

# **CAPACITY BUILDING REPORT**

FOR

**Women Empowerment for Excellence in Coastal Region project.**

Prepared by:

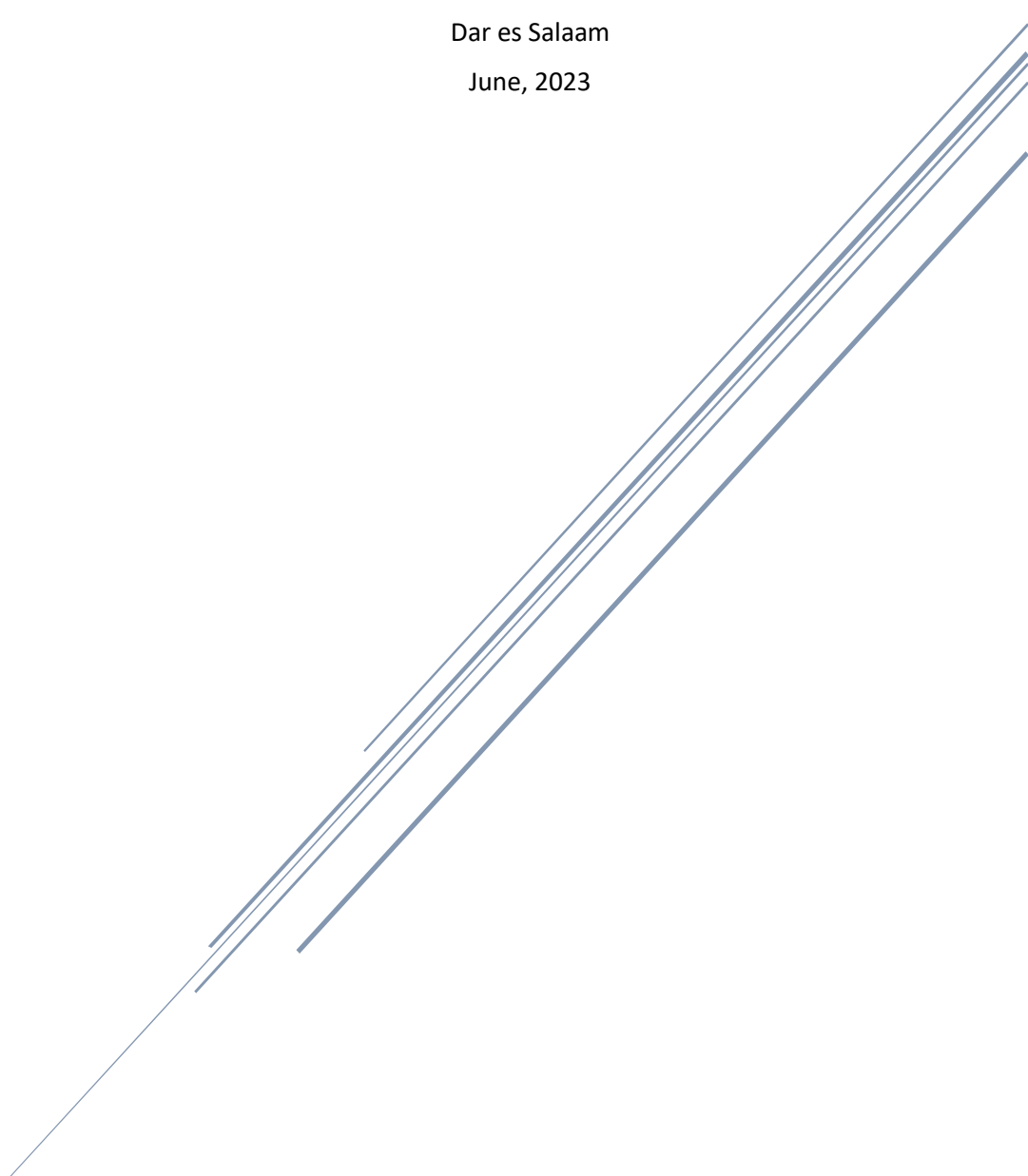
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Submitted to;  
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**DAR ES SALAAM**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	1
INTRODUCTION .....	2
CREATING A LEARNING ENVIRONMENT .....	2
CONSENT.....	3
FACILITATOR APPROACH .....	3
MODULES COVERED .....	4
DAY 1 .....	4
DAY 2 .....	6
OBSERVATIONS .....	8
CHALLENGES .....	8
CONCLUSION.....	8
RECOMMENDATIONS .....	9
APPENDIX 1; PARTICIPANTS LIST.....	9

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. 1 Facilitator discuss some issues with Gwata women during the session .....	3
Figure 1. 2 Gwata women showing their exercises for the session .....	4
Figure 1. 3 Gwata Headmaster providing some clarification to Gwata women.....	5
Figure 1. 4 Mazingira Kwanza Program Manager ending up the training .....	7

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report on capacity building presents an update on the project, titled Women Empowerment for Excellence in Coastal Region. The project primarily takes place in Gwata Area, Kisarawe Region, Pwani, Tanzania. The Gwata area is dispersed and about 3 hours by bus from Kisarawe town. The project has completed the first phase of its implementation, and it is now commencing activity number 2, which entails providing 30 women with capacity-building and training on their legal and land rights, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship activities through modern farming. This report details the technical assistance and trainings that were given in the context of building the capacity of 30 women and educating them on their legal and land rights, financial literacy, and business opportunities through modern farming. Mazingira Kwanza Foundation through their partnership with VOICE-Tanzania arranged a training session on contemporary farming-based entrepreneurship for 20 women from the Gwata area in Kisarawe District, Pwani region. A two-day training was held at Gwata Primary School from 1<sup>st</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2023, but the atmosphere and planning for the training were discussed with the Mazingira Kwanza team, Gwata's Headmaster and Kisarawe Council Education officer early on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023.

The training aimed at teaching women modern agricultural techniques, putting them in groups so they can collaborate, explaining the project's goals and its execution strategies, and instructing them on how to grow various veggies that look suited to the vicinity.

At the end of the training Gwata 20 women decided to work together in a single group instead of two groups. They also discussed the techniques they'll employ and the vegetables they wish to cultivate, including watermelons and white egg plants (nyanya chungu), amaranth(mchicha) and cucumber. Among the four hectares of vegetables, two are for watermelons, one is for cucumbers, 3/4 are for eggplants, and 1/4 are for amaranth(mchicha)

## **INTRODUCTION**

Mazingira Kwanza Foundation in partnership with VOICE Tanzania are implementing Women Empowerment for Excellence in Coastal Region project. Basically, the project is situated in Gwata Area in Kisarawe Region, Pwani, Tanzania. Gwata area is a scattered area which is 3hrs distance by bus from Kisarawe town. The project has undergone the initial stages of its implementation and now the project undertook activity no 2 which involves; Provision of capacity strengthening and training to 30 women on land and legal rights, financial literacy and entrepreneurship activities through modern farming by bearing in mind that the potential for raising earnings and enhancing living standards lies in Tanzania's agricultural sector, which accounts for approximately one-third of the nation's GDP and employs seventy-five percent of the workforce.

The objective of the training was;

- a) To choose the 20 women who will perform contemporary farming as a blueprint.
- b) To instruct on modern farming techniques.
- c) To identify the kinds of vegetables they will grow.
- d) To choose the spot and period for plantation
- e) To specify the approach that will be taken

Mazingira Kwanza Foundation was able to hold a capacity building session with 20 women from Gwata Area on entrepreneurship activity through modern farming. The women were randomly selected from 31 women after group of 50 individual identified in which the rest were men. The random selection considered the age differences in order to have beneficiaries with different age group. From 20 women, (15%) 3 women were between 20- 40 years, (45%)9 women were 40-50 years and (40%) 8 women were between 50-75 years. Wherein 4 out of 20 women are entrepreneurs and farmers and only 3 out of twenty women are single, 2 of them are widows, and the rest are married and all of them work in agriculture.

## **CREATING A LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

The facilitator and the Mazingira Kwanza Foundation team visited the Gwata area the day before the training through the Kisarawe Council Education Officer, who introduced the group to the headmaster of the Gwata Primary School, who served as the focal person and organized the beneficiaries and location for the training the following day. Following that, we talked about our project's execution strategy and its implementation targets.

## CONSENT

During the training, the facilitator requested permission to take a few photos for organization use and record-keeping, promising the participants that they would only be used for Mazingira Kwanza Foundation activities and not otherwise and each participant concurred.

## FACILITATOR APPROACH

There were different methods of teaching that were used including teacher-centered approaches where Gwata women viewed the facilitator as an authority figure, learner-centered approaches where the instructor simultaneously served as a learner as well and a participative teaching technique in which Gwata women and facilitator discussed what is the best thing for them to learn or do right now given the circumstances. Gwata women were able to talk about veggies that are good for the locale and according to the seasons as a consequence of this.



**Figure 1. 1 Facilitator discuss some issues with Gwata women during the session**

Each one introduced themselves in the training see [\(Appendix 1\)](#) before the sessions starts, they introduce themselves by names, age and phone number in the attendance as well. To ensure that the Gwata women were actively participating in the lessons, exercise books, pens, and refreshments were provided between sessions.



**Figure 1. 2 Gwata women showing their exercises for the session**

## MODULES COVERED

### DAY 1

To ensure that all women are on the same page, Gwata Headmaster reintroduced the facilitator (**Ms. Hellen Malisa**) to the class and elaborated on the subject matter that should be covered. After introduction the facilitator starts by introducing the Mazingira Kwanza and its commencement of conducting Women Excellence project at Gwata Area by supporting women so as they can use their environment for their economic advantages. The session began by discussing Gwata weather and the vegetables plantation that will suit the area. It shows Gwata is suitable for a lot of vegetable plantation especially at this session which is from June onwards and the majority of vegetables develop in three months or less. But, then women were supposed to select the crop they are willing to cultivate and ready to take care of and they choose, watermelon (tikiti maji), white eggplant (nyanya chungu), amaranth (mchicha) and cucumber. According to the facilitator, most vegetable plantations begin with natural fertilizers before using artificial ones, and the Gwata locale is plentiful with natural fertilizers from pastoralism activities like using cow, goat, and chicken manure.

The facilitator goes on deeper on fundamental farm preparations;

- a) A location should be close to a water source, and it shouldn't be conducive to soil erosion.



- b) To prevent poor vegetables, the plant nursery should not have too much shade.
- c) Natural resources such as land, air, fertilizers, water, and sunlight are necessities for farmers.



**Figure 1. 3 Gwata Headmaster providing some clarification to Gwata women**

In addition to describing the essential requirements for vegetable plantations, the facilitator also discussed on seeds, fertilizer, insecticides, and watering equipment. The workshop concludes with a discussion of various plant species that participants are familiar with, their maintenance practices, and potential improvements. Then the facilitator mentioned several steps to consider during veggies cultivation which were;

✓ **Pick the proper location**

Choose a spot for the plantation that will receive lots of sun, have plenty of room, and be close to your pipe or other water supply. To assist stop erosion, look for a level spot.

✓ **Choose your vegetables.**

Depending on your environment, space, preferences, and level of experience, decide which veggies to grow.



### ✓ **Manage the soil**

To prepare the soil for your plants, add compost and organic fertilizers to your farm. Soil organic matter can be maintained or increased by planting cover crops, spreading manure and compost, rotating crops, and preventing erosion.

### ✓ **Remove all weeds.**

Grasp weeds by the roots rather than just pulling out the leaves. You have two alternatives for getting rid of weeds from your grass: either manually digging them out or using a chemical weed killer. The use of chemical weed killer is not recommended since, along with to some vegetables, like watermelon, being unable to grow where chemicals have been used, it is also a bad approach to preserve the environment because it results in the death of other beneficial insects.

### ✓ **Fertilize**

Give the soil a light hand-tilling and fertilizer application to preserve its richness. Use fertilizer that has already produced. Fertilizer adds nutrients to the soil that your veggies require to create strong roots, foliage, and fruits. Organic fertilizers are made of naturally occurring substances, while synthetic fertilizers are made of artificial substances.

The facilitator closed the discussion by affirming to continue with the steps the following day and providing an example of how amaranth cultivation. Additionally, the facilitator was brave about the nursery preparation because some vegetables needed to be prepared in the nursery first. Nursery preparations must consider the level of the soil and keep the space free of weeds, stumps, stones, pebbles, and other obstructions. Rotten farmyard manure is extensively incorporated into the soil of the nursery bed. To remove extra water, prepare drainage channels. Planting beds should be prepared around 15 cm above the ground.

## **DAY 2**

The second day of training got underway with a reminder of yesterday as well as answering the questions they mentioned, including the travel to the farm and who will be the crop guard, where the principal of the Gwata Primary school (focal person) debate with them and they agreed they will do it themselves because they are responsible for project implementations. Afterwards, the facilitator continues the session by recapping yesterday's discussion of the key considerations for vegetable planting, including irrigation techniques, food storage after harvest, and the application of herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides. Then, principal of Gwata Primary then invited Mr. Wilson Maro, a teacher there, to go into further depth about the watermelon farm.

**Wilson Maro** provided more details on the watermelon vegetable gardening method. Watermelons are one of the most expensive vegetables to raise and are typically grown for commercial purposes. Sukari F1 and Queen Sukari are the two most popular varieties of watermelon. He also elaborated on the issues to think about when vegetation. Mr. Wilson suggested the need of taking hot weather into account when planning a watermelon plantation. Watermelon cultivation doesn't benefit from heavy rainfall and needs sunlight in order to produce its own natural sugar. It requires frequent watering, like twice a week. Every week, it must also be treated with fungicides and pesticides. Additionally, other insects don't require insecticides; instead, traps are used to kill them. He also went into detail on farming practices and the benefits of having healthy vegetables. Additionally, he focused on post-harvest marketing strategies and transportation, before estimating that it will cost 1.8 million to grow one acre of watermelon. The facilitator wrapped up the session by estimating the cost for each vegetable, noting that cultivating watermelons is expected to cost 3.6 million (tshs) over the period of two hekars, cucumbers 1.2 million (tshs), and white egg plants one million (tshs). Then, in the waning moments, the Mazingira Kwanza Program Manager, **Mr. Ignatus Matofali**, (Mazingira Kwanza Program Manager) accentuated on important concerns that the initiative will address and declared how prepared the organization was to work with Gwata women.



**Figure 1. 4 Mazingira Kwanza Program Manager ending up the training**

## **OBSERVATIONS**

- ❖ Most of women are farmers in which it will be simple for them to engage in modern farming instead of their previous normal way of farming.
- ❖ Prior attempts by Gwata women to plant sesame failed owing to inclement weather and a lack of farming skills among their 50-person group, which included men. The upcoming group agricultural activity will therefore be successful thanks to current farming techniques.
- ❖ Since they all experience financial difficulties, the initiative will help to increase their income as well, therefore they are all prepared for it.
- ❖ The market for the vegetables they chose to grow such as white eggplant, cucumbers, "mchicha," and watermelon is satisfactory, and there is land available for plantations.
- ❖ Due to the environment's nature, costs, and willingness to engage, agriculture will be more ideal for them than animal keeping.
- ❖ Vegetable plantations will be appropriate based on sessions and project monitoring, although most veggies only take three months or less to mature.

## **CHALLENGES**

It was a little difficult for some women to keep up with the class because they can't read or write properly. However, the facilitator makes sure to use all available tools to help them understand, such as reading written information on the board and asking other women to elaborate. Due to the disruption caused by their children and other responsibilities, some women were unable to stay for the entire session, but they promised to participate during project implementation.

## **CONCLUSION**

Gwata women are ready for the project and most of them have never attend such type of the training on modern farming. Therefore, they appreciated the initiation to teach them and engage them in the project from the prior stages. The women are ready to plant and take care of the following plants watermelon (tikiti maji), white eggplant (nyanya chungu), amaranth(mchicha) and "matembele" in case they will get assistance in terms of seeds, fertilizers, watering machines and insect sides. According to estimates, growing watermelon will cost 3.6 million (tshs) over the course of two hekars, growing cucumber will cost 1.2 million (tshs), and growing white egg plants would cost one million (tshs). Gwata women anticipate receiving help with irrigation equipment, pesticides and insecticides, artificial fertilizer because they

already have natural fertilizer, and seeds for each vegetable they are prepared to plant, that will cover the 4 hectares they aim to implement the project. The Gwata women opted to work in a single group of 20 women instead of two groups, and because their prior group had 50 individuals, they aren't expecting the other members to help with the implementation process in the same way that farm laborers do. Additionally, they stated that they are going to start the farm preparations soon.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- ❖ From this report its best action to develop an action plan for the coming activity which will be shared to the beneficiaries as well
- ❖ Since the Gwata women are waiting for the assistance from the project its best to have a very clear communication on each progress and steps the project initiators will take.
- ❖ Its best to use focal person in a lot of activity as he his familiar with the work, Gwata area and he can push women to work effectively.
- ❖ Given the location of their farms and the type of farming which they intend to practice, it is crucial to provide them with watering systems equipment.
- ❖ It is best to purchase for them all the supplies they require rather than giving them cash to prevent misunderstandings.
- ❖ Since none of them have ever engaged in modern farming, they all require a lot of supervision throughout the process.
- ❖ Since, the facilitator was unable to go into detail about the flow of money after the farmers sold their harvest. It implies that they must to be aware of it throughout the implementation.

### **APPENDIX 1; PARTICIPANTS LIST**

NAME	AGE	PHONE NO	OCCUPATION	MARITAL STATUS
1.HIDAYA A. DIZELLE	58	0713 424315	FARMER	MARRIED
2.NURU R. ZINGA	47	0719 05994	FARMER	MARRIED
3.REHEMA S. BUNDUKI	46	0673215447	FARMER/ ENTERPRENUER	MARRIED

4.VERONICA F. KAWAMBWA	36	0652675139	FARMER/ ENTERPRENUER	MARRIED
5.REHEMA I. MANOZA	54	0713 506620	FARMER	MARRIED
6. REHEMA A. MKILALI	60	0676 14 9216	FARMER	MARRIED
7. SOPHIA L. MKALI	61	0652 979164	FARMER/ ENTERPRENUER	MARRIED
8. PILI M. MANYWELE	57	0718 652597	FARMER	WIDOW
9. SIJALI R. ALLY	26	0656596843	FARMER	MARRIED
10. SALMA R. KUPO	40	0655 282208	FARMER/ ENTERPRENUER	WIDOW
11. ZULFA J. MAKONGE	35	0652 665888	FARMER	MARRIED
12. SALMA S. MNEMO	41	0712 584501	FARMER	MARRIED
13. TEDY L. DAUDI	51	0712 254495	FARMER	MARRIED
14. SAUDA R. DOGOLI	40	0674 962924	FARMER	SINGLE
15. FATUMA R. YAVU	63	0674 891802	FARMER	SINGLE
16. SALMA M. MWINGE	73	NIL	FARMER	MARRIED
17. ASHURA KULINYANGWA	42	0677499278	FARMER	MARRIED
18. MWANAHAWA MPONZI	47	0655 305586	FARMER	MARRIED
19. ASHURA A. MOHAMED	40	NIL	FARMER	MARRIED
20. AMINA ALLY	43	NIL	FARMER	SINGLE

#### LEADERS OF THE GROUP

1. PILI M. MANYWELE - CHAIRPERSON
2. HIDAYA A. DIZELLE - ACCOUNTANT