



### Experience by Actions for Development Programmes – Mbozi (ADP-Mbozi)

In Songwe, TANZANIA

Due to challenges in providing food security, ADP-Mbozi implemented a project to address these issues but worried about a lack of sustainability of the existing groups after phasing out the project.

The **solution** was to introduce saving and credit schemes to ensure the sharing of knowledge and practices among farmers after the phase out and thus the sustainability of the project.

#### IMPACT

- Continuously sharing of agricultural practices and knowledge
- Securing the sustainability of project after phase out

### Experience description

While implementing the “Momba Food Security Project”, ADP-Mbozi started worrying about the sustainability of the project, e.g. the continuation of group meetings, once phased out. Reflecting with farmers, they decided to integrate saving and credit schemes into the project to assure exchange on new agricultural practices after the project ends. The farmer groups selected a leader and the groups were trained in savings and credit mobilization via a Train-the-Trainer methodology. The savings and credit groups set up group constitutions and rules themselves and ADP-Mbozi only monitored closely. After phasing out, the organisation could observe that 10 out of 17 groups are still meeting regularly and exchange about agricultural practices and knowledge.



### Other characteristics



#### IMPACTS

- Continued sharing of agricultural practices and knowledge among groups
- Access to a secure food supply
- Establishment of new small businesses apart from farming which secure financial stability



#### CHALLENGES

- Negative experiences with group savings in the past which resulted in the lack of faith in leaders and in saving schemes
- Difficulties in training group leaders about leadership and management



#### LESSONS LEARNED

- Limit the groups to 30 members
- Election of credible leaders by the group is essential
- Saving and credit mobilization is important to ensure a sustainable handling of income generating activities
- Inclusion of local government to formalise and recognise groups