Madege ward in Gairo DC; Morogoro ward in Songea DC and Karabagaine ward in Bukoba DC.
- 4. Projects not under LGAs implementation:** It was also found that some of the incomplete projects were implemented either directly by the Ministry of Agriculture through Zonal Irrigation Offices and that the LGAs had very little information about them. The Msufini irrigation scheme in Mvomero DC was an example of such a project.
- 5. Inadequate coordination of sector involvement in project implementation:** When two sectors were involved directly in implementation of projects, agencies from another sector lagged behind. In Ijombe Ward, Mbeya Rural DC, a maize mill installed at Nsongwi mantanji has not been utilized because there was no access to electricity from TANESCO.
- 6. Citizen's ownership of projects:** In most cases, public funded agricultural projects have been regarded as "Government Agricultural Projects" which is a big GAP in ensuring projects get buy in from beneficiary communities.



Recommendations

1. Improving LGAs information system including improving and updating website content and documents backups will increase accountability.
2. Carrying thorough economic analysis on viability of projects before embarking into new projects will ensure loss is averted and that investments are channelled towards projects with a high community demand.
3. Social Accountability Monitoring and Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys should be considered and recognized as important tools for improving service delivery in the public sector from LGA levels.
4. Improve extension services through recruitment of new staff, investment in ICT solutions and strengthening capacity of Extension staff to supervise implementation of projects
5. Improve coordination between Ministries and LGAs, and other key Government Agencies involved in implementation of projects.

Agriculture Cluster Members

Agriculture Cluster Members	Approach/Roles	LGAs
Agricultural Non State Actors Forum (ANSAF)	Cluster Lead	
Creativity for Rural Empowerment and Sustainable Development (CRESD)	SAM	Gairo District Council
E.L.C.T Ipogolo Student Centre	PETS	Iringa District Council
Highlands Hope Umbrella (HHU)	SAM	Njombe District Council
Hope for Deprived People Action in Development (HPPAD)	PETS	Mbeya District Council
Iringa Development of Youth, Disabled and Children Care (IDYDCC)	PETS	Mufindi District Council
Jitambue Lembuka Tanzania	SAM	Kyela District Council
Kilombero Organization for Community Development (KOCD)	SAM	Ifakara and Mlimba District Councils
Mbeya Non-Governmental Organization Network (MBENGONET)	SAM	Chunya, Mbarali and Mbeya Rural District Councils
Mbinga Development and Environment Action (MBIDEA)	PETS	Mbinga District Council
Millenium Arts Group	PETS	Songea District Council
Mtandao Wa Usimamizi Wa Mitsu Kanda Ya Kitapilimwa (MJUMIKK)	SAM	Iringa District Council
MVIWATA Ngazi ya Kati Morogoro	SAM	Mvomero District Council
MVIWATA- Ruvuma	PETS	Namtumbo District Council
Tanzania Agricultural Modernization Association (TAMA)	PETS	Bukoba District Council
Tunduru Paralegal Centre (TUPACE)	PETS	Tunduru District Council
Usangu Non-Governmental Organization Network (USANGONET)	PETS	Mbarali District Council
Wasaidizi wa Sheria na Haki za Binadamu (WASHEHABINYA);	PETS	Nyasa District Council

About ANSAF

Agricultural Non State Actors Forum (ANSAF) is an advocacy network that seeks to advocate for pro-poor development and an agricultural policy conducive to that development. ANSAF promotes dialogue and constructive engagement among sector stakeholders, analysing existing policy and suggesting policies and practices around pertinent issues in the agricultural sector.



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