

BUSINESS

Netherlands funds KCCA agricultural centre with sh1.8b

By Juliet Waiswa

The Netherlands Embassy has committed euros 420,000 (about sh1.8b) for the improvement of Kyanja Urban Agricultural Resource Centre. The centre run by Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) will have a bulk warehouse to link the producers to the market.

During the signing of a memorandum of understanding between KCCA executive director Jennifer Musisi and the ambassador of the Kingdom

of the Netherlands, Henk Jan Bakker, the two agencies said they will look at ways urban food producers can be linked to the buyers and obtain good prices.

Through the infrastructure facility Develop to Build (D2B), the Netherlands government will provide a grant to finance feasibility studies for the expansion of the resource centre. Other areas of expansion will include aquaculture, mushroom demonstration unit, soft infrastructure such as a

marketing app and paving of the road within the facility.

Bakker said the embassy is focusing on fighting poverty, adding that agriculture is an important activity for economic growth in Uganda.

He said the partnership will help in enhancing household income as well as food security, quality and safety.

Musisi said there is high demand for services at the resource centre given the modern technology that the farm has introduced.

“While the city is growing, the challenge is that population growth will lead to residential expansion and increased density. This will mean less space for growing food crops in the future,” Musisi said.

She said that some urban farmers in Kampala are challenged by several constraints such as low productivity, low quality inputs, high costs of climate change and youth failing to engage in government programmes.

Kyanja urban farm sits on 31 acres on Gayaza Road in Kampala.