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| **UNDP_Logo_NEW_color** | BACK TO OFFICE REPORTUNDP TANZANIA **COWABAMA field visit to Mbozi and Momba Districts (29 April to 3 May 2014)** | ONE PAGE MISSION REPORT SUMMARY |
| Name: Ernest Salla  Team/Unit:  | **Travel Authorization #:**  |
| 1. **Approved Mission Itinerary:**

 Dar es Salaam –Mbeya- Mbozi/Momba-Mbeya - Dar es Salaam | 1. **List of Annexes:**

One pager outlining the concept note |
| **3. (From) Inclusive Travel Dates (To):**29/04/2014 - 03/05/2014 | **4. Key Counterparts/other participants:**Ms Josephine Amolo (Director Food Security-MAFC), Pius Mwashikumbulu (MDU-MAFC), Dr Ibrahim Kawa-TIP, Abehard Mbepera –Assistant Director- Directorate of Cooperatives-MAFC,Mukara Mugimbi: PMO-RALG, Kassim Mbuffu-MIT |
| 1. Purpose/Objectives of the trip were:
* To inform Mbeya regional and two districts (Mbozi and Momba) authorities about the planned implementation of the first wave of Collective Warehouse Based Marketing (COWABAMA) initiative in the two chosen districts.
* To introduce the Service Provider (SP) from TIP and solicit support from the regional and district authorities
* To visit some of existing Agricultural Marketing Cooperatives (AMCOs) meet with their members and get to know their expectations and challenges they face
* To inspect some warehouse to appreciate the needed rehabilitation
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| 1. **Brief Summary of Field visit:**

The field visit was an excellent opportunity to engage with the regional and the two district authorities to solicit their support on implementation of the COWABAMA initiative. During the visit we met with the Regional Agricultural Adviser who also represented the Regional Commissioner and Regional Administrative Secretary who were away on business travel. He assured us of full support as he was both aware of the initiative and had participated in the BRN Agriculture Lab.  In the Mbozi district the team met with key district officials. The team first met with the District Agricultural &Livestock Development Officer who was briefed on the purpose of the mission. He promised that he will look for a suitable office space where the Service Provider’s team can work from. This positive gesture was very much appreciated by all of us. The team then met with the Ag. District Executive Director (DED) because the DED was away on duty travel. Apart from introduction of the Service Provider, it was pointed out that the intention of the government under the BRN Agriculture is to ensure the 26 warehouses that have been earmarked for Mbozi district are ready by end of June to receive the current session’ maize crop. So the Ag. DED and his team were requested to fast track procurement of contractors who will undertake rehabilitation of the warehouses. Clarification was given on source of funding for the rehabilitation work. It was agreed that that after establishing the requirements, DED will write a request letter to the PDB through MAFC and the PDB will request UNDP to pay. This clarification was also given to the Ag.DED in Momba district.Our team met with District Administrative Secretary (DAS) for Mbozi who represented the District Commissioner who was away on duty travel appreciated the initiative and assured the SP all supported needed in terms of mobilization of farmers. We also met with the District Commissioner for Momba district. He recommended one of the selected warehouses to be replaced by another and appealed to the ministry to give a special consideration to Momba in the next wave as the warehouses there are few and some are in bad shape. He promised his support to the SP. Lastly, the team met with the Momba Ag. DED and his team. They were informed about the purpose of the visit and what was expected of them. The Ag. DED was very appreciative for the consideration that has been given to the district and promised cooperation in the endeavour.The team visited warehouses in Mahenje, Ilembo and Ihanda villages where we also met with village leadership and Agricultural Marketing Cooperatives management and members. Invariably, all the warehouses visited were in need of some sort of rehabilitation in order to ensure safe custody of maize. They were all more than 20 years old with no regular maintenance and with no basic equipment such weighing scales and moisture meters.  |
| 1. **Recommendations /Actions to be Taken:**
* The number of warehouses to be covered under the COWABAMA initiative should be increased to 50 as it was originally planned to meet the need and make greater impact. This will require discussion between UNDP and BMGF to increase the budget for this activity.
* Procurement of contractors by the DED in the two districts should be prioritized
* Close monitoring by the MAFC will be required to ensure the implementation is on track and timely resolution of any problem that may arise.
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