

Armyworm still a threat to Isingiro

ISINGIRO

By **Abdulkarim Ssenendo**

Farmers in Isingiro district have appealed to the Government to save their crops following the emergence of the fall armyworm, which has spread to the 20 sub-counties of the district.

The farmers want the Government to provide them with pesticides to fight the worm, which is posing a threat to food security in the district.

"The most affected areas are Masha, Ruborogota, Rugaga and Isingiro town council. The worm is negatively impacting on the district's food security, since the biggest percentage of the population in the district relies on crop production as their only source of income," Aloysius Karugaba, the district production officer, said.

Naboth Kwesiga, a farmer, said half of his five acres of maize had been attacked.

Presiding over the launch of the campaign against the armyworm in Nyakakoni, Masha sub-county last week, the state minister for agriculture, Christopher Kibanzanga, urged farmers to remain calm. He said the Government was partnering with other countries to find a bio-control solution.

"We are looking at Brazil, then later the Netherlands, Denmark and France in a bid to protect our farmers," he said.

"Officials from the agriculture ministry have already visited Brazil, what we need now is how to expand our budget to revamp our research team and capacity building for our farmers," Kibanzanga said.

