



Anthony Odongo, a farmer in Mafubira sub-county, Jinja district using an irrigation kit in his vegetable garden. Photo by Jackie Nambogga

# Busoga farmers want irrigation kits

JINJA

By Jackie Nambogga

Busoga leaders and prominent farmers in the area have asked the Government to prioritise the provision of solar-powered irrigation kits under the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) programme.

They said this was the best alternative to counter the prolonged dry spells that have affected crop production.

This was during the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS)/OWC zonal review and planning workshop at the Source of the Nile Hotel in Jinja town on Thursday.

The workshop was attended by district chairpersons, chief administrative officers, resident district commissioners, district production officers, veterinary officers, farmers, youth leaders and OWC officers from Busoga.

## BETWEEN THE LINES:

■ Saleh said climate change and lack of water for agricultural production and irrigation were part of OWC's operational challenges.

They suggested that at least 100 irrigation kits be given to each of the 10 districts in Busoga.

The former lands, housing and urban development minister, Daudi Migereko, said: "We cannot continue depending on rain-fed agriculture, even the Madhivan Group of Companies, which grows sugarcane on a large scale started way back in the 1940s, but they settled in an area near Lake Victoria."

Migereko, who is a mixed

commercial farmer of mangoes and coffee in Busoga, said most villages in the region have water sources which could be used to sink boreholes and connect irrigation gadgets to sprinkle the crops.

The OWC chief co-ordinator, Gen. Caleb Akandwanaho aka Salim Saleh, said climate change and lack of water for agricultural production and irrigation were part of their operational challenges.

Saleh, who was represented by Eng. John Wamboga Wekesa, the director information, communication and technology (ICT) at OWC named other hiccups as inflation of prices of livestock, supply of what he termed as 'air' as well as suppliers forging OWC signatures. Despite recruiting and facilitating extension workers, Saleh noted that they were not visible or the ground.

HAPPINESS

By Mzuri Art

