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## Conservation Agriculture Success A Story of Transformation



By Paul Kaufman  
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Two years ago, the northwest region of Geita, Tanzania had an unusually short rainy season. The harvests were small and even nonexistent — *except in the village of Igate, where one farmer agreed to use his land as a conservation agriculture demo plot.* In years past, his plot of land usually produced between 2-7 bags of maize, depending on rain and insect infestation. When we visited his plot just after harvest, we were amazed to hear that he had harvested 18 bags of maize! The lablab and mucuna bean crops were even growing *over the maize crop for a second harvest, as shown below.* Conservation agriculture techniques, including spacing, basin instead of full tillage, manuring, and intercropping — all taught by the World Renew



staff in Geita — had allowed this farmer to dramatically increase his harvest and inspire his neighbors. Due to the success of the demo plot, many of this farmer's neighbors are now planting using conservation agriculture techniques as well.



## Pray for Tanzania

- Pray for a smooth transition as the World Renew Tanzania country office completes a move to Mwanza at end of June.
- Pray for the nine Dar es Salaam-based employees who are leaving World Renew because of this move.
- One of the employees leaving World Renew is Lilian Nagunwa, our finance manager. We are thankful that Rosemary Bombo, our project coordinator for conservation agriculture —and like Lilian, an experienced accountant — will step in to take this position. Pray for Rosemary as she takes on this key position.
- Pray for ACHAMA, our partner organization in Dar es Salaam, as World Renew funding ends in June with the closure of the Dar office. Give thanks that they are finding other funding opportunities.

# Micro-Finance is Changing Lives in Tanzania

## A Story of Transformation

*written by John Issaya, edited by Paul Kaufman*



My name is Lucia Masamaga. I am 66 years old, married since 1964 and blessed with 7 children. I only attended school through grade one but with adult education classes have learned to read and write. I now enjoy reading, especially reading at home. I have been a resident of the Kisangwa community since 1974.

Before the self-help group program was introduced to our village, my income came from farming and selling firewood. I did not have enough money to engage in additional income generating activities. I found it difficult to make some improvements to my house because most of my money went to feed my family.

When the African Inland Church of Tanzania and World Renew came and trained us for savings and lending groups in 2015, I immediately joined the UPENDO group as one of its founding members. We normally have a group meeting every Thursday and the cost of each

share per individual in the group is 1000 Tanzanian Shillings (Tshs.) or about \$.45US. Today, my own total share in that group is now worth more than Tshs. 200,000 (\$91)!

Before joining this group, I had no opportunity to get any financial aid from anyone. But now that I am a member of UPENDO, I am benefiting much since I can easily take loans and exchange development ideas with my fellow group members. The first loan I took was for Tshs. 70,000 (\$32) in May of 2016. I used the money to cultivate a one-acre farm of cassava. After harvesting, I managed to repay the entire loan and had extra money afterwards. I am now repaying a second loan that I took to pay for medication for my brother. This was an emergency where I needed the money quickly and was able to get it from UPENDO.

My opinion regarding this group is that the group should continue to move forward. UPENDO has worked well as a community. We are able to easily resolve conflicts and we help each other have access to money when we need it. My hope is to finish building my house. With UPENDO, I can now do this.

