

INTRODUCTION

The Mbola Millennium Villages Project (MVP) is part of the African Millennium Villages initiative that aims to establish a rigorous proof of concept for implementing the practical interventions needed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in rural Tanzania. The project is implementing integrated community interventions focusing on access to scientifically proven technologies for economic growth through proper agriculture techniques, access to education programmes, promotion of gender equality, addressing maternal and child mortality rates, reversing the impact of malaria, HIV/AIDS, TB, ensuring environmental sustainability, access to safe and clean water, and energy. The Mbola MVP started in July 2006 and is located in Ilongu District, Uyui district, Tabora region in mid-western Tanzania. Mbola MV is located about 36 km from Tabora town and the Cluster consists of 15 administrative villages clustered into six millennium villages with an area of 133,433 ha (1,334 km²) and an area of 5,178 ha (51.8 km²) is being for research while the rest is for scaling up interventions.



COMMUNITY

Participatory approaches are used in the implementation of project activities. Communities are empowered and involved in discussing their problems, designing, implementing and monitoring project interventions. We have been working with community members in the following areas:

- Continuous community advocacy on the project's objectives, principles and modalities, finally geared at interactive participation.

- Building community partnerships based on participation principles of ownership and governance of their own capacity for sustainability.
- Capacity building of MVP community committees, community economic groups and local government structures for proper execution of interventions.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Agriculture and environment are strongly tied, especially when operating in rural areas. The following have been identified by the community as priority areas of intervention.

Agriculture:

- Agricultural input support to farmers (seeds, insecticides, and fertilizers).
- Training on improved farming techniques.
- Support of farmers for off-farm activities like food processing, home gardening and entrepreneurship.
- Farmer educational visits to progressive, model farmers in the country and beyond.
- Agribusiness and marketing skill training.



Environment:

- Strengthen community-based environmental by-laws.
- Tree planting and nursery establishment.
- Campaign on environmental protection.



HEALTH

The MVP is active in a number of areas including:

- Assessment of health needs through surveys on malaria, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, Sexual Transmitted Infections (STIs), women's and children's health, and other health topics.
- Collaboration with medical research institutes e.g. Ifakara Health Research and Development Centre, on health for health surveys and baseline measurements such as blood, urine and stool sampling and analysis, as well as entomologic, anthropometric and blood pressure measurements.
- Village deworming
- Bednet distribution to all sleeping sites
- Placement and training of village health workers.

Efforts to make prevention methods available to villagers and to find solutions for clean water, proper sanitation, and adequate energy for the basic health needs of the population are underway.



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