

Minister tips cocoa farmers

Cocoa farmers in Bundibugyo District have been trained on the best cocoa agronomic farming practices in a bid to improve productivity.

While opening the 12-day training workshop for the trainees of cocoa farming at the district headquarters on Wednesday, the state minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry, Christopher Kibazanga advised farmers to ensure good quality production as a way to avoid price fluctuations.

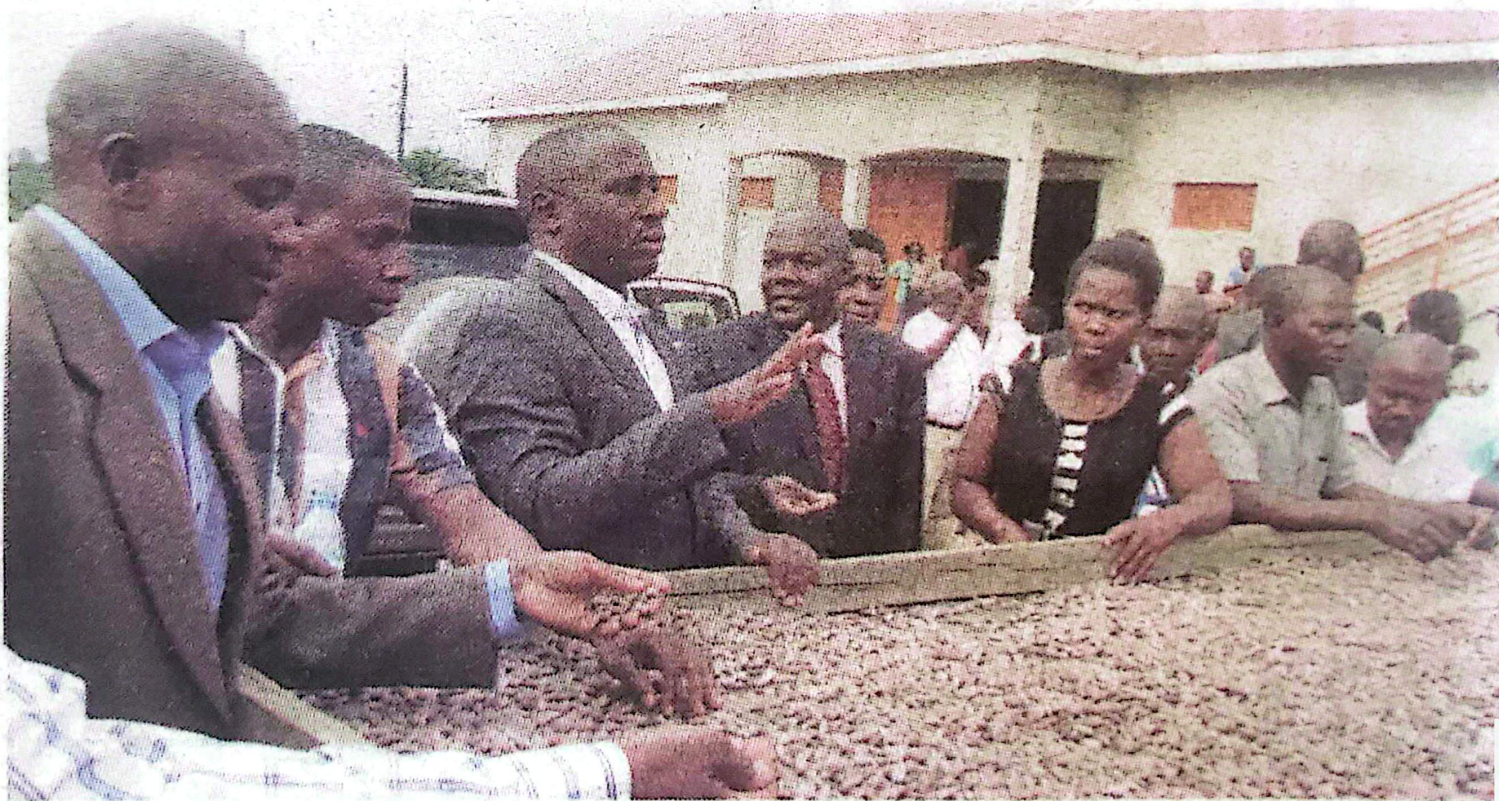
Kibazanga said the ministry is committed in supporting farmers with both technical and financial support but asked them to formulate

policies which will safe-guard and boost cocoa farming.

"The ministry is in plans to boost cocoa farming across the country because this is one of the high value crops which can eradicate poverty and transform people's economic status. We will supply pesticides and fertilisers to farmers to increase on production," said Kibazanga.

In 2016, Uganda exported more than 30,204 metric tonnes of cocoa beans and generated \$73.7m.

— Longino Muhindo



Christopher Kibazanga (3rd L) visiting Ainea and Sons company, one of the cocoa buying companies in Bundibugyo. PHOTO BY LONGINO MUHINDO