

CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT FOR TRAINING INSTITUTES (CISTI)



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The CISTI Project is transforming agricultural education in Tanzania by strengthening curriculum implementation, building tutor capacity, and promoting innovation through strong partnerships.



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Strengthening Agricultural Training Through Partnership and Innovation

The Curriculum Implementation Support for Training Institutes (CISTI) Project stands as a transformative initiative that has significantly enhanced the quality and relevance of agricultural training in Tanzania. By improving curriculum implementation, building tutor capacity, and strengthening institutional collaboration, the project has contributed to shaping a new generation of skilled and environmentally conscious agricultural professionals.

Implemented through a strong partnership between Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and with the strong financial support from LED, the CISTI project works with 29 Agricultural Training Institutes (ATIs) distributed all over Tanzania with a close collaboration with National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NACT-VET) as well as higher learning institutions where it demonstrates how collaborative action can drive systemic change in agricultural education.

Evidence-Based Curriculum Review for Agricultural Excellence

During Phase II, CISTI facilitated a comprehensive review of Agricultural Production (AP) curricula using an evidence-based approach.

Key Steps in the Review Process:

- Labour Market Assessment (LMA): Identified current and emerging skills required in Tanzania's agricultural sector.
- DACUM Workshop: Brought together tutors, industry experts, and policymakers to define occupational competencies and performance standards.
- Curriculum Review: Updated AP curricula at NTA Levels 4, 5, and 6.

New Thematic Areas Introduced:

- Livestock Production
- Occupational Hazards and Risk Management in Agriculture
- Agricultural Project Management

These additions ensure graduates are better prepared for modern, climate-resilient, and market-oriented agriculture.



Approval by NACTVET: A Milestone in Curriculum Transformation

Upon completion of the LMA report and the curriculum review process, the refined curricula were formally submitted to NACTVET for evaluation. After a thorough review of the LMA findings, DACUM outputs, and draft curricula, NACTVET granted official approval for the revised Agricultural Production curricula at NTA Levels 4, 5, and 6.

This approval marked a major milestone, validating the rigor, relevance, and industry alignment of the new training programs. It also confirmed that the updated curricula meet national standards and adequately address the skills demanded in today's agricultural landscape.

The reviewed and approved curricula now reflect market-relevant competencies, climate-resilient farming practices, modern livestock management, and entrepreneurial skills – ensuring graduates are well-prepared to meet the evolving needs of the agricultural sector.



Building Ownership Through Strong Stakeholder Engagement

From the very beginning, stakeholder engagement was at the heart of CISTI's success. The project adopted a highly inclusive approach, engaging government agencies, academic institutions, and civil society actors throughout the planning, implementation, and monitoring stages

This collaboration created a strong sense of ownership among all partners and ensured that interventions were contextually relevant and aligned with national priorities. Regular joint meetings, consultative workshops, and review sessions provided opportunities for open dialogue, joint decision-making, and shared accountability. The result was a coordinated and cohesive approach that strengthened both institutional commitment and project outcomes



Participatory and Consultative Approaches for Greater Impact

CISTI demonstrated that participation and consultation are not just processes—they are powerful drivers of transformation. Tutors, curriculum experts, practitioners, and policy makers worked together in reviewing curricula, developing compendia, and producing textbooks and practical guidebooks

This participatory model bridged the gap between theory and practice, ensuring that the content delivered in classrooms reflected the real needs and opportunities of Tanzania's agricultural sector. By involving end users—tutors in the design and validation of materials, the project enhanced the quality, ownership, and long-term sustainability of its outputs

CISTI's integrated approach to capacity building proved to be one of its strongest pillars of success. Rather than treating training, materials, and infrastructure as separate components, the project recognized their interdependence and addressed them collectively.



Tutors reported increased confidence and motivation in implementing the revised curriculum, while students benefited from more engaging, practical, and hands-on learning experiences. Upgraded demonstration farms and digital learning tools contributed to improved teaching environments that supported experiential learning and innovation that enhance the implementation of the reviewed curricula.



This synergy created lasting institutional change—transforming Agricultural Training Institutes into vibrant centres of practical learning and skill development aligned with national agricultural transformation goals.



Looking Ahead – Building on Success

As we look to the future, our goal is to build on the best practices and lessons learned from the CISTI Project to sustain and deepen the positive changes achieved. Building on CISTI’s holistic approach, future initiatives should adopt a comprehensive capacity-building framework that clearly connects tutor training, curriculum delivery, and infrastructure development. This framework should include robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track progress, assess effectiveness, and guide adaptation. It should also incorporate strategies to address staff turnover challenges by providing professional development opportunities, mentorship programs, and supportive work environments that motivate and retain skilled tutors.