EAST AFRICAN SUGAR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (EASDP)

I. BRIEF INFORMATION

The East African Sugar Development Project (EASDP) was funded by Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) and supervised by International Sugar Organization (ISO). The project was launched on 4th June 2007 and implemented for a period of six years. The project was conceptualized due to common sugarcane production challenges faced by the three East Africa Community (EAC) countries (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda).

Amongst of the challenges faced by the EAC sugar industry were low sugarcane productivity, high cost of production, small and fragmented farms of outgrowers. Other challenges included growing competition from low cost exporters and declining sugar prices in preferential markets in the European Union; which in turn posed threat to growth and sustainability of the industry and livelihood of smallholder cane growers.

The overall project objective was to initiate measures that can increase cane productivity in the EAC sugar industry in order to improve industry performance, lower production costs, raise incomes of outgrowers and secure sustainability of the industry. Therefore, the project addressed the major limiting factors facing the Industry i.e. low sugarcane productivity caused by use of old varieties with low genetic potential; negative impact of diseases and pests; use of untreated seedcane and low level of crop management especially by outgrowers.

Specific intervention and measures were undertaken to mitigate major limiting factors. These includes new varieties importation, selection and testing; clean seed cane production and distribution scheme targeting cane growers, and technology transfer to growers through participatory approaches.
II. PROJECT SUMMARY

1. Title: East African Sugar Development Project

2. Number: CFC/ISO/29

3. Project Executing Agency (PEA): Sugar Board of Tanzania

4. Location: Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.


6. Completion Date: 30th December, 2013

7. Financing:
   - Total Project Cost: US$ 4,193,104
     - CFC Financing, Grant: US$ 2,358,540.
     - Co-financing: Nil
     - Counterpart Contribution: US$ 1,834,564.

III. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The East African Sugar Development Project was funded by Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) and supervised by International Sugar Organization (ISO). The project was launched on 4th June 2007 and implemented for a period of six years. The project was conceptualized due to common sugarcane production challenges faced by the three East Africa Community (EAC) countries.

The Industry was faced with challenges such as high cost of production, low sugarcane productivity attributed to the use of planting of old sugarcane varieties with less vigour and often susceptible to diseases and pests. The prospect of increasing free trade within the region (COMESA, SADC, and EAC) and declining sugar prices in preferential markets in the European Union also posed threat to growth and sustainability of the industry.

The project undertook specific intervention measures to mitigate these challenges through increasing cane productivity through:-
- Pre-selection, importation and testing a statistically meaningful number of new cane varieties from cane industries that share similar cane growing conditions to those in the EAC.
- Clean seed cane production and distribution scheme targeting smallholder cane growers.
- Technology transfer to smallholder growers through participatory training and information dissemination to stakeholders’ of the sugar industry.

**IV. PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT**

Project Implementing Agency (SBT) was assisted by the Project Consultants and Sugarcane Research Steering Committee (SRSC) and the Sugar Research Institute (SRI) which holds the Technical Coordination and secretariat function for the EASDP. The Sugarcane Varieties and Planting Materials (MSVPM) in Tanzania was responsible for advising on cane variety importation as well as monitoring development of imported germplasm.

The routine business of the Project was the responsibility of the SRI under the direction of the East African Cane Improvement Network Committee (EACIN). At the regional level, there were two collaborating institutions, i.e. Kenya Sugar Research Foundation (KESREF) and Uganda Sugarcane Technologists Association (USCTA).

The East African Cane Improvement Network (EACIN) composed of nine members, three nominated by each of the Sugar Industries in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. The Committee which met quarterly was foreseeing implementation and progress of the project activities altogether with the Collaborating Institutions. It also provided linkage and experience sharing among EAC respective sugar industries as well as making decisions and monitors the utilization of Project resources.

In order for the PEA to efficiently execute project activities, project staff was appointed, and MoU was signed between PEA and Collaborating Institutions.

Monitoring, evaluation and supervision was mainly based on reports submitted by PEA to CFC through the International Sugar Organization as well as supervisory missions conducted by officers of the CFC and ISO.


V. KEY INTERVENTIONS

- An accelerated programme for importation, evaluation, selection and commercial release of superior sugarcane varieties;
- A seedcane production scheme; targeting smallholder cane growers with focus on the production of chemically and hot water-treated (HWT) seedcane;
- Technology transfer through participatory training and information dissemination at all levels of the industry, through farmer visits, barazas, Farmers’ Field Schools (FFS), Farmers’ Research Groups (FRG) and specific training courses to Field Extensionists.

VI. RESULTS ACHIEVED

Project beneficiaries includes more than 340,000 smallholder cane growers, 18 sugar milling companies and provide direct employment to over 150,000 people and secondary employment to about 500,000 people along the entire value chain mostly in rural areas. Other beneficiaries were small and medium enterprises that were serving the industry in inputs supplies, cane harvesting, loading and haulage, sugar transport and delivery. Hence the project in some ways had multiplier effect in sugar cane value chain specifically in rural areas.

Specifically, the project achievements are as follows:-

- The project succeeded to import 325 varieties selected from cane industries with similar growing conditions to those of the East Africa. Sugar industries in the region have benefited from enriched sugar cane germplasm.
- Selection and evaluation of promising imported varieties is on progress and some promising varieties to be adopted under rainfed conditions have been
identified in Tanzania. The varieties are currently been evaluated in growers’ fields.

- Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) has been developed to guide exchange of germplasm arising from EASDP among the three countries (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda).

- Some smallholder cane growers are now successfully participating in clean seedcane production initiative and smallholder cane growers are now aligned to a comprehensive seedcane production and distribution system.

- Smallholder cane growers have welcomed various efforts made in technology transfer and training.

- The project has created avenue for the sugar industry in EAC through a set-up of modalities and information sharing with a view to address some challenges in the future.

PHOTO GALLERY
EAST AFRICAN SUGAR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (EASDP)
CFC/ISO/029
CFC / 29
EAST AFRICA SUGAR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT INCEPTION MEETING
At Impala Hotel Arusha- Tanzania on 4th – 5th June 2007
Members of EACIN Committee in a field tour, Kilombero Mill Area, December. 2007

(A) Preparation for construction of Plant Quarantine Houses at SRI, Kibaha

(A) Site clearing (B) Construction of fencing and foundation
Planting imported sugar cane *in vitro* in the screen house at SRI.

(1) Plantlets in culture vessel (2) separated plantlets (3-4) transplanting plantlet in sterilized soil.
Field visit at TPC Ltd, Moshi Tanzania, June 2007
Construction of Screen houses at SRI, Kibaha
Plant Quarantine Screenhouses at SRI
Field visit – 5th EACIN meeting- Mtwapa-Kenya, September 2008
Field visit - 7th EACIN meeting held at Kinyara-Uganda, April 2009
Certified Seed Cane nursery - Kinyara-Uganda

Farmers’ exchange visit at Opapo, KESREF Sub-Centre
Farmers’ exchange visit in Sony, Nyando and Western sugarcane zones, February 2013.

Ndhiwa Demo plot owner showing visiting FRG members improved sugarcane varieties
In-house training and fertilizer identity to farmers at Kakira, Uganda

On-farm demonstration – fertilizer and herbicide management, Kakira Uganda

Intercrop demonstration trials in farmers fields
Ratoon cane management and farmers training in the villages

A modern Hot Water Treatment Plant at KESREF- Kibos
Seedcane in one of the cages at SONY HWT plant
Farmers Research Group members inspecting new sugarcane varieties in Sony Zone during Nyaduon Open day 1st March 2009.
On-farm training: Trained farmer practicing fertilizer application and dressing technique