

# Planning for Sustainable Agribusiness in the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT)



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON  
Water, Land and  
Ecosystems

LED BY:  
**IWMI**  
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## The Challenge

Ihemi Cluster is a major agricultural area in the Southern Highlands Zone of Tanzania. Almost 80% of the population derives their livelihoods from crop production and livestock keeping as well. They also use the natural resources for fuel wood and off-farm activities such as charcoal and bee keeping. The cluster is experiencing low crop yields and resource degradation evidenced by limited provision of ecosystem services (ES) such as water, energy, food, and wildlife habitat. In 2010, the government of Tanzania initiated the SAGCOT, an inclusive, multi-stakeholder partnership to rapidly develop the region's agricultural potential. The initiative requires a framework to ensure the public and private sector investments are environmentally sustainable, socially equitable and economically viable.



Opportunity for improving horticultural crops in Ihemi Cluster

## Project Interventions

The project is addressing the two linked problems: unsustainable natural resource use, and the private and public sectors that do not take sufficient account of environmental and social impacts. The project uses WLE's Ecosystem Services and Resilience Framework (ESR) approach which seeks to meet the needs of poor people and women through sustainable use and management of ecosystem services. Specifically, it is working with stakeholders, investors and policy-makers to build robust, evidence-driven process for planning sustainable development within the cluster. Key activities included comprehensive baseline surveys of natural resources use, agricultural yields and farmer incomes within the cluster and social and gender inclusivity. The projects has engaged with key next users in modeling different scenarios for sustainable intensification.

Based on the baseline surveys, the project has engaged with the next users to obtain valuable feedback on their perspective on how the project can assist in supporting the development of guidelines for sustainable development intensification.



Participants of the planning Sustainable Development Meeting, 01<sup>st</sup> July, 2015

## Results and Discussion

- The project outputs (the baseline report, GIS maps on land cover, land -use change scenarios, crop suitability etc.) have attracted interest from next users. SAGCOT Centre Ltd views the outputs as valuable tools for sustainable development planning for the cluster.
- The stakeholders have been sensitized on the importance of linking ecosystem integrity and resilience with socio-economic development and gender inclusivity in the sustainable development planning process.
- Partnerships have been established with SAGCOT Centre Ltd (SCL) which coordinates the planning of public and private investments in the growth corridor, five district councils in Ihemi cluster, and the Rufiji Basin Water Board which regulates water use in the region.
- Investors such as the Darsh Industries Ltd which process tomatoes and Silverlands (TZ) Ltd which is in poultry, poultry feed and maize production have expressed interest to include environmental sustainability, social and gender inclusivity in their business plans. Both companies partners with neighbouring small scale farmers.
- Through MVIWATA, which is an apex organization for small scale farmers, the project has began sensitizing small scale farmers in Ihemi cluster on the importance of environmental sustainability, social/gender inclusivity
- In recognition of the project's initial contribution, the Project's Principal Investigator in Tanzania has been appointed a member of the Ihemi Green Reference Group (IGRG), an Advisory Body to the SAGCOT Initiative.
- Follow-up meetings with investors are on-going in the cluster aiming at getting more investors to commit to environmental sustainability and social/gender inclusivity in their business plans.



Mapping actors in the Ihemi Cluster

## Conclusions and Way forward

The project work has received buy-in from both the public and private sectors, especially because of its role as a catalyst for change from the *business as usual* investments towards environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive agricultural development in Ihemi Cluster. To support this-

- Stakeholders sensitization of has been critical in understanding the need to balance ecosystems integrity and resilience with the economic and social development.
- Sharing of evidence on the state of the art obtained from baseline surveys with the planners, investors and other stakeholders has led to a common shared vision on NRM.
- The project intends to pursue options for ensuring NRM are anchored in the national/regional/cluster development plans and in village land use plans at the grassroots.
- Discussion on the security of land tenure (title deeds/certificates of customary rights occupancy(CCROs) is another important element of SNRM that ought to be considered.