

NEWS & FEATURES

Grimme's Mechanization Boosts Tanzania's Potato Sector: An Interview at Fruit Logistica

Published: 6 March 2025

March 06, 2025 –

At this year's **Fruit Logistica trade fair** in Berlin, **Tullah Mloge** of the **SAGCOT Centre** sat down with **Frank Nordmann** of **GRIMME Landmaschinenfabrik GmbH & Co. KG** to discuss the German company's transformative role in **Tanzania's potato industry**.

The trade fair, held from **February 5 to 7, 2025**, provided a global platform for innovation in the fresh produce sector. Over the past decade, **Grimme's partnership in Tanzania** has grown into a **remarkable success story**, with **potatoes now ranking as the country's third most important crop for food security**, following maize and rice.

A Decade of Progress

"Ten years ago, we started the potato project with Grimme," Mloge noted, emphasizing the collaboration's impact.

As a **global leader in agricultural machinery**, **Grimme** has played a **pivotal role** in mechanizing Tanzania's potato sector. Nordmann, representing Grimme, expressed pride in the partnership, welcoming Mloge to their booth at **Fruit Logistica**, one of the **world's premier fresh produce industry events**.

Over the years, Grimme's efforts have evolved significantly. Initially, the main challenge was **who would manage and maintain the equipment?** That question was answered through a successful collaboration with **Kibaigwa**, a **Tanzanian agricultural enterprise** now equipped with a **full suite of Grimme machinery**—covering **soil preparation, planting, cultivation, topping, and harvesting**.

Mechanization Milestone with Kibaigwa

Nordmann highlighted Kibaigwa's **critical role** in Grimme's Tanzanian operations:

"We equipped Kibaigwa with a full set of equipment for the entire potato value chain," he said.

The impact has been **extraordinary**:

- ✓ **Over 1,000 potato farmers** have rented Grimme's equipment.
- ✓ **Yields have more than doubled**, thanks to improved mechanization.

✓ Farmers are now **exploring ways to acquire their own fleets**, further increasing productivity.

"It's a successful story so far," Nordmann noted, emphasizing the growing demand for **advanced agricultural machinery**.

Small Machines, Big Impact

Looking ahead, **Grimme is adapting its mechanization strategy to better serve Tanzania's smallholder farmers**.

✂ Exciting news:

Grimme's **India subsidiary** is now manufacturing **smaller, more affordable machines**, designed **specifically for small-scale producers**.

"This is the next step for us—to bring mechanization to smallholder farmers in the potato sector," Nordmann explained.

Mloge welcomed this move, linking it to broader trends in Tanzania's agricultural development. She also pointed to the **newly established Potato Council of Tanzania**, which brings together key players in the potato value chain.

🔊 Industry standard:

Farmers believe that a **Potato Council member** should have at least **10 acres of potatoes**—a clear **indicator that mechanization is becoming essential**.

A Vision for the Future

The discussion reinforced a **shared optimism** about the **future of Tanzania's potato industry**.

Mloge cited **mechanization's success in Mbarali's rice sector**, where **farmers now use machinery from land preparation to harvesting**. She envisions **a similar transformation** for potatoes:

"I'm sure it will be possible for potatoes because now the farmers have the purchasing power," she said.

As the interview wrapped up, **Mloge and Nordmann reaffirmed their commitment** to strengthening their collaboration.

"Thank you very much, Tullah," Nordmann said.

"I hope we are going to make this happen."

Why This Matters

✓ **Grimme's mechanization solutions** are transforming **Tanzania's agriculture**.

✓ **Potatoes are solidifying their status** as a key **food security crop**.

✓ **New machinery for smallholder farmers** could **accelerate sustainable growth** in the sector.

With **innovative solutions on the horizon**, this partnership **could become a model for sustainable agricultural development**

Published 6 March 2025 · News & Features

Source: <https://agcot.org/2025/03/06/grimmes-mechanization-boosts-tanzanias-potato-sector-an-interview-at-fruit-logistica/> · AGCOT Centre, Dar es Salaam