

## **India-Tanzania multi-dimensional relations progress with the visit of an official Indian delegation**

A 3-member Indian official delegation led by Joint Secretary (East & Southern Africa), Ministry of External Affairs of India, Dr. Neena Malhotra visited Tanzania from 9-14 July 2017 to review and advance India-Tanzania relations in various fields, with a focus on development partnership and agricultural cooperation. Two senior agricultural scientists were part of the Indian delegation. The meetings were held with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & East African Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries, and officials from different areas, and field visits were arranged in the area of cultivation of pulses (lentils) and horticulture.

Recalling the state visit of the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi to Tanzania in July 2016 and substantive discussions with His Excellency the President of Tanzania, Dr. John P. J. Magufuli, the meeting between the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & East African Cooperation of Tanzania, Dr Aziz P. Mlima and the Indian Joint Secretary, Dr. Neena Malhotra noted the progress made in areas such as economic & commercial relations, development partnership, people-to-people relations and mutual political understanding.

The two delegations observed that as per TRA data, India was the top trading partner of Tanzania in 2016 comprising over 15% of Tanzania's foreign trade and was among the five leading investing countries. The Permanent Secretary mentioned Tanzania's priority for industrialization and invited more Indian investments. A senior delegation visit to India is planned next month to promote further the economic and business ties between the two countries.

The Permanent Secretary appreciated the development partnership covering healthcare, education, water and capacity building. Specifically, the two sides acknowledged the completion of Upper Ruvu water supply project to Dar es Salaam city at a soft credit from India of TSh 220 bn enhancing water supply from 80 million litres per day to over 200 million litres per day as a significant accomplishment providing water to over 700,000 residents of Dar es Salaam city. The Permanent Secretary welcomed the other water projects - the large water transmission and supply scheme to the towns of Tabora, Nzega and Igunga using another soft credit of TSh 580 billion whose construction was launched recently and an additional commitment of the Government of India of over TSh 1.1 trillion for 17 water supply works across the country. The visiting Joint Secretary mentioned Indian grant projects - the recently completed cancer treatment (radiation therapy) facility at Bugando Medical Centre in Mwanza, IT Centre at the Nelson Mandela African Institution for Science & Technology in Arusha - and informed about plans in the field of healthcare and education, including tele-education. She also mentioned that Tanzania was the largest recipient of India's technical training programme covering 400 specialists and officials annually.

The delegation had detailed discussions at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries of Tanzania and Selian Agricultural Research Institute, Arusha on ways to expand agricultural cooperation from training and farm mechanization to collaboration in promoting the farming of pulses, raising their productivity and in horticulture. The field visits by the Indian delegation and their interaction with farmer bodies in the Manyara and Babati districts helped study the current farming practices, issues involved and the ways of extending support in developing these sectors towards the benefit of the farmers in Tanzania. There is considerable potential to lift further the steadily growing export of pulses from Tanzania to India which stood at over 280,000 tonnes in 2016.

The visiting Joint Secretary appreciated the convergences in international arena, including Tanzania signing the Framework Agreement on International Solar Alliance and support & understanding for each other in multilateral organs. The two delegations also acknowledged the value of strong people-level connections between the two countries, including in the field of culture, education and health, and their wider significance touching the common people and their lives. The Indian delegation observed their deep appreciation for the welcome and warmth shown to them by the Tanzanian government and people, the lasting impressions of the natural beauty of Tanzania and of the enormous potential for progressing the ties between India and Tanzania.

**Dar es Salaam**  
**14 July 2017**