

# MONTHLY BRIEFS

## HERE COMES THE AGRICULTURAL SAVIOR

The Tanzania Horticultural Association would like to congratulate the President H. E. Hon. Jakaya Kikwete and the entire Tanzania government for its endless efforts in seeing that farmers in Tanzania access affordable credit facilities. In the recently launched credit scheme for small growers, the growers are now able to access microfinance through the Tanzania Investment bank.

In another development, the US Embassy has launched another credit scheme for farmers through the CRDB Bank. The launch of this scheme is another Success to TAHA which has been actively involved in pushing for a credit scheme for horticultural farmers. Last year, TAHA engaged a delegation from USAID in discussing the possibility of having a credit scheme for the growers. It is therefore very encouraging to see that one year down the line, these discussions have borne some tangible results. TAHA hopes that with the coming of the credit schemes, horticultural farming will become more profitable to the growers and that more Tanzanians will venture into commercial horticulture in the next one year.

## FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Dear Readers,

Here comes the August Newsletter. The month of August is branded the Agricultural month in Tanzania. In this month farmers in the region get a chance to show to the world the richness of their activities through the many agricultural shows organized. TAHA managed to participate in these shows and I hope that you will appreciate knowing how TAHA participated for the first time.



We continue to appreciate the efforts you as stakeholders are making to continue making this industry vibrant. Should you have any horticultural news items that you think should reach the stakeholders please discuss it with the Secretariat so that we can always publish it on this important bulletin

Enjoy your reading.

## TAHA EMBARKS ON A JOINT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR THE INDUSTRY

This month TAHA initiated its preparatory activities for negotiating the TAHA Joint Collective Bargaining Agreement. After seeing the many variations and their CBAs and the trouble they get in signing individual agreements, the members requested the Secretariat to make arrangements for having one agreement for the members. This agreement will serve as a standard document for the industry and will assist in guiding the members especially those who have not come up with a CBA and anyone who wants to invest in the industry.

To realize this dream, the Secretariat held two preparatory meetings. In the first meeting, the Secretariat held a meeting with the senior managers of member farms to brief them of the intended approach. The meeting was well attended demonstrating the members desire of coming up with this document. They all expressed their desire for this document and promised their endless coopera-

tion with the Secretariat during the whole negotiation procedure.

The Second meeting was between the TAHA Secretariat and the Tanzania Plantation Workers Union (TPAWU) zonal and branch officials. The aim, just like in the managers meeting, was to enlighten the officials on the intention and the intended approach. The officials were very positive on the intention and asked for some time to sensitize other union members on the intention.

Apart from being a solution to TAHA members, the Secretariat sees this joint agreement as another tool that will assist new investors in the industry. As a result, more investors will be attracted to the industry considering its high level of organization.

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**Watch out (every month) for this educating bulletin that keeps you informed on what TAHA is doing to make you ever comfortable in the sector!!**

# TAHA'S FIRST APPEARANCE AT THE NANE NANE SHOWS

The annual agricultural show famously known as the Nane Nane show is an event that could not go unnoticed in the horticultural industry. This year TAHA participated in two Nane Nane shows held in Arusha and Dodoma respectively. The aim of TAHA's participation in both events was creating awareness to Tanzanians on various horticultural developments and products, promoting of the TAHA members' products, getting more members into the Association and gaining more political will for the industry especially for lobbying on policy issues.

TAHA's participation in Dodoma was upon the request of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture Food Security and Cooperatives (MAFC) Mr. Peniel Lyimo. Since the shows were being held nationally in Dodoma, the PS saw it wise to have TAHA at the National shows so as to educate the citizens as well as their leaders on horticultural developments. He therefore not only invited TAHA but also allocated TAHA some booth space at the MAFC Pavilion.

The Dodoma shows were held at the Nzunguni grounds some seven kilometers away from Dodoma town centre.

Meanwhile, the Association also made sure that it secured space in the Arusha shows where most of the big growers come from. The Arusha shows were held at the Njiro TASO grounds.

There were also Nane Nane shows in Mbeya, Morogoro and Mwanza. In Mbeya Allure and Shira Flowers represented TAHA.



From left, some of the TAHA exhibitors take a photo at the TAHA Booth in Arusha while in the second picture the PS of MAFC Mr. Peniel Lyimo takes a photo with some of the TAHA members who are fruits and vegetables processors in Dar es Salaam. In both shows TAHA had exhibitors from both the Secretariat and members coming with their products to sensitize the public on the benefits of horticultural production.

The Nane Nane shows gave TAHA another opportunity to educate the locals on different horticultural activities. It was a bit surprising to see that some of the citizens are not even aware of the different varieties and the high quality of horticultural products produced in the country. The citizens were also educated on the different roles and achievements of TAHA and the great contribution the horticultural sector plays in building the country's economy. As a result, many citizens expressed interests in venturing into different horticultural activities starting from seed production, fruit, vegetables and flower farming, fruit and vegetable farming as well as agro-input supplies.

The TAHA Secretariat is very grateful to all those who made the two shows a great success for the Association. First and foremost, the Secretariat is very grateful to the PS for MAFC, Mr. Peniel Lyimo, for his invitation and endless support in TAHA's participation in Do-

doma. Indeed TAHA was encouraged by the support by of the ministry in general. TAHA also expresses special thanks to Mr. Geoffrey Kirenga who dedicated his time in giving direction to TAHA exhibitors at the Dodoma show.

Many thanks to the members for physically participating in these shows and for sending their products and promotional materials to the TAHA booths. More specifically, many thanks to Dodoma Horticultural Products, GACOCA, Serengeti Fresh, Tengeru Flowers, Tanzania Flowers, Allure Flowers, Shira Flowers, Kilihortex, Multiflower Ltd and PICAFO for their generous participation in the shows.

Indeed the shows were a great success to the extent that TAHA realized all its objectives of participating in these shows.

## MORE PICTURES ON THE NANE NANE

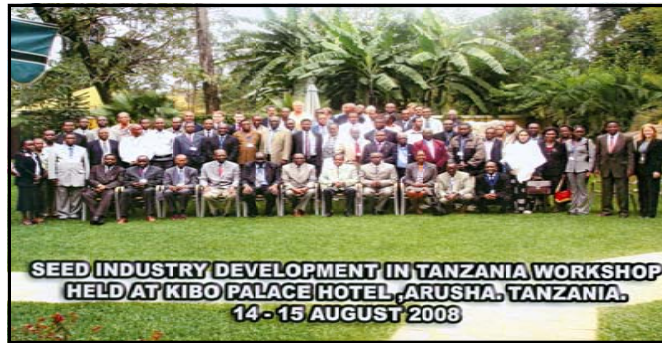


## MORE INTERVENTIONS FOR THE SEED INDUSTRY

This month the seed industry had a very productive stakeholders workshop under the auspices of the Tanzania Seed Traders Association (TASTA) and TAGMAC. The workshop which was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August was inaugurated by the Minister For Agriculture Food Security and Cooperatives Hon. Stephen Wassira and also had the full participation of the Permanent Secretary – MAFC.

The aim of the workshop was to bring different key players in the seed industry to deliberate on opportunities for the development of the seed industry in Tanzania. More specifically, the workshop focused on previous experiences on seed development programs, current seed development initiatives and opportunities, constraining factors and potential strategies. The workshop was also an opportunity for participants from outside Tanzania to share their experiences in development of the seed sector and impact of policy on seed development.

The workshop was therefore very educative and was attended by various experts, government officials, private sector practitioners and delegates from the neighboring countries. One of the biggest resolutions was the government's commitment in supporting the seed industry as well as build-



Some of the Seed stakeholders who attended the meeting pose for a group photo with the Guest of Honor Hon. Stephen Wassira (seated fifth from your left)



Some of the participants of the workshop listen keenly to one of the presentations. On your front right is the TAHA Executive Director.

ing the capacity of TASTA, a process champion on seed issues in Tanzania.

TAHA commends the active Executive Director of TASTA Mr. Bob Shuma and his TAGMAC partners, who managed to organize this successful event regardless of the lim-

ited TASTA Secretariat. Once TAHA receives the proceedings of this great event, the Secretariat will share it with various horticultural stakeholders.

## TANZANIA HOSTS THE 2ND ANNUAL AFRICAN FOOD AND TRACEABILITY CONFERENCE

One of the great events this month is the three days Traceability workshop that was held at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC) from the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of August 2008. The workshop was organized by TraceSoft Kenya in collaboration with TraceTracker.

Officially opened by the managing Director of Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organization (TIRDO) Dr. Ludvick Manege, the workshop brought together experts from different sectors who shared their different Traceability experiences. Very powerful presentations were made and TAHA was given a chance to share with the forum some of the trade and traceability issues the horticultural industry in Tanzania is faced with. In the workshop, it came to light to the participants that Tanzania still has a long way

to go when it comes to compliance to traceability standards and addressing traceability challenges. The emergence of very many standards in the global market is one of the challenges that have continued to confuse the producers in their quest to comply. Traceability requires adoption and adaptation to advanced technology, an important factor in facilitating compliance. Access to this technology is still a nightmare to some of the small growers.

All in all, it was encouraging to hear from TIRDO that Tanzania has already embarked on establishing GS-1 Tanzania and that TIRDO will be the process champion. This initiative calls for a closer collaboration between the public and private stakeholders. TAHA also commends TraceSoft for organizing such and important event.

During the workshop, the TAHA Executive Director also met with the TraceSoft Kenya Executive Director to discuss how the TAHA members can benefit from one of the schemes run by TraceSoft. This is a platform where growers are lined to buyers in the global market through an e-system. TAHA will communicate to interested members once the Secretariat receives full communication from the experts.

At its completion, the workshop was officially closed by the Assistant Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry Trade and Marketing Dr. Fulgence Turuka.