

Bushenyi district rejects NAADS supplies

BUSHENYI

By Chris Mugasha

Authorities of Bushenyi district have rejected a consignment of cassava cuttings worth millions of shillings from the National Agriculture Advisory Services (NAADS) secretariat accusing the body of poor planning. NAADS had sent 1,245 bags of cassava cuttings to the district for farmers to plant.

The authorities said they asked for inputs for farmers to plant during the rainy season, between March and April, but to their surprise, the items arrived late when the dry season is setting in.

In letter dated May 14, Robinah Tumwebaze, an assistant chief administrative officer, said: "Most of the farmers they had targeted to plant cassava practice intercropping of cassava in beans, sweet potatoes and groundnuts, which are now at the flowering stage.

They asked the NAADS secretariat to refer the allocation to August, when farmers will be ready and the season will be conducive for planting.

The district chairperson, Jaffari Bassajjabalaba, criticised NAADS for sending the inputs late.

Bassajjabalaba wondered why NAADS fails to deliver the inputs at the beginning of the rainy seasons.

"We are suffering food insecurity in the district due to this kind of lack of planning by some of the government agencies," he warned.

The regional internal security officer,



Lorries laden with cassava cuttings from NAADS parked at Bushenyi district headquarters. Photo by Chris Mugasha

Adik Adok, said: "Whoever is behind this supply of inputs is not aware of the seasons of planting in Uganda or he/she is after something," he noted.

The Bushenyi district head of Operation Wealth Creation programme (OWC), Maj. Eric Kigambwoha, blamed the NAADS secretariat for delaying to release the call-off orders to suppliers.

Kigambwoha said the cassava cutting were supposed to reach farmers in March.

"It is unfortunate that our people miss out on such opportunities just because of poor planning by the NAADS secretariat." He said the supplier had been forced to drive back the cassava cuttings back to the secretariat.