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US foundation supports Tanzania coastal mango growers

THISDAY REPORTER

Dar es Salaam

THE United States African Development Foundation (USADF) has provided the Association of Mango Growers (AMAGRO) in three regions - Coast, Dar es Salaam and Tanga - with investment support worth \$97,000 (126 m/-).

The funding is intended to strengthen capacity building of

the association which aims to promote, develop, and safeguard the interests of mango farmers, so that mango farming can be a leading and sustainable economic activity in Tanzania.

According to a statement from the US Embassy, the USADF assistance will help 65 small holder mango growers that the association represents to produce improved mango

seedlings and export quality mangoes. The goal is for AMAGRO to become a producer of international quality mangoes and other associated products at a competitive price within the next three years.

The USADF support from the American people will help the mango growers association establish an on-farm demonstration site; train staff and farmers in leadership and

financial systems; develop a business plan and a comprehensive market study; expand membership; develop financial management and internal controls manual; develop a mango production manual; and acquire office equipment. AMAGRO activities include undertaking promotional activities among farmers on income generating possibilities through man-

go production; sponsoring educational activities on mango production for members; farm visits to exchange experiences in sound agronomic practices; producing and distributing improved planting materials; and lobbying for institutional and policy support for mango enterprise. ADF is a United States government agency dedicated to expanding access to economic opportunity throughout

Africa. USADF currently operates in twenty African nations. Over the past 25 years, USADF has funded nearly 1,500 projects representing in excess of \$150m in support of African enterprises and local African communities, including in Tanzania. The USADF is currently supporting 27 investment projects in Tanzania totaling 6.2bn/-. USADF has funded programmes in Tanzania since