In Tanzania, resilient farmers have constantly battled crop diseases that have led to decreased yields and lower incomes. This risk is especially clear regarding these farmers’ most important crop, cassava, which provides food and income for millions of farmers and businesses in Tanzania. But with the growing threat of these crop diseases, such as Cassava Brown Streak Disease (CBSD) and Cassava Mosaic Disease (CMD), the incomes of millions of Tanzanian farmers and businesses continue to be at risk.
Through the Building an Economically Sustainable Seed System for Cassava in Tanzania (BEST Cassava) project, you empowered farmers with access to high-quality, disease-resistant, and affordable cassava seeds. This seed system is improving the profitability of seed businesses and strengthening the food supply for thousands of Tanzanians. Your invaluable support enabled this project to be implemented in 11 regions across three zones (Lake, Eastern and Southern Zone).

You made a difference in the lives of subsistence farmers who work tirelessly to earn a profit, put their kids through school and generate prosperity for their communities. The story of Grace Mvula, a farmer who discovered her passion for becoming a Cassava Seed Entrepreneur and teaching others in her community, demonstrates how far your contributions went to empower farmers to fulfill their God-given potential.

Grace Mvula is a farmer and entrepreneur from the Kasera village, in the Tanga Region of Tanzania. Despite putting all her energy into providing for her family and herself, she just could not get ahead. Added to this are crop diseases, such as Cassava Mosaic and Cassava Brown Streak Disease, that greatly reduced her cassava production and resulted in lower yields. Out of a sense of curiosity and her ambition, Grace took a chance and signed up to be a Cassava Seed Entrepreneur (CSE). During these trainings, she was provided with agronomy and business training and how to align her cassava seed business with her customers’ needs. The results were tremendous: Grace applied her new knowledge and skills which resulted in her expanding her farm from three to five acres and increased her farms’ yields from 3 tons per acre to 8 tons per acre every planting season.

Most importantly, she is providing for her family and bought two iron sheet roofed houses and a solar panel for her home. Grace is also sending her son to a technical school and is passing on her agronomic knowledge to her husband and three farm laborers. She is working to be a “Cassava Champion” and is spreading her knowledge to her fellow villagers so that they can also benefit from increased yields and eventually, greater profits.

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Your impact

In 2020, through your generosity, we have:

- **17,078** FARMERS
- **13,434,241** CASSAVA STEMS
- **2,145.5** ACRES OF CASSAVA SEEDS
- **486** CASSAVA SEED ENTREPRENEURS

Through your contributions, we are further empowering farmers and entrepreneurs in Tanzania to pursue their passion to grow and sell hardier cassava seeds to build more profitable farms and healthier communities.

There is a great opportunity within the cassava crop [and I have] witnessed the potential of this crop to change a farmer’s life.

Grace Mvula reflected
Thank you for your investment and support

This project:

• Brought government and private businesses together to develop cassava seeds and improve quality standards

• Created a system of disease resistant, affordable cassava seeds for farmers and seed businesses

• Increased the use of improved, disease-resistant Cassava seeds among Tanzanian farmers

Over the course of this project 606 Cassava Seed Entrepreneur businesses established & 45,997 farmers were positively affected