

William Swai

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Anne: What have you done since the workshop to get your District group organised?

William: Actually in Babati district where I am working, after the workshop we formed a core group of about six members and so far we have conducted two planning meetings. At the first one we tried to identify the commodity that is important for us which is the Magugu rice and also we tried to plan the participants of the market chain meeting. Unfortunately the number of participants was too big so we postponed the meeting and planned a second meeting where we tried to reduce the number of participants for this market chain. And so far we have identified about five processors, five producers and four traders. So the next step now is to convene a meeting to discuss the difficulties and the constraints, to see how to best improve the market chain for this product.

Anne: How do you think using the internet for learning can help you?

William: Actually for this week I have learned a lot about the LLL service. I have learned a lot about how to do the discussion over the internet and I have also learned how I can communicate with others and how I can get the information from the internet which is appropriate for market chains, the organisation of the core groups and also information sharing. So actually I have learned that through this internet I can access a lot of information and can exchange and discuss with other players.

Anne: Is there anything that you would like to add?

William: This workshop has been very useful to me personally and to my organisation and to what we are doing in Babati. Before this workshop I thought that the market information in the market linkages is just a method to convene the producers and the processors together just to discuss how to do the marketing and at what price. But I have learned that it is not only the price, there are lots of issues that are involved in order to make sure that the chain is better and that it is of benefit.

¹ Interviewed by Anne Dennig on July 28th 2005 at LLL Internet Training in Arusha, Tanzania.