

'Trained women exporters to boost private sector'

**By Correspondent
Beatrice Philemon**

EMPOWERING African businesswomen to become exporters will boost the private sector in African countries, the Director of the Centre for International Business Development Services, Remmy Temba, has said in Dar es Salaam

He was talking during the ongoing training for Trainers' workshop on export organised by CIBDS, with the support of the International Trade Centre (ITC/ Geneva) and the Trade Facilitation Office (TFOC/ Ottawa).

He said: "Empowering and providing training on export will also assist African businesswomen to create jobs, make products that can compete in the global market, reduce poverty and build communities."

The training of trainers on exports would also enable them to teach other African businesswomen who wished to access the global market, understand business information on export market and quality needed in export market.

"This training is an initiative known as Access for African businesswomen in International Trade under the Programme for building the African Capacity for Trade (PACT) which is jointly executed by the ITC and TFOC.

"The Access initiatives

targets African women entrepreneurs, who have attained a fair level of management competence and are actual, emerging or potential exporters," he stated.

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Wilfred Nyachia, said: "We in Tanzania have given priority for the empowerment of Small and Medium Enterprise (SMEs) investment on activities that will contribute to income generation."

"Our sustainable industrial and national trade policies and the National Strategy for Growth, Reduction of Poverty all articulate the creation of strengthening of enterprises to contribute to among others, export readiness, diversification and expansion of export basket," he said.

Nyachia told participants that the share of exports from Tanzania to the world was on the decline. To address this situation, the Government had embarked on reforms and implementation of policies geared to increasing exports of goods and services.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade formulated and launched a national Trade Policy in February 2003 for a competitive economy and export-led growth to facilitate Tanzanian firms and entrepreneurs to strive towards production of high

quality products to face competition in the global market.

"The policy emphasizes the use of available resources through joint efforts of all stakeholders' public - private smart partnership," he said.

He cited the SIDO-WED project that had trained many women entrepreneurs in food processing who are eager to enter the export market.

"I believe this regional workshop has been slotted in at the right time to prepare a team of trainers and facilitators for leading the efforts of our countries towards economic empowerment of the African businesswomen," he said.

"I hope that the course will address issues on quality, packaging data collection, analysis, market intelligence business information and finance which are definitely not the only areas that limit our entrepreneurs to export but are quite important.

"Initiatives such as the programme for building African Capacity for Trade (PACCIA/PACT, which is being implemented in our countries already are addressing issues of strengthening business support institutions, enhancing enterprises competitiveness and promotion of business opportunities," he said.