



## **COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)**

Sokoine University Graduate Entrepreneurs Cooperative (SUGECO) hereby presenting our public statement on the engagement and awareness raising undertaken by SUGECO, as a member of the UN Global Compact program. It covers the period from 1st January 2020 to: 31st December 2020

### **Brief description about SUGECO**

Sokoine University Graduate Entrepreneurs Cooperative (SUGECO) is a cooperative founded in July 2011 and registered under Tanzania Cooperative Act No. 20 of (2003). It's a cooperative with over 1000 members spread all over Tanzania mainly youth engaging in various agribusiness entrepreneurial activities. The main goal of SUGECO is to make a difference in the minds of youth, communities and graduates from higher learning institutions towards enterprise development for self-employment, agribusiness development, job creation, community development, and economic prosperity.

Vision is to create future generations of successful business persons who transform our culture to value entrepreneurship and help to create vibrant private economy. Mission is to prepare, enable, and support knowledge-intensive, innovative entrepreneurs as they build successful businesses along agricultural and agribusiness value chains throughout Tanzania.

SUGECO is proud to be associated with UN Global Compact and promote its principles in all of our engagement including promoting its principles to all members and the community at large. The UN global Compact logo is monthly displayed in our newsletters.

### **Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive**

15th January 2021

To our stakeholders,

I am pleased to confirm that Sokoine University Graduate Entrepreneurs Cooperative (SUGECO) reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents. In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

Revocatus V. Kimario

Executive Director

## Part II. Description of Actions

SUGECO have innovative program that supports youth employment and promote social entrepreneurs, engaging in environmental protection initiatives including use of environmental friendly technologies, participating in human right activities and support trainings. Contribution to global Development goals through our program is key areas of our work. Since 2016 SUGECO works with youth on Youth Agribusiness hands on skills training project supported by United Nation food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). The project impact skills and promote youth decent job/employment reaching to over 1500 youth, during training we incorporate the UN Global Compact principles to all participants.



Youth trained on agribusiness skills to combat hunger and enhance food security at Mkongo Agricultural Youth Camp in Rufiji Tanzania

Each year through our projects and awareness raising events, SUGECO aims to honor the ten principles of UN Global compact in all its four core areas of human rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. In this regards SUGECO Supports and respects the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and make sure that it is not complicit in human rights abuses in its projects.

Again SUGECO engages in equitable community participation and Upholds the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, SUGECO does not work with forced and compulsory labour and supports ethical supply chains SUGECO engages with children and young people as equal design partners and does not use child labour nor support discrimination in respect of employment and occupation in areas of Environment.

SUGECO supports a precautionary approach to environmental challenges undertakes initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility and actively encourages the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies such as use of solar as a source of power.

In the areas of Anti – Corruption SUGECO does not support corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribe

Moreover SUGECO connects its activity with the UN Global Sustainable Goals, specifically on SDG 1, No poverty, SDG 2. Zero Hunger, SDG 3- Good health and well-being (All this are done through our youth and small scale farmer's support in agribusiness). The SDG 8, 11 and 12 are part of our daily work with members and communities through our program to facilitate human development and engagement.

### **Part III. Measurement of Outcomes**

#### **1. Growing and Improvement of our SUGECO Network**

Our relationships, strategic partnership and networking have fully-fledged in the year 2020. SUGECO achieved to establish new firm and building coalition with local and international, government and non-government development partners who are in Agricultural Value Chain, Policy Making, Advocacy, Financial Institutions, Gender Transformation and Youth Exchange Programs at the center for Capacity Building, Skills Development for its members and communities of Tanzania.

#### **2. Enrolling a big number of graduates in the SUGECO Internship Program**

We have prospered to sign up over **500 internship applications** for the SUGECO-USA Internship Program which is a paid yearlong internship program. This aims to capacitate youth with practical experiences in their specific area of focus (horticulture, poultry, piggery etc.). Each intern is exposed to new technologies, work attitudes, market systems, business management and networking from a hands-on, practical perspective.

#### **3. Growing a number of new enterprises through SUGECO Incubation Services.**

Innovative ideas and agribusiness startup have ventured into new business through SUGECO Incubation Services. We are proud of our very own incubate who won a prize in the year 2020

(<https://www.sugeco.or.tz/blog/2020/9/8/sugeco-incubate-wins-gains-food-technology-innovation-prize>)

SUGECO Incubation service provides time and space for selected entrepreneurs to develop and test their business ideas. The incubation program is designed to promote innovative product development and cultivate business development skills. Incubates are exposed to agribusiness value chain and involved in Business Plan writing as a road map of their business.

#### **4. Authorization to manage the Mkongo Agricultural Youth Camp located in Rufiji Tanzania.**

The Government through Ministry of Agriculture gave SUGECO user rights to manage and operate the Mkongo Agricultural Youth Camp Located in Rufiji Tanzania. This is after a long-term

partnership with UN-FAO where by SUGECO trained over **1,500 out of school, out of job youth** and young mothers from 2016 to 2020.

## **5. Participation in National Agribusiness Forums.**

SUGECO participated in the National Agribusiness Forum which was officially launched in Njombe Region by the Ministry of Agriculture. This is the continuance of Agriculture Sector Development Program (ASDP-II) 2022-2023 focusing transforming the agricultural sector (crops, livestock, & fisheries) towards higher productivity and enhancing youth participation in Agribusiness for skills development and employability in Tanzania. SUGECO got an opportunity to present its services and happened to meet its members who are found in the specific Tanzanian region. As an organization the SUGECO members were used as champions and case study to other youth.

## **6. Facilitation of Agribusiness Skills Training**

SUGECO offers a wide range of short course (5-14 days) which adds value in Agriculture Value Chain. The objective of the training is to promote decent rural employment for economic growth by equipping trainees with hands on skills on agriculturally based technologies, Mindset change, adapting the best farming practices (GAP), and thus enhances youth involvement in farming as business. In the year 2020, SUGECO have reached out to **945 youths** across the country.