

# ADF grants 126m/-to mango growers

By Harrieth Mandari

THE United States through its African Development Foundation (ADF) yesterday granted 126m/- to mango growers in Tanzania.

The fund will be a big help to mango growers in the country to have access to trainings on modern ways of mango farming and subsidize mango seedlings pur-

chases at affordable price that even a small scale farmer can buy.

The statement was made by the chairman of Association of Mango Growers in Tanzania (AMAGRO), Barton Nsape at the signing ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

"For so many years mango farmers in Tanzania have been using local methods of farming resulting into poor harvests and products but the modern methods

to be learned through this project will improve that," he said.

Nsape added that the fund will also use for building demonstration sites, nurseries and also for market analysis and conduct different researches.

In the past years AMAGRO were able to afford to produce not less than 10,000 mango seedling but after receiving this fund they intend to produce not less than 16,000 mango seedlings and we will start mobi-

lizing the members from Dar es Salaam, Mtwara and Coastal regions.

In his remarks, the Regional Investment Advisor of ADF, Jon Halverson said Tanzania have been given the fund since it is among the developing countries with higher economic performance.

"The major aim of this project is to help economic development of local farmers so that they can be able to change their

mode of farming and be able to compete at the international market," he said.

He added that ADF have given AMAGRO eighteen months to spend the fund in different developmental activities as the first phase of the project and if performed well more funding will be delivered in another phase.

To date mango growers that have started using modern ways of farming usually use grafted seedling trees.