Minister messages

Agriculture Sector stands second in terms of its contribution to Zanzibar GDP (MOFEA Growth Strategy Report 2006). Based on MOFEA 2006, any serious strategy for reduction of rural poverty and improvement of food security requires considerable improvement on the income of smallholder producers in agriculture related activities and thus must promote improvements in their production activities. Due to this importance, the sector has been ranked as third priority sector next to Tourism and Trade Sectors in MKUZA. Despite the potential of agricultural sectors in reduction of rural poverty being widely recognized and documented, the challenge however lies on how to support specific changes that will lead to a greater role of the sectors in the reduction of poverty. The most critical one is on how to transform smallholder subsistence agriculture into viable commercial entities. This will not only increase the contribution of the Agricultural Sector to GDP but also (and more importantly) it will increase its contribution in reduction of rural poverty. Currently, our Agricultural Sector is riddled with various inadequacies including the low use of production technology and investment capital, low private investment in the sectors, underdeveloped agricultural support services, depletion of the natural resource bases and environmental degradation and over reliance on rain fed agriculture.