Zanzibar Seaweed Cluster
- triple helix dynamics and gender impact in reality

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Background

Regional Collaboration East Africa (EA)

Sida / SAREC support

Innovation Systems and Clusters Programme (ISCP)

ISCP-Tz and National Policies

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The Story of Seaweed

Research at IMS, UDSM

Seaweed research since the 1990’s

Researchers’ ideas on innovation and seaweed farming development

How the ideas have formed a major cluster activity

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The Story of Seaweed Farmers at Zanzibar

The villages, locations, where to farm

The women, who they are, what they do, family collaboration

The market situation  
die-off problem  
selling process  
prices

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The Cluster Initiative

Innovations
• Innovation of the farming method
• New seaweed varieties to combat an existing problem
• Value addition & value added products

Facilitation process
• Visits and discussions with ministries, buying companies, village leaders, farmers
• Collaboration between facilitator and cluster members (acceptance, trust, transparency)
• Formation of leadership group, task forces, task groups
• One cluster group helping the other

Gender dimensions
• More women in seaweed farming (&thus the cluster) than men e.g. 90% women
• Gender collaboration: Men - deep water works
  Women - shallow water & shore works
• More men returning to farming due to innovation

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**Triple helix process**

**The role of University**
- Cluster mobilizing actor
- Facilitator
- Knowledge and innovation co-producer
- Technology co-developer
- Legitimate negotiator for funding

**The role of Government**
- Ministries of Agriculture, Fisheries, Trade in leadership group and task forces,
- Helping cluster groups financially with funds from donor funded projects,
- Village leadership participating in cluster activities

**The role of Business sector**
- Farmers (core)
- Buyers (participating in cluster activities, teaching how to make some value-added products, purchasing seaweed)
- Middlemen (sales)

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Results and Lessons learned

Community development
• New business activities for communities (soap production, pearl farming, tourism)
• Centre of training and learning
• Infrastructure (storage & drying buildings)

Women and children
• Improved conditions
• Career development
• Day care for small children

Business development
• New/more/quality improved products
• New/more markets
• Increased production

Main challenge
Collaboration and Competition

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