



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 2023 to: 31st December 2023

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 2000 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

20th January 2024

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 environmentally 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 different partners like United Nation food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), Swiss Contact, United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Cuso International. The project impact skills and promote youth decent job/employment reaching to over 2000 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 SUGECO Incubation Hub

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, Labor, 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 2023. 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 recruit over **405 interns** for the SUGECO 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. The program has expanded to Scandinavian countries where graduates and ongoing students are enrolled for the internship program.

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.

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. Establishment of the Kizimba Business Model

Kizimba model is a real estate approach in agriculture sector where a block of land is developed with all necessary infrastructures and facilities, divided into small units called Kizimba and then leased to individual farmers. The model /concept has its origins in the Local Government Authorities (LGA) whereby business structures are built with necessary infrastructure and divided into units. The units are leased to individuals for various business operations as **Kizimba**. Following its successful in businesses sector, it is likely that the Kizimba model will also work in agriculture sector of Tanzania using the same mechanisms. KBM is designed to address the

market challenges in agricultural sector by creating market assurance in contractual form. The Kizimba Model identifies off taker to guarantees the market for the produced product within the blocks. This will solve the challenge of consistence in supply, ensures volume and negotiable price.



A youth beneficiaries of the Kizimba Business Model (KBM)

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 2023, SUGECO have reached out to **951 youths** across the country.

7. Yellow Maize Project

The Yellow Maize Project is a significant agricultural initiative undertaken by SUGECO in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Prime Minister's Office Ministry of Youth Labor Employment and People with Disabilities (PMO-YLED). The project, launched through the Kizimba Business Model (KBM), aims to produce and export 1.5 million metric tons of yellow maize annually to Egypt for five years (2022-2027). The project involved a detailed baseline study in eight major maize-producing regions in Tanzania to identify suitable areas and farmers experienced in yellow maize production. Additionally, extensive mapping and profiling of farmers were conducted, resulting in the development of five clusters across various regions, encompassing 5000 acres and engaging 791 farmers.

Key to the project's success are the bundle services offered by SUGECO, including market assurance through contractual arrangements, financial linkages, crop insurance, free extension

services, and supply of inputs like fertilizers and hybrid maize seeds. The project also introduced a Farmer Profit Margin Model (FPMM) to ensure profitability and sustainability. In 2023, significant achievements were made, including the importation and distribution of 30 metric tons of “Yellow Maize Tri-Hybrid 368” seeds, reaching over 5000 small-scale maize farmers. This effort was bolstered by various marketing and sales strategies, resulting in the sale of over 17 metric tons of seeds.

8. Development of Youth Incubation Center in Tanga City and Installation of solar dryers in Kigoma Region

SUGECO’s dedication to promoting sustainable farming practices led to the installation of drip irrigation systems across various farm sizes, enhancing water efficiency and crop productivity for local farmers.

Solar Drier Installations:

- 8m by 30m Solar Driers: One unit under construction in Kigoma region.
- 4m by 10m Solar Driers: Installed 6 units.
- Our commitment to post-harvest preservation and value addition was evident in the installation of solar driers, enabling local farmers to efficiently dry and store their produce, ultimately reducing post-harvest losses.

Greenhouse Expansion:

- 8m by 30m Greenhouses: Installed 6 units in Tanga City.
- SUGECO continued to support agribusiness development by expanding greenhouse facilities, providing controlled environments for year-round cultivation and crop diversification.

Professional Engagement:

- Professional Sessions for Farm Visits, Design, and Installations in 2023: 10 sessions
- Our engineering experts actively engaged with farmers, entrepreneurs, and partners in 10 professional sessions, including farm visits, system designs, and installation work. These interactions fostered knowledge transfer and facilitated the adoption of modern agricultural techniques.

SUGECO remains committed to driving innovation in agriculture, transforming local farming practices, and contributing to the economic growth of Tanzania. We look forward to another year of impactful projects and collaborations in the pursuit of agricultural excellence.