

Fighting Poverty through Agro processing

PASS to set up a Youth agro-processing incubator in Zanzibar

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Zanzibar,

The Private Agricultural Sector Support- PASS Trust has officially commenced plans to set up a youth agro-processing incubator in Zanzibar.

The official pronouncements were made after the signing of an agreement between PASS TRUST and Zanzibar's Small and Medium Industries Development Authority (SMIDA) at the Ministry of Trade and Industrialization offices in the Island

The new processing incubator now brings to three the number of incubation centres that PASS through its innovation unit- the Agribusiness Innovation Centre is operating which includes the AIC centre in Morogoro and Kongwa .

The PASS-SUA Morogoro centre incubates youths in Horticulture while the PASS-TALIRI in Kongwa currently deals with goat fattening.

“Through our investment in innovation centres, in collaboration with partners, we are targeting to reach young boys and girls from all parts of the country, who have passion to become entrepreneurs, because we want youths to be self-reliant and create jobs for themselves as well as for other agri business entrepreneurs “Said PASS MD Nicomed Bohay.



PASS MD Nicomed Bohay exchange agreements with Zanzibar's Ministry of Trade and Industrialization Deputy Permanent Secretary Hon. Khadija Khamis Rajab after the signing ceremony

Zanzibar's Minister for Trade and Industrialization Ambassador Amina Salum Ali hailed the government's decision to welcome PASS to Zanzibar to incubate the youths.

“The problem we have had with other financial institutions is that after they give loans to our youths, they don't follow up to know how and what these monies are doing. We are happy with PASS plan because apart from ultimately linking them with financial institutions to access funds, they will mould them into serious agro processors”

Said the Minister.



Zanzibar's Minister for Trade and Industrialization Hon. Amb. Amina Salum Ali speaking during the function.

In Zanzibar, subsistence agriculture is the most important sector of its economy contributing 30.8% to the GDP and employing 70% of the population in rural areas. Youths form an estimated 49% of Zanzibar's population.

According to a world bank report of 2016, Zanzibar battles with a crisis caused by the widening gap between the skills taught in school and those required in the island hence a big number of youths are jobless, with thousands depending on tourism for survival.

“We don't want to continue following tourists everywhere they go if we can have another opportunity to create us jobs. This development by PASS is welcomed and I will apply to be among the first people to participate” Juma Mussaid Haji, a 26-year-old youth who is currently engaged in selling tourism products and artefacts



PASS MD and Deputy PS are joined by AIC Director Mr. Tamim Amijee and SMIDA Director General Mr. Abdulhamid Haji during the ceremony

To start off the program, five small agro processing factories will be set up in the first three months and youths with a passion for agri business carefully selected to join. The agro processing units will thereafter be increased to target of 25 small agro processing factories.

The youths will be given capital to buy the raw materials and other production costs to start the processing. PASS and SMIDA will avail technical persons to guide the incubates throughout the 12 months they will be in the incubation set up. Once they complete the period, PASS will ensure that those who exhibited good agro processing and entrepreneurial skills are linked with financial institutions and guaranteed to take loans for development of their ventures.

Already, about 20 incubates exited from PASS incubation centre in Morogoro in October this year (2019). The youths, through an agreement signed between PASS and TADB are benefiting from the institutions with PASS guaranteeing them loans from the bank as capital to start their businesses at their preferred localities.