

The CEO's welcome note



Mbarwa Kivuyo - IFTz Managing Director.

Dear esteemed reader,

WELCOME TO the third edition of *The Livelihoods Herald!* We are excited to present you vital topics and inspiring initiatives related to improved nutrition among pregnant women, lactating mothers and children under five years of age.

In this edition, we reflect on our smarter model to combat malnutrition in the southern highlands of Tanzania. It is sometimes difficult to explain the reasons for severe malnutrition in a region that was once regarded as among the big five food producers in the country. The famous Iringa Declaration (*Siasa ni Kilimo*—literally 'Politics is Agriculture') was anchored on the belief that Iringa (now split into two regions of Iringa and Njombe) is one of the national food baskets. It is unfortunate that many household surveys now cite Iringa and Njombe as regions where malnutrition reigns. With the support of the European Union (EU) and Rikolto, IFTz started teaching farmers how to set up 'kitchen gardens' and use them as new weapons to

combat malnutrition. Today, it looks like IFTz, EU, Rikolto and smallholder farmers are winning the battle. Nutrition security is becoming more stable among rural families. The kitchen gardens model is spreading like bushfire and the adoption is amazingly high among families in drier areas compared to villages that have natural water sources throughout the year.

We also report a noble event where IFTz was invited to address the Full Council of the Hanang' District in Manyara Region. The invitation was an outcome of a mission in Hanang' led by IFTz to assess the economic and social impact of the catastrophic land slide that hit Hanang' District in December 2023. The mission, funded by Brooke East Africa, drew members from IFTz, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Local Government Authority, and the Arusha-based Society for the Protection of Animals. The aim was specifically to reveal the social and economic suffering caused on families of donkey owners and users in the district.

On an equal weight, we report a Phase II funding to establish our Dryland Agroforestry Training Centre in Bahi District, Dodoma. The TZS122,405,000 grant from Vi Agroforestry is vital for IFTz in its mission to set up a state-of-the-art training centre for farmers and other champions of agroforestry in semi-arid areas.

We invite our esteemed readers to be part of our community development initiatives. As we strive to build a more sustainable future, it is essential to encourage and invite you to contribute resources to support our work in 152 villages across six regions in central Tanzania, southern highland and the lake zone.

With your continued support, we can make a positive and lasting impact on the lives of our target group. Let's be the source of hope for smallholder farmers.

**Donate to: Inades-Formation Tanzania,
CRDB Bank Account Number: 01500 816 23400**

Visit our website at: www.inadesfo.net/tanzania/en

Enjoy your reading!

Mbarwa Kivuyo
Managing Director & Chief Editor
Inades-Formation Tanzania
Email: mbarwa.kivuyo@inadesfo.net

Inades-Formation Tanzania intensifies war against malnutrition in Iringa and Njombe

MALNUTRITION IS not a friend of anyone anywhere in the world. It frustrates families mentally, socially and economically, especially in developing countries like Tanzania. The first casualties of malnutrition are usually the children under five years of age, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Iringa and Njombe are among the regions with the highest rate of stunting among children. Four years ago, Inades-Formation Tanzania (IFTz) together with Rikolto, a Belgian NGO that was known as Coopibo Tanzania in the early 1990s, launched a project to equip households with tactics to fight against and defend themselves from their enemy—malnutrition. With funding from the European Union under its Agri-connect programme, IFTz and Rikolto designed two weapons namely kitchen gardens and rearing rabbits for household adoption.

A household is basically trained and assisted in setting up a “kitchen garden” which can supply the family with daily vegetables throughout the year. Kitchen gardens are simple water-saving structures constructed using locally available materials. They are smart for diversified green vegetable production. Because of the low cost of setting up and sustaining the water-smart structures, farmers in 126 villages in Iringa and Njombe have adopted the technology. Over



A typical example of a kitchen garden model that IFTz promotes in Tanzania.

8,330 kitchen gardens have been constructed at household levels since the inception of the project in 2020, while 137 others have been set up at primary and secondary school level. The IFTz-Rikolto partnership project distributed 43,405 orange-fleshed sweet potato cuttings that eventually became a household brand.

In addition to the cuttings, IFTz trained smallholder farmers on how to raise rabbits and



Rabbits kept by smallholder farmers in Njombe.

distributed 196 rabbits to farmer groups to multiply and spread the

knowledge to other households that cannot be reached by the project.

The integration of both kitchen gardens and rabbit rearing creates an ecosystem that benefits humans, the kitchen gardens and the rabbits. Humans eat rabbits and vegetables to improve their nutritional status while the rabbits produce compost manure and bio-pesticides (urine) used in the gardens. Vegetable wastes are fodder for rabbits.

As the project approaches its final phase, signs of sustainability are clear. Villages that could not be reached by the project are rapidly adopting the IFTz kitchen garden model.

For more information, contact:

*daisy.mola@inadesfo.net &
michael.kihwele@inadesfo.net*

Focus on Donkey Welfare issues: Tête-à-tête with the Hanang' District Councillors



Managing Director of IFTz Mbarwa Kivuyo (with a scuff) addresses the Hanang' District Full Council in early February 2024.

HANANG' DISTRICT Council in Manyara Region invited Inades-Formation Tanzania (IFTz) to make a presentation during the District's Full Council meeting held on February 9, 2024. The District's Full Council wanted to get some insights on Donkey Welfare issues being advocated by IFTz with financial and technical support from Brooke East Africa.

Soon after prayers and the national anthem to officiate the opening of the Full Council meeting, Chairperson of the District Council, Hon. Rose Kamili, invited IFTz Managing Director Mbarwa Kivuyo to make the presentation. The presentation, delivered by Kivuyo, Jacqueline Nicodemus and George Phares focused on several aspects of donkey welfare, including the alarming rate of donkey slaughter for meat, hides and other products. Evidence collected by IFTz from Hanang' district shows that donkeys are being sold in various markets in Hanang', and the destination for the sold donkeys are either Shinyanga or Geita regions.

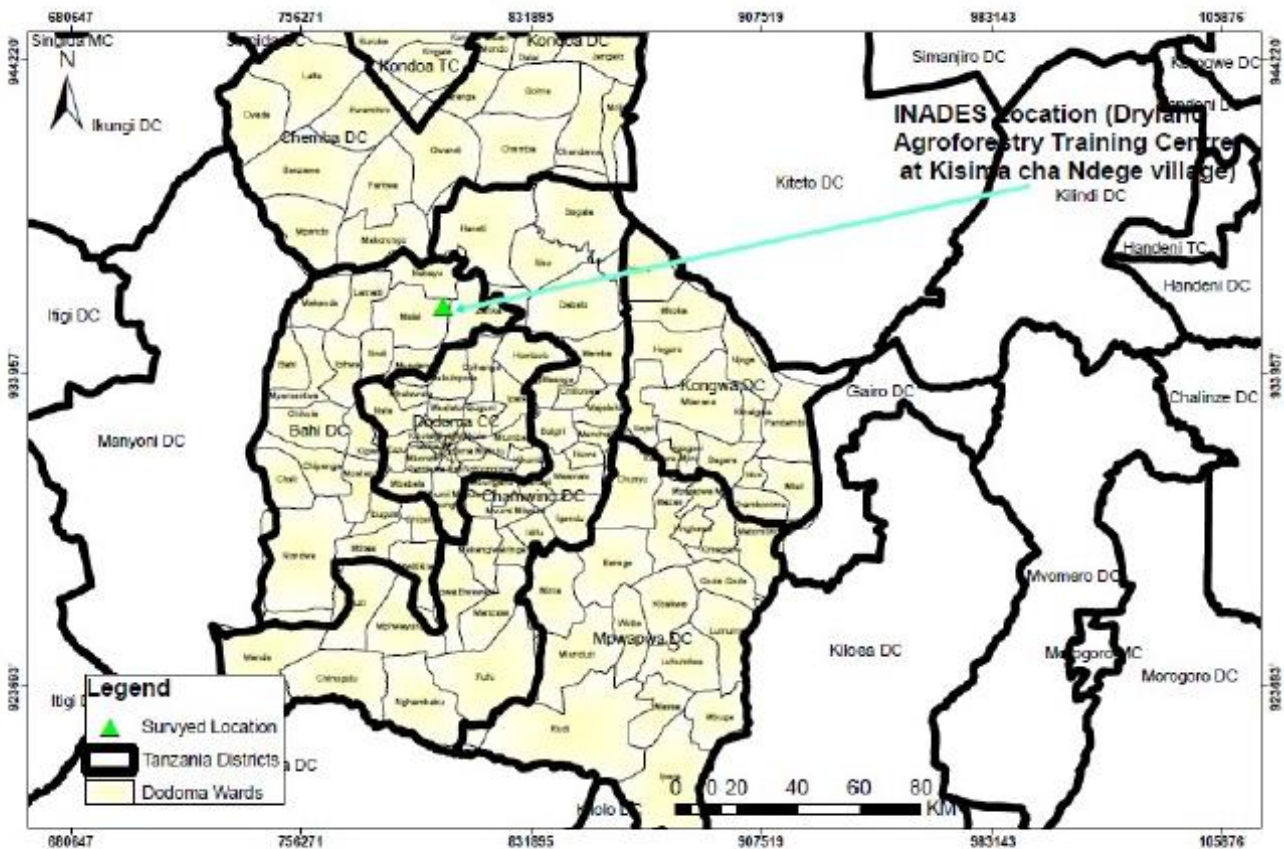
African Union has officially banned Donkey Hides Trade (DHT), a move aimed at protecting this species of animals from total extinct.

A question-and-answer session that took over 40 minutes indicated that the Hanang' District Councillors were unaware of new animal protection policies and regulations in the country. "We really need Inades-Formation to create public awareness on donkey welfare issues in Hanang' and the neighbouring districts," said the Council Chairperson Hon. Kamili. She said some tribes eat donkey meat, and even the tribes that do not eat are now being carried away by myths that donkey meat has medicinal effects. It is not medically proven that donkey meat can cure gout and infertility among men and women.

At the end of the session, the Full Council resolved to invite IFTz and its collaborators (Brooke East Africa) to run a series of awareness creation sessions on donkey welfare and to assist clear sweeping misconceptions about donkeys' skin products ability to prevent aging. Kivuyo concludes: "There is more work ahead of us all. We must do it to rescue donkeys from total extinction."

*For more information, contact:
george.phrales@inadesfo.net*

Vi Agroforestry supports Phase II of Dryland Agroforestry Training Centre establishment



FARMING IN semi-arid regions like Dodoma is a challenging undertaking. Actors in the sector face multiple challenges such as soil degradation, drought, deforestation and water scarcity which are the manifestation of adverse impacts of climate change. Agroforestry – a land use management system in which trees or shrubs are grown around or among crops or pastureland – is a promising approach to lower the effects of adverse climate change.

IFTz has partnered with Vi Agroforestry to set up a Dryland Agroforestry Training Centre (DATC) in Bahi District, Dodoma Region, to prove that food production is possible even in dryland areas. The DATC allows farmers to acquire skills on agroforestry best practices and apply them to restore degraded farms into sustainable productive lands.

The establishment of the DATC is a long-term vision of IFTz. Once fully established, the centre will become a hub for innovations and a gallery to showcase varieties of tree species suitable for agroforestry. Accurate labelling of the tree seedlings will be made. All these



efforts culminate in the aim to establish a vibrant and hands-on sustainable agriculture and agroforestry training centre in the semi-arid region. This centre will be a repository of knowledge, hosting a diverse collection of over one million tree species and offering solutions for agroforestry practices.

*For more information, contact:
elizabeth.usangira@inadesfo.net
bernard.nzalalila@inadesfo.net*