



AMATHEON AGRI

# German firm to invest \$50m in irrigation project

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## AMATHEON AGRI

# German firm to invest \$50m in irrigation project

By NKOLE CHITALA  
AMATHEON Agri Holding of Germany plans to invest close to US\$50 million (K257 billion) to irrigate over 10,000 hectares of land for food production in Mumbwa district.

The firm plans to grow traditional crops such as soya, wheat, maize and barley, while future operations might include cattle and timber.

Company chief executive officer Carl Bruhn says the company's long-term objective is the vertical integration of arable land into Zambia's value chain, which will also

add to the country's growing economy.

"We chose to invest in Zambia due to its strong agricultural potential, the growing population as well as the robust economy and stable government. Our extensive research of the African markets proved effective. Zambia is indeed a very welcoming investment destination," he said.

He was speaking when vice president Guy Scott and Labour Minister Fackson Shamenda toured Amatheon Agri's flagship 20,000 hectare farm in Mumbwa District on

Monday this week.

Amatheon's senior management, including chief executive Carl Bruhn and Amatheon Agri Zambia chief executive Andrew Fleming were on hand to answer questions about the company's business and long-term strategy during the field day.

Others who also attended were local member of parliament Brian Chitwao, German Ambassador to Zambia Bernd Finke, Senior Chief Shakumbila, Chief Kaindu, and delegations from the Ministry of Agriculture,

ZESCO and Zambia National Farmers' Union (ZNFU).

Amatheon is the first German company to invest in large-scale irrigated farming in Zambia. The company plans to irrigate up to 10,000 hectares for food production.

Mr Bruhn said the Big Concession has historically been planned as a large-scale farming area, but in the past the lack of electricity and appropriate roads left the region widely underdeveloped.

He said with electricity about to be connected and upgrade the road by the

government; the firm is ready to harvest its first crops in April.

Amatheon Agri Holding N.V. is a European agribusiness and farming company developing sustainable projects mainly in Africa.

Through the development of new, large-scale irrigated agricultural operations, it aims to create shareholder value, community improvement and increased food production.

Amatheon is centered on the extensive agricultural expertise of its team. It is based in Berlin and has management structures in Germany, the UK, Zambia and South Africa.

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Vice-President Dr Guy Scott (l) with Amatheon Agri Germany chief executive officer Carl Bruhn (c) and labour minister Fackson Shamenda on a field visit during the launch of Amatheon Agri Zambia in Mumbwa on Tuesday

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