



**News Release**

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**USADF Funds Horticulture Project in Burundi:  
*Project Will Create More Than 100 New Jobs***

WASHINGTON, D.C. –July 14, 2008– The United States African Development Foundation (USADF) has restarted its development initiatives in post-conflict Burundi, expanding employment opportunities to a population that has struggled with extraordinary hardships. More than 100 new jobs, mostly filled by women, will be created by funding Agro-Trading Business S.A. (ATB) located in Kamenge, located on the outskirts of the city.

ATB provides livelihood for hundreds of families, with plans to provide job opportunities for the community as they cultivate an additional two hectares. The current 206 person staff, two-thirds of which are women, is projected to quickly grow, increasing the quality of life of individuals and their families. Members of the Kamenge community can expect job security, increased wages, health care, and educational benefits for their children, resources not typically available in post-conflict periods of peace.

In speaking about the project, USADF President Lloyd Pierson stated, “ADF’s project focuses on an under-served population in Burundi and will create additional jobs and opportunities for those individuals involved.”

USADF Regional Program Coordinator Christine Fowles and United States Ambassador to Burundi, Patricia Moller, presided over a signing ceremony in Burundi recently. Ambassador Moller stated “I am delighted to witness USADF’s first financing of such a deserving enterprise.”

In following the Ambassador’s remarks, Christine Fowles expressed what ATB’s presence has meant for the community, stating “ATB is a shining example of private sector initiative combined with social commitment, a model to inspire other Burundi enterprises. ATB has created employment opportunities for a population deprived of any sense of personal safety, economic security, and hope for more than a decade.”

The \$250,000 grant is designed to increase cut roses production by building additional greenhouses and buying specially propagated plant rootstock.

*The United States African Development Foundation (USADF) is a United States Government agency dedicated to expanding access to economic opportunity in Africa. Currently USADF operates in 18 African nations. Over the past 25 years, USADF has funded nearly 1,100 projects representing in excess of \$150 million in support of African enterprises and local African communities. For more information on USADF, its programs and application guidelines, visit [www.usadf.gov](http://www.usadf.gov).*

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