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TANZANIA

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Tanzania is a sleeping vegetable giant, notes Dr Gabriel Rugalema

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TANZANIA with 44 million hectares of arable land, plenty of surface and underground water and research institutions of world fame will easily become Africa's big producer of vegetables and fruits if these resources are put to optimal use.

In an interview here, the Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa of the World Vegetable Centre, Dr Gabriel Rugalema, said if all agricultural stakeholders will collectively and seriously focus on research, distribution of seeds and production of vegetables and fruits Tanzania will easily become Africa's huge producer of the two. He explained that Africa has thousands of indigenous traditional vegetable and fruit seeds that have not been unearthed for research and distribution.

"For centuries, crops in Africa have lacked research. So this centre was established here in Arusha to collect, process and store indigenous fruit, vegetable, spice, supplement seeds and finally work closely with agricultural stakeholders in order to produce improved seeds for rewarding horticultural farming," said Dr Rugalema adding that the centre has been asked by the government to research on parent stock and when research is complete the seeds are distributed to state research institutions like Tanzania Research Institute (TARI), Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA), Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) and other private partners for putting seeds on the market.

The representative praised the government for reforms in the agriculture sector, saying: "these efforts are praise worthy because they will lead to national food security, will raise disposable income of the people and create jobs for women and youth."

The centre's seed researcher, Jeremiah Sigalla, said the researches undertaken by the centre are beneficial to Tanzania and other African countries.

"We have in our seed bank over 4,000 seed varieties. We have 400 varieties of spinach seed and 1,600 varieties of okra and the number of varieties increases annually because we collect parent seeds from different African countries," Sigalla explained.

The centre's coordinator of training and extension services, Hassan Mdinga, said the centre trains applicants from African countries and beyond Africa. "We train people from different African countries beyond our continent on how to improve health by growing and taking vegetables and fruits in a most beneficial way," he explained.

Out of Tanzania's 44 million ha of arable land, only 24 per cent was being utilized by 2010 and experts say the situation has not changed drastically.



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AGRICULTURE Vegetable farming is a multimillion business, but it is always not taken seriously

Challenge for vegetable farmers to tap potential

Africa has thousands of indigenous traditional vegetable and fruit seeds that have yet to be unearthed for research and distribution

By The Citizen Reporter
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Arusha. Tanzania has what it takes to become Africa's largest producer of vegetables and fruits if it puts its resources to optimal use, an expert has said.

The regional director for Eastern and Southern Africa of the World Vegetable Centre, Dr Gabriel Rugalema, said with 44 million hectares of arable land, plenty of surface and underground water and research institutions of world fame, Tanzania has what it takes to be a powerhouse player in production of vegetables and fruits.

"If all agricultural stakeholders collectively and seriously focus on research, distribution of seeds and production of vegetables and fruits, Tanzania will easily become Africa's huge producer of the two," said Rugalema during a discussion with a sec-

tion of media outlets.

He said Africa has thousands of indigenous traditional vegetable and fruit seeds have not been unearthed for research and distribution.

"For centuries crops in Africa have lacked research. So this centre was established here in Arusha to collect, process and store indigenous fruit, vegetable, spice, supplement seeds and finally work closely with agricultural stakeholders in order to produce improved seeds for rewarding horticultural farming," said Dr Rugalema.

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RUGALEMA | DIRECTOR

private partners for putting seeds on the market.

The representative praised the Tanzanian Government for reforms in the agriculture sector,

saying: "These efforts are praise worth because they will lead to national food security, will raise disposable income of the people and create jobs for women and youth."

The centre's Seed Researcher, Mr Jeremiah Sigalla, said the researches undertaken by the centre are beneficial to Tanzania and other African countries. "We have in our seed bank over 4,000 seed varieties. We have 400 varieties of spinach seed and 1,600 varieties of okra and the number of varieties increases annually because we collect parent seeds from different African countries," Mr Sigalla explained.

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DAILY NEWS

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Tanzania is a sleeping vegetable, fruits giant

From DAILY NEWS
Reporter in Arusha

TANZANIA, with 44 million hectares of arable land, plenty of surface and underground water and research institutions of world fame will easily become Africa's big producer of vegetables and fruits if these resources will be put to optimal use.

Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Director of the World Vegetable Centre, Dr Gabriel Rugalema, said that if all agricultural stakeholders will collectively and seriously focus on research, distribution of seeds and production of vegetables and fruits, Tanzania will easily become Africa's huge producer of the two.

"For centuries crops in Africa have lacked research. So this centre was established here in Arusha to collect, process and store indigenous fruit, vegetable, spice, supplement seeds and finally work closely with agricultural stakeholders in order to produce improved seeds for rewarding horticultural farming," said Dr Rugalema in an interview.

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rica has thousands of indigenous traditional vegetable and fruit seeds that have not been unearthed for research and distribution.

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Habarileo

World vegetable kuleta mageuzi kilimo cha mbogamboga

Na Mwandishi Wetu, Arusha

TANZANIA ipo katika nafasi nzuri ya kuwa mzalishaji mkubwa wa mbogamboga na matunda barani Afrika endapo itaitumia vizuri Taasisi ya Kimataifa ya Utafiti na Uendelezaji wa Kilimo cha Mboga Kanda ya Mashariki na Kusini mwa Afrika.

Alkizungunza na waandishi wa habari waliotembelea kujifunza shughuli mbalimbali za taasisi hiyo Arusha, Mkurugenzi wake, Dk

Gabriel Rugalema alisema taasisi hiyo imekuwa ikifanya kazi ya kukusanya, kuchakata na kutunza mbegu za mazao ya mbogamboga, viungo na vikolezo pamoja na mazao ya matunda.

"Mazao mengi ya mboga hayana utafiti mkubwa katika Bara la Afrika na ndipo tuliona tuanze kufanya utafiti hapa Tanzania, ili tuwe na mbegu zetu za asili," alisema Dk Rugalema.

Alisema kazi waliyopewa na serikali ni kufanya utafiti wa mbegu mama, utafiti ukishakamilika mbegu hizo zinapelekwa kwenye vituo vya utafiti vya serikali kama

Taasisi ya Utafiti wa Kilimo Tanzania (TARI), wakala wa Taifa wa uzalishaji na uendelezaji wa mbegu za kilimo (ASA) pamoja na taasisi binafsi kwa ajili ya kuziendeleza na kusajiliwa na Taasisi ya Kudhibiti Ubora wa Mbegu nchini (TOSCI) kwa ajili ya kuzipeleka sokoni.

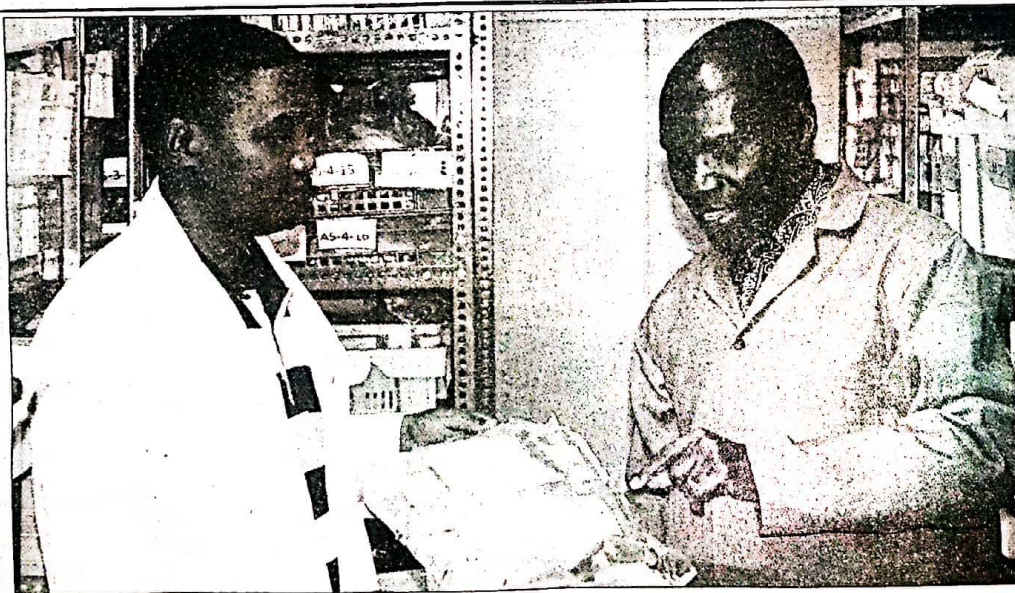
Naye Mtafiti wa Mbegu, Jeremiah Sigalla alisema kituo hicho kina uwezo mkubwa wa kutafiti mbegu mbalimbali na kutoa mchango stahiki katika sekta ya kilimo ndani na nje ya Tanzania.

Alieleza kuwa majukumu ya kituo hicho ni pamoja na kuhakikisha tafiti za mazao ya mboga zina-

fanyika ili kuifanya nchi na mataifa jirani kupata uhakika wa mbegu za mboga sambamba na kuzitunza kwenye benki ya mbegu.

"Mpaka sasa benki yetu ina zaidi ya mbegu tofauti elfu nne, ikiwemo mbegu ya mchicha ikiwa na aina mia nne na bamia ikiwa na aina elfu moja mia sita," alisema Sigalla.

Kwa upande wake, Mratibu wa mafunzo na ugani, Hassan Mndiga alisema mbali ya kutafiti, kuzalisha na kutunza mbegu, kituo hicho kimekuwa kikitoa mafunzo kwa watu toka mataifa mengi barani Afrika na nje ya Bara la Afrika.



Mkurugenzi wa Taasisi ya Kimataifa ya Utafiti na Uendelezaji wa Kilimo cha Mbogamboga Kanda ya Mashariki na Kusini mwa Afrika (World Vegetable center), Dk Gabriel Rugalema (kulia) akitazama mbegu za mbogamboga zinazotunzwa kwenye benki ya mbegu ya kituo hicho. Mwingine ni mtafiti wa mbegu, Jeremiah Sigalla. (Na Mpitapicha Wetu).

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