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By Adam Ihucha,

Arumeru AMSDP Programme Benefits Arumeru Residents

Small-scale farmers, traders and processors in Arumeru District, Arusha, have a cause to smile, thanks to the Prime Minister's Office that has initiated a programme to integrate them into the rural market economy.

The Agricultural Marketing Systems Development Programme (AMSDP) has seen most of these small farmers, traders and processors increasing their returns from agricultural produces and other market related activities.

The programme, which is being implemented in Arumeru through a local organization, Traditional Irrigation and Environmental Development Project (TIP), as partner agency, has enabled the farmers to increase their production and to participate aggressively in an improved marketing system.

Arumeru villagers, the beneficiaries of the programme, told TIP's board of trustees and AMSDP coordinators who toured their projects recently that market access and agro-enterprises development were viable components for them in improving their income.

One of the villagers, Mariam Massawe, the chairperson of a co-operative society, said her group had started enjoying the fruits of TIP's intervention, as they had been able to secure permanent customers for their products. She said TIP training had helped them to secure loans from financial institutions.

"The training has opened our eyes on how to solicit funds from different financial institutions by using business plans," she said.

John Pallangyo, the chairman of Nkoaranga, one of the villages where the projects are being carried out, said if taken to rural areas such projects could be the panacea of eradicating poverty. He said the projects could also help to reduce rural-urban exodus of jobless youngsters.

The TIP Acting Chairperson Bernedette Kinabo said his organization believed that the poor themselves could shape their destiny through identifying their constraints and opportunities.

He said the main problems leading to poverty was not only the result of lack of resources, but also the ignorance of how to mobilize and use the few resources available to improve sustainable livelihoods of the people.

