IRINGA, Tanzania, July 1, 2015 — One Acre Fund, a nonprofit agriculture organization that offers farming inputs and training on credit to smallholder farmers, today announced open enrollment for the 2016 planting season in Tanzania. Participating farmers will receive a complete bundle of agricultural inputs and services on credit, including the delivery of hybrid seeds and fertilizer, training on how to maximize crop yields, and education on how to minimize post-harvest losses. Loan package value ranges from 133,500 to 245,000 Tanzanian Shillings ($66 to $122 USD) for new members; returning members have access to loans up to 914,000 Tanzanian Shillings ($458 USD) in value. One Acre Fund’s Tanzania services are available to farmers in selected areas within the Iringa and Mbeya regions.

“This is an exciting year for farmers in Tanzania. One Acre Fund plans to serve more than 10,000 farm families here in Southern Highlands,” said David Hylden, One Acre Fund’s Tanzania Country Director. “Smallholder farmers are some of the hardest-working people in the world, and we need to make sure they have access to affordable products and services so they can increase their farm income.”

Farmers in Tanzania who purchase One Acre Fund’s basic loan package will receive high-quality hybrid maize seed and fertilizer delivered to a central point in their villages, insurance for drought and funerals, and weekly, in-person trainings. Farmers who purchase the basic loan package also have the option to receive additional products on credit, including solar lights and harvest storage bags. Every farmer will have access to a full-time field officer employed by One Acre Fund, and may call One Acre Fund’s customer care hotline with any questions about agriculture or loan repayment.

“My harvests have been encouraging since I began farming with One Acre Fund,” said Rozaria Ngepa, a smallholder farmer in Mlanda, Iringa, who enrolled with the program when it first began as a trial in 2012. “The trainings have helped me increase my income, provide different food varieties for my family to eat, and pay school fees for my children.”

One Acre Fund’s loan packages vary depending on the size of land registered; farmers may enroll as little as half an acre of land. To be eligible for the loan, farmers are required to form local groups, meet regularly with a local field officer, and submit a small down payment of the total loan. One Acre Fund also offers a flexible repayment system: farmers may make payments toward loans in any amount and at any time during the growing season as long as they complete repayment by season’s end (September 2016). For more information, farmers are instructed to call One Acre Fund’s Tanzania enrollment hotline, +255 767-932-527.

About One Acre Fund

Founded in Tanzania in 2013, One Acre Fund supplies smallholder farmers with the financing and training they need to grow their way out of hunger and poverty. Through a complete bundle of services offered on credit, the organization distributes quality farm inputs to the remote areas where farmers live, trains farmers on agriculture techniques, and educates them on how to minimize post-harvest losses and maximize market prices. On average, farmers working with One Acre Fund realize a return on their investment of at least 100 percent, and significantly increase farm income on every planted acre. The organization was
founded in East Africa in 2006 and currently serves 280,000 smallholder farmers in Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania. Follow @oneacrefund on social media or visit www.oneacrefund.org for more information.

Contact:
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Representatives available Monday through Friday (8am – 5pm)