

NEWS & FEATURES

Mkuranga's model farm: Leading the Way in Mango Innovation

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Imagine a mango farm where tradition meets cutting-edge technology to produce some of the finest mangoes in Tanzania. That's exactly what's happening at the model farm in Mkuranga, which Godfrey Kirenga, CEO of the SAGCOT Centre, recently visited. Showing him around is Hamadi Mkopi.

A Showcase of Excellence

Kirenga toured the lush orchards, witnessing firsthand the farm's meticulous management and vibrant fruit-laden mango trees. "This farm is not just a testament to excellent agricultural practices, but also a living laboratory for aspiring and experienced farmers," Kirenga remarked. "It demonstrates how Tanzania can produce world-class mangoes through proper management and innovation."

Global Varieties Thrive in Tanzania

Mkopi, a true mango maestro, guided the tour, highlighting the farm's focus on superior mango varieties. In addition to local favorites, the farm cultivates international varieties like the Chokanan from Malaysia and the Sindhri from Pakistan, opening up new opportunities for the Tanzanian market.

(Insert photos here showcasing the different mango varieties grown on the farm)

Training the Next Generation of Mango Farmers

This farm is more than just a production site – it's an educational hub. Mkopi is dedicated to sharing his expertise with aspiring farmers, providing training and technical assistance in key areas like:

- **High-quality Grafting:** Selecting the best grafts for optimal growth.
- **Proper Spacing:** Maximizing productivity by giving each tree enough space.
- **Pest and Disease Management:** Protecting crops and maintaining their health.

Mkopi's nursery is a cornerstone of his operation, focusing on developing resilient mango varieties adapted to Tanzania's diverse climate.

Boosting Tanzania's Economy Through Mangoes

Mkopi's strategic approach extends beyond cultivation to understanding market dynamics. He caters to consumer preferences, ensuring his mangoes are highly sought after in local and international markets. His efforts are significantly boosting Tanzania's economy by:

- Empowering local farmers with valuable skills
- Enhancing food security and rural development
- Creating job opportunities

A series of debates and discussions have highlighted the mango value chain as a critical yet underutilized asset in Tanzania's agricultural sector. Dubbed *Utajiri Uliojificha* (The Hidden Wealth), the mango industry is emerging as a game-changer, offering immense potential to boost rural economies, create jobs, and position Tanzania as a key player in global agribusiness.

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