

CPM deputy chief of party and Masaka District chairman Jude Mbabaali hand over documents and recordings on good agronomic practices to workshop participants. Masaka and Jinja were venues for workshops on agricultural extensions organised by Feed the Future and Ministry of Agriculture. PHOTO BY JOSEPH KATO

Farmers demand action on fake seeds, inputs

Farmers in Busoga region have demanded for ordinances against importing and trading of fake seeds.

While speaking at a recent workshop on agriculture extension services in Jinja Town on Tuesday, Farmers tasked their leaders to act swiftly and enact ordinances against uncertified seed and input traders.

Hakim Bogere, manager Bukawa Area Cooperative Enterprise (ACE) in Iganga District, said enactment of bylaws would not only save them from losses. "We invest in seeds but the situation has continued to be worse due to counterfeit inputs and seeds. We need bylaws to govern seed trad-," Bogere said.

The workshop was organised by Usaid Feed Future Commodity Production and Marketing Activity (CPM) in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (Maaif) to educate farmers and leaders on promoting good agricultural practices using village agents.

Farmers also asked government to devise means to help farmers gain access to irrigation.

Paul Moses Isiko, Bugiri District production and marketing officer wondered why government supplies seeds under Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) yet there is no rain for them to grow.

"It is time government thought about making irrigation water accessible to farmers," he said.

In response, Thomas Kategere the Kamuli district chairman, urged farmers to resort to manual irrigation than just waiting for government aid.

Other issues raised included foreigners buying food crops from the region without regulation something they said was likely to increase famine. However, Kategere responded that foreign traders was a blessing in disguise and an advantage to farmers so that they can grow more crops.

-Joseph Kato

international news> policy

tecting against aflatoxins

n farmers will soon have a product that ensure safer food for their families and com- es. A natural product called aflasafe that can

Cities eat into farmlands

By 2030, the world could lose millions of fertile agricultural lands to expanding