

Business

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create five years

ts on the local market this year.



G. Barya

to produce qual-
products for exports,
nets, and the pro-
ana and pineapple
says.
Utexrwa employs
direct workers in

different departments of the factory. But this is also expected to increase to 1000 workers, according to management.

The company is about to start producing mosquito nets this year while also adding value to its silk products.

Rajendran revealed that about 4 million mosquito nets are the target for the local market by the end of this year with initial investments worth \$6 million. About 8 million nets are targeted by 2010.

Without divulging into details, Rajendran disclosed that the company is negotiating with a German company for enhancement of the required technology in mosquito nets production.

"Once all is set, UTEXRWA will start ITNs production by probably by March or April this year having gotten government's support," he continued.

Nyabihu cooperative to boost potato production

BY GERTRUDE MAJYAMBERE

A FARMERS' cooperative in Nyabihu district, Western Province is planning to increase potato production from 806 tonnes to 1,210 tonnes.

The grant worth \$92,000 equivalent to Rwf52m is to fund the expansion of potato production for a larger market and will see an increase of 33 percent within 18 months.

The grant agreement signed with the United States African Development Foundation (USADF) is to support economic development in Rwanda, according to a press statement from USADE.

This follows *Coopérative des Agriculteurs de la Culture de Pomme de Terre de Karago*'s hiring of a technical assistant to develop a five year business plan. The grant will help farmers to acquire training and a stock of new seed varieties, fertilizer, fungicides, hoes and packaging materials.

It will also acquire a better storage facility. The cooper-

ative will benefit more than 363 people with 71 percent women who are widows.

"By directly funding this cooperative, USADF is promoting economic development at the grassroots level in Rwanda in an effort to create jobs and secure a higher quality of life for members," USADF President Lloyd Pierson stated.

USADF re-established programming in Rwanda in 2004.

The current portfolio includes 17 projects totalling \$2.7m. Some of the projects funded by USADF include, Rwanda Women Network (RWN), Rubilizi Dairy, Rwanda Small Holder Specialty Coffee Company, Gahaya Links, Ikirezi Natural Products and Kigali Cement Company Limited.

The funds are used to strengthen the organizational structure, training services, financial management, business planning and marketing activities.

The are also used to improve quality and production procedures, provide technical assistance and monitoring.

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