

# GGML supports sunflower farming in Geita



**GGML's Senior Manager for Sustainability, Gilbert Mworja handing over sunflower seeds to a Geita farmer joined by Geita District Commissioner Hon. Colonel Maghembe (center).**

Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) has distributed 23 tonnes of sunflower seeds to the communities around the Mine with a view of propagating sunflower farming and its value addition. The distribution saw 13.8 tonnes and 9.1 tonnes handed to the Geita District and Town Councils respectively for further distribution to farmers. The support reflects GGML's ambition to transform the agriculture sector in the communities surrounding the mine by diversification and improving viability. Before the company's initiative most of the farmers relied on their smallholdings to mostly cultivate maize, cassava, groundnuts and raise livestock.

The seismic shift in the crops grown, following a special capacity building program as part of the Mine's Economic Development Program that aligns to AngloGold Ashanti's Environment Social and Governance (ESG) best practices including efforts to impart knowledge to small farmers, led to the introduction of sunflower farming under technical support by the Cholima Agriculture Institute, an agriculture research organization engaged by GGML.

Speaking during the ceremony to handover the sunflower seeds to Kasota famers in Geita District Council, GGML's Senior Manager for Sustainability, Gilbert Mworja said that the Company had spent TZS 108 million to procure the sunflower seeds targeting 5,875 farmers from the host community

*"GGML aspires to benefit the host community by initiating sustainable projects which will outlast mining activities. We are delighted to distribute these seeds during the rainy season because this is the opportune time for farmers to start growing their seeds,"* he said.

The Geita District Commissioner Hon. Colonel Maghembe commended GGML for that support calling upon the Geita farmers to take advantage of that support during this season.



**GGML's Senior Manager for Sustainability, Gilbert Mworja speaking to Kasota farmers at the handover ceremony of sunflower seeds in Geita District Council.**

“Geita district has a population of 1.4 million people and a big percent of that population depend on agriculture. We have a very big role to play and encourage our farmers to practice modern agriculture methodologies because it can transform our economy easily. The climatic condition of this place allows farmers to cultivate twice a year something which maximizes potential of their farming methodologies,” the DC said reminding farmers that agriculture is a backbone of the country’s economy.

Mr. Saa kumi Makungu, a sunflower farmer at Kasota and Chairman of the NYABUSAKAMA cooperative society that brings together farmers from seven villages surrounding the mine was delighted to receive the support saying it would improve their yield tremendously.

Whilst giving a brief historical background in his remarks, Makungu revealed that sunflower crops had not yet been introduced in Kasota until 2015, following a joint capacity building initiative between GGML and Cholima Agriculture Institute.

Saakumi further explained that varieties of seeds from Agriculture Seed Agency have yielded wonderful results, producing between 12 and 18 litres of sunflower oil per 100 kilograms of sunflower seeds. With the demand for edible oil growing exponentially, the future for these farmers supported by GGML is bright.

AngloGold Ashanti – Geita Gold Mining Limited GGML has supported NYABUSAKAMA with three oil processing factory machines with capacity to process sunflower seeds at a very high speed. One machine processes the sunflower plant to get the seed and the second machine processes the seed to get the sunflower oil as its end product. The process only takes 60 minutes for over one ton, that is 1,200 kilograms of sunflower seeds.