

Coffee growers benefit from USADF

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Mzuzu Coffee Planters Cooperative Union Limited affiliates, Viphya North and South East Mzimba, on Friday received a big boost in their coffee production when they got a United States African Development Foundation (USADF) grant totalling K70 million to be shared equally among them.

USADF entered into a cooperative agreement with the National Association of Business Women (Nabw) in December 2008 to implement a programme on promotion and development of indigenous small-scale agribusinesses and medium sized enterprises, especially those involved in agricultural and production businesses.

Mary Frances Malunga, USADF programme director in Malawi and Nabw executive director, said during the grant's signing ceremony that the goal of the programme is to expand local capacity to promote and support grass roots participatory



Nyirenda (C) hands over the signed document to a representative of the cooperative. Looking on is (L) Kalua

development. She said the total funding to the coffee sector alone under this project is now cumulatively K175 million.

"These funds will [among other things] go towards building capacity of the coffee growers in terms of procurement of modernised central pulper units (CPUs), coffee seed and tools, construction of structures to house the CPUs, extension services

to coffee farmers, setting up a revolving loan fund and organising a study tour to Tanzania's ADF-funded coffee groups," she said.

Ministry of Industry and Trade Principal Secretary Nerbert Nyirenda, who witnessed the signing ceremony, thanked the United States Government through USADF for establishing the programme in Malawi.

"This holistic approach towards enterprise

development ensures that all the key issues in the supply chain are addressed," he said. "This will tremendously contribute to well-managed business entities that produce high quality products that can compete on the regional and international markets."

Mzuzu Coffee Planters Cooperative Union Limited chief executive Harrison Kalua said the coming of the grant is timely and will motivate farmers to produce more. ■

PHOTOGRAPH: JOSEPH-CLAUDE SIMWAKA

BUYING	SELLING
9.3074	152.2936
3.3639	232.2985
0.5802	21.4034
1.8039	209.8761
6.8550	149.7921
0.6703	146.2971
1.6824	1.7497
4.6097	4.7941

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES INDICATIVE RATES FOR MARCH 2010

Selling Price	Selling Yield
99.8755	6.50%
99.7418	6.75%
99.5989	7.00%
99.3873	7.50%
98.7020	8.00%
98.0445	8.00%

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES INDICATIVE RATES FOR MARCH 2010