

Company Features

UBUNGO FARM IMPLEMENTS MANUFACTURING COMPANY

By: H.N. Kida*

The construction of UFI started in 1966 after an agreement between the governments of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Peoples' Republic of China to establish a factory to manufacture non-motorised farm implements.

The objectives of the company are:

- To introduce the latest farm implements and provide Tanzanian farmers with high quality implements.
- To train our people technically and develop skill to apply the same.
- To save the country's foreign exchange by cutting down importation of farm implements.
- To implement the country's policy of self-reliance on necessary farm implements.

Production started in 1970. Former plans to produce five different items (round eye hoes 180,000, ploughs 10,000, plough parts 35,000, axes 300,000, matchets 80,000) were changed due to the nature of the market and production problems. An annual production capacity of 800,000 round eye hoes and 8,000 ploughs was adopted instead. This target is not achieved for that year since the workers were not yet experienced because of one shift. Also with the following years to-date the production has always been much below the target. Several reasons have contributed to this.

The targets for 1971 and 1972 were met with market constraints. All the UFI products had to be sold through the State Trading Corporation (STC), but by then STC did not have any reliable marketing data for the local market, and so after importing implements from different countries simply distributed them together with those from UFI to retail traders. For the first year UFI sales were very low and it was found later that retail traders did not sell UFI products. Hence, according to a market survey the factory had to alter its production plans while at the same time looked for measures to be taken with the help of NDC officials and the Government. In 1973 UFI was given the monopoly on control of importation, production and sales of farm implements.

The years 1973 and 1974 had different problems. There was worldwide shortage of raw materials and at times lack of space in ships to transport them. Lack of machine spare parts and occasional water and electricity interruptions were common.

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With the party's directive on "Kilimo Cha Kufa na Kuona", the local demand had gone up tremendously. For 1975 the total expected sales for hoes is 3.2 million, while the company's target for the same year provides for 400,000 hoes and 12,000 ploughs.

Actual production capacity of UFI is more than the set targets emphasize. Recently a survey was conducted analysing the utilization and expansion of production capacity. Recommendations of this survey will be implemented in 1976. One of the obvious problems is that UFI as it is has always lacked technical experts, engineers especially.

Readers Forum

WHERE IS YOUR POTENCY?

By: M.M. Matiko*

You briskly tramp the harem
Your goateed chin raised high above
Like that of an orphan
In boozing bouts
You talk of your sons and daughters
You ceaselessly boast of your bully bulls
You say: My sons are lions
And my daughters have the legs of an impala
You continue: My wives have
The waist of a python
And are unbeatable in the love dance.

But why are your chattels the robe of a monk
While you are a lonely ebony in the scrapland?
Where is your hallowed, nay, haloed potency?
Is it in the Faber-Castell bag you sway about
The way a starved he-goat does its testicles?

You seem not to know, brother
That the uncircumcised albino from the other ridge
Urinate in your compound
Brother, the uncircumcised albino has pissed
Your sons and daughters!

Brother, you seem not to know
That your scissors are
The knives of an aged village widow
That your arrows are not poisoned
That your huts cannot house a toy
That your panga cannot cut
The tail of a lizard.

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