

# CPB ventures in sunflower oil seeds sub- sector

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IN EFFORTS to advance the performance of the sunflower sector in the country, the Cereals and Other Produce Board (CPB) has successfully established a modern sunflower seeds processing plant.

Installed at Dodoma Capital City, the ultra modern factory has capacity to process at least 40 tonnes of sunflower oil in a day.

"Among others, investment in this timely factory at the heart of Tanzania has helped in creating new jobs, but also reducing dependency on edible oil from abroad," CPB Managing Director.....told The Guardian during an exclusive interview.

He informed that the annual demand for sunflower seeds for the factory was standing at a total of 12,000 tonnes.

And he added:"This means in order to get enough seeds through the year, more than 12,000 acres needed to be planted which is a prestigious economic opportunities for the farmers and other relevant stakeholders in the entire sunflower sub- sector,"

However, to ensure the factory gets needed sunflower seeds, he said PCB

was continuing to conduct diverse contract farming with stakeholders as well as other Institutions in a bid to ensure the plant was receiving enough raw materials.

"Apart from that CPB continues to sensitise the farmers in the regions of Dodoma, Tabora, Singida and Morogoro to enter into an agreement with the board with an eye to form an agriculture contract," he stated.

He detailed that through agricultural contracts in groups and cooperatives, CPB connects the farm with different financial institutions, including banks in order to access loans and input suppliers.

Giving more details, he said the farmers are also linked to insurance agencies for compensations in the event of drought or other environmental challenges.

"We're also collaborating with the District Council Agricultural Officers for rolling out key training towards the farmers, especially to help adopt best agronomic practices with an eye to help them harvesting bumper," he stated.

CPB was established by the Cereals and Mixed Crops Act no. 19 of 2009 (The Cereals and Other Produce Act No. 19 of 2009).

Unlike other crop boards that are

responsible for managing crops / crops, CPB has been tasked with trading grain and other crops to enable the farmer to have a reliable market and a competitive price for his produce.

The board, CPB was initiated with the aim of addressing the responsibilities of the former Agency National Mining (NMC) and the former Export Agricultural Board (GAPEX) in ensuring the farmer has access to reliable markets for the crops they grow and also to bring about a balanced balance in the grain and other crops sectors. Assets entrusted to the CPB include factories, warehouses, sheds and land