

Supporting modern irrigation for increased productivity



Timothy Moshi showing PASS Monitoring team his new centre pivot irrigation machine

How PASS intervention is impacting farmers in Moshi through irrigation

Titus Timothy Moshi is the secretary of Umoja farm, a family business that is thriving in maize farming in Moshi region.

The 36-year-old father of three is among the three main shareholders in their expansive business that is Umoja farm, cultivating up to 160 acres of maize and selling their produce in large scale to their loyal clients.

Through the support from the

government of Sweden in the year 2018, Timothy and his associates have been able to increase their agricultural production after acquiring a state-of-the-art irrigation machine through a bank loan of TZS. 150M with a 60% guarantee from PASS Trust.

"This centre pivot irrigation machine has helped us to be fully mechanized. Before we acquired this machine, we used to cultivate only 50 acres of land, now we do

up to 160 acres, we are selling more because we are cultivating more, thanks to the centre pivot machine" Says Timothy.

Before the acquisition of the Centre Pivot Irrigation machine, Timothy says they were using a hose reel machine that could only support irrigation of about 50 acres of maize farm in a month.

"It was slow, time consuming and very costly because we could direct a lot of energies here and

PASS beneficiary Timothy Moshi with PASS Monitoring and Evaluation Manager Safia Mbamba as they look at an old hose reel irrigation machine that has now been replaced



spend so much money in maintain the machine. Actually, a big percentage of our profits were being directed to the repair of the machine and service work, and that's why he had to replace it "Adds Timothy.

With the new Centre Pivot Irrigation machine, Umoja farm increased the cultivation land from 50 acres to 160 acres.

"This is because the new machine made our work easier, we thank PASS Trust for supporting this initiative because we have now become more productive than we were before" Says Timothy.

The government of Sweden has continued to support agricultural production in Tanzania through PASS Trust model of credit guarantee to farmers for purposes of poverty reduction.

PASS Trust entered into a working agreement with the government of Sweden through SIDA in the year 2018 and by the end of 2019, at least 22,433 agribusiness entrepreneurs had received agribusiness loans worth over 155B shillings through PASS Trust credit guarantee, Umoja farm being one of them.

After realizing that they were making good progress and the production was improving, Umoja farm farm also benefitted from yet another working capital loan of TZS. 150M towards the end of the year 2018.

"We used to outsource services as well as agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizers from dealers, who sometimes could inconvenience us by delivering them late, I am happy that through this support, we are now

able to handle everything by ourselves" Adds the young farmer.

A part from increasing the cultivation acreage from 50 -160 acres, Umoja farm has also increased the number of bags of maize harvested from 800 bags per season to 2000 bags!

With expansion plans in progress, the farm has acquired an additional 77 acres of land. In two years, the farm has created employment to 10 people within Moshi region who include a farm manager, a driver, store manager as well as farm workers making the number of permanent employees on the farm to 14 from 4 in 2017.

During the times when there is a lot of work in the farm such as during planting and harvesting, Timothy says they employ up to 40 casuals.