

NEWS & FEATURES

YEFFA Project Gains Momentum in Songea with Government and Stakeholder Engagement

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The Youth Entrepreneurship for the Future of Food and Agriculture (YEFFA) program was introduced in Songea, Tanzania, on November 22, 2024. This initiative, a collaboration between AGRA, the Mastercard Foundation, and SAGCOT aims to transform agriculture in the region by focusing on key areas of development and innovation.

Key Highlights:

- **Presentation of YEFFA Interventions:** SAGCOT and ADP Mbozi outlined strategic areas of focus, including enhancing productivity and sustainability in maize and rice farming, boosting value chain efficiency through improved market connectivity and value addition, and addressing challenges related to access to credit, extension services, and quality inputs.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** The event facilitated meaningful dialogue among government authorities, agricultural officers, financial institutions, and local farmers. Stakeholders shared insights about the unique opportunities and challenges within Songea.
- **District-Level Goals:**
 - **Songea DC:** Increase adoption of climate-smart farming practices to ensure resilience and sustainability.
 - **Namtumbo:** Strengthen post-harvest handling and processing to reduce losses and improve income for rice and maize farmers.
- **Emphasis on Collaboration:** Participants agreed on the importance of partnerships in fostering innovation and inclusivity in agriculture, particularly for youth and women farmers.

As the YEFFA program progresses, the focus remains on transforming agriculture into a profitable, inclusive, and sustainable sector that provides meaningful opportunities for young people.

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