

ULTRA-MODERN MARKET OFFERS BETTER PRICES FOR FARMERS

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Maize growing farmers looking for better prices for their kernel should sell it through Kibaigwa ultra-modern market located in Dodoma Region where the price for a 90 kilo bag now averages Sh20,000.

The market's general manager, Jeremiah Mtagwa, told Business Week that, at Kibaigwa, farmers are in con-

trol of the market hence exploitative practices by some greedy businessmen are unwelcome.

"Currently the average price for a bag of maize is Sh20,000 compared with Sh16,000 that private businessmen are offering farmers in many parts of the country as the highest," Mtagwa said at the market's pavilion at Mwalimu Nyerere Nane Nane show in Morogoro.

Many large-scale private businessmen and millers are

now buying maize from Kibaigwa because it is of high quality and standard.

Mtagwa said the market's four residue-separating mills have the capacity of processing up to 20 tonnes of maize an hour.

Farmers through their network called Mwiwata are controlling Kibaigwa market's daily business after signing an administrative contract with Dodoma Municipal authorities who own the market.

"It's the best place for both farmers and buyers because they both get optimum price and quality product respectively," Mtagwa noted. Officially opened last year, Kibaigwa market is worth Sh1.3bn.

The market is one of the four which are run by Mwiwata which is a nationwide umbrella association of peasants and smallholder farmers in the country.

Other markets which are exclusively managed by the

association include Nyandira Mgeta, Tandal Kinole and Tawa, all in Morogoro Region.

An official of Mwiwata said the markets are models of how a mutually beneficial liberal market system in agriculture is supposed to work.

He said the association, with assistance from the government, plans to run more similar markets countrywide to tame greedy businessmen who have been over exploiting farmers.