MALAWI HAS SOME OF THE BEST AGRONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THE WORLD FOR GROWING TROPICAL FRUITS, INCLUDING MANGOES AND BANANAS. HOWEVER, MALAWI FACES MANY CHALLENGES IN DEVELOPING ITS FRUIT INDUSTRY.

GAFSP and IFC each invested $5 million in Malawi Mangoes, the first commercial fruit farming enterprise and fruit processing company in Malawi. This financing will enable expansion of Malawi Mangoes’ tropical fruit production and processing operations to demonstrate the viability of banana and mango commercial-scale production in Malawi. The scaled up operations and exports will bring more rural jobs and increase opportunities for farmers to supply fruit to the company through its smallholder outreach and development programs.

To date the company has successfully grown international mango varieties in ultra-high density orchards not seen before in Malawi and adopted water efficient drip irrigation to cover over 1,000 hectares of the company’s planting area. Not just content with mango crops, Malawi Mangoes has also established the very first organic banana plantation in Africa. It is working now towards securing Rainforest Alliance (RA) certification for their farms. On final certification Malawi Mangoes will be the first ever banana plantation in Africa to receive Rainforest Alliance accreditation and the first mango plantation in the World to receive this accreditation.

IFC and GAFSP’s investment has helped mobilize additional funding from FMO (the Netherlands Development Finance Company) to support the plantation development of Malawi Mangoes.

EXPECTED RESULTS:

The project aims to deliver transformative and sustainable benefits to the livelihoods of local communities. Malawi Mangoes expects to reach 6,000 small-scale mango farmers by 2018. Farmers will benefit from a shift in production towards higher value-added products and access to inputs and market. The company will also provide training sessions, tree grafting, pruning, spraying and other services as needed via a local field extension team.

The project will contribute to creation of rural jobs, which is a tremendous development challenge in Malawi. By 2020, Malawi Mangoes plans to employ 2,600 people, thus injecting money to the local economy through wages and benefits paid.

Malawi Mangoes will continue introducing efficient irrigation systems to maximize crop yields and establish environmentally friendly farming practices in Malawi.

The project is expected to have a strong demonstration effect for promoting further private sector agricultural investment in the country.