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By Adam Ihucha

Farmers want NGO to Focus on More Areas

Farmers in Northern Tanzania have appealed to the Traditional Irrigation and Environmental Development Organization (TIP) to expand its services to other parts of the country. Speaking during the official opening of the 13th Northern Zone Nane-Nane Agricultural Show at Themi grounds, Noreen Mbisse said it was high time TIP focused on other areas, which needed its expertise.

"TIP has transformed semi-arid land in Arumeru, Mwanga, Same and Lushoto districts into productive areas and the organization should now think of helping farmers elsewhere," Mbisse said.

Abdul Shoo from Mwanga district commended TIP for playing a central role in implementing this year's agricultural show theme of "Improved Agriculture is the Best Tool for Alleviating Poverty". He said TIP had succeeded by focusing on a high level of Organization, Gender Mainstreaming, Participatory Land Use Management, Irrigation Improvement and Market Access. "With organization and gender mainstreaming, TIP sees to it that men and women are fully involved in efforts to reduce poverty. Both men and women must be fully involved if poverty is to be eradicated," he said. In the participatory land use plan component, Shoo said, TIP had successfully managed to train farmers to utilize small units of land and appropriate technology and lowering costs.

Mkami Wegoro from Lushoto said TIP should be commended for teaching small-scale farmers how to produce quality crops. Responding to the farmers' call, TIP's head of Organization and Gender Mainstreaming, Shangwe Kiluvia, said the NGO was more than willing to extend its areas of coverage, but she cited limited resources as a major stumbling block.

TIP is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) registered in 1999. The NGO was established to institutionalize the achievements and experiences of the previous TIP programme (1988 – 200). TIP currently operates in four districts, namely Lushoto, Same, Mwanga and Arumeru. The NGO also undertakes contracts and special assignments in Moshi Rural, Hai, Arumeru and Rombo districts.