

Masindi farmers want more seeds

MASINDI

By Priscillar Nyamahunge

Farmers in Masindi have called on the Government to offer more seedlings to eradicate poverty in their households.

Speaking during an agricultural exhibition at Kihonda Demonstration Farm at Pakanyi sub-county, Masindi, Benedicto Ssensaga, a coffee farmer from Bwijanga sub-county, requested the Government for an irrigation scheme to fight the drought that often ravages their crops.

"People planted the crops provided by the Government through Operation Wealth Creation, but some have nothing to show, because they do not have irrigation schemes," Ssensaga explained.

Job Kaheru, a maize farmer in Pakanyi, said farmers are in dire need of storage facilities, yet the Government has only prioritised providing seeds.

Kaheru appealed to the Government to scrap taxes on agro-chemicals so that they (agro-chemicals) may become affordable.

"We were hit by the armyworm recently, but some farmers had to look on, as their crops were destroyed because they had no money to buy the agro-input chemicals," Kaheru said.



People admiring a new tractor during the agricultural expo in Masindi last Friday. Photo by Priscillar Nyamahunge

Wilson Wairindi, the chairperson of Masindi district farmers' association, called on the Government to set up farmers' banks, which they expect to offer financial services to farmers at lower interest rates, compared to commercial banks.

"Many farmers are experiencing challenges

in accessing loans from commercial banks because their (commercial banks) conditions are unfavourable to farmers and the interest rates are high," Wairindi said.

Wairindi also appealed to the Government to provide favourable markets for farmers' produce.

Masindi district hosted

the seventh agricultural exhibition show on Friday and Saturday. The exhibition was organised by the East African Grain Council, where farmers exhibited their crops and other agricultural products.

Cosmas Byaruhanga, the district chairperson, said the Government needs to revive co-operatives as a way of

pursuing group marketing.

Drollah Ssebagala, the regional finance manager at EAGC, encouraged farmers take advantage of such events to create partnerships and linkages between agricultural counterparts and other platforms, which, she said, will stir development, if used positively.

WHAT THEY SAY



Wilson Wairindi:

Many farmers are experiencing challenges in accessing loans from commercial banks because their conditions are unfavourable and the interest rates too high.



Mark Muhimbo:

I have learnt how to make silage, which is a mixture of maize and molasses. Silage is used to feed cattle during dry the season.

Water crisis

CONDOLENCE MESSAGE