

# Farmers turn richer thanks to ICT tips

*By Sebastian Gabunga, Magu*

GROWERS of food and cash crops in Magu District, Mwanza Region, have said that the existence of information and communication technology in Magu District has enabled them to access market information and sell their products at better prices.

They said this during a one-day workshop, organized by SWOPnet-Mwanza Branch, held at the Centre for Crops Marketing Bureau (CROMABU) which is in Magu town.

Elias Lumashi, a farmer, said before CROMABU was established, he was growing millet on a subsistence level only as he thought it had no market. After CROMABU started searching for markets and providing information about various crop prices to farmers in villages, suddenly he discovered that millet had a market.

Before that, he said, he was also selling rice to businessmen at a throw-away price. But after acquiring market information and various crop statistics, he could sell his rice at a good price.

Another farmer, Marietha Lugata, said that thanks to ICT she got a good market for her tomatoes at Sirari in Tarime District, where she could sell a basket of tomatoes for Tsh. 10,000 instead of the Tsh. 5,000 she would obtain at Magu town markets.

Chairman of the CROMABU Board of Directors, Hirnoy Barmeda, said the centre had been officially established in 2001, with the aim of enabling farmers to have access to market information and crop prices from various parts of the country, through SWOPnet.