

## **P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

February 16, 2015

### **JAPAN TO SUPPORT COMMUNAL FARMERS IN BINGA DISTRICT**

The Embassy of Japan has decided today to extend a grant up to eighty-five thousand seven hundred and thirty dollars (USD 85,730) to a local NGO, KAITE-Trust, for the implementation of “The Project for Construction of Facility for Crop Storage and Community Gathering”.

The Grant Contracts to this effect were signed by the Ambassador of Japan to Zimbabwe, H.E. Mr Yoshi Hiraishi, and the Director of KAITE-Trust, Ms Vongai Nzenza at a signing ceremony in Harare today.

This project focuses on local farmers who are producing rosella tea made from hibiscus, using organic farming methods in communal areas in Binga District. The grant is to be used for newly constructing a facility for crop storage as well as agricultural training and information sharing among farmers in the area.

The project will benefit approximately 450 farmers by improving their production circumstance in which they are currently suffering from unnecessary loss of harvest. The facility will also be used as a community centre where farmers can learn agricultural skills as well as sharing information.

Speaking at the occasion, H.E. Mr Hiraishi noted the critical need to support local farmers as well as organic farming especially in the dry area like Binga and expressed his hope that the grant would be fully used to enhance the livelihoods of local people.