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UN IN ACTION

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RWANDA: REVIVING TEA INDUSTRY

VIDEO

STILL PHOTOS

BERNADETTE IN A TEA

PLANTATION

AUDIO

NARRATION

(NATSOT – SINGING)

Bernadette Mukamazimpaka is a tea farmer who lives in Nshili, Rwanda. A country which is still recovering from the 1994 genocide during which an estimated one million died. She is the sole survivor of her family. 14.5

BERNADETTE (LOCAL DIALECT) F

BERNADETTE TALKS ON

CAMERA

"This plot of land is mine. I planted the tea last year. It is all still young but next year I will start harvesting." 9

NARRATION

BERNADETTE IN A TEA FARM

CU. TEA PLANTS

It's an area poorly suited to the growing of many crops because the soil here is acidic. But fortunately for Bernadette, tea thrives here, in fact to such a degree, that in 2008 the Nshili tea factory opened here. 13.5

BERNADETTE (LOCAL DIALECT)

HARVEST OF TEA LEAVES
BERNADETTE ON CAMERA

“Since the arrival of the factory every villager has been able to grow tea. And that’s why I too have a hectare of tea today.” 9

TEA FACTORY/CONVEYOR

NARRATION

The factory was built as a public-private venture between investors and the UN’s International Fund for Agricultural Development, IFAD. Financing from IFAD has given Bernadette and a co-operative of local tea producers a 15 percent share in the factory’s ownership, a stake that has helped build trust between investors and the locals. 18.5

TEA PROCESSING

Michael Kanyongo, the factory’s manager. 2.5

MICHAEL KANYONGO ON
CAMERA

MICHAEL KANYONGO (ENGLISH) M

“When you put up a factory like this and you are dealing with small scale farmers and the community at large, there could be a lot of suspicion...”

MICHAEL’S VOICE OVER TEA
FACTORY WORKERS

“With the cooperative inside as members of the board and us reporting to them as management, we’ve not had the tug of war we normally see between farmers and companies in other places.”

22.5

NARRATION

FARMERS HAULING THEIR
CROPS WALKING ON A FIELD

And the cooperative also serves a greater social purpose, says Bernadette. 4

SOT. BERNADETTE VOICE OVER
GROUP OF PEOPLE CARRYING

BERNADETTE (LOCAL DIALECT)

“The co-operative is helping the people here to achieve unity and reconciliation. Everyone

THEIR TEA HARVEST

experienced what happened in our country. They know that divisions shattered the lives of Rwandans. So now in joining together it helps us rebuild our lives.” 20

WS. TEA HARVEST

TWO WOMEN HARVESTING TEA LEAVES

NARRATION

An opinion shared also by Faustin Mazimzaka, President of the tea producers' cooperative. 5.5

FAUSTIN MAZIMZAKA TALKS ON CAMERA
TEA FARM

FAUSTIN MAZIMZAKA (LOCAL DIALECT) M

“For unity and reconciliation, tea growing has a role to play. Burundians have a saying, “Go to sleep with hunger and you wake up with hatred”. So whenever there is tea growing going on, people don’t worry about what to eat. Hatred between people vanishes because everyone is living well.” 18

PEOPLE W/ SACKS OF TEA

BERNADETTE BREWS TEA

BERNADETTE SIPS A CUP OF TEA

UN LOGO CLOSING

NARRATION

And given that the cooperative has plans to double the production, chances are there will be a lot more tea growing going on in the future. 8

This report was produced by Declan McCormack for the United Nations.

