

Dorcas

*Empowering
smallholder farmers*



Reviews of PIP programmes
in Tanzania and
Mozambique

Dorcas PIP programme

In sub-Saharan Africa, climate change is a major cause of land degradation. It threatens food security and the livelihoods of millions of smallholder farmers and their families. Resilient farming systems are needed that involve smallholder farmers, “care for the earth” and are not too market-driven or focused on a single commodity. A strategy is required that empowers smallholder farmers with their families to be responsible stewards of resilient farms. That requires a significant change in mindset among both farmers and policymakers. This is the starting point of the PIP (Participatory Integrated Planning) approach, which integrates planning with a vision that intrinsically motivates smallholder families to change their reality – their farm, their village, and their landscape.

In 2023, Dorcas commissioned a mid-term review of its PIP programme in Mozambique as well as an end-term review of the project in the Terrat area of Tanzania. In these reviews, particular attention was paid to the position of households in vulnerable situations, namely older (over 60 years), younger (under 30 years) and female-headed. The aim of the PIP review in Mozambique was to provide insights into achievements so far (2019 to mid-2023) and recommendations to facilitate the completion of the programme. In Tanzania, the report provided input for the newly started PIP project in the Chemba region of the country.

What is the PIP approach?

PIP first builds a solid foundation of motivated people and healthy land through a dynamic process of vision building, planning, learning and action. Based on this foundation, value chains and the fostering of resilient farming systems (see figure 1) can develop more easily. Three PIP principles underlie and cross-cut the approach: empowerment, integration and collaboration.



Figure 1: The PIP model
(Source: Wageningen Environmental Research)



Tanzania Context

Agriculture is in decline in this urbanising project area. Food production is decreasing, soils are degrading and there is overgrazing. Charcoal selling is growing in economic importance and trees are disappearing because of the charcoal business. Little attention is paid to alternatives to replace charcoal. As people are scarcely aware of the impact of their activities on the environment, there is little motivation to practise sustainable land and water management.



Objectives

- ▲ Increase people’s awareness of the importance of sustainable land and water management.
- ▲ Improve sustainable management of farms and increase food production and income.
- ▲ Improve care for the environment by raising awareness and improving knowledge and skills.

Applying these principles to smallholder farmers means building their motivation and capacity to invest in their land, to learn from others, and to undertake collective action to scale up resilient farming landscape-wide.

The ten PIP success factors are:

1. Responds to a need.
2. Focuses on empowerment.
3. Generates a family vision.
4. Stimulates integration of value chains and entrepreneurial activities.
5. Uses no incentives because farmers can do it themselves.
6. Generates short-term results.
7. Triggers collaboration.
8. Stimulates fast upscaling.
9. Engages many stakeholders.
10. Works with engaged staff.

Mozambique Context

The project area suffers from food insecurity and poor access to water as a basic service. The agricultural yields and financial returns from smallholder farms are low.



Objectives

- ▲ Improve access to water for domestic use, enhance food security and improve agricultural yield and income of smallholder farmers.
- ▲ Increase people’s awareness of the importance of sustainable land and water management and their role in this as a family and community.

Impact of programmes

Key achievements measured in the PIP reviews are:

- ▶ Overall, an increased motivation, stewardship and resilience of households in vulnerable situations.
- ▶ Enhanced food security and climate resilience.
- ▶ Notable advancements in economic resilience.
- ▶ Increased investment in farm activities.
- ▶ Successful implementation of climate-resilient agriculture practices.
- ▶ Strengthened land tenure rights for households in vulnerable situations.
- ▶ Promising indications of community vision and plan development.
- ▶ Widespread adoption of PIP farming practices.
- ▶ Increased environmental awareness and impact.

Changes in the key indicators of motivation, stewardship and resilience of households in vulnerable situations are shown in figures 2 and 3.

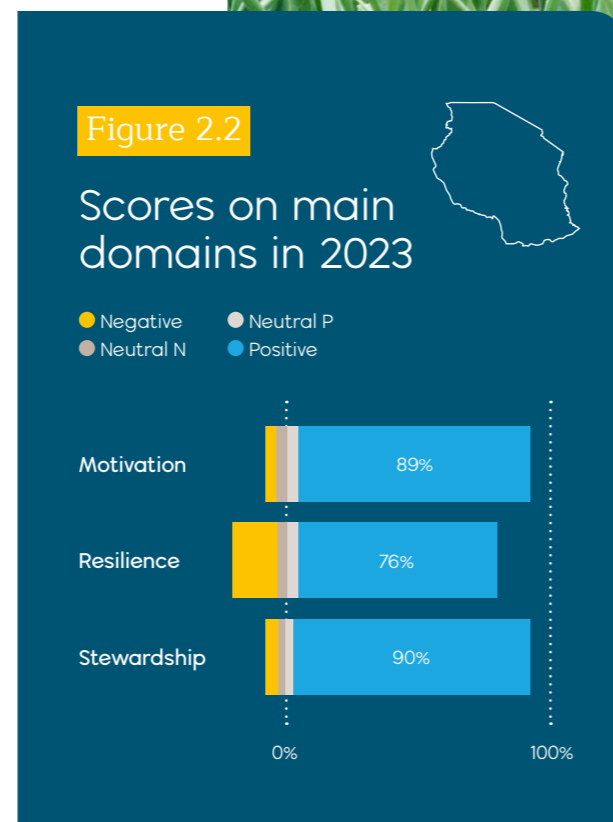
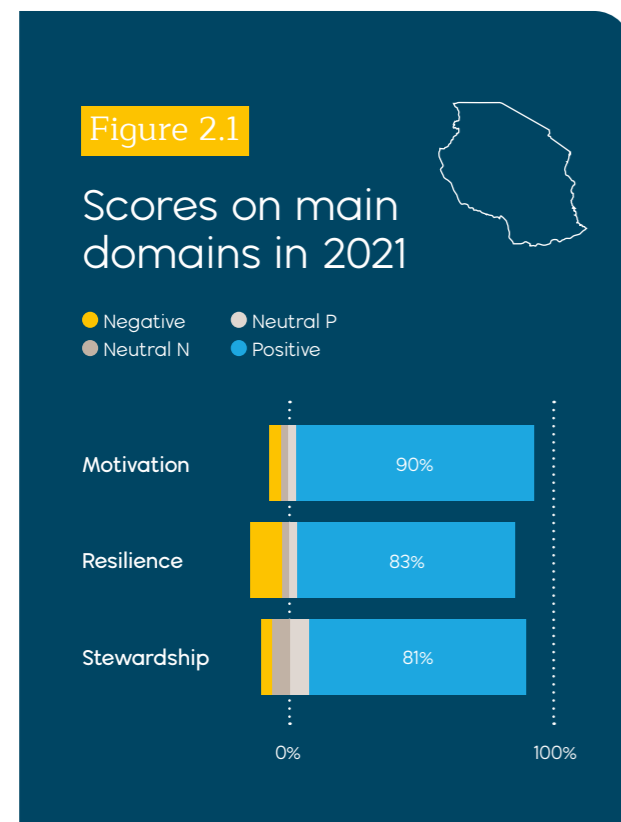


Figure 2 Changes in motivation, stewardship and resilience in Tanzania. Stewardship increased, whereas motivation and resilience decreased.

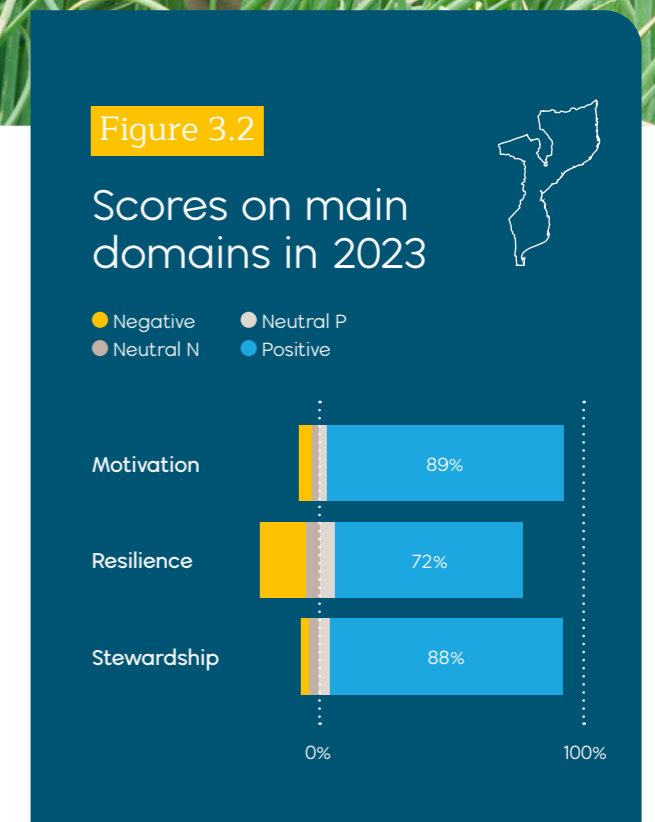
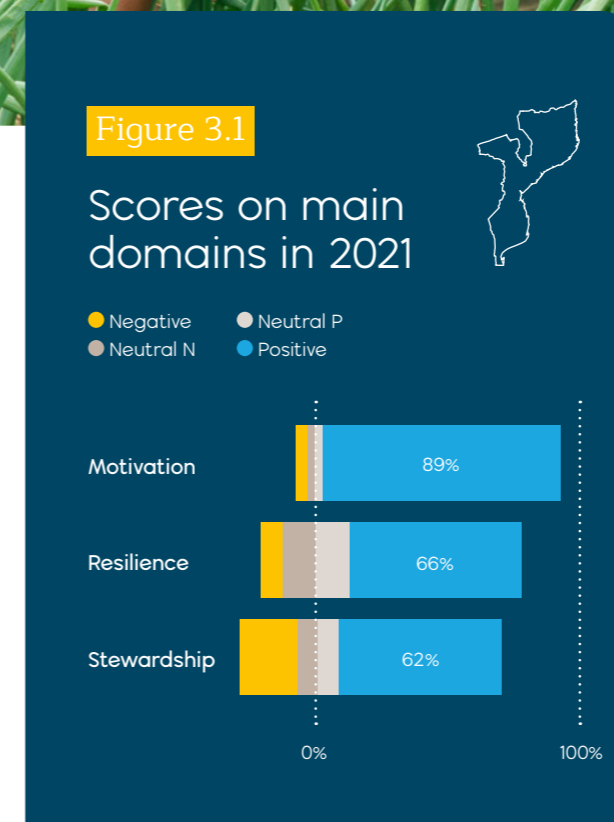


Figure 3 Changes in motivation, stewardship and resilience in Mozambique. Stewardship and resilience increased, and motivation remained the same.



Figure 4

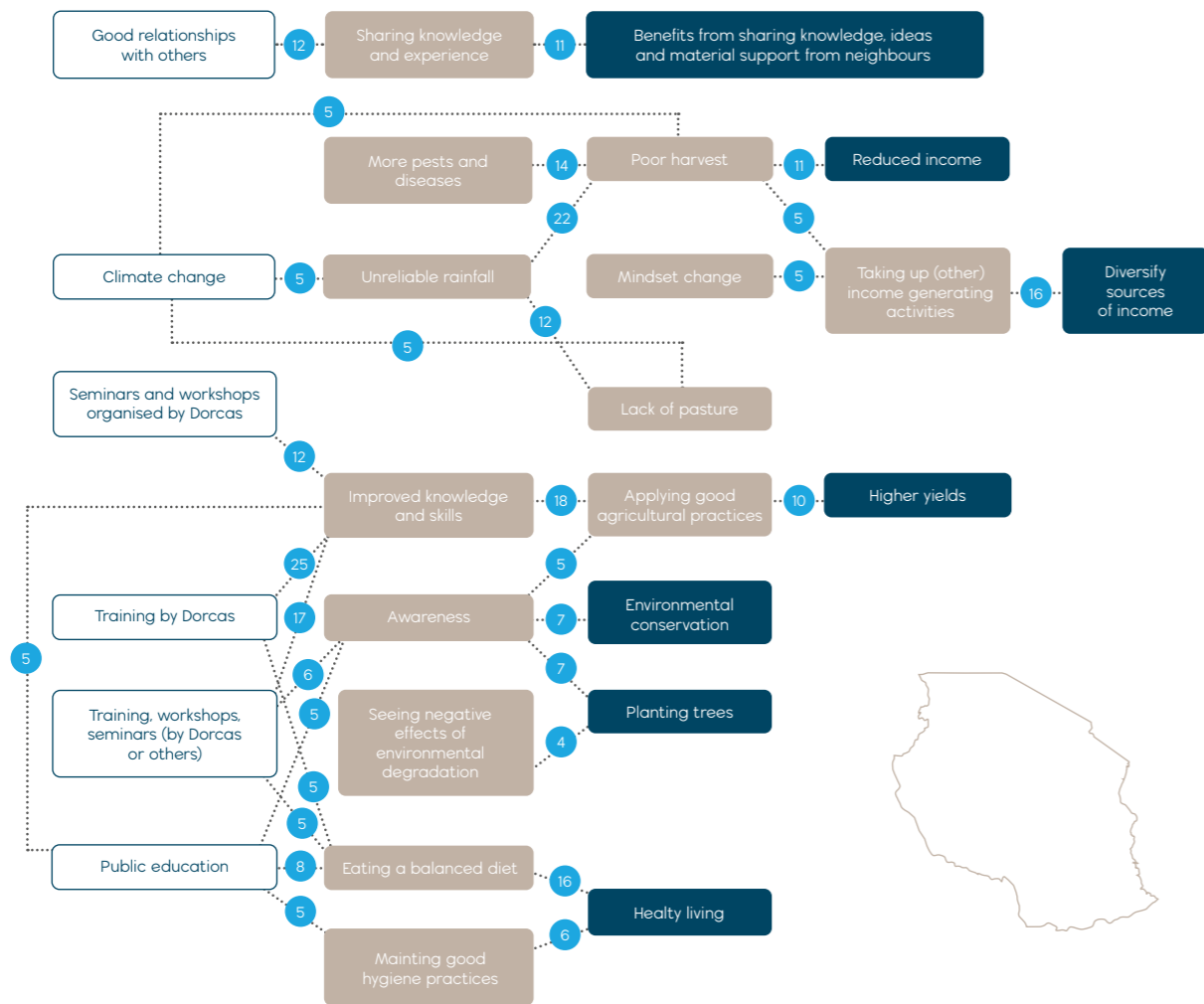


Figure 4 Dorcas contribution to impact of PIP project in Tanzania.



The specific effect of the Dorcas contribution to available means in the PIP project in Tanzania is shown in figure 4. Similar causal chain maps were made for well-being, knowledge and skills, and relationships in the Mozambique review, which are presented in figure 5.

Figure 5

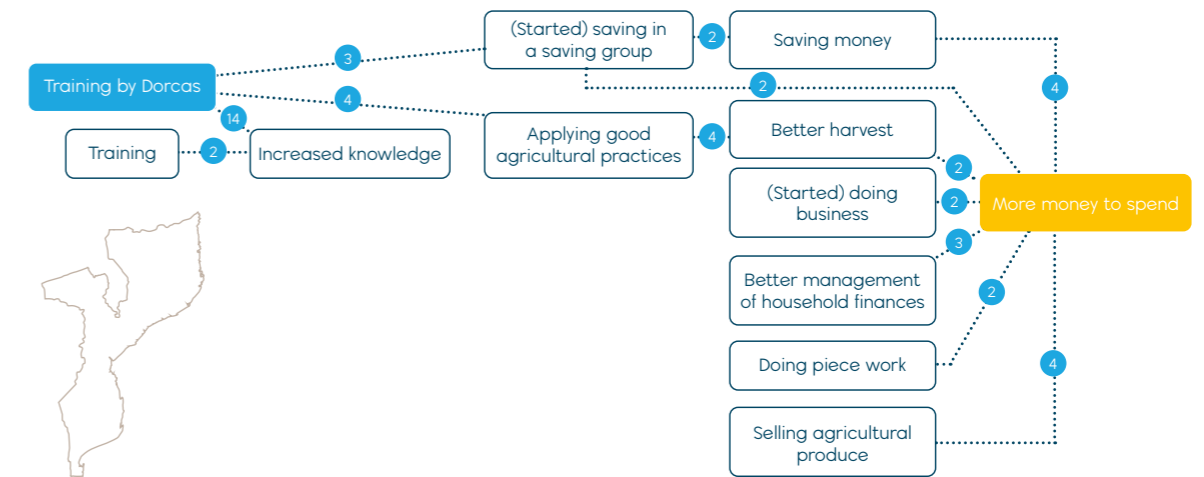


Figure 5 Causal chain map of Dorcas contribution to farmers' available means in Mozambique. This is based on 24 interviews with smallholder farmers that apply the PIP approach. The numbers refer to how many times a causal effect was mentioned.

Key recommendations

- ▶ Focus on the continued application of sustainable practices but consider the impact of climate change on farmers' motivation.
- ▶ Continue supporting public and private actors, ensuring collaboration and knowledge-sharing for long-term impact.
- ▶ Explore ways to scale up the engagement of key actors in the value chain to achieve more substantial contributions.
- ▶ Take additional steps to build community-level plans.
- ▶ Seek to improve farmers' problem-solving abilities.
- ▶ Diversify income sources beyond agriculture as the rate of increase in farm income has declined.

Looking ahead

Communities in the PIP programmes face complex challenges in achieving food security while adapting to climate change. More information is needed on coping mechanisms, resilience and community support in the face of adversity. Gathering comprehensive data remains crucial for accurately evaluating outcomes and designing effective interventions. For example, reasons for differences between older individuals (60+), female-headed households, and younger households regarding improvements in motivation, stewardship and resilience should be explored.

We fight poverty, exclusion and crisis. We empower marginalised people and communities to flourish. This is how we follow Jesus Christ.