

Recent Publications

Research Reports

- The Effect of Boards on the Performance of Microfinance Institutions: Evidence from Tanzania and Kenya
- Supporting Tanzania's Cocoa Farmers
- Factors Affecting Participation in a Civil Society Network (Nangonet) in Ngara District

Special Papers

- Why Poverty Remains High in Tanzania: And What to Do About It?
- The Instrumental versus the Symbolic: Investigating Members' Participation in Civil Society Networks in Tanzania
- The Governance of the Capitation Grant in Primary Education in Tanzania: Why Civic Engagement and School Autonomy Matter

Policy Briefs

- Examining the Institutional Framework for Investment in Tanzania: A perspective from the Executive Opinion Survey, 2012-13
- Achieving High Economic Growth with Rapid Poverty Reduction: The Case of Vietnam By
- Socio-Economic Transformation for Poverty Reduction: Eight Key Messages for Unlocking Tanzania's Potential
- Tracer Study for Research Users: The case of TGN Media Training
- Understanding Rural Transformation in Tanzania
- Affordability and Expenditure Patterns for Electricity and Kerosene in Urban Households in Tanzania
- Biofuel Investment in Tanzania: Awareness and Participation of the Local Communities
- Supporting Tanzania's Cocoa Farmers
- The Instrumental versus the Symbolic: Investigating Members' Participation in Civil Society Networks in Tanzania

The diverging south: comparing the cashew sectors of Tanzania and Vietnam



REPOA held an open seminar on “**The diverging south: comparing the cashew sectors of Tanzania and Vietnam**”. The seminar title is also that of a book written by Dr. Blandina Kilama which explores the dynamic process of how cashew farmers of the two countries are integrated in the existing production set up.

The erratic trends of cashew production in Tanzania are due to numerous reversals of policies, with farmers being treated as a residual (without flexibility) and processing as a way of utilising excess produce. On the other hand, the steady rise of cashew production in Vietnam is due to adoption of strategic policies allowing for flexibility of farmers and processing being central to the cashew sector. The presentation showed that amenable formal coordination is important to overcome inefficiencies and allocate resources efficiently’

The presentation focuses on examining the factors contributing to diverging paths of two countries with similar economic and political background. It is specifically shown that, in their respective histories, what is common to both Tanzania and Vietnam is the high percentage of their population that lives in rural areas, their planned economies and later their adoption of a free market. The transition from socialism to free market saw increase in production of different produce in terms of crops and other goods in Vietnam, while erratic trends have been observed in Tanzania. The case of cashew, points to discrepancies between the two countries, in output, yield, productivity, tree density, the age of trees, proneness to diseases, availability of tools and inputs and how the actors in the sector interact.



REPOA Researcher,
Dr. Blandina Kilama presenting.

The seminar was presented by the author of the study Dr. Blandina Kilama, a Researcher at REPOA and facilitated by Prof. Andrew Temu from Sokoine University of Agriculture.