POULTRY & SOYBEAN · NATIONAL STRATEGY

Fast-Tracking the Fight for Soya & Poultry

Beyond Food Security: Powering Tanzania's Poultry & Feed Industrialisation

Tanzania moves to formalise its poultry industry and close a 95% soybean feed deficit - as the Minister directs the launch of the National Poultry Development Strategy at Nane Nane, and stakeholders rally behind contract farming.

HIGH-LEVEL STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE · H.E. Amb. Dr. Bashiru Ally Kakurwa in conversation with Ms. Elizabeth Swai during the Contract Farming Dialogue - Dodoma, 22 May 2026

THE DIRECTIVE

Minister orders National Poultry Strategy launched at Nane Nane

Speaking before a packed hall of farmers, financiers, private-sector leaders and development partners, the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries pressed for the formalisation of an industry he says has never been given the status it deserves.

Tanzania has accelerated its push to transform the poultry and soybean sectors, with the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, **H.E. Ambassador Dr. Bashiru Ally Kakurwa**, issuing a firm directive for the National Poultry Development Strategy to be finalised and officially launched at this year's Nane Nane agricultural exhibitions.

The directive came during a landmark High-Level Stakeholder Dialogue on Contract Farming, Agricultural Financing, Policy, and Farmer Organisation Development, held on 22 May 2026 at the Hotel Mesuma Hall in Dodoma.

> *The big problem we have, despite the sector being large, is that it has not been formalised or given the status it deserves. That is why within the ministry we are preparing the National Poultry Development Strategy.*
>
> **H.E. Amb. Dr. Bashiru Ally Kakurwa**
> Minister for Livestock and Fisheries

Dr Bashiru highlighted the critical need to formalise the poultry industry, issuing a firm directive for the strategy's launch at the upcoming Nane Nane celebrations.

The Minister also called upon financial institutions to increase the provision of affordable loans to youth and women operating within the maize, soybean, animal-feed and poultry value chains - underscoring the government's commitment to inclusive agricultural transformation.

The dialogue convened more than **100 lead farmers** and over **20 young poultry champions** alongside major financial institutions, in robust panels on financing, farmer-organisation development and policy reform.

01 **BY THE NUMBERS**

The animal-feed deficit crisis

The urgency of developing crops for livestock value chains was underscored by **Dr. Asimwe Rwiguza**, Director of Pasture and Animal Feed Development, who presented stark production figures for the 2025/2026 period.

897,750 t
Total national animal-feed production, 2025/2026

~70%
Feed's share of the total cost of raising birds

~30%
Soybean's share of poultry-feed formulations

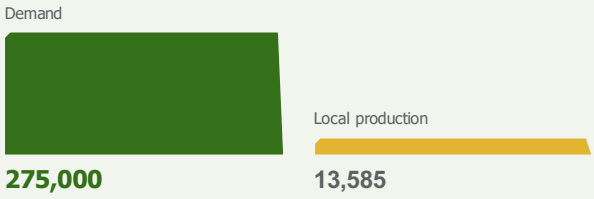
WHERE THE FEED GOES - 2025/2026 PRODUCTION BY TYPE

THE SOYBEAN SHORTFALL

95%+

of the soybean Tanzania needs for animal feed is **not produced at home** - forcing heavy imports that drain foreign exchange and raise farmers' costs.

DEMAND VS. LOCAL SUPPLY (TONNES)



To address this severe shortfall, **Ms. Kissa Chawe**, Assistant Director of Crop Development at the Ministry of Agriculture, announced that the ministry - in collaboration with the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries - has prepared a **National Soybean Development Strategy**, expected to launch soon to strengthen the value chain and boost domestic production capacity.

02 **CONTRACT FARMING**

"The easiest way to remove poverty"

Ms. Elizabeth Swai, Managing Director of AKM Glitters Company and central organiser of the event, delivered a compelling case for poultry farming as Tanzania's most accessible pathway out of poverty.

> *Chicken farming - the entire poultry value chain - is the easiest way to remove poverty and change the economic wellbeing of millions of youth and women in Tanzania. This is an open secret.*
>
> **Ms. Elizabeth Swai**
> Managing Director, AKM Glitters Company

TRANSFORMATION ON THE GROUND - DRAWN FROM FIELD EXPERIENCE

5 → 20

A WOMAN BEGINS

Starting with five chickens, within six months she keeps twenty - the first rung of a climbing ladder.

12 mo

STEADY INCOME

Within a year she earns a steady income that pays school fees, buys medicine, improves nutrition and brings dignity.

500

A YOUTH BROODER

A youth group starts with a brooder unit of 500 chicks - a modest, affordable entry into the value chain.

8-10M

PROFITS & EXPANSION

Six months on, they have generated TZS 8–10 million in profit and are planning their expansion.

Ms. Swai emphasised that contract farming - properly structured and equitably implemented - addresses every constraint at once: it gives farmers guaranteed markets, inputs and credit, technical training and risk-sharing, while securing reliable supply and quality standards for agribusinesses.

1. **Guaranteed markets**
   Assured offtake for every harvest
2. **Inputs & credit**
   Quality inputs supplied on credit
3. **Technical training**
   Know-how transferred to farmers
4. **Risk-sharing**
   Stable pricing, shared exposure

03 **EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY**

From filling stomachs to nourishing a nation

Mr. Obey Assery - Chief Executive Officer, Uchumi Institute.

Mr. Obey Assery, CEO of Uchumi Institute - an institution advancing evidence-based policy dialogue that empowers governments, farmers and the private sector - highlighted a critical policy evolution during the panel on strengthening the regulatory environment for contract farming.

For decades, he noted, Tanzania's focus was simply on staple crops like maize and rice to fill stomachs. But filling stomachs, he argued, is not enough if the nation is not nourishing its people.

> *In the past, our policies spoke only of food security; today the focus is on food and nutrition security. Poultry, livestock and fisheries must be heavily involved so we can secure the protein our nation needs. Poultry farmers must truly understand and embrace contract farming.*
>
> **Mr. Obey Assery**
> CEO, Uchumi Institute

To build a productive, competitive economy, he said, Tanzania must conquer malnutrition and ensure children grow up healthy and strong - and poultry is among the fastest, most sustainable ways to deliver high-quality animal protein to Tanzanian tables. Mr. Assery stressed that poultry must transition from informal, backyard activity to modernised agribusiness, making the upcoming contract-farming guidelines vital.

> *Policy predictability in agriculture is critical, because farming is a long-term investment. Farmers, agro-processors, exporters and investors make decisions months or years in advance - on crops, machinery, irrigation, storage, financing and market contracts.*
>
> **Mr. Obey Assery**
> On the case for a stable regulatory environment

FARMER ORGANISATION & AGGREGATION

"From subsistence to commercial - for generations to come"

Mr. Godfrey Kirenga - Chief Executive Officer, AGCOT Centre, speaking on the panel on strengthening farmer organisations and aggregation systems.

Mr. Godfrey Kirenga, CEO of the AGCOT Centre, delivered pointed remarks directly addressing smallholder farmers about the transformative potential of contract farming.

> *When contracts are honoured by both parties, the benefits are extraordinary: guaranteed markets, quality inputs on credit, technical support and stable pricing. This is your pathway from subsistence to profitable commercial agriculture - not for one season, but for generations.*
>
> **Mr. Godfrey Kirenga**
> CEO, AGCOT Centre

Yet the system thrives on trust and mutual accountability. He acknowledged that limited business experience has at times led to side-selling and contract breaches, and urged farmers to honour their agreements - noting the government now actively coordinates these systems, with modern tools such as **National ID tracking** ensuring full transparency throughout the supply chain.

Those who breach contracts, he warned, will face consequences and risk losing future opportunities. But for those who choose integrity, the rewards are immense - a strong reputation, sustained partnerships, and a prosperous future for their families and the nation's agricultural economy.

In closing, Mr. Kirenga thanked Minister Kakurwa for attending the crucial dialogue, for giving farmers hope and encouraging them to do the right things, affirming that together stakeholders will build a stronger agricultural sector.

MOROGORO · THE FARMERS' CALL

Mindsets have shifted - now give us the tools

Athumani Juma Kipura, a farmer leader from Morogoro, spoke passionately about the transformation in farmers' mindsets - and the critical barriers that remain.

Farmers across Tanzania, he said, have opened their eyes. They no longer farm merely to put a single meal on the table; they now clearly see the immense business opportunities in both crops and livestock. The mindset has shifted from subsistence to commercialisation - they are ready to engage in contract farming and to supply the markets.

Athumani Juma Kipura - Farmer Leader, Morogoro.

But awareness and guaranteed markets alone cannot unlock this potential if farmers lack the proper tools. What they urgently need, he stated, is *zana za kilimo* - modern agricultural tools and mechanisation.

> *To feed a growing nation, honour contracts, and supply massive industries using only a hand hoe is not possible. We have the land, we have the energy, and we have the business drive. If the government and financial institutions can help us access the right implements - tractors, planters and harvesters - production will multiply.*
>
> **Athumani Juma Kipura**
> Farmer Leader, Morogoro

100+
Lead farmers convened at the Dodoma dialogue

20+
Young poultry champions in attendance

3
Ministries coordinating the soybean task force

04 **THE ROAD BEHIND THE DIRECTIVES**

Tanzania's drive for poultry & soybean transformation

The recent directives reflect the culmination of years of collaborative policy work facilitated by the **Agricultural Growth Corridors of Tanzania** (AGCOT, formerly SAGCOT), sector ministries, and the private sector to align the poultry and soybean value chains.

NPDS The National Poultry Development Strategy

Tanzania is working to formalise its poultry sector to meet rising domestic protein demand and lower feed costs - which represent about 70% of the total cost of raising birds. The industry's historically informal nature has prevented smallholder farmers from operating at commercial scale and reaching wider markets; formalisation requires a strategy that provides a clear roadmap for transformation.

To build the NPDS, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries collaborated with the AGCOT Centre and the Tanzania Poultry Executive Compact Committee (TPECC), with financial support from the World Bank. AGCOT spearheaded the drafting, supported initial technical meetings and facilitated the signing of a Poultry Commodity Compact - which led to the formation of TPECC as the secretariat overseeing implementation. The strategy's goal is to resolve structural bottlenecks, scale commercial breeds and establish modern processing facilities to safely meet the nation's growing protein needs.

NSDS The National Soybean Development Strategy

The deficit in domestic soybean production remains one of the longest-standing constraints on the animal-feed industry. Soybean accounts for roughly 30% of poultry-feed formulations, yet local production has historically fallen short of demand, driving substantial imports from neighbours such as Zambia and Malawi.

In response, a multi-stakeholder task force - spanning the Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, and Industry and Trade, alongside private-sector actors, research institutions and farmer organisations - has been developing the NSDS. The draft framework provides a coordinated roadmap to strengthen production, processing, market development and investment, supporting food security, feed availability, industrial development and import substitution. While still subject to government review, complementary initiatives such as the Tanzania Sustainable Soybean Initiative (TSSI) are already advancing improved seed systems, inoculant use, farmer training and market linkages.

CHAMPIONING SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

An honest facilitator - brokering investment, reforming policy and building inclusive, sustainable value chains across Tanzania's agricultural corridors.

As Flagship Initiative No. 7 of the Agriculture Master Plan 2050, AGCOT scales the proven SAGCOT corridor model nationwide - towards a USD 100 billion agricultural economy and Tanzania Development Vision 2050.

EMAIL
info@agcot.co.tz

ONLINE
agcot.co.tz · @AGCOT_CENTRE

HEAD OFOFFICE
7th Floor, Ministry of Home Affairs Building,
Ohio Street, Dar es Salaam

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