

The Guardian KILIMO KWANZA

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kilimokwanza@guardian.co.tz



ORGANIC FARMING: ECURING FOOD, CHANGING LIVES



Organic farming isn't just helping those practicing it to conserve their environment and increase income; it's also reliable and gives them access to affordable technologies...

SPECIAL

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Speed up implementation of the BAR Act

THE Country Commercial Guide for US Companies Doing Business in Tanzania (2011) that was issued by the US Department of Commerce rightly notes that Tanzania has abundant resources, particularly for agriculture, with 44 million hectares of arable land of which only about 5 per cent is currently under cultivation.

Other available resources include mining (diamonds, gemstones, gold, coal, iron and nickel, natural gas and possibly oil), energy and tourism.

In identifying market opportunities in the country, the guide highlights Tanzania as the leading foreign Direct Investment (FDI) destination in the East African Region, something that was recently celebrated in the local media, our mother paper included.

However to enter the Tanzanian market, US companies are advised that local contacts, cultural appreciation and relationship building are important. "Pervasive corruption and bureaucratic obstacles can be minimised by working with local lawyers and insisting that contracts and offers be made in writing.

In a bid to increase investment in the country, the government of Tanzania has embarked on a long term goal of upgrading government institutions so that they are in line with international best practice and standards. In this vein, the government with support of its development partners embarked on what was termed the Best Programme which instituted structural and institutional reforms, reviewed existing regulations and removed some of the obstacles to investment and doing business in Tanzania.

One of the key issues that was identified under the Best Programme was the instituting of business registration and licensing reforms to reduce the costs and timelines required to legally establish a business in the country.

Here the Business Licensing Act of 1972 was deemed as a major hindrance to starting up and growing business, leading to the subsequent development of the Business Activities Registration (BAR) Act 2007.

After intensive dialogue with the government and other stakeholders in the private sector, consensus was reached to implement Act by piloting it in 24 local government authorities (LGAs) across the country.

However, emerging reports have it that as it's become so common in these parts of waters, actual implementation of the BAR Act has hardly taken off.

As one of the main stakeholders of the Act, Vibindo Society requested and received a pre-project grant from Best-AC [Business Environment Strengthening for Tanzania Advocacy component] to make follow up on the

implementation of BAR-Act 2007 to the piloted councils, and come up with findings with regard to the efficacy of the Act.

Some of their findings, which are highlighted in this issue of Kilimo Kwanza are far from encouraging, suggesting that although the BAR Act exists on paper and all trade officers are aware of the pilot, nothing concrete has actually been done to implement the Act.

Reasons given for the non-implementation of the Act in the pilot LGAs are wide as they are varied, ranging from the non-appointment of registrars and inspectors by the minister as the available trade officers lack the mandate to act as registrars and inspectors, to the trade officers commenting that they are still waiting for a go ahead from the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Lack of budgets for the activities, non-sensitisation, lack of needs assessments and even lack of the right type of paper on which to issue the licenses are all reasons that have been cited as hindrances to the implementation of the Act. As such the efficacy of implementing the BAR act could not be determined.

So, while the country continues to strive to institute reforms that will increase much needed direct investments, instead of the drive to streamline business registration moving forward, it is at the moment resembling a dog that is busy chasing its own tail.

With this in mind, it comes as no wonder then that more needs to be done to reduce the perceived negative image of investing in the country and the continent as a whole. For example, the Country Commercial Guide for US Companies Doing Business in Tanzania (2011) that we referred to earlier identified several challenges to doing business in Tanzania.

Amongst these were bureaucratic 'red tapes' and widespread corruption, difficulties in enforcing contracts through the courts, poor infrastructure like underdeveloped transport systems and unreliable power, limited availability of skilled labour, difficulties in accessing land and high interest rates.

The question that begs an answer is if we still can't seem to get the business registration bit right, when will we move on to address the other challenges that face both local and foreign investment? We'll let you mull on that one.

Wallace Mauggo

Wallace Mauggo
Editor

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World event promotes milk feeding programme in schools



By Michael Pandisha, Tampa

Children and milk

Everyone knows that milk is an important part of a healthy diet to children. Studies indicate that milk is a source of vitamins and minerals that children need to stay healthy. It enables students to concentrate longer and perform better in school.

Every year, Tanzania joins other countries to mark the World's School Milk Day on the last Wednesday of September. Since its inception in September 2000, the event has grown to become an annual celebration in many countries around the world.

This year, the event was celebrated in Tanga Region at Tangamano grounds. The theme for this year's celebration is 'milk drinking in schools is a right for every student'.

The first World's School Milk Day in the country was celebrated in Iringa Region in 2005. It was successfully organised and pioneered by Asas Dairies. A number of dairy stakeholders, including students, marked the event.

It was then celebrated at the national level for the first time in 2009 and 2010 in Mara Region, in 2011 it was in Arusha City and in 2012, it was in Njombe Region.

It is a fun and engaging way to educate students and parents about the importance of drinking milk as part of a

healthy and balanced diet. It also highlights the health benefits of school milk programmes in the country.

Milk and performance

It is crucial that the event is celebrated at all levels including schools in the country. According to Prof Joyce Kinabo's presentation on nutritional aspect of cow's milk recently, one of the major impediments to academic achievement for primary and secondary schools students is poor nutritional status of their food intake.

Most students depend on street food sold in school compounds for their energy and other nutrient requirement while at school. The food sold in school compounds not only is hygienically poor but also lack nutritional requirement.

To make the matter even worse, they are served in very small portions. She cites examples of such food include fried potatoes, cassava, rice, chapati, bananas and sweetened coloured drinks or frozen blocks. She says all these are energy-rich food but low in protein and micronutrients.

Once in a blue moon

A certain teacher in Arusha City, who sought anonymity, explained the menu provided in most boarding schools in the country lack nutritional value for children's cognitive development.

"Ugali, beans, plain porridge and makande" are provided to the children almost every day, he says, adding that rice and beans is served once in a blue moon.



Through the event, young children in schools are encouraged to drink milk and make it a part of their diet, and from there, the behaviour is likely to continue into adulthood

By having so many people and institutions across the country participating in the event, school milk programmes are better promoted.

Through the event, young children in schools are encouraged to drink milk and make it a part of their diet, and from there, the behaviour is likely to continue into adulthood.

The most effective approach to cultivate a milk drinking culture in the population is through the children who are still receptive of any cultural changes unlike the adults who are difficult to change their attitudes towards foods.

It works in Kenya

The approach has been used in many countries to create a milk drinking culture in the population. A good example is Kenya which initiated a school milk feeding programme in the 1970s, the so called Maziwa ya Nyayo.

The result of the programme is over 100 litres per capita milk consumption in Kenya compared to 45 litres in Tanzania, according to official statistics. The recommended per capita milk consumption is 200 litres per annum, according to Fao.

"It is an opportunity for schools across the country to celebrate the milk event," says Jumanne Mchovu, a senior education officer in Kilimanjaro Region, adding that schools should facilitate students to create their own milk-themed costumes.

"Have students create their own milk-themed poems, let students re-

search the word milk from other world languages, then design new milk carton graphics from other countries and decorate school hallways with pictures of milk products," he observes.

Remote concentration

However, experience has shown that most schools in the country give the event a remote consideration. They hardly give presentations to showcase the link between good nutrition, milk and better learning.

It is high time for schools to be active to mark the occasion. "It is important that parents know about their schools' milk programmes and the benefit of milk at school," says Mchomvu.

This year's occasion introduced the programme to parents who might not be aware of how easy it is to give their children another serving of milk at school, he says.

Politicians, too, should play a significant role to mark the World's School Milk Day in the country. They should show their support for school milk by visiting local nurseries, primary and secondary schools, according to Edmund Mariki, the Tanzania Milk Processors Association (Tampa) executive secretary.

In the course of their visit, they may act as milk monitor taking a hand on approach in handing out milk to students and talking about the benefits of milk consumption to them, suggests the Tampa chief.

Role of milk stakeholders

Milk factories in the country should also support National Milk Feeding Programmes. Asas Dairies serve a good example of emulation in the country.

According to Fuad Jaffer, Asas Dairies Managing Director, the factory regularly visits schools and educates them on the importance of milk consumption to students and provides free milk on monthly basis for students with disability in Iringa Region.

The government has developed the National School Milk Feeding Programme aimed at cultivating milk drinking habit through provision of milk to school children in order to expand the milk market.

However, budgetary constraints and low dairy capacity in terms of milk production, collection, processing, distribution and marketing hamper the programme implementation at national level.

Priority attention

It is high time for the government, development agencies, non-governmental organisations and private sector to give the programme a priority attention.

In addition, more milk factories ought to increase visibility in media, canteen managers, parents and school boards.

Milk is a healthy choice. It is a nutrient rich food for children. Let us invest in School Milk Feeding Programmes in Tanzania. They will boost development of agriculture and dairy industry by increasing the demand for local milk production and processing.

It is a key to a strong and healthy foundation for children. Let us give the Day a particular attention to focused on school milk feeding programmes implementation and serve as a mechanism for its promotion.

Send your comments
for free starting with
(DAIRY) to 15774



By Juma Ngomuo, TGFA

Increasing productivity

With the need to have enough and quality products which are accessible, enough quantity, quality and healthier nutritious farm products, especially green vegetables, it becomes urgent to find ways to increase agricultural productivity. One option developed so far by humans is “boosting” soil fertility with chemical fertilisers. But is this option sustainable? What are alternatives to chemical fertilisers do we have? Organically grown products, especially vegetables, are nowadays attracting many consumers and more precisely small and ‘agripreneurs’. This has been due to understanding capacity of the consumers’ awareness of their health, while for farmers it is beneficial and promising business for their household incomes, food security and their land. Beneficiary regions include Tanga, Manyara, Kilimanjaro,

Arusha, Morogoro, and Mbeya. It has also through this practice that some organisations support famers with packages full of technical knowhow, market links and business management skills. The practice itself, as holistic one, acts as a promising, suitable, affordable and healing initiative to the degraded land. Why organic farming? In some areas people find that they have excessively used chemical fertilisers. It is here then nutrients of the same soils have not been replenished as making them unproductive in the longer run due to depletion of organic matters. The community can see that the (over) use of chemical (industrial) fertilisers that were supposed to help them to increase their yields degrades lands and makes farming is not really profitable for them. In some cases where soil affected by advanced degradation, chemical fertilisers appear like the solution, if recommended. But they are not! Considering the potential risks of poi-

soning, burns, cancers, birth defects and environmental degradation, chemical fertilisers should be used with extreme cautious. Alternative farming Systems Due to many challenges, including climatic change, increase population, and advancement in science and technology, there is strong need to develop and apply alternatives to increase productivity through sustainable ways. One of them is organic farming. It enables farmers to have a range of choices to reduce the use of chemical fertilisers and ideally to use them as recommended. Support to farmer groups with the technical knowhow in sustainable agriculture is essential to enable them adopt organic farming as their farming practice. The alternative farming method has been adopted successfully by communities around Uluguru Mountains at such villages as Towelo.

Fruits of organic farming Many farmers there now are doing good and they are able to use improve

their land through low cost and sustainable technologies such as terracing, double dugs, kitchen garden, and others and are enjoying their fruits of organic farmers. So, one can find that organic farming isn’t just helping those practicing it to conserve their environment and increase income; it’s also reliable and gives them access to affordable technologies... Support: Where it comes from There are many stories that can be shared, but behind the scene, there are a number of supporters. These include, Biovision, Swiss Contact, SNV, Usaid, DFID, Fao, Oxfam, Africare, Care, Farm Africa, and Agra. The support also came from farmer groups and cooperative societies such as Vicoba and Saccos, apex bodies such as Taha, TPSF, TGFA, forums



such as Ansaf and research institutions such as Repoa, ESRF, IITA, Slian, Toam and Tancert.

Floresta project: A success story With the growing population, shortage of land and climatic change, Kilimanjaro Region, one of the beautiful and historic region of Tanzani, is now making steps ahead with the stories of greenish, quality and healthier vegetables from Marangu, Kilema, Himo, Same and Siha districts. That, since 2004 more than 6,000 farmers were reached with information and assisted to be organised in groups and up to now, more than 4,500 were served by Floresta Tanzania, a faith-based organisation based in Marangu. Through its mother project of Agriculture and Environment Conservation, the group has changed the mindsets of farmers who rely on farming as their main activity in the region and helped them to achieve notable development. A Tanzania Graduate Farmers Association (TGFA) representative visited the project in August this year. The Floresta Tanzania Country director, Richard Mhina, says, “We are now succeeding exponentially as we utilise the interactive approach to assist farmers and communities to tackle issues of food security, and climatic change, including environmental degradation, so as to foster economic development”.

Albert Samson, the head of Agriculture and Environment Department at Floresta, also says, “We ensure that farmers are properly trained in better farming practices, such as how they can produce crops that meets the need of households, local and international markets through well managed value chains”. Floresta Tanzania implements programmes in more than 45 villages and more than 2,400 people have been benefiting from its initiatives. “Our beneficiaries (farmers) are now actively engaged in organic vegetable farming, which are less and free from industrial fertilisers and chemicals,” says Hemedi Juma, a Floresta programme officer in Siha District. According to the Floresta officials, the project helps farmers in Kilimanjaro Region to access capital for investment, get training on better farming methods and secure markets for produce locally and internationally. “As we work with other collaborators and partners, we are now able to link farmers with local and export markets as well as assist some entrepreneurial farmers to start stop shops for selling organic vegetables,” says Mhina. Floresta Tanzania develops market linkages, provides information and assists in promoting farmers’ products through radio programmes. It has established the sales centres in Marangu Mtoni and Moshi Town and both are managed by women growers. The Kilimanjaro Native Cooperative Union (KNCU) is among the certified bodies of organic coffee and there are seven primary cooperative societies that grow organic coffee under it. During the 2010/2011season these societies collected a total of 121,741.8 kilogrammes of organic coffee.

Organic farming: Securing food, changing lives

fee.

The ‘Sat’ network Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (Sat) is vibrant association in networking, promoting, advocating, undertaking and facilitating sustainable agriculture through research, dissemination, application and networking. Sat aims at providing appropriate information and guidance to farmers on technologies, innovations and practices that improve food security in a sustainable, socially, economically and environmentally friendly manner.

The Sat farmer centre In collaboration with its partners, it introduced a new venture known as the ‘Sat Farmer Training Centre’ on September 14, this year. Farmers, facilitators and other players will use this centre to strengthening their capacities in promoting, advising and managing organic farm.

The centre is located about 20 kilometres off Morogoro Town in a dry land. “We see it growing to become the centre of excellence in organic and sustainable agriculture in Tanzania,” says Alexander Wostry, the Sat finance manager. The knowledge and experience obtained from Bustani ya Tushikamane helped the network to buy 120 acres for the Sat Training Centre and being on a dry land makes it a nice challenge to develop the farm land, he adds. The centre will help in training fa-

Organic farming is a proven alternative to promote a more sustainable use of land and its resources. It sustains the fertility of soils, ecosystems and sustains the health of people...

cilitators, field officers, interested youths and other learned cadres, with a view to improve and increase their advisory skills and prepare best tools for implementing sustainable agriculture,” says Stephano Kingazi, the chairperson of the Tanzania Graduate Farmers Association (TGFA). The centre has the capacity of accommodating up to 42 farmers at once full-board for week long courses. The primary aim is to make the institution “the center of excellence in Tanzania for all information, knowledge, technologies and innovations about organic and sustainable agriculture,” remarks the executive director of the Sat network, Janet Maro.

Links to market The Sat network has also been able to link many farmers with markets and through its organic shop located in Morogoro at Bigwa, farmers to get assured access to markets for their produce annually. “We did a market survey and we continue with market researches, and what is so impressive is that there is high demand of the organic vegetables here in Morogoro from hotels, consumers and more precisely in Dar es Salaam where there is [our another] organic shop,” she says. Organic farming is a proven alternative to promote a more sustainable use of lands and its resources. It sustains the fertility of soils, ecosystems and sustains the health of people. It relies on locally adapted improved ecological processes and cycles, and natural biodiversity rather than the use of synthetic inputs and genetically modified materials and it involves the principles of health, ecology, fairness and care to ensure we are producing food to satisfy our current and future needs.

Promoting organic farming It is the right time now the alternative method is shared among stakeholders and more precisely among farmers who in one way or another depend on them. While stakeholders are trying to advocate and propose positive changes even in the Constitution, it is the time issues of food safety, practices, inputs, access to land, finance, management skills and advisory services to rural farmers are incorporated in the new Mother Law. For the best practices to work out well and addressing food security sustainable agriculture initiatives are very important. Organic farming, as now famous in vegetables and in other areas its value chains, has to be managed and implemented in such a way that promotion of organic products and organic farm business to go along with the Kilimo Kwanza slogan.

One response is that we need agriculture that produces enough to feed Tanzanians and Africa’s growing population while protecting land and other natural resources for future generations. Send your comments for free starting with (ORGANIC) to 15774

Concerns over delays in amending BAR Act, 2007

By Kilimo Kwanza Correspondent

Shortfalls pinpointed

The Business Activities Registration Act (BAR Act, 2007) was enacted by the Parliament in January 2007. It repealed the Business Licensing Act No 25 of 1972. The Act intends to remove unnecessary restrictions on business entry regulation and exit by radically streamlining business start-up processes, and having in place a simple, clear, transparent, cost effective and consistent system for operating businesses in Tanzania. However, in the process of establishing the regulation, Vibindo Society identified some shortfalls and called for review of the BAR Act 2007. Implementing the Act as it is would not achieve the objective of simplifying and reducing cost of doing business in Tanzania rather than complicating the process.

After intensive dialogue with the government and other stakeholders in the private sector, consensus was reached to implement the Act by piloting it to the 24 LGAs, which are Temeke, Ilala, Kinondoni, Kibaha, and Morogoro.

Others are Arusha, Moshi, Musoma, Bukoba, Ilemela, Nyamagana, Iringa, Mtwara Mikindani, Songea and Lindi (Municipals), Tanga (City Council), Babati, Dodoma, Singida, Tabora, Shinyanga, Mbeya (City Council), Ujiji, and Sumbawanga.

The pilot was intended to test the Act on the ground and observe any shortfalls and eventually conduct a comprehensive review basing on the evaluation report. To this effect, the Minister for Industry, Trade and Marketing convened a meeting of stakeholders –including Brela, BRU, and the private sector in May, 2009.

The Action Plan

After a long discussion, it was agreed to pilot the BAR Act as earlier planned in 24 LGAs. The piloting of the implementation of the Act started with the preparation of a participatory action plan. A Technical Working Group (TWG) was appointed involving respective stakeholders from PMO, PMO-RALG, AGO, MITM, CTI, TCCIA, TPSF and Vibindo.

The TWG met at Kibaha for two

THE ACTION PLAN FOR PILOTING THE BAR ACT 2007

ACTIVITY	WHO IS RESPONSIBLE	WHEN		INDICATOR	PREREQUISITES/ EXPLANATIONS
		Start	End		
1. Determine pilot districts	MITM/ PMO-RALG	Done		24 pilot LGAs ¹ selected. These are Temeke, Ilala, Kinondoni, Kibaha, Morogoro (Mu), Tanga (CC), Arusha, Moshi (Mu), Babati, Dodoma, Singida, Tabora, Shinyanga, Ilemela, Nyamagana, Musoma (Mu), Bukoba (Mu), Iringa (Mu), Mbeya (CC), Ujiji, Sumbawanga, Songea, Lindi, Mikindani	Conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is necessary infrastructure• Business concentration adequate• Geographical location• Outreach of all regions• Adequate sample size
2. Submit Draft Action Plan	TECHNICAL TEAM	May 11		Action Plan submitted to relevant authorities	
2.1 Revise Action Plan	TECHNICAL TEAM		June 10		
2.2 Approve Action plan	MITM		June 10		
3. Conduct a needs assessment of selected pilot LGAs and the main registry (BRELA)	Consultant/ MITM	June 11	Sept 11	Implementation gaps determined (computers, Infrastructure, human resources) needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hard and software for electronic registration system,• Appropriate skilled HR,• Compatible linking/ interfacing• Availability of office space
3.1. Procure lead Consultant	Consultant/ MITM	June 11, 2009	Sept 12, 2009		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare TOR• Advertisement• Tender meeting
3.2. Train Govt and private sector to conduct survey	MITM/Consultant	Sept 14, 2009	Sept 16, 2009	Trained personnel for conducting Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce cost• Transfer Knowledge• Enumerators have to be reliable• Easy to replicate in other LGAs• Involve IT
3.3. Conduct Survey	MITM/BRU/BRELA/Consultant	September 21, 2009	October 22, 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Survey conducted and data analysed• Requirements determined	
3.4 Analyse data	Consultant	October 23, 2009	October 30, 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyse data and prepare a report of the same	
4. Procurement of equipment and services and locating office space.	MITM/BRELA/PMO-RALG/BRU	1 November, 2009	April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hardware and software purchase• Service provided.• Office space and furniture procured• Stand-by Generators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gaps identified,• Resources are available
5. Recruit/ Retrain staff	MITM/PMO-RALG	June 30, 2010	July 15, 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Well-staffed registration centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As above
6. Develop business registration system and install wide area network	MITM/Consultancy/ BRU, BRELA,	May- 2, 2010	July 30, 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business Registration system and WAN installed and working	
7. Develop a strategic communication system and sensitize the public	MITM, BRELA, PMO-RALG, Private Sector		June 1, 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Awareness on BARA to Public increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Publicity materials• Developing message• Procure media
8. Implement BAR Act at pilot LGAs	BRELA/PMO-RALG/BRU	July 30, 2010		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business registration certificate issued.• Time reduced• Cost reduced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regulation completed• BAR Act gazetted• Stationeries• Office Supplies• Services of hardware
9. Monitor implementation and document lessons learnt	MITM/BRELA/Consultant	Quarterly		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quarterly reports timely	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design a monitoring and evaluation framework
10. Evaluate the implementation and validate findings through a workshop	Consultant/MITM	August 2011		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pilot Implementation Status Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participatory evaluation• Validation workshop of all stakeholders

Appeal to take small farmers to the next level

By Cleophas Rwechungura, ACT

Who is a small farmer?

Many attempts have been made to define a small farmer, yet there is no consensus regarding its definition. Generally, smallholder farmers own plots of land ranging from 0.5 to 5.0 hectares (approximately 1 to 12 acres).

These farmers also keep a few animals and birds for home consumption and sale to nearby markets. Smallholders typically engage in subsistence production of staple crops for home use and market the surplus.

In most cases, family members do all the field operations themselves. In order to supplement the shortfall, they also work as part time laborers, run small shops, or do handicrafts.

In some cases, some family members migrate to urban areas or agricultural estates in search of work in seasons when their labor is not needed on the farm. This is a scenario very common among smallholder farmers.

Other features of small farmers are that they use hand tools in most farm operations, prices for improved seeds, fertilizers and pesticides are out of their reach, and they also adhere to traditional practices. All these factors contribute to low crop production per unit area.

'Neck-breaking' competition

Obviously, smallholder farmers cannot survive in the current neck-breaking competition. It is imperative to offer them support to become modern and commercial medium farmers.

It's also important to assist them in expanding their farms, acquiring and using cost effective and efficient agricultural implements, learning and applying appropriate technologies, and becoming economically competitive.

Small farmers shy away from taking risks in their economic enterprises. Since they are prone to adverse conditions, especially drought, they prefer to diversify their businesses by growing a mixture of crops on small plots and raising some livestock. In case for any reason one crop fails, they benefit from other types of crops. Moreover, mixed cropping has useful qualities since leguminous plants improve soil structure by fixing nitrogen.

They tend to rely on a broad variety of indigenous varieties because they endure the local climate, and require little inputs, such as fertilisers and pesticides. Another good reason for growing subsistence crops is that in most cases farmers neither have the necessary market information, nor do they trust the volatile world market.

They hesitate to invest heavily in agriculture for the fear of not meeting corporate standards. Their main concern therefore, is to manage risks with the little means they have at their disposal.

Relevant connections

In short, this is a small farmer. And this is the predicament most small farmers are in. It is obvious such farmers cannot thrive. In this regard, the public sector should join hands with the private sector to initiate measures with the intention to bail out these farmers.

Smallholders should be connected to big nearby farms and value chains should be designed to benefit all parties involved. Such connections are likely to generate a lot of interest leading to small farmers embarking on profitable farming. Sooner they are likely to prosper by rising to mid-sized enterprises, and generate employment to their community.

The Sagcot connection

The Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (Sagcot) is an international public - private – partnership which was launched in 2010. Its main objective is to enhance food security and accelerate agricultural transformation.

The programme is intended to catalyze private investments in agriculture, leading to rapid and sustainable agricultural growth. It envisions profitable production, with major benefits for food security, and poverty reduction.

Sagcot strategy is to provide opportunity for smallholder producers to engage in profitable agriculture. This can be achieved by incentivizing strong linkages between smallholder farmers and commercial agri-businesses.

Such schemes allow smallholders in the vicinity of large scale farms to access machinery for land tillage and irrigation, agro-inputs, advanced technologies, and value adding facilities. Sagcot will also assist smallholder producers to enter into commercial relationships with agro-processing and marketing business. Sagcot believes in the principle that small farmers and their big neighbors are likely to be successful when they are located in proximity to each other and related service providers.

This arrangement has worked very well in the sugar industry where part of the sugarcane which is processed in the factory comes from small cane-growers who reside in the vicinity.

The sugar estates provide technical services their small neighbors need, including credit for the inputs and assured market for the sugarcane. This arrangement is unique and should be emulated and duplicated wherever appropriate.

Advancing small producers

Fobby Tesha is a medium scale farmer. Her farm is located in Kisarawe district, some 40 kilometers from Dar es Salaam City. With assistance from family members, she manages a 60 acres farm of mixed crops, predominately mango and pasture.

"I decided to try farming so as to supplement my salaried income, because it was not enough to sustain the family needs" she intimated. Tesha started small. She purchased bits and pieces of land from her neighbors and improved not only its landscape, also increased its productivity.

She has emerged from the small farmers' bracket to the medium sized. "Farming can pay handsomely" she ascertained. Apart from farming, she also invested in the dairy business at a separate site in Kinyerezi, currently she owns some 25 heads of improved dairy cattle.

days in 2009 and came up with the Action Plan. According to the Action Plan, the project commenced in May 2009 and ended in August 2011, as detailed in the table.

In turn, Vibindo Society as one of the main stakeholders of the Act requested and received a pre-project grant from the Business Environment Strengthening for Tanzania Advocacy component (Best-AC) to make follow up on the implementation of the Act in the selected councils.

The society earmarked five councils out of 24, namely Mbeya City, Dodoma, Morogoro, Moshi and Mtwara Mikindani. To this effect, from March to April 2011 Vibindo engaged 'Helping Hand', a consulting firm, to undertake a survey on the implementation of the Act.

Areas of concentration

The consultant was to concentrate on activity four to nine of the Action Plan, these being the core BAR Act, 2007 implementation issues. The consultant visited five of the piloted councils and assessed the impact and implementation progress of the Action Plan.

All trade officers were aware of the pilot study, but nothing had been done to implement the Act. The following comments from trade officers explain why the Act is not implemented.

Most trade officers commented that they have not been able to implement the BAR Act, 2007 because they are waiting for a go ahead from

the ministry of Industry and Trade. Researchers felt that the trade officers were waiting for needs assessment survey; which had not been conducted.

The exercise had not been announced in the government gazette to give it a legal status.

Registrars and inspectors had not been appointed by the Minister; as such trade officers had no mandate to neither act as registrars nor as inspectors. According to one trade officer, names of trade officers had been sent to the ministry for appointment.

It was agreed that municipal and city directors be informed and sensitised on the BAR Act, 2007. This had not been done and there were no budgets for the activities.

There is no budget for the certificates which require specialised paper of more grams than the usual 80 gramme MF paper.

It is thought that registering businesses without consultation of land planners and health authorities may lead to businesses being run in areas not allocated for business activities and areas that can pose a health risk.

There is no budget for awareness creation; that is for transport and IEC materials.

The regulations for the Act are not out yet; this makes it impossible to implement it.

Key observations

Meanwhile, the study also observed:

Lack of progress in the implementation of the Act hinges mainly on item 3.0 of the Action Plan; the needs assessment of selected pilot LGAs and the main registry (Brela). Supposedly, this was to be done prior to the implementation of the Act, but it has not been done. As a result, trade officers are waiting for this to happen.

The Mtwara Municipal Trade Officer was of the opinion that it is for the trade officers as experts to advise the municipal and city directors on what should be done. His only problem is that he has not been officially appointed to be a registrar; as such he could not act as one. In the consultant's opinion this is the right mind-set.

The Dodoma office is dilapidated; it is actually leaking and doors were worn out. It is not safe enough to install expensive equipment.

There isn't a single municipality with a generator dedicated to the trade office. In case of power cuts, business will have to come to a standstill. This will affect efficiency.

The status of implementation could not be established because the Act is not being implemented.

The review process

Basing on all facts, and pressure from the private sector (Vibindo Society), the government, through the ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT), came up with the idea of reviewing and amending the Act. In May 2012, MIT called a meeting to discuss the Act.

Invited participants were from public and private sector. In the private sector the invitation was extended to Vibindo Society, CTI and TCCIA. Unfortunately, two participants from the private sector attended - Vibindo Society and CTI.

MIT tabled some sections of the BAR Act, 2007 that needs to be amended. The Act has 34 sections, and based on the proposal made by the government, 27 sections out of 34 needs to be reviewed and amended.

During the process of amendment, it was revealed that, 30 sections out of 34 needs to be amended. The government and the private sector agreed suggestions for amending the Act sent should be forwarded to the AG in July 2012.

Waiting in vain

Unfortunately, since then nothing has been done regarding the Act. It's critically important to improve the business environment and cost of doing business that have become worse and worse for several years.

For the purpose of improving business, encouraging investors, both local and international, the Act is very important. As way forward, Vibindo Society draw the following strategies:

Following up where the Act has been hidden for so long and to get the clear picture of the Act, if all the recommendations for improving the Act have been taken aboard.

To request the TPSF as the apex body of the private sector to have a joint strategy to find out why amendments on the Act had been delayed.

To have a media campaign to make the community aware regarding uncertainties in the Act.

Send your comments for free starting with (BARA) to 15774

Send your comments for free starting with (FARMERS) to 15774

Why the 'Yara Maize Crop Nutrition Programme' is essential



YaraMila™ Cereal

NPK 23.10.5 + Magnesium, Sulfur and Zinc

The cereal compound – for high and sustainable yield

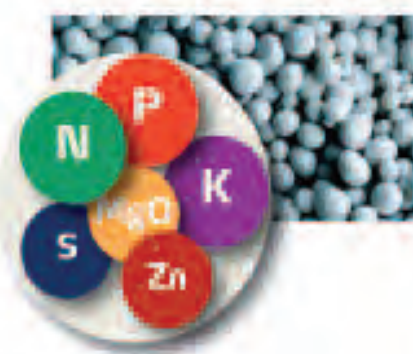
SPECIAL



Designed with cereals in mind, YaraMila™ Cereal provides a unique combination of nutrients for easy handling and optimal plant nutrition. In every granule it offers a uniform and complete supply of macro- and micro-nutrients.



Thanks to its high solubility, YaraMila™ provides a fast and continuous nutrient supply to the plants, the prerequisite for achieving a high quality yield.



Product description:

Total N	23%
N(NO ₃)	10
N(NH ₄)	13
Total P ₂ O ₅	10%
water soluble	8.4
K ₂ O water soluble	5%
MgO	2%
S	3%
Zn	0.3%

Average diameter of the granules 3.2 mm
Fracture 2-4 mm (90%)
EC fertilizer, ISO certified

Please consult your Yara agronomist for an individual recommendation

Yara Tanzania Ltd
86/87 Kiviani
Off Nyerere/Pugu Rd.
Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
Phone: +255 22 286 29 58/68
Fax: +255 22 286 29 88



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YaraMila™ Cereal NPK 23.10.5 + Magnesium, Sulfur and Zinc

Balanced nutrition for Cereals

YaraMila™ Cereal provides a combination of highly plant available nutrients in a cereal specific formula, which is catering for needs in different production environment.

N A balanced source of two nitrogen forms
Nitrogen is a key component of various plant proteins and plays a major role in most growth processes, including cell division, the new tissue production and photosynthesis. Cereals have a high demand for nitrogen to supply and maintain vegetative growth. It plays a role in maximising grain numbers and subsequent yields.
YaraMila™ Cereal provides a combination of both nitrate (NO₃) and ammoniacal (NH₄) nitrogen which allows a fast uptake and efficient use by the cereal plant and supports growth over a longer time.

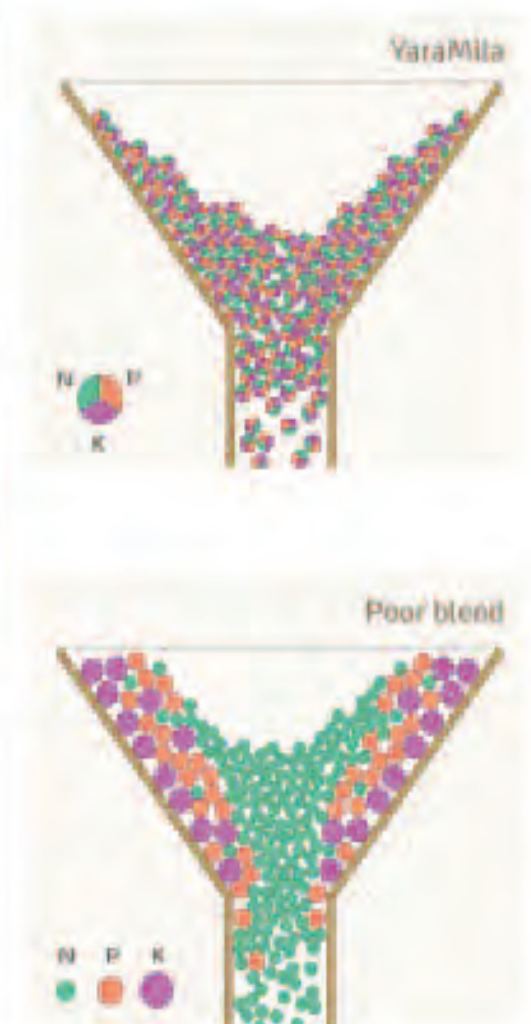
P Highly effective phosphorous for root growth and grain filling
Phosphorous is a component of nucleic acids and lipids within plants. It supports root development and is essential for metabolism, energy transfer and photosynthate transport. Once taken up P is stored in the plant framework and mobilized when needed.
YaraMila™ Cereal delivers phosphorous in an effective fully plant available form, hereby supporting root growth and grain filling.

K Potassium – a key driver for yield
Potassium promotes vigour, boosts cell strength and increases the cereal plant tolerance to diseases and water stress. It's important for respiration, photosynthesis and water regulation. Potassium has a crucial role to play in improving grain size and quality.
Potassium has a direct influence on processed grain quality. Optimum potassium supply improves the specific enzymatic activity, and synthesis of proteins.

Mg Magnesium: Component of chlorophyll, and a factor in many enzymatic reactions. It is needed for the movement of phosphorus into and through the plant.

S Sulphur is used in chlorophyll synthesis and essential for efficient nitrogen utilisation. It is especially needed during grain maturation and helps improving protein content and baking quality.

Zn Zinc is essential for growth as it is responsible for the metabolism of auxins – the plants' own natural hormones regulating key growth processes. It is also a catalyst in many of the enzyme systems controlling protein synthesis & carbohydrate metabolism; furthermore it is involved in chloroplast development. Adequate levels of Zinc will improve nitrogen use in the plant and contribute to lifting protein levels.



to mature. With mean daily temperature of 10 to 15 degrees centigrade, maize is mostly grown as a forage crop because of the problem of seed set and grain maturity under cool conditions.

For germination, the lowest mean daily temperature is about 10 degrees centigrade, with 18 to 20 degree centigrade being optimum.

The crop is very sensitive to frost, particularly in the seedling stage, but it tolerates hot and dry atmospheric conditions so long as sufficient water is available to the plant and temperatures are below 45 degrees centigrade.

Maize is one of the major staple foods in most of the regions in Tanzania for many years, but due to emerging high demand in various part of the country and Africa in general, it is now becoming one of the cash crop to farmers.

How maize is grown

Maize needs a clear open area in order to perform better in the field. It is the most sunlight user among other crops. It needs a well cultivated land and about 450-600 millimetre water per season.

Soil testing is the foundation of a sound fertility programme, with the goal of providing guidelines for the efficient use of lime and fertilisers. Yara Crop Programme recommendations are based on field research conducted under varying soil conditions, crop nutrient requirements and yield goals.

Nutritional requirements for growth

Nitrogen - is an important component of amino acids and proteins, which are the basic building blocks of

Recommendations:

Timing	Rate kg/ha
Pre-seeding or at seeding	300-500
4-6 leaf stage (before stem elongation)	300-500

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Why the 'Yara Maize Crop Nutrition Programme' is essential

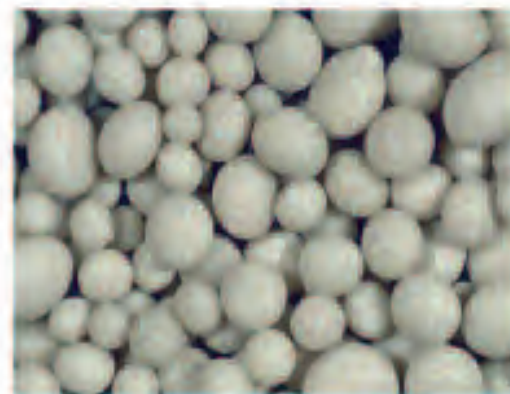
**SPECIAL****YaraMila™** 22.6.12 + Boron

The coffee compound - for high quality yield



Designed with coffee in mind, **YaraMila™ 22.6.12 + Boron** provides a unique combination of nutrients in one single granule, for easy handling and optimal plant nutrition. It offers a uniform and complete supply of macro- and micro-nutrients.

Thanks to its high solubility, **YaraMila™** provides a fast and continuous nutrient supply to the plants, the prerequisite for achieving a high quality yield.

**Product description:**

Total N	22%
N(NO ₃)	10
N(NH ₄)	12
Total P ₂ O ₅	6%
water soluble	4.3
Total K ₂ O	12%
MgO	1%
S	3%
B	0.2%
Average diameter of the granules	3.2 (mm)
Fraction 2-4 (mm)	90%

EC fertilizer, (50 certified)

Please consult your Yara agronomist for an individual recommendation matching your specific needs:

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Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
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Fax: +255 22 286 29 88



FROM PAGE 9

all living matters – both plant and animal. Nitrogen-deficient plants normally show a pale-yellowish color (chlorosis), which results from a shortage of chlorophyll in the plant's "solar collection cells."

Nitrogen (N) deficiency is a very common problem because corn needs so much of it and because several mechanisms in the environment can lead to large nitrogen losses. Dentrification and ammonia volatilisation can lead to tremendous losses of Nitrogen before the crop can use it.

Nitrogen is used in many plant processes and structures, principally in protein production, and any shortage will affect all the other processes. Prompt application of Nitrogen now will help minimise the loss.

Remember, the number of kernels per row that the ear will produce is set early in plant development, so ensuring good fertilisation early is the best. Nitrogen deficiency during leaf development leads to low yields and protein.

Phosphorus (P) - deficiency occurs frequently because it is needed in relatively large amounts, and in the soil, it tends to become chemically tied-up, which reduces its availability to plants. Soil pH is an important factor in predicting whether P will be a nutrition problem.

Near neutral pH (6.5-7) is best, less than that, P solubility may be a problem and above 7.5 may also range into P solubility problems. Phosphorus is essential for root development and function. Plants put much energy into finding phosphorus and taking it up from the soil.

-P+P

Maize plants without phosphorus are slow to grow; roots develop slowly and have no vigour.

CONTINUES PAGE 11

YaraMila™ 22.6.12 + Boron**Balanced nutrition for coffee**

YaraMila™ 22.6.12 + Boron provides a combination of highly plant available nutrients in a coffee specific formula, which is catering for needs in different production environments.

N A balanced source of two nitrogen forms

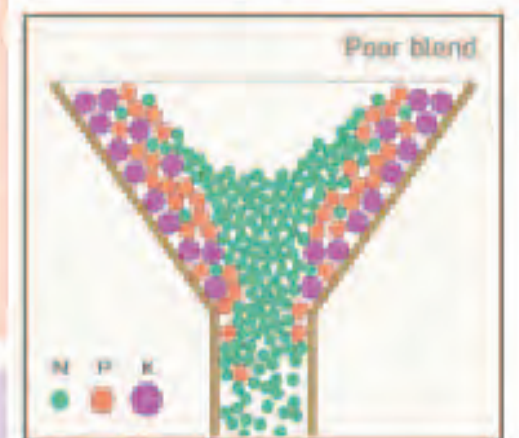
Nitrogen is a key component of various plant proteins and plays a major role in most growth processes, including cell division, the new tissue production and photosynthesis. Coffee has a high demand for nitrogen to supply and maintain vegetative growth. It plays a role in maximising flower numbers and subsequent yields.

YaraMila™ 22-6-12 + Boron provides combination of both nitrate (NO₃) and ammoniacal (NH₄) nitrogen which allows a fast uptake and efficient use by the coffee trees and supports growth over a longer time.

**P** Highly effective phosphorous for root growth and berry filling

Phosphorous is a component of nucleic acids and lipids within plants. It supports root development and is essential for metabolism, energy transfer and photosynthate transport. P is very mobile and stored in the coffee tree framework and mobilised when needed.

YaraMila™ 22-6-12 + Boron delivers phosphorous in an effective highly plant available form, hereby supporting root growth and berry filling.

**K** Potassium – a key driver for yield

Potassium promotes vigour, boosts cell strength and increases the coffee trees tolerance to diseases and water stress. It's important for respiration, photosynthesis and water regulation. Potassium has a crucial role to play in improving berry size and quality through its role in moving sugars to the fruit.

Potassium has a direct influence on processed coffee quality. Optimum potassium supply improves the specific enzymatic activity, colour index and sugar content, which are directly related to the cup quality of coffee.

B Boron is essential for flowering and fruit set as it is used for meristem growth and pollen formation. It is associated with carbohydrate metabolism and the synthesis of nucleic acids. Sufficient boron is required to sustain strong rooting and rich flowering.

S Sulphur is used in chlorophyll synthesis and essential for efficient nitrogen utilisation. It is especially needed during fruit maturation.**Recommendation**

Timing	Rate kg/ha
Flowering	150 - 200
or YaraLiva™ Nitrabor™ [N 15.4% (NO ₃ -N 14.1%) , CaO 26.5% , B 0.3%]	200 - 300
After fruit set/during fruit growth	150 - 250
Fruit growth	150 - 250
Post harvest/recovery	150 - 250

Disclaimer: The information contained herein is the result of Yara's knowledge and better knowledge. Recommendations and results cannot be used without acknowledgement, are based upon Yara's experience and field results. This information given herein does not guarantee plant performance, health, growth or yield. The information provided may serve as a guideline but only rely on your plants, soil, climate, growing conditions, and must always be adapted individually.

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Balton
Balton Tanzania Ltd.
In Business for Africa



Balton Tanzania: The future of modern sustainable agribusiness farming



Balton
Balton Tanzania Ltd.



Balton Tanzania: The future of modern sustainable agribusiness farming



By Special Correspondent,
Balton Tanzania

Balton Tanzania Limited is a subsidiary of Balton CP, a British company with nine subsidiaries and operations in 19 Sub Saharan African countries. The company is operating in the country since 1964 (over 49 years), delivering high quality projects and business solutions which span the fields of communications technologies, electro-mechanic engineering, agriculture and public health.

The company is a Tanzanian entity with offices in Dar es Salaam and Arusha and with over 100 full time employees. The company has installed various projects on irrigation, greenhouses, and farmer's kits.

Also, Balton Tanzania sells to farmers the most advanced products such as fertilisers, agrochemicals, and hybrid seeds. Out of the various products and services the company offers, this article explores in detail about the One Acre Farmer's Kit, hybrid seeds and agrochemicals.

The 'One Acre Farmer's Kit'

This is a complete set of tools for sustainable farming anchored on a one acre gravity fed drip irrigation system. It is designed especially for Africa and aimed at taking farmers from relying on rain-fed agriculture to brain-fed agriculture.

The One Acre Kit is based on same holistic approach as the AFK, offering several pillars to success - knowledge, know-how and high quality. The kit is designed to bring up to 3 times the yields and improve the quality of crops.

The one acre drip irrigation system, which serves as the anchor for the kit, conserving less than 30 per cent of the amount of water used in existing methods of irrigation, while improving yields dramatically, the company assures.

Open field have the following irrigation kits:

- FDS 250M
- FDS 500M
- FDS 750M
- FDS 1000M
- D KIT 2000 (1/2 of acre)
- DIS KIT 4000 (1 acre)

The company also offers a complete



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solution for an open field production such as seeds, fertilisers and chemicals for specific crop production.

Water supply for irrigation system-options

- a) Water Reservoir: In case there is no permanent water supply Balton is able to line a water reservoir for 100 - 150 m3 and more
 - b) Direct water supply: water pumped out from water source (bore-hole, reservoir) directly
 - c) Water tank (5 -10,000 liters) then to drip irrigation system
- Note: a 5 - 10,000 liters tank will irrigate one acre plot with gravity power.

Training

- Adjusted to Global GAP standards
- Learning modern agriculture
- Kit's maintenance
- Seasonal strategy
- Marketing

Agro-support

- Balton Agronomists & Technician assigned to a farmer from the start will provide support on:
- Installation and basic training on general operation and system maintenance and;
 - Will carry out three visits to train and follow up with emphasis on best practices, technology and achieving higher yields.

Seeds

- Balton sources from very high quality seed suppliers all kinds of high quality varieties, including grains such as maize, beans, sunflower or hybrid vegetable such as tomato, cucumber, pepper, water melon, and cabbage.
- Also, the kit may be used by farmers to grow, ground nuts, cassava, pineapples, cow peas, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, melons, pumpkins and strawberries.
- Nursery kit professional components that ensure high success to grow the seeds.

Chemical fertilisers

Balton's Agro Division offers a wide array of agro-chemicals and fertilisers to address all of the farmers' needs. Sourced from some of the leading suppliers in the world, Balton maintains the highest global standards, ensuring that only top quality products are made available to Balton's customers.

The company's professional agronomists, who specialised on crops, will assist to find the best and the cost effective solution to customers' needs.

Communication Department

Balton Tanzania Limited, through its Communications Division, offers solutions for the management and deployment of projects in the telecommunications and electronic security fields.

The firm creates solutions throughout their lifecycle, from design and engineering to implementation, while meeting the highest standards of quality. Principles that the firm applies are simple and yet effective.

The company always take time to understand the needs of customers, designs the right solution, installs with the highest available workmanship, and in the end provides full after-sale support at the customer premises or in its Dar es Salaam offices.

Balton Tanzania:

The future of modern sustainable agribusiness farming



Fighting poverty through improved women access to land rights



By Angel Navuri

For years, Salima Hassan (32) and her husband Saidi Musa (40), worked as agricultural laborers generating wealth on behalf of other land owners. But no matter how many hours they toiled in other people's farms, they never earned enough to buy three proper meals a day for themselves and their three children. Salima and her children often suffered from stomach pains and infections caused by their poor diet. It was a life of unending suffering for the five-member family. "My husband would beat me up every day and my in-laws never valued me as I did not own any property," says Salima, a resident of the Mikese town in Morogoro district. Situated along the Dar es Salaam-Morogoro highway, the village is famous for cultivation of tomatoes and onions. To fight the creeping poverty, Salima and fellow poor landless women

in her village applied collectively for a loan to buy a plot of land through a programme designed in part by the Village Agricultural Committee. Today, she grows much of the maize and tomatoes her family needs on the plot she owns and sells the excess. With that income, she bought two cows, which today produce more milk for her family. With the income from the surplus produce and milk, Salima has since made improvements on her home and plot, helps support other relatives, pays school fees for her children, and offers loans to other poverty-stricken women in the village. More than 50 percent of women in rural Tanzania are agricultural producers who do not have control over the benefit of the land. It is the husbands and clan heads who have the final say on control over the land. The majority of Tanzanian women making more than 50 percent have no rights to own land. Another problem, according to land rights experts, has been the inadequate analysis of the

gender aspect of changes in land tenure system. In the customary land law women have been caught between cultural and traditional restrictions which deny them independent land ownership rights. Like all other Tanzanian citizens, women have the legal right to own land under the 1998 Land Act. However, due to lack of independent financial resources and traditional gender role, women rarely buy land, either independently or jointly with their husbands, and household land is commonly titled only in the name of the male head of the household. Women living in household that own land often access to land but rarely have legal ownership rights to that land. Speaking to other Mviwata farmers in Magole Division, Kilosa District in Morogoro Region failed to contain their tears when they expressed their ideas with emotions alleging that the government has failed to educate them on principles of good governance, while at



The challenges around land security are a regional problem. Mviwata is a member of the Eastern Africa Farmers' Federation (EAF), a regional farmers' organization with membership in ten countries in Eastern Africa, including Tanzania

the same time implementing land policies that have caused fatal conflicts between farmers and herders in the district. The farmers aired the complaints during the field visit that was facilitated by the Eastern Africa Farmers' Federation (EAF) under the coordination of Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima Tanzania (Mviwata). For his part, Ally Athuman said the delay in obtaining the education has caused some villages, particularly, Msowero, Mbigili, Rudewa, Msulu and Mambegwa to have suffered greatly during the conflict that pitied farmers and herders, while the government almost kept mum over the matter. The farmers have demanded that it was time the government changed in how it handled affairs that affected people's lives, and that the country laws must receive full respect. For his part, Magole Division secretary, Conrad Mzwalandili, admitted that there were weaknesses on the side of some government servants that caused fatal conflicts, he called on the citizens to scrutinize them and find legal means of taking them into accountability. "Each leader must carry out self-evaluation. If one thinks that he has not carried out his responsibilities, then let him resign instead of waiting for the mass to take action," said Mzwalandili. Reverend Dr Stephen Munga of the Northern Eastern Diocese in an interview said the government should to review regulations and policy overseeing the land sector including training land officials, so that they can effectively administer land in the public interest. He said the establishment of the land forum will draw together people from different corners of the country to talk about land issues. He advised the government to be careful when handling land issues especially those involving investors and villagers to avoid disputes and uphold peace and tranquility in the country. The Tanzania Land Alliance (Tala) coordinator Francis Uhadi has asked the government to conduct joint research countrywide in an effort to identify idle land suitable for investment. Uhadi said that there are increased land conflicts between villagers and investors, a direct result of the government using old data to allocate land. Between July 2010 and June 2011 a total of 12,643 cases on land conflicts were filed in district land councils which is over a thousand cases each month or a barrage of some 35 cases daily. The challenges around land security are a regional problem. Mviwata is a member of the Eastern Africa Farmers' Federation (EAF), a regional farmers' organization with membership in ten countries in Eastern Africa, including Tanzania. Through membership with EAF, Mviwata is able to receive and share experiences on the land problem. The challenges around land access and tenure are similar in other countries in Eastern Africa. According to the International Land Coalition (ILC), over the past 15 years there have been 260 large scale land purchases in Eastern Africa by foreign entities. These purchases amount to 8.8 million hectares of land, which is equivalent to the combined area of Burundi, Djibouti and Rwanda. Of these, 76 per cent are land deals in the agricultural sector. Tanzania is one of the main "victims" of these land deals.



‘We shall rise again’

This
side of
Africa

By Nicolas
Begisen



It is with a very heavy heart that I put my pen to paper on this dark time that leaves me wondering why the world is so evil. So many unanswered questions within my soul followed by blank stares directed to nothing and no one in particular. I believe am not alone in this quagmire and that almost everyone is trying to find an answer to the evil nature of man, the blackness that consumes human beings leading them to unnatural acts. The recent events witnessed across the border where an upmarket shopping mall was attacked and hostages

taken right in the heart of Nairobi, Kenya's capital city has left us all in shock. This was a scene right out of a movie but in this case it was not being enjoyed with a cold soda and popcorn rather it was the real deal. For the unfortunate ones who experienced it firsthand my heart goes out to them. Terror is not a new thing, there have been numerous cases from as far back as we can remember. Just 15 years ago Nairobi experienced one of the deadliest terror attacks ever witnessed in the region; fast forward to 2013 and in between there has been several incidences rocking the northern

part of Kenya. Saturday the twenty first of September will forever be etched into Kenyan's minds and history just like August 7. This is when senseless human beings were taken over by God knows what and let loose unimaginable mayhem on innocent people. This East African nation has experienced tribulations after tribulations. The country is just recovering from violent internal conflicts in 2008 and now gets thrown into more soul searching wondering where or what they did wrong to deserve this. However Kenya is not alone, the larger Eastern African and African region as a whole has predicaments almost all year round. There are news streaming in through our television sets and radios about wars, conflicts, strikes, uprisings, civil strife just to name a few all day long. From Congo to Somalia, Nigeria to northern Kenya, Mali to Zimbabwe, Egypt, Libya and so on chaos and strife is the order of the day. Who do we blame? Is it the governments' fault that security has now become an elusive commodity? It is so easy to play the blame game and point fingers. The Holy book tells us not to judge one another; it tells us to first get the log out of your own eye so that you

can see clearly the speck in your brother's eye. Therefore after all the soul searching and unanswered questions we should go back to where it all begun, back to the family when a new baby is born. The same way we rejoice and make merry when that bundle of joy makes an appearance on this earth we should also carry on with the same spirit up to the time they leave this earth after living a well fulfilled life. And by this I mean a life where they earn respect by offering it first, a life where the innocence of birth is replaced with wisdom and knowledge, a life that is characterized by less talk and more actions, a life where there is respect for life. Even though we should start with ourselves, the governments should do whatever is possible to assure its citizens that their safety is first and foremost the only concern they have. What would be the point of ruling over a citizenry that is not present? The political situations in most African countries are very appalling and this leaves lots of loopholes for acts of terror to take place.

For more info or comments:
nkbegisen@gmail.com

KILIMO KWANZA DIRECTORY
WATER AND SANITATION
Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (DAWASA) – Tel: +255 22 276 0006
Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Corporation (DAWASCO) Tel: +255 22-2131191/4
Drilling and Dam Construction Agency (DDCA) Tel: +255 22 2410430/2410299
Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority Tel: +255 22 2123850, 22 2123853
Balton Tanzania Limited Mikocheni Industrial Area, CocaCola Road. Tel: +255 22 2772826
Ministry of Water Tel: +255 22 245 1448
INDUSTRY SUPPORT AND ASSOCIATIONS
Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) – Email: dg@sido.go.tz, info@sido.go.tz
ANSAF - P.O. Box 6370, Dar es Salaam
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Consolidated Holdings Corporation (CHC) Tel: 255 (022) 2117988/9
Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) – Tel: +255 22 2863683/2863409
Export Processing Zones in Tanzania (EPZ) Tel: +255 22 2451827-9
Agricultural Economics Society of Tanzania (AGREST) – Tel. +255-23 260 3415
Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) Tel: +255 22 2122984-6
Tanzania Agriculture Partnership (TAP) Tel: +255 22 2124851
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Rural Livelihood Development Company (RLDC) Tel: +255 26 2321455
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