

Women's Group Succeeds as Micro Processors in Same¹

By Penuel Kisse and Masasa Makwasa

The Mwenge Women's Group

We have seven women working in our group which is involved in micro processing in Same.



Penuel Kisse showing the banana and potato chips

We are processors of banana chips, potato chips, cassava biscuits and banana and beetroot wine. Our ingredients come for the local area and we supply the town of Same and up as far as Himo. Our beetroot wine takes one and a half months to produce; banana wine takes three months; we produce 240 bottles per cycle. In the last three years we have exhibited at the Nane Nane, and our products were very popular. We received the first prize in the world food day in Same in 2005 and again in 2006. We are supported by the AMSDP core group which includes the Chamber of Commerce TCCIA, FaidaMali and VECO.



Mr John Ngomoi (TCCIA) with Mwenge group members showing their awards

Challenges and Future Plans

One challenge is that we do not have good packing materials. We re-use glass bottles for our wine which we seal with metal Fanta tops. We really need our own labels and bottle tops. We belong to a SACCOS and plan to get a loan to buy labels and materials for bottling and sealing.



Banana wine production

We make batches of chips and cassava biscuits to order. These are packed in plastic bags that we get from Dar es Salaam and sealed with a candle and hot knife. We don't have enough capital for machinery for packaging. This year we plan to start producing a nutritious beetroot juice. With help from AMSDP Same 'core group' we hope to move to a new industrial estate which is being built in Same. There we will have a plot with other food and drink processors.



Members of the Mwenge Group share a joke outside their processing room

The Secret of Success

The secret of our success is that we are innovative; we get ideas for new products at the trade fairs that we attend and put those ideas into practice.

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¹ Interviewed by Anne Dennig in August 2007