Promoting food security and economic empowerment among smallholder farmers through E-CVPP

FCI has partnered with several actors to implement a three year, Expanded-Cassava Processing Project - (E-CVPP), in Kenya and Tanzania, with funding from the Alliance for Green Revolution-(AGRA). This is geared towards promoting food security and economic empowerment among the low income rural farmers.

E-CVPP is a scale up project, building on the success of a Cassava Village Processing Project - (CVPP), implemented in three years in Kenya and Tanzania. This (CVPP) project involved 54,000 farmers and 214 commercial villages. The project also enabled village based seed multipliers to produce a total of 40,013,000 improved cassava cuttings and in the process, smallholder farmers in the Commercial Villages gained revenues of up to USD 26,622,623.2 (KES 2,644,600,000) from cassava-related trade.

In summary, the CVPP generated frontline evidence of the massive market potential for cassava as a mainstream raw material in leading food, feed and industrial market segments in East Africa.

FCI implementation model

The programme is implemented under FCI’s proven, innovative business models, which have been tested in various contexts and countries, and continue to perform impressively in small holding commercialization and market development facilitation. These models ensure that the poor are critical agents of their own social transformation.

The implementation of this multi-million dollar project presents numerous opportunities for various social economic development actors in Kenya and Tanzania. These include: research institutions, ministries of agriculture, financial institutions, farm input suppliers, equipment suppliers, formal and informal traders, and farmers. Other key players are non-governmental organizations, particularly, those in the rural development and economic empowerment sectors, relief agencies and the donors.

Partnering with the NGO sector, relief agencies and donors in the project
For the project to realize sustainable social economic development, the NGO sector, relief organizations and the donors have a critical role to play through strategic collaborations, networks as well as the social infrastructure created over time. The ultimate goal of this intervention will be poverty reduction, economic empowerment and food security. This value chain is critical in the wake of climatic change, whose effects are affecting food production in Africa negatively. These value chains have been proven to survive harsh weather conditions; and their shelf life can be enhanced through appropriate post-harvest management causing a big gain in food insecurity.

Over the years, FCI has innovatively demonstrated that commercialization of poor and low income households is a critical intervention through which many rural poor are lifted from poverty. This is a break-away from the hand-out approach, which after being used for some years, has only promoted dependency syndrome.

The relief agencies have an opportunity to source relief food supplies from the commercial villages created by E-CVPP project. This creates a platform for low income households to feed those in need of relief food, while at the same time earning an income, a key principle in social entrepreneurship. This are among the latest approaches that have proved successful in bringing about sustainable human development.