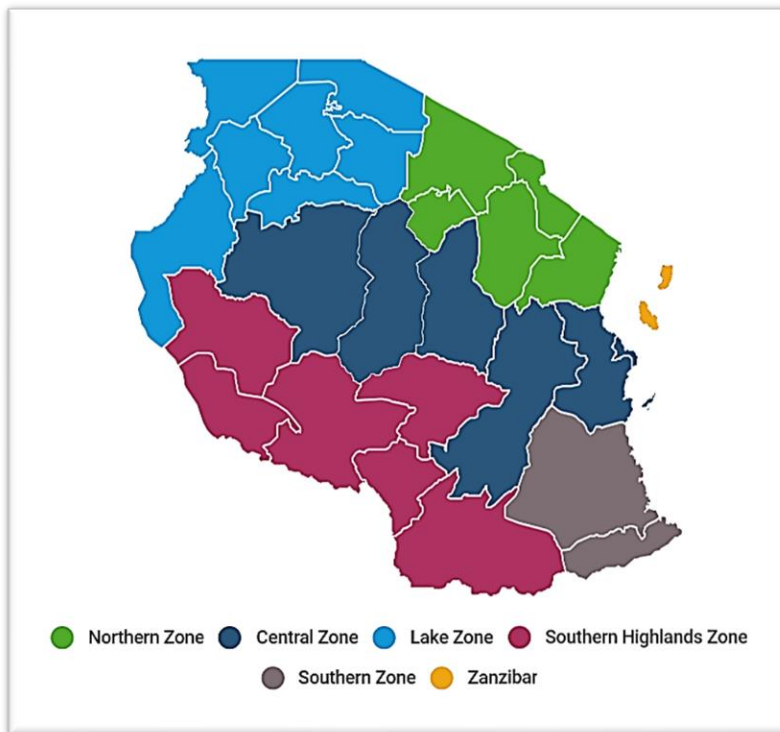


REGIONAL MINI FORUMS

Identifying & Consolidating Rural Smallholder Producers' Priorities

Since October 2019, InterAction has been implementing a grant with local partners in East Africa to build the capacity of producers' organizations, with a focus on rural smallholder producers, to engage more strategically and effectively in national agricultural development policy debates. Grant implementation in Tanzania has centered on the Forum for Rural Producers in Tanzania, or "Jukwaa la Wazalishaji Vijijini Tanzania" ([JUWAVITA](#)), a bottom-up, multi-value-chain policy advocacy coalition of 34 producers' organizations that represent farmers, horticulturalists, beekeepers, fisherfolk, pastoralists, and hunter-gatherers from regions throughout the country. The JUWAVITA platform provides these producers' organizations a stronger, collective voice to advocate for pro-poor development, and to influence policy formulation and decision-making at both local and national levels, to improve the livelihoods of rural smallholder producers.



Map of the zones in which the mini forums convened.

which will feed directly into the coalition's district- and national-level advocacy in the second year of grant implementation. In this way, the regional mini forums are designed for unifying and amplifying the collective voice of rural smallholder producers not just within each of the six geographic zones, but across all of Tanzania as well.

The key challenges that emerged from discussions at the mini forums are listed below by zone in the table below.

To gather the full range of voices and needs of Tanzanian smallholder producers, JUWAVITA organized six regional mini forums across six geographic zones in the country (see map for a breakdown of the six zones). These mini forums are a key mechanism by which JUWAVITA hears from and engages with the full range of smallholder producers throughout Tanzania.

As a result of these regional gatherings, the JUWAVITA coalition was able to identify a list of themes and producers' key needs by zone,

Key Challenges for Smallholder Producers by Zone

<p>Northern Zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of knowledge of climate change mitigation - Price fluctuation of agri-inputs, especially fertilizers - Non-inclusive policy formation that is not pro-pastoralist livelihoods - Lack of implementation of Rangeland Act - Inadequate resources allocated to research for development of livestock sector, especially disease and pest control 	<p>Southern Highlands Zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of quality seeds that are timely, accessible, and affordable - Limited skills and knowledge to explore opportunities along value chains - Recurrent conflicts for natural resources (farmers vs. pastoralists; communities vs. national reserves) - Poor infrastructure to support advancement of smallholder producers (e.g. irrigation schemes, water for livestock) - Poor enforcement of existing bylaws, guidelines - Poor marketing environment for smallholder producers 	<p>Lake Zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inadequate raw materials for the fishing sector - Presence of multiple taxes on fisheries - Bureaucracy in fisheries licensing, delayed payment on strategic products (e.g. cotton) - Lack of a seasonally fixed price on strategic agriculture crops
<p>Central Zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of access to quality and affordable seeds - Inadequate youth involvement in agriculture - Persistent land conflicts - Cooperatives inefficiencies - Lack of credit and capital for smallholder producers - Inefficiency of current policies - Market inefficiencies 	<p>Southern Zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unavailability of raw cashews - Management of warehouse receipt system - Untimely provisions of inputs and reimbursement of farmers' claims - Insufficient specialized extension staff in horticulture and fishing - Poor management of agricultural and marketing cooperatives societies 	<p>Zanzibar Zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poor market information systems and credit - Accessibility of land and cumbersome land ownership process - Unavailability of agricultural inputs and animal feed and medicine - Inadequate provision of education on new technologies