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# USAID Kenya/East Africa Resilience Learning Activity

## ENHANCING COMMUNITY LEARNING TO INCREASE THEIR ADAPTIVE CAPACITY TO SHOCKS AND STRESSES IN TAITA TAVETA COUNTY

### BACKGROUND

People living in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) are constantly affected by drought and other calamities. To mitigate this, USAID supports several organizations to undertake interventions aimed at building resilience of the community.

However, these implementing agencies do not have a common platform they can use to show-case their products/services and educate the community about the new and emerging methods and technologies on resilience. Key amongst these are drought resistant crops, animal husbandry and beekeeping.

To offer a platform to the implementing partners and the private sector players to demonstrate their resilience-centric services and activities, the USAID Kenya/East Africa Resilience Learning Activity (RLA) facilitated the Centre for Strategic Development to host an Inaugural



of Taita Taveta, Taita Taveta University, Save the Elephant, TTWCA, Qwettu SACCO and SNV; (iii) Private Sector: Miyonga Fresh Ltd, Health and Strong Ltd, TATABA Cooperative Ltd, Tsavo Beekeepers Ltd, Ndoria Ltd and The Rotary Club.

The participants were selected based on their resilience-centric activities in the County of Taita Taveta; capacity to continue supporting the community and flexibility to collaborate and work with other actors in the County and the SEK region.

### PRODUCTS & SERVICES



County Resilience Knowledge Fair (CRLF) at the Taita Taveta University. The fair was co-hosted by the National Drought Management Authority, Taita Taveta County and Taita Taveta University.

### PARTICIPANTS

The CRLF was attended by:- (i) USAID IPs: The Red Cross, AIFSD-DTC, AIFSD-PVC, ICRISAT, RLA and Stawisha Pwani; (ii) Non-USAD IPs: County Government

Key products and services that were presented during the CRLF included: Banana value-added products; Banana aggregation; Banana aggregation and ripening services; Animal fodder baling; Drought tolerant crops; the Potato value chain; Poultry rearing and related services; Beekeeping products and services; Wildlife conservation; Climate-smart innovations; Drought related information; Drought resistant seed/seedlings; Post harvest and value-added products and services; Financial products and services; Disaster interventions and services; Dried fruits and related services; and GIS based technologies and services.



## KEY TAKE-AWAYS

*“I have seen today that I do not have to go out of my way in search of supplies, we only need to train the farmers and they will produce in our level of production systems” – Miyonga*

*“I would urge other organizations to partner with people who are doing something similar to what they are so that they can complement each other to find markets or supplies. It is also good when you work together for a long time because you learn to produce as per the requirements of the partners” – TATABA*

*“We have seen a lot of interest from other people in the way we grow our potatoes and the seeds we have that are drought resistant. I think people want to do the same in their areas as well if they get the support like we have gotten” – Drought Tolerant Crops*

*“We are facing challenges as a result of climate change, where we have less and less water while drought is more*

*prevalent which has affected food security significantly. At Taita Taveta University, we have put initiatives in place to deal with climate change issues. Today we have showcased this to the community who have shown a lot of interest in participating in our activities. It is our hope that this will be pursued further for all to benefit from the technologies that are developed from research” – Taita Taveta University*

## LESSONS LEARNED

**NETWORKING:** Implementing partners require a platform that brings them together to showcase their services and products; and learn from each other at the same time educating the community on resilience approaches, methods, technologies, crops and products.

**PARTNERSHIP:** Partnership between RLA, Taita Taveta University, NDMA, County government, IPs and the Community is key to successful implementation of resilience-centric activities in ASALs in Kenya.

**STRUCTURE:** The CRLF, while implemented as a one-day event, should be refined to ensure that there are build-up activities that culminates in the CRLF.

## NEXT STEPS

1. Create interaction platforms that facilitate the constant communication of development for purposes of knowledge sharing
2. Develop a knowledge management mechanism that will harness, package, store and distribute knowledge amongst development partners, stakeholders and the community.
3. Mainstream partnership as a key pillar in the sustainability model for the CRLF in Taita Taveta County between the County Government, Taita Taveta University and NDMA
4. Conduct CRLF in all ASAL for buy-in and mainstreaming as an annual activity.

**Disclaimer:** This learning brief is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the USAID Kenya/East Africa Resilience Learning Activity (RLA). The contents are the responsibility of the Centre for Strategic Development and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or RLA.