

In July I made a trip to Arusha Tanzania. I had an initial conversation with a missionary in TZ back in 2016 about the national church with which he serves, the Tanzania Assemblies of God (TAG), and their vision for a communal irrigation project which would serve the community in a very drought prone region of the country. We started the conversation again last summer; the TAG was still hopeful of initiating an irrigation project but had been unable to make much progress, so EGX began making inquiries. As it happened, I was aware of a project being planned by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) and partners



Scientists at the Tanzanian Agricultural Research Institute.

in Tanzania to establish a center pivot (large overhead circular sprinkler, google it) as a farmer cooperative project. In February I met with the scientist leading the project for UNL and learned that they had not been able to progress for lack of a reliable in-country partner organization to act as administrator. The irrigation equipment had been acquired and sat waiting in a warehouse. We were both a little astonished as we realized UNL's center pivot equipment was sitting in a warehouse only some 15 miles from the proposed project site of the TAG. As of now, UNL scientists are still making assessments of the area and potential water sources, but our hope is that all variables will be settled and a partnership can develop. We've also recently begun a discussion with irrigation engineering researchers about this project, at Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) in

Morogoro Tanzania. SUA is the foremost agricultural university in Tanzania.

I made the trip to Arusha to meet with leadership of the TAG, but it was also an ideal opportunity to build relationships with other research entities in the country. Arusha is host to regional facilities of several international research centers including IITA (International Institute of Tropical Agriculture) and the World Vegetable Center, as well as facilities of the Tanzanian Agricultural Research Institute. I was able to establish connections with researchers at each of these entities. It's these connections which make possible EGX's vision of equipping local faith-based efforts to share the latest innovations of agricultural science with the poor farming families they serve. One of these meetings was with the lead scientist of a project called Africa Rising (AR). AR is funded through USAID's (US Agency for International Development, under the US State Department) Feed the Future program. The objective of AR has been to aggregate recent scientific developments and discoveries from major research institutions and universities within southern and eastern Africa; technologies or improved production techniques which have been proven,



Research trials on the campus of the World Vegetable Center (Eastern and Southern Africa Region) assessing the effects of screen materials for insect control in cabbage production.

validated, and are ready to be shared with farmers. AR then seeks other organizations to partner with, in establishing demonstration and training farms for these new farming technologies.

In addition to the irrigation project mentioned previously, the TAG also has a larger vision of providing agricultural training to its pastors. They currently operate 35 Bible and church planting schools for pastors in training. Often these students go on to start churches in very remote locations where agriculture is the only way of life. Sound instruction in the fundamentals of agricultural science would be a significant asset to these pastors as they move into agricultural communities, equipping them to produce a livelihood and also share technologies with neighbors. Therefore the TAG plans to establish training farms at each school. Each training farm will need to be designed according to local environmental conditions with consideration given to variables such as seasonal temperatures and rainfall, soils, and topography.

SO, Africa rising is actively looking for opportunities to create EXACTLY the thing the Tanzania Assemblies of God has a vision to establish at each of their schools. We're planning for initial meetings between the two entities in the coming months.



Research technicians visiting on-farm research trials of cabbage produced under screening for insect control. Reduced insect infestation will increase farmer profitability both from reduced insecticide input costs and higher market price associated with less chemicals used on the product.

In the last Field Notes, I wrote about a project developing in Nigeria and plans to travel there this past summer. Due to scheduling conflicts with others involved in this vision, we have yet to make this trip. All parties remain committed to the vision, and we are discussing other possible dates to come together in Nigeria.

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