

A LANDSCAPE APPROACH IN TANZANIA: GREEN NEXUS IN PRACTICE?

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A landscape approach in Tanzania

2025 video :

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ol9dZB0Wh2ZehwXJ_sk05u9-Y_5a1gUD/view?usp=drivesdk



Five factors that bring systemic change



- Contextual understanding
- Intervening in different parts of the landscape mosaic
- Maximising synergies between projects
- Working with multiple stakeholders
- Grounding services locally (localization)

Contextual understanding

- Colonial past: British based governance structures, laws
- Post-independence (1961) *Ujamaa* (collectivization) – “modern” agriculture of large fields, heavy agro-chemical use, villagization, nationalization of land & industry...
- Multiple ethnic groups but all Swahili-speaking Tanzanians
- Since economic collapse (late 1970s), greater private sector activity & economic growth
- Strong village identity, local organizations – VSLAs, clubs
- National NGOs representing specific interests, offering various services
- Rapidly growing population, many of them Gen Z
- Major degradation of natural resources, poor soil fertility - farmers need solutions

⇒ (Until recently at least) government open to collaboration, organized civil society with limited ethnic tensions, dynamic business environment

⇒ BUT government increasingly authoritarian....POWER dynamics!!

Intervening across the landscape mosaic

Addressing different parts of the landscape under different, overlapping projects

GPLP

- Extensive **fields for commercial production** initially focused on organic cotton
- Now promoting crop rotation, biopesticides, etc on extensive fields of cotton, sunflower, pulses, etc

RPLC

- **Environmental governance** (village & district-level environmental management plans; **youth** ambassadors)
- **Degraded woodland** – promoting natural regeneration (pollarding, limited grazing, etc)
- **Degraded farmland** – promoting leguminous crops, green cover, mulching, etc

Ukijani

- Focusing on **women** – greater voice in village land management, better knowledge, better income
- **Agroforestry** on small home plots – increased productivity, diversity, climate smart & nature-friendly
- “Green” enterprises based on local “green” production

Building synergies between projects

- Addressing different challenges – mutually reinforcing
- Rooted locally through Local Service Providers (LSPs)
- System of VSLAs built up over the years, experiences shared (e.g. recent digitalization)
- Interactions with (district, national) government coordinated between projects
- Same partners wherever possible
- Staff share the same office, regularly interact & share insights – one overall programme



Multiple stakeholders

Government

- Village, district, national (less at regional level)
- All land State property but CCRO = tenure
- Building on land use planning, supporting tenure security

Private sector

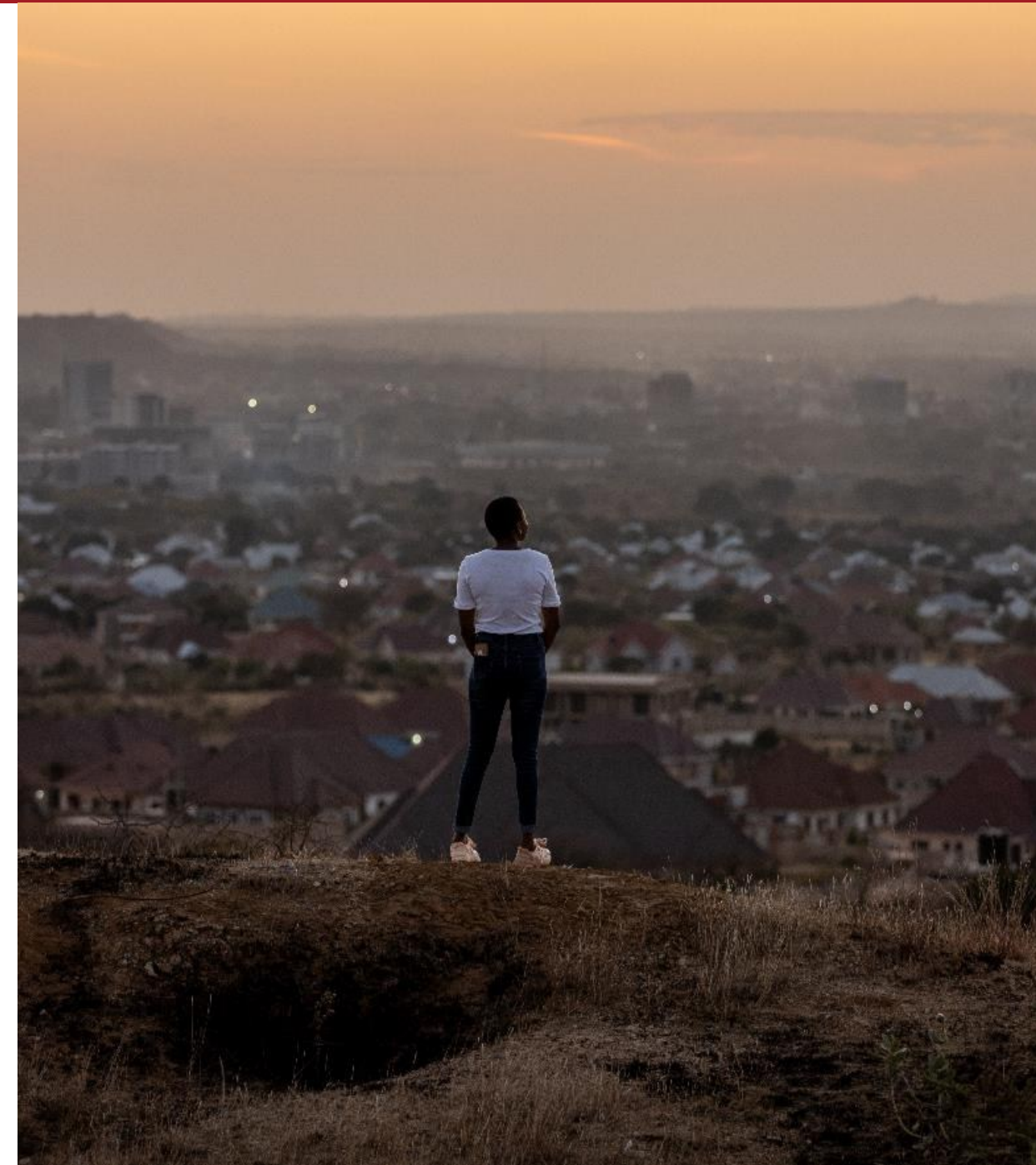
- Cotton ginneries, sunflower oil processors, vegetable retailers
- Local Service Providers rooted in the community
- Supporting small scale enterprises

Civil Society

- VSLAs (Village Savings & Loan Associations), clubs, etc
- National NGOs for training (TNRF, SJS farm...)

Research

- Sokoine University of Agriculture



Grounding services locally (localization)

- Overall aim to **facilitate**, not implement
- Building an **agri-environmental system** that serves farmers
- **Local Service Providers** rooted in the community
 - AIM: Access, Inputs, Markets
 - Encouraging LSPs to network – own association
- Professional training from **national NGOs** (for LSPs, other community members...)



Gaps, limitations?

- **Water** is not specifically addressed - but
 - WASH deliberately excluded as many other actors are present
 - Growing need for water for food
 - Current climate change projections are for increased temperatures, high increased runoff (ie. extreme rainfall events) – better preparation needed
- Focus mainly on promoting **organic**/ near organic production
 - Total landscape conversion to organic not feasible
 - Need to work more with conventional producers??





**THANK
YOU!**