

VIRTUAL TIMES

CHENNAI. TUESDAY. 7 SEPTEMBER 2021

RMSI wins prestigious BRICS Solutions for SDGs Award 2021

New Delhi, Sept.:07
RMSI, a global geospatial and engineering solution provider has been adjudged 'Runner Up' at the prestigious BRICS Solutions for SDGs Awards 2021 for its 'Malawi Project'. The contest attracted a total of 289 submissions across 7 categories from the 5 nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). The BRICS Solutions for SDGs Awards 2021 recognises initiatives aimed at achieving UN SDGs especially through innovative solutions across the BRICS nations. The winners were selected basis comprehensive evaluation criteria of approach, efficiency, sustainability, collaboration, uniqueness and scalability. RMSI bagged the award in the 'Zero Hunger' category (SDG:2)

Malawi is a small land-

locked country in Africa with an economy driven by agriculture, which accounts for one third of the country's GDP and nearly 80% of employment. RMSI developed an effective and innovative technological intervention in the form of an inclusive ICT-based Value Chain Governance (IVCG) platform for Malawi, to streamline the fragmented agricultural value chain and reduce the risks to smallholder farmers. The digital agriculture market platform helped connect the agricultural value chain players (farmers, financiers, warehouse owners, agro-dealers, agro-input suppliers, financial institutions, off-takers, etc.) on one platform.

The innovative ICT platform is helping in efficiently linking of farmers to input and output markets, exten-

sion, finance and information services, including weather services. This has reduced information asymmetries with regard to farmer-specific productivity and output, site specific input requirements, financing needs and market opportunities. Besides being an efficient and transparent system, it ensures fair prices to farmers leading to higher economic returns on land, labour and capital. This is helping streamline the fragmented agricultural value chain and reduce risks for smallholder farmers. The platform is also helping the Government of Malawi to motivate farmers to grow crops that could improve the agri-exports from the country. The online platform is also climate friendly as it makes the subsidy implementation and loan approval process paperless.