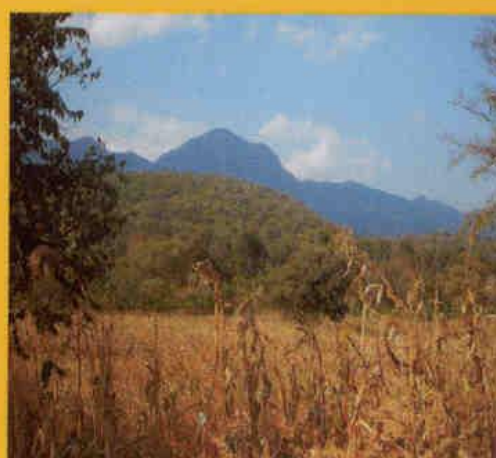
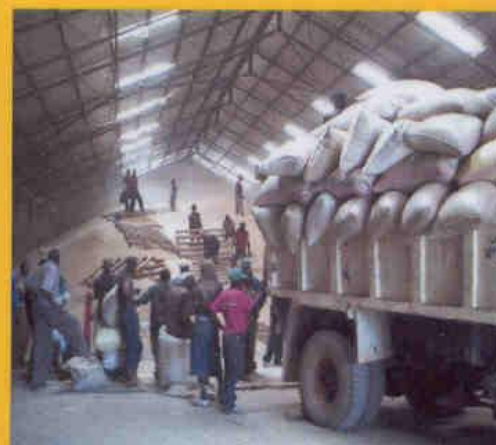
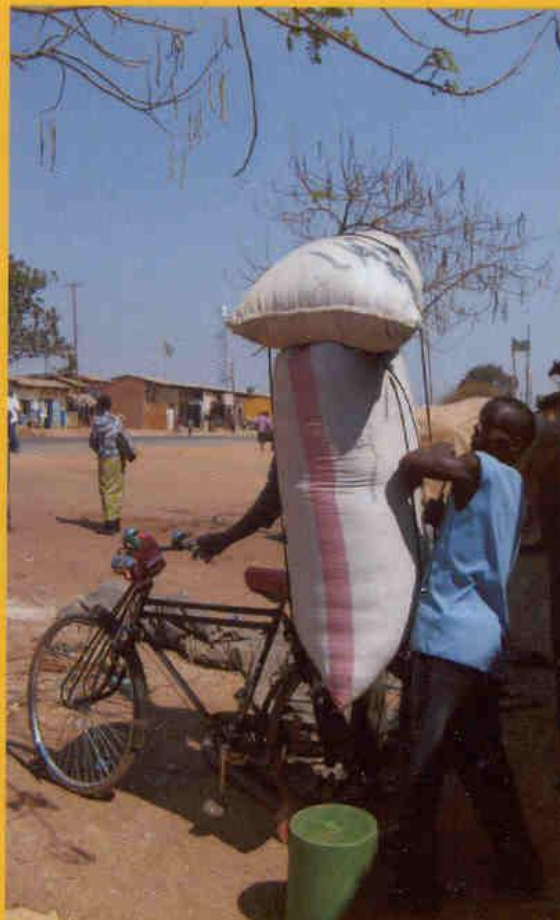


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to Enhance Food Security  
A Case Study on the Border  
Region of Tanzania and Zambia**

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Centre for Advanced Training in Rural Development (SLE)  
International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)  
on behalf of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)

# **Promoting Regional Trade to Enhance Food Security**

## **A Case Study on the Border Region of Tanzania and Zambia**

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## Executive Summary

Food security is an issue of high importance for Sub-Saharan African countries. With the on-going process of regional integration, the promotion of regional trade between neighbouring countries is one strategy in a set of measures to enhance food security. Regional trade can contribute to food availability, accessibility and stability.

To evaluate the potentials of regional trade to enhance food security a comprehensive tool is necessary which shall be transposable to different regional contexts. The study at hand introduces an Analytical Framework (AF) to meet this objective. Three constitutive working levels are defined: (1) A desk study to identify relevant countries or regions, (2) a fact-finding mission to collect in-depth data and (3) an assessment to evaluate the potentials. The analysis starts with the regional co-operation and continues on national level with identification of relevant policies and stakeholders. The AF then analyses on sub-national level demand, supply as well as trade and its influencing factors.

The AF is implemented in a case study on cross-border trade between Tanzania and Zambia. Both countries are member states of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and are intensifying co-operation and liberalisation of trade.

Although being generally food secure, Tanzania still faces regional and seasonal food shortages. Via a National Food Reserve Agency, the Government pursues an interventionist policy by purchasing food staples in surplus areas to sell these at subsidised prices in deficit regions. This is combined with several barriers for cross-border trade, e.g. an export ban on food staples.

Zambia's food security policies are biased towards maize as major food staple. Like in Tanzania, the Government through a Food Reserve Agency intervenes on domestic markets and provides farmers with subsidised inputs. Zambia's Northern Province is generally food secure; however, most of the people are net-buyers of maize. Still, the Province like Zambia as a whole faces seasonal food shortages.

The Mbeya and Rukwa Regions in the South of Tanzania have favourable natural conditions. The productivity of the agricultural sector is generally above national level and the area produces surpluses of main food staples. Nevertheless, the farmers have to face several constraints to increase production and economic success, mainly with respect to marketing of produce and accessibility of extension services.

Zambia's demand is reflected in maize as the dominating produce for agricultural exports of Tanzania towards Zambia: Quantities are influenced by the imposed export ban. Besides formal trade, the importance of informal cross-border trade with maize has increased. Trade is hampered by a number of non-tariff barriers, ranging from cost-intensive and time-consuming customs procedures to road blocks. Most of the non-tariff barriers are relevant for both, formal and informal trade.

The assessment of the policy measures shows conflicts of interests between national food security on one side and agricultural trade liberalisation on the other side. Market interventions via food reserve agencies have negative effects on trade in general and on traders in particular. Additionally, the Tanzanian export ban creates disincentives for farmers and traders. However, the assessment also shows potentials for increasing the cross-border trade between both countries. The recommendations concentrate on measures to expand the involvement in bilateral trade. On policy level, the co-ordination and co-operation between Tanzania and Zambia within SADC should be strengthened.