

Connecting Water Entrepreneurs and Farmers

An Integrated Training Approach for Agroecology

SHIPO & Skat Foundation | Tanzania

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What did you do, and why?

- ***The challenge:*** **Dependence on seasonal rainfall and limited irrigation access restrict year-round production, while conventional farming practices can degrade soils and contaminate water sources.**

- ***Our approach:*** **Parallel training for water entrepreneurs and agroecological farmers, with joint business sessions encouraging collaboration and awareness of water quality.**

- ***The innovation:*** **Linking local water services with agroecological farming to improve irrigation access while protecting soil and water resources.**

What changed, and why does it matter?

- ***Year-round food production:*** **Access to irrigation enables farmers to move beyond rain-fed seasonal crops towards diversified, year-round production in household gardens.**

- ***Women and agroecology:*** **Predominantly female participants apply techniques such as Bokashi, biochar and mulching to improve soil fertility, retain moisture and grow food close to home.**

- ***Water beyond irrigation:*** **Training encourages household investment in water access, supporting both agroecological production and domestic water needs.**

What made it work, and what did not?

- ***What worked – Practical learning:*** **Hands-on agroecological training, combined with access to local water expertise, helps farmers move from learning techniques to applying them.**

- ***What worked – Connecting people:*** **Joint business sessions brought farmers and water entrepreneurs together, creating opportunities for collaboration.**

- ***What needs improvement – Monitoring:*** **The project did not specifically track whether these connections resulted in new business relationships or improved access to irrigation.**

What can others learn and apply?

Agroecological training alone is not enough.

Access to water enables farmers to turn knowledge into practice.

Connecting farmers with local water entrepreneurs helps create the conditions for adoption.

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Thank you!

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