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### **Poor People have Poverty Reduction Formula**

It is only the poor themselves who can shape their lives through identifying their constraints and opportunities, the Traditional Irrigation and Environmental Development Organization (TIP) has said.

Presenting TIP experiences in poverty reduction through improved traditional irrigation systems in Tanzania yesterday TIP officer Shangwe Kiluvia said institutional set-up constraints local initiatives to alleviate poverty. She made the remarks at a two-day Netherlands Development for International cooperation (NOVIB) forum held here.

"Poverty is not entirely a result of nature, but a result of the existing institutional set up, legal implications and policy designs, most of which were inherited during colonial times" contended Kiluvia who is the head of organization development and gender section. She said that in the rural areas, the main problems leading to poverty are not completely a result of a lack of resources, but knowing how to mobilize and use them to improve sustainable livelihoods.

"The bottom up approach and other participatory methodologies of our Government, NGOs, and projects, community based organizations and associations can help poor people in their efforts for self poverty reduction" Kiluvia told participants of the forum discussing poverty reduction.

According to the TIP, areas of intervention have been noted as successful by others to the extent that some of the methods used by TIP such as organization of water user committees, soil and water conservation by using bench and stone terraces, establishment of homestead tree nurseries and high value crops have been replicated by farmers.

The way forward to TIP as it continues in correcting its shortfalls and meeting new challenges, includes replication of TIP's achievements in poverty alleviation on a wider scale in collaboration with beneficiaries, CBOs, NGOs, the government and donor communities.

Others are to assist farmers in solving their marketing problems through the promotion of market linkages and training in entrepreneurial (agri-business) skills, in collaboration with other agencies.

The two-day forum for NGOs projects CBOs, and associations funded by NOVIB in Tanzania has attracted about 40 participants who shared their experiences in

poverty reduction through various entry points like irrigation improvement, natural resource management and HIV/AIDS.