

Daily News 4/12/2013 ACT Agriculture 7/19

Govt urged to push more on agriculture development

By a Correspondent

AGRICULTURE UG stakeholders have called on the government to continue improving the agriculture sector so that it can contribute more to growth and sustainable development.

The Chairman of Agriculture Council of Tanzania (ACT), Me Salum Shamte said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the sector had great potential to take the economy to another level once some existing challenges were dealt with.

Giving an example, he said the ongoing land conflicts between farmers

and pastoralists, needed a solution for the development of the nation.

"This can be dealt by proper land allocation which is legally recognised by authorities," he told journalists during a workshop involving stakeholders from agriculture sector.

He also said that excess taxes in agriculture sector should be reviewed for it to meaningfully contribute to the ongoing poverty reduction efforts.

"If through addressing such challenges that this sector will support the ongoing agriculture initiatives such as Kilimo Kwanza and therefore benefit people," he said.

He also said that there was a need to have a system to entice youths into agriculture sector by having financial organs that would provide them with long term loans to develop the sector.

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer for the President Delivery Bureau (PDB), Mr Peniel Lyimo said the government's 'Big Results Now' sought to give necessary push to the development priorities, including agriculture.

"Considering a number of Tanzanians are involved in agriculture, this is among the sectors that can bring huge development to the country," he said.

He said that his

office will make sure that agriculture sector develop, bring sustainable development and improve Tanzania's welfare.

The Executive Secretary of Tanzania Sugar Producers, Amb. Fadhili Mbaga said sugar production in the country was in the verge of collapse due to excess importation of the product.

"Sugar importation should be highly controlled to protect local producers," he said.

The workshop was prepared by ACT in collaboration with other stakeholders and deliberations made will be forwarded to the government for further actions.