

Session 4.

Practicing Core EIA Skills:

Virtual Field Visit – Briefing Sheet

Smallholder Irrigation Rehabilitation and Expansion

You are the Agriculture & Economic Growth program team. Your portfolio includes the **Smallholder Agricultural Productivity and Market Access Program (SAPMA)**.

SAPMA is a 5-year, \$50mn program funded by USAID to boost smallholder agricultural productivity with improved varieties and cultivation practices, and to support cooperative processing and marketing. The program is considered critical to food security and to enhancing economic opportunities (and thus to supporting political stability) in key rural provinces. SAPMA is now 2 years into implementation.

SAPMA was designed with the idea that improving varieties and practices would be applied to existing smallholder plots. However, implementation experience to date shows that lack of irrigation infrastructure is a key barrier to smallholder productivity in the target rural provinces.

An additional smallholder irrigation scheme component is therefore being added to SAPMA. In the current phase, time and funding is sufficient only for a single pilot activity; however in the next SAPMA phase, replication and full roll-out is anticipated, resulting in the development of 8–10 schemes.

The pilot will REHABILITATE and EXPAND the **Bagamoyo Irrigation Development Project (BIDP)** scheme, now about 20 years old. This is a 200 hectare smallholder irrigation scheme (open canal type), which draws from the Ruvu, a small perennial river. The Ruvu is an important local source of water for domestic and agricultural use, and a local source of fish.

Rehabilitation will include minimal re-leveling of the existing site and repair of an intake/pumping structure, 300m primary canal, and necessary secondary canals and control gates.

The primary canal has sufficient capacity to support extension of the scheme on 50Ha of adjacent land, and the project will undertake this expansion, which will include leveling, and construction of secondary canals and control gates.

The access road and the cooperative's processing capacity will be upgraded under existing SAPMA components.

Beneficiary farmers will be members of an existing cooperative, as well as 3 extended families currently informally occupying the expansion land. (The project will construct replacement housing for these families; the cooperative has already secured their agreement to be relocated

to a nearby village.) SAPMA will train farmers in cultivation techniques, including use of agricultural inputs, and provide technical extension services such as soil tests. In return farmers will “tithe” 10% “of production from their assigned plot(s) to the cooperative. Agricultural inputs and tillage will be provided on credit by the cooperative.

The pilot will also serve as a mentored capacity-building opportunity for the provincial irrigation development department of the agricultural ministry, who will participate in scheme development.

Similarly, SAPMA will fund a supervising engineer whose duties will include mentoring and training the local contractors in good-practice irrigation construction techniques. This is intended to put in place local capacity that will result in accelerated, good-practice development of irrigation schemes in the province. SAPMA will operate the scheme for one year (two crop cycles are anticipated) then provide technical assistance to the cooperative and extension services to farmers for a second year

This **smallholder irrigation component is NOT covered by the existing Agriculture Sector IEE.** The implementing partner is developing an IEE to cover this component and is submitting it very soon. You are aware that aspects of this new component likely present environmental challenges. To better understand this new program component, and to better evaluate the IEE, you undertake an inspection visit of the BIDP.