

OPENING SPEECH FOR DR. KHALID S. MOHAMMED

PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT OFFICE- ZANZIBAR

DURING COUNTRY LAUNCHING OF MULTINATIONAL – CGIAR PROJECT:
“SUPPORT TO AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC
CROPS IN AFRICA (SARD-SC)” IN TANZANIA

4th and 5th APRIL 2013, Zanzibar Ocean View Hotel, Zanzibar, Tanzania

Principal Secretary Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Zanzibar;

Dr. Nteranya Sanginga, Director General of IITA;

Dr. Chrys Akem, SARD-SC Coordinator;

SARD-SC Cassava, Rice and Wheat Specialists;

District Commissioners;

Directors of Various Public and Private Institutions;

Representatives from the Donor Community;

Representatives from National and International Research Institutions;

Representatives from National and International NGOs;

Farmers' Representatives;

Members of the Press;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honor and privilege for me to be with you during this official launching of this research development project, titled “**Multinational – CGIAR Support to Agricultural Research for Development of Strategic Crops in Africa (SARD-SC)**” in Tanzania.

On behalf of the people of Tanzania I am pleased and honoured to welcome you all. For those of you who come from outside Tanzania, please feel at home and enjoy the calm and hospitality of the people of the spice Islands of Zanzibar.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank **The African Development Bank (AfDB)** for supporting the development of four **African strategic crops (Cassava, Maize, Rice and Wheat)** through this multinational project being led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), and three other CGIAR Centers (AfricaRice, ICARDA and IFPRI).

I must also take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the **International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)** which is project executing agency for choosing Zanzibar as the location for launching this project. This clearly demonstrates the commitment of IITA to the development of agriculture in our region.

I am informed that IITA have contributed much to agricultural development in Nigeria. You may be aware that Nigeria is the world largest cassava producer and Africa largest soybean and cowpea producer. IITA contributed to this achievement through their technologies and support to some policy initiatives.

In Tanzania, we feel highly privileged to have this project which is supported by IITA, AfricaRice and other international research centers with the aim of promoting the commodity value chains for cassava, rice and wheat.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am also informed that, at least 14 member countries will be launching this project including Nigeria where the HQs of IITA is based. The aim of this Tanzania launching of the Project is to allow IITA, AfricaRice and our national agricultural research and extension service (NARES) professionals, policy makers, and the value chain actors to:

- discuss the project objectives;
- elicit the development of the best implementation strategies that are inclusive;
- dialogue on an approach that will ensure ownership of the project by the national institutions;
- dialogue on the required support, from policy makers to ensure that the desired transformational impact is created.

These are very noble objectives for the launching ceremony, which we strongly support.

Ladies and gentlemen

I understand that, The African Development Bank (AfDB) accepted this project and funded the sum of equivalent of US\$ 86.94 million. This amount is for implementing the project for a period of five years (2012 to 2016). The four international agriculture research centers will provide a counterpart contribution equivalent of US\$ 22.5 million.

The overall objective of the project is to enhance food and nutrition security and contribute to poverty reduction in twenty (20) regional member countries of Benin Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Its specific objective is to enhance sustainably the productivity and income of four CAADP's priority value chains crops (cassava, maize, rice, and wheat).

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It has been brought into my knowledge that the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) will work with the national institutions to implement research on cassava and maize value chains while the AfricaRice Center will be responsible for the Rice value chain and the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) will work for wheat value chain. The IFPRI will be responsible for strengthening the capacity of farmers' groups to adopt technologies to be generated.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am very confident that during your discussions and deliberations, you will be able to strategize ways to support our small-holder farmers to increase the competitiveness of the three commodity value chains.

I would like to assure you that the Government of United Republic of Tanzania and Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar will provide the necessary support towards ensuring the success of this project for improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers who depend on these three crops for their livelihoods.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar take the modernization of Agriculture very seriously to secure our food security and fight poverty. Tanzania Development Vision 2025 and Zanzibar Development Vision 2020, recognize that the agriculture sector is one of the key drivers of economic growth.

Both *Kilimo Kwanza* (Agriculture First) for Mainland Tanzania and Agricultural Transformation Initiatives (ATI) for Zanzibar are Public Private Partnership Initiatives which aim at modernizing agriculture and attaining economic transformation and poverty reduction. In Tanzania, we signed the

CAADP Compact in 2010 and we have just completed Tanzania Agricultural and Food Security Investment Programme (TAFSIP) that was developed in collaboration with NEPAD and other development agencies.

The TAFSIP aims at investing nearly USA 4 billion dollars in the next 4-5 years to address the critical areas of irrigation, productivity, food security and nutrition, post harvesting losses, rural infrastructure and marketing in order to eliminate poverty and create an overall balanced growth in the economy.

Our two governments also recognize the importance of the Public and Private Sector Partnerships in reaching the national food security objectives. This partnership is a core feature of the Kilimo Kwanza, Agricultural Transformation Initiative and the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT).

The SAGCOT program is a Public-Private Partnership involving both local and international private sector partners to tap into the huge agricultural potential of Tanzania by establishing commercially viable agricultural production clusters of small, medium and large scale enterprises.

Good public-private sector partnership and close linkages, with various national and international organizations will promote the availability, and adoption of improved agricultural technologies and knowledge.

I am happy to note that this new project has a strong component of public-private sector partnership to ensure the agriculture technologies developed by IITA, AfricaRice, ICARDA and other research centers in Tanzania are available for our farming communities.

I am therefore very pleased to hear from the organizers of this launching ceremony that Zanzibar, the SAGCOT area and, Kigoma have been tentatively selected for the implementation of the cassava component of the project while wheat and rice components will be implemented in additional strategic areas in Tanzania.

There is no doubt in my mind that the project implementing institutions are committed to working towards supporting the efforts of Tanzanian government in modernizing our Agriculture.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Tanzanian government and the people of Tanzania, I wish to extend a very warm welcome to all our visitors and wish a nice stay in Zanzibar.

I would like to assure you that the government will support the project towards successful completion and helping us to pave the way for a sustainable future.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I wish to strongly encourage our visitors to take time after working hard in this meeting to visit our historical sites which include Stone Town and Spice Tour and also spare your time to visit the East Coast of the Island to enjoy the white sand beaches and the calm and hospitality of the people of Zanzibar. See for yourself what Zanzibar can offer as the world famous tourism destination.

I wish you a fruitful discussion and now it is my pleasure to declare this project and the meetings officially launched.

Thank you very much.

Dr. Khalid S. Mohammed
Principal Secretary,
Second Vice President Office, Zanzibar,
Tanzania