

THE FOOD CHAIN IN BABATI

- Babati is a bread basket of the Northern zone of Tanzania. Its 5 agro eco zones makes it potential for different agric crop production -Provides good market for staple food crops to surrounding large food markets of Nairobi in Kenya, Arusha and Moshi all with more than 10 Million people.
- Prices of food vary depending on climatic conditions for agric which depends on rain.

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- Drought – high prices . Bumper harvest –low prices.
- Variation in agric production between years also affects incomes for small scale farmers.
- Reasons for varying prices: - Food processing is rare, Poor storage facilities, Most farm products are sold within production season.
- Many urban families have access to their basic food needs through cultivation /networking.
Most buy food

Processing of Food:-

❖ Sunflower oil seeds:-

- Most common processing industry is Sunflower seeds pressing for cooking oil production –The industries are of small scale from family business to 50 workers.
- Oil is sold locally because the hygienic condition is low for official markets.
- The sun flower cake is sold to Nairobi and northern regions where it is used to prepare animal feeds and brake linings.



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❖ Raw & White sugar production:-

- Raw sugar (Guru) is processed by outdated middle scale factories in irrigated sugar cane production.- This is used for molasses and wild Konyagi distillation
 - White sugar is produced by a modern technology from India. The factory has no enough sugar cane. The sugar is sold within the country / exported.
- ### ❖ Paddy / Rice production:- This irrigated crop has created an economic boom in the district (Magugu area). Supported by IFAD

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It is processed by factories which peel, sort, pack and some factories brand and market the rice.

- The rice is sold throughout the country and exported to neighboring countries.

❖ Pigeon peas:-

- Common cash crop in Bbt. Intercropped with maize, beans, sunflower and sesame. P/peas remains in the farm and on sell it fetches high prices- sold in Asia.

CONTD:-

- It is referred as the “Gold of Babati”.
Traditionally not eaten by Bbt people. It is uprooted and replanted ever year. It breaks hardpans, fixes Nitrogen, fuelwood, fence and fodder.
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PIGEON PEAS - AFTER MAIZE HARVEST



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- ❖ Bananas:- Grown by farmers as subsistence and cash crops. New varieties have been introduced by LAMP through NZARDI – Seliani and spread for food and brewing in Arusha. Source of income to women who sells ripe bananas and make cash income.

- Fetches good prices per bunch \$ 3-15 depending on variety and size.

- Intercropped or planted as pure stands.



BANANA PLOT INTERCROPPED WITH VEGETABLES



CONTD:-

- ❖ Coffee:- Grows on small scale farms on higher elevations. Integrated in A/F and mostly Arabica. Prices depend on world market - vary a lot. Competes with markets in Middle and S.America. In Tz price is decided by Tanzania Coffee Board.
- ❖ Irish potatoes:- Fetches good prices. Cultivated on highlands above 2000 m.a.s.l. Sold in and outside Babati but eaten by different people in restaurants as chips and mixed with bananas.

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- ❖ Sorghum:- Different varieties which can be used as food or as brew. Fast growing and drought resistant. Grown in Marginal areas and serves against hunger during severe droughts. Brewing sorghum has good prices.
- ❖ Tilapia and Cat fish:- Commonly eaten fish in Babati and from L. Babati. Small dried fish -*Rastrineobola argentea* (Dagaa) from L.Victoria is traditionally eaten by people of Bbt.
- ❖ Increased Intensification of cultivation:- Due to lack of other income opportunities and capital, young men rent small farms in irrigable areas and produce vegetables like tomatoes, onions, cucumber, garlic, water melon, etc for the larger market. Production per acre is very high. Farm size 0.5 – 2 acres. Intensively cared and high labour input.

SESAME CONTRACT FARMING IN BABATI



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- ❖ Contract Farming:- Companies (external & internal) enter into contract with farmers to grow specific crops like sesame, lablab, cotton, jatropha etc . These crops are cultivated in semi arid areas with low soil fertility and provide farmers with cash income. Companies provide the farmer with “a package” containing seeds, mineral fertilizers, pesticides provided the company can buy the crop at a predetermined price.
- ❖ Poultry:- More or less all farmers keep poultry. Local chickens and their eggs fetches good price at the market. Meat from modern chicken are not preferred as well as their eggs. Production of broilers is tried but with a number of challenges

- ❖ Meat:- Babati is surrounded by ambulating markets where cattle are sold. Meat from cows, goats and sheep are sold in those markets. Most demanded meat is goat meat because of its taste and tenderness. Used in ceremonies as a “ceremony cake” There is an abattoir in Bbt which slaughters 15 cows daily, many small butchers without cooling facilities. Meat is sold within 15 hrs.
- ❖ Small points for food selling:- In small shops, official markets, along road side food products are sold. There are many food selling restaurants, big market for food selling as Bbt is a major transport hub with many travelers. The most informal food vendors are the “mama lische” who cook food along streets and charge cheap prices .No major food suppliers or food chains in Babati as in Arusha city.

END OF PRESENTATION

Thank you