

Quality Declared Seed (QDS) producers Supported to market their Seed during the Nane Nane Agricultural show in Bukoba.

Nane Nane is an agricultural show which takes place every year in the month of August in the entire United Republic of Tanzania.

In Kagera region, this event was held from 2nd to 8th August at Kyakailabwa ground in Bukoba district. The FoodTrade East and Southern Africa (FTESA) funded Bean Enterprises and Structured Trade in East African Community (BEST-EAC) program implemented by Kilimo Trust supported partners of the Kagera Beans Consortium (KABECO) to attend this most exciting agricultural event in the country. Kaderes Peasants Development (KPD Plc), 4 producers of QDS, Agricultural Research Institute (ARI) Maruku - Bukoba and Kilimo Trust were the consortium partners represented during this event.



The team from ARI Maruku, Kilimo Trust and the QDS farmers who participated in the Nane Nane show

In order to increase the availability of good quality seed within the farmers and assist them to reach higher yields, BEST-EAC project in partnership with ARI Maruku supported 5 farmers to produce QDS in Kyerwa district. The farmers were provided with 400 Kg start-up certified seed of Rosecoco bean

variety, called Lyamungo 90 in the vicinity. The seed were distributed to the producers depending on the land size. A total of 3.5MT was produced and certified by the Tanzania Official Seed certification Institute (TOSCI) towards the end of July, 2017. The seed were of very good quality where the least sample registered 99.42%

purity and the best had 99.81%. Nane Nane was an immense opportunity to these farmers to promote and market their seed. The QDS awareness was created to people who visited ARI Maruku stand as well as on Kasibante Radio which reported on the seed availability during the Nane Nane.



Mr. Kagurusi - a QDS producer selling seed to an enthusiastic old woman farmer

Some farmers immediately admired the quality of the seed and could not go back home without buying. A total of 50Kg of seed which was taken to the show as sample was all sold to interested farmers. The seed was sold at Tsh4,000/Kg compared to Tsh2,500/Kg that farmers normally sell at to their fellow farmers in the locality.

The demand for the seed is high...

some projects showed interest in buying the QDS from the farmers if they can produce and bulk more.

The availability of seed within the locality will cut short the distance farmers used to make to the source of seed and remove the hustle of ordering from far and sometimes from untrusted dealers. In addition, the adoption of the good quality seed will increase the beans production and productivity, reduce the incidence of diseases hence increases the farmers' income.

The project will continue to support more farmers to produce QDS in order to increase production and productivity of beans in this region which the first bean producing area in the country. A number of potential farmers have been selected to grow QDS during the forthcoming Sept. 2017 – Jan. 2018 season.

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