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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

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PRESS RELEASE

**GOVERNMENT TO FORMALIZE TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTS IN THE COUNTRY**

Dodoma, 14 July 2023

Minister for Agriculture, Hon. Hussein Bashe (MP) held a joint meeting with businessmen and stakeholders who sell agricultural products in and outside the country with purpose to discuss trend of the export of products, including the Government's efforts in removing trade barriers and formalization of the agricultural products business.

Statistics show that agricultural contribution to the economy is 26.1 percent whereby agricultural exports have increased from US Dollars million 994.5 in 2021 to US Dollars billion 1.38 in April 2023.

The government plans to formalize agricultural business in order to increase the value of crops and protect farmers and traders against any disruption or fraud that often occurs in the trading of agricultural products.

As to food security, Hon. Bashe ensured businessmen and stakeholders that Tanzania has sufficient food accumulated to 114 percent. He further cemented that this is in line with President Samia Suluhu Hassan's remarks that it is important for the country to reserve enough food; or else trade it to any open market within the guidelines of the Government.

In addition, Hon. Bashe highlighted that the Government is facilitating NFRA to have a capacity of storing 3,000,000 tons by year 2030 as part of strengthening food security and nutrition. While another step is to increase NFRA's ability to buy farmers' produce and raise the storage capability up to 500,000 tons.

The Minister has also directed NFRA in Dodoma to facilitate anyone who is interested in purchasing any stock of maize in storage at a cost of 1,000 shilling per kilo.

In respect to the registration of warehouses in the public sector, private sector and other relevant stakeholders, the Government has developed a digital system called *Crops Stock Dynamics System* in efforts to simplify the registration process. Furthermore, the Ministry plans to enhance the Agricultural Trade Management Information System (ATMIS) so that permits can be accessible in a timely fashion.

Minister Bashe also informed businessmen and stakeholders that Tanzania is in preparation to host the Africa's Food Systems Forum - 2023 (Africa's Food Systems Forum), which is part of measures to strengthen food security. The meeting is scheduled to take place from 5 to 8 September 2023 and will involve various agricultural and business stakeholders from within the country, stakeholders from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC).

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