

Mununshi Banana Plantation

by NewsGuru Media Team

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The Mununshi banana plantation, also known as the Mununshi Fruit Company Limited (MFCL), is a large-scale agricultural project located in Mwense District, Luapula Province, Zambia. It was established as a revitalized initiative under the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) to promote rural economic development.

Background and history

The Mununshi project began as a banana-growing scheme but was later diversified to include other crops.

The estate faced challenges after being privatized in the past, leading to its decline.

In 2020, the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) injected millions of kwacha to revamp the plantation and restore its operations.

This revitalization was aimed at reducing Zambia's banana deficit and curbing the country's reliance on imported fruit.

Operations and scale

The company sits on a 313-hectare plantation.

The first harvest under the IDC's revamp occurred in August 2021, yielding over 1,400 tonnes of bananas from 30 hectares.

The plantation primarily cultivates bananas but has long-term plans to diversify into other fruits like avocados and mangoes.

The produce is supplied to both the local market and regional markets, including the nearby Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Economic and social impact

The plantation is a significant employer for the local community, providing both full-time and seasonal jobs.

The project is intended to serve as a model for sustainable, inclusive commercial farming in Zambia.

Future plans include an out-grower scheme to integrate surrounding communities

into the company's supply chain and production.

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