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Kahama Promises TIP Assistance

The Ministry of Co-operative and Marketing in a bid to widen market access and development of agro-enterprises will soon start co-operating with Traditional Irrigation and Environmental Development (TIP), which will also enable small-scale farmers to improve their income.

The Minister for Cooperative and Marketing, George Kahama, gave the pledge when officiating at the climax of Northern zone Nane Nane show held at Themis Grounds.

TIP is supporting more than 29,000 small-scale farmers in four selected traditional irrigation districts of Arumeru, Mwanza, Same and Lushoto in the context of sustainable agriculture and natural resource management.

Kahama said he was impressed by the way TIP's package succeeded to contribute to a durable gender balanced, improvement of the living standards of the peasants in traditionally irrigated areas.

Addressing hundreds of farmers, Kahama directed the Director of Marketing in his ministry to visit TIP so as to discuss and lay down strategies with regard to how they can go about it.

"I am very much impressed by this organization, I can dare say TIP is seriously addressing the problem of poverty, hunger, discrimination against women, environmental degradation and diseases," the minister contended. He further said that since his ministry was dedicated in assisting agri-products to get to the market; TIP would enjoy the same support.

Earlier, the TIP Director, Dr. Ibrahim Kawa, said that his organization was established way back in 1988 as a result of research conducted by the irrigation department of the Ministry of Agriculture in 1987/88 under the "Freedom from Hunger Campaign" and the Dutch Aid (SNV).

"TIP provides services to farmers through water user groups to achieve improvement of traditional and small-holder irrigation based on sustainable use of land and water resources," said Dr. Kawa.

In the rural areas, Dr. Kawa said the main problems leading to poverty is not lack of resources per se but also lack of know how in available resources mobilization to improve sustainable livelihoods.