



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Southern Highlands agriculture stakeholders meeting kicks off tomorrow**

**Mbozi - November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020:** Agriculture stakeholders from the private sector, public sector (Ministries, Departments and Agencies), non-state actors and development partners from the national and Songwe and Mbeya regions (herein referred together as the Mbarali Cluster) led by SAGCOT Centre Ltd. and the Songwe Regional Secretariat are set to meet in Vwawa, Mbozi District for a two days convention to deliberate on the best partnership approaches to improve performance of the Poultry, Rice, Avocado, Sunflower, Potato and Dairy agricultural value chains.

According to SAGCOT Centre Ltd., the meeting will provide a platform for dialogue amongst stakeholders on key issues of relevance to the agricultural and related sectors' growth in the cluster. Some of the issues to be discussed include sustainable transformation agriculture zooming in on environmental and social issues; regulatory and policy issues; new opportunities for investment in production, processing and marketing as well as agreeing on approaches for realizing the opportunities or devise a way to overcome challenges.

SAGCOT Centre Ltd. pointed out that the meeting will provide a platform to discuss the bottlenecks hindering agricultural development in Mbarali Cluster and suggest better ways to sustainably improve agribusiness. Public sector is expected to share their coordination role of different actors working in their area of jurisdiction while the private agribusiness on their side will share new innovations, progress and challenges faced.

Development Partners projects are expected to share details on various projects and programs (on-going, New, and planned) in Mbarali Cluster. CSOs will present facilitation role that their organizations are to improve agricultural production and productivity, social and environmental issues and challenges they face.

The meeting will also provide a unique opportunities for actors to take up specific responsibilities and commitment to deliver by signing a compact statement which will be signed by the Public Sector, Private Sector including local and international agribusinesses

active in Mbarali Cluster and dealers in agro-inputs, business development, extension services and environmental organisations.

Commenting about the meeting, the Songwe Regional Commissioner, Brigadier General Nicodemus Mwangela, said the meeting provides a unique dialogue opportunity for agricultural stakeholders and will ultimately contribute to development of the agricultural sector. "Sustainable agriculture that is inclusive and environmentally friendly is possible in advancing the industrial economy," he said.

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