Regional GeoODK Training Iringa, Tanzania
Organized by the University of Maryland (UMD) in partnership with Lutheran World Relief (LWR), Gutsinda Development Group and Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO)

July 19th and 20th University of Maryland (UMD) in partnership with Lutheran World Relief (LWR) led trainings at SIDO offices in Iringa, Tanzania. Fifty extension agents and Group Enterprise Agents (GEA's) from across Iringa were invited to attend a 2 day training to implement regional data collection on food security across Iringa using tools developed by the AgriSense- STARS project.

The **objective** of the training was to pilot crop condition monitoring using tools developed by the AgriSense-STARS project across Iringa Region to acquire monthly field data on crop conditions for food security monitoring.

PARTICIPANTS: The training facilitators included Catherine Nakalembe and Christina Justice, Faculty Specialist's at the University of Maryland, Moses Kabogo, from Lutheran World Relief, and Kidigi Ibrahim and Sixbert Maurice from Sokoine University. The workshop was held through the participation of Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO), Tanzania. Workshop participants included government extension officers and LWR Group Enterprise Agents (GEA's). The training agenda and list of participants are attached.
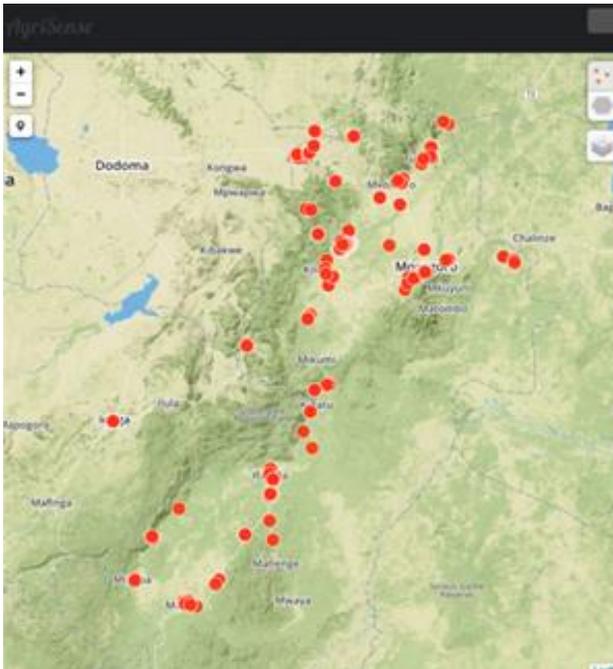

Figure 1. Participants and organizers of the July 2016 GEOODK Training in Iringa, Tanzania.

SUMMARY:

UMD in partnership with LWR is piloting a regional food security monitoring program across Iringa region involving GEA's and government extension agents collecting agricultural and food security information using the GEOODK application. GEOODK electronic data collection forms were developed by the AgriSense-STARS project for the acquisition of monthly field data collected by ground extension agents on crop conditions to further food security monitoring efforts by the Ministry of Agriculture, Tanzania. Field data collection will be targeted at the main food security crops for the region maize, beans, potatoes, and cassava. Participants were each given a tablet to facilitate their data collection. This data collection campaign will commence at the beginning of the growing season in Iringa starting November, 2016 and running through August, 2017 after fields have been harvested.

The data collection campaign in Iringa is an expansion of the current data collection campaign in Morogoro, Tanzania organized by the University of Maryland and Sokoine University. These efforts by the UMD AgriSense group are focused on linking field data collected by extension agents from representative sites across the Tanzanian regions with quantitative satellite data on vegetation conditions to create a data portal from which timely and representative data on food security and crop conditions can be compiled and used by key stakeholders to inform agricultural and policy decisions, agricultural development initiatives, and markets.

Figure 2. Shows submitted data from extension agents on the Agrisense platform covering Morogoro and Iringa regions.

The training was opened by Moses Kabogo from LWR and introduction given by training facilitators and participants. A project overview was given by Catherine Nakalembe from the University of Maryland focusing on the work done by University of Maryland through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funded Agrisense project to implement a food security and crop condition monitoring data collection campaign across pilot regions in Tanzania.

Figure 3. Moses Kabogo, LWR opening the training and giving introductions

Emphasis was put on the important role electronic data collection forms and the data collectors play in providing timely and reliable data to inform Ministry counterparts on the real time situation on the ground where data collectors are working.

The GEOODK electronic data collection forms that will be collected over the coming growing season were reviewed by the group as a whole and practice forms were completed by the participants to make them comfortable with the form's layout and content. Participants voiced their excitement and willingness for the data collection campaign and are looking forward for the start of the growing season to begin collection.

Grace Bernard Macha, Regional Agriculture Officer for Iringa, visited the training to voice her full support for the work being done by the project and its participants. Mrs. Macha noted the current gap for accurate and timely data on crop conditions for her region and across Tanzania and the benefit this project and its data will bring to her office.

Figure 4. Training participants completing GEOODK electronic data collection forms on the AgriSense provided tablets.

OUTCOMES:

The Iringa field data collection campaign will commence in November, 2016 and run through August 2017. GEA's and extension agents agreed on the importance of the campaign and the need for timely and reliable crop condition and food security monitoring for their districts.

Participants were motivated by the efforts of the project to make direct links between near real time field data and decision and policymakers giving a voice to farmer concerns. By bridging this information gap, timely and representative data on crop condition including pest, disease, and food security related concerns can be responded to quickly and effectively with the aim to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers. Extension agents requested future forms to be translated to swahili to make them more accessible. In addition, the Gutsinda mobile application developed by LWR will be transferred over to AgriSense provided tablets to facilitate data collection by the GEA's and extension agents.

Training Facilitators will revisit the participants at the beginning of the growing season in November to facilitate the commencement of the data collection and offer support in the identification of fields that will be monitored.

WAY FORWARD:

This training marks the continuance of the GEOODK data collection campaign that was implemented in Morogoro Tanzania in 2015. With the expansion to Iringa Region there are now over 130 data collectors in Tanzania covering the whole of Morogoro and Iringa regions.

Report compiled by: Christina Justice and Catherine Nakalembe

List of Participants:

No	Name	No	Name
1	Suzana Kingunza	26	Jackson Utenga
2	Ray Msoku	27	Hamisi M. Kilyenyi
3	Kija Balama	28	Dativa J. Minja
4	Alfa Mbinda	29	Abdul N. Diuchile
5	Amos Ndambo	30	Mussa J. Mwaliko
6	Essau Nyangalima	31	Jumanne A. Nyamatama
7	Alois W. Mponzi	32	Deus N. Mwampashe
8	Cyprian Mhanga	33	Joseph Lugusi
9	Ezekia Mhaluka	34	Veronica Massonga
10	Sijaona Ngata	35	Salome Ulimboka
11	Arapha Nyamahanga	36	Mercy T. Ipokela
12	Frolian Kitule	37	Emerita U. Luwumba
13	Denis D. Ujengo	38	Wilium Wissa

14	Oscar Kabadu		39	Ajusta P. Fidege
15	Mary Aloyce		40	Siri S. Nyenza
16	Arnold Y. Malema		41	Paul M. Challe
17	Noel F. Nyambo		42	Agness J. Mollel
18	Luca J. Sanga		43	Petro E. Kimbe
19	Frank J. Kihwelo		44	Geofrey Mkongwa
20	Frank S. Magembe		45	Martha W. Kimambo
21	Mtokambali Ngimba		46	Simon A. Mwandenuka
22	Joseph Njavoke		47	Amos D. Mwinuka
23	Vicent J. Kalungwana		48	Richard V. Malule
24	Hubert W. Saria		49	Lucas Matanji
25	Alex A. Kindole			