In September 2021, Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Dr. Philip Isdor Mpango and Hon. Kassim Majaliwa Majaliwa, the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania visited Kigoma Region.

During the visit, the Prime Minister launched the Mvugwe Aggregation Centre constructed under the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP), while the Vice President opened the National Small Industry Development Organization (SIDO) Exhibition which brought together more than 700 entrepreneurs from Tanzania and neighboring countries to Kasulu District in Kigoma.

This E-Journal takes you through these activities in pictures!

Photos by: Msafiri Manongi/UN Tanzania
On 17th September 2021, Honourable Kassim Majaliwa Majaliwa, the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, launched Mvugwe Aggregation Centre in Kasulu District Council in Kigoma Region. The aggregation centre, which was constructed as part of the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP), is capable of storing 640 tonnes of crops and will help farmers in Mvugwe village reduce post-harvest losses. The Prime Minister launched the centre during his monitoring mission where he visited various developmental programmes in the region.

At the launch the Prime Minister expressed that Mvugwe Aggregation Centre is a landmark structure in the area and that he expects it to catalyze crop production and lead to improved livelihoods. He further urged the farmers to use the facility for improved crop storage and to secure better prices for the crops.
The Mvugwe aggregation centre will be a one-stop shop for buyers and sellers/farmers. The project is expected to offer the following services to smallholder farmers of Kasulu district: modern storage facilities, cassava drying services (solar dryer), cassava cleaning facilities, loading/unloading bays/spaces for trucks, open/public auction area for price negotiations between buyers and sellers, a centralized revenue collection office for Kasulu District Council.
On 22\textsuperscript{nd} September, the Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Dr. Philip Mpongo, opened National SMEs exhibition organized by the Small Industry Development Organization (SIDO). The SIDO exhibition attracted entrepreneurs from Tanzania and other neighboring countries and included participation of various entrepreneurs and groups supported by the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP) through the Youth and Women Economic Empowerment (YWEE) and Agriculture Pillars of the programme.

In his opening speech of the National SME exhibition, the Vice President emphasized the importance of investing in small businesses and entrepreneurs who will contribute to the country’s economy. Currently, small businesses contribute to the country’s economy by eight-point two percent (8.2%).
Ms. Theresia Massoy, Agriculture Officer from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), briefing the Vice President and delegation on seed multiplication, improved crop storage, savings groups, and chick brooding technology, at the KJP booth during the SIDO exhibition.

The Vice President inquiring on the capacity of the chick brooding technology and if the technology can be scaled up and implemented at the national level.
A Certificate of Appreciation given to the Kigoma Joint Programme for its support to facilitate the 3rd SIDO National Exhibition for SMEs.

Beneficiaries under the Kigoma Joint Programme briefing visitors on their products, as a result of capacity building activities on seed production at QDS grade (Quality Declared Seed) under the supervision of Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute. The produced seeds were graded as 98% pure seed with 99% germination rate.
On the last day of the National SMEs exhibition, Kigoma Regional Commissioner, Thobias Andengenye, thanked all the participants for their support, while urging others to take initiatives in commencing their businesses regardless of its magnitude.
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