

## US gives investment support in Tanga mango growers

By Guardian Reporter

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THE U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF) has provided the Association of Mango Growers (AMAGRO) an investment support worth 126m/-.

The association works for three regions of Coast, Dar es Salaam and Tanga.

A statement from the U.S embassy in Dar es Salaam said the funding from the American people was intended to strengthen capacity building of the association which aims to promote, develop, and safeguard the interests of mango farmers.

"We need mango farming to be a leading and sustainable economic activity in this country," the statement read in part.

The statement said the aid was meant to help 65 smallholder mango growers 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 statement said.

According to the statement, USADF support would help mango growers association establish an on-farm demonstration site; train staff and farmers in leadership and financial systems.

The statement further said that the support would assist the association to develop a business plan and a comprehensive market study and expand membership.

"It would also help to develop financial management and internal controls manual, develop a mango production manual, and acquire office equipment," the statement added.

AMAGRO activities include undertaking promotional activities among farmers on income generating possibilities through mango production.

It also works to sponsor educational activities on mango production for members and farm visits to exchange experiences in sound agronomic practices.

Other activities performed by the association include 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. It is currently supporting 27 investment projects in Tanzania totalling 6.2 bn/-.