

# Abim farmers demand better services



Jimmy Okiror harvests millet from his garden. PHOTO BY SARAH TUMWEBAZE

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**F**armers in Abim District are demanding better agricultural services that will enable them to improve their farming practices in a bid to alleviate famine.

Speaking at the launch of the Special Programme Convening and Convincing (SPCC) by Share An Opportunity Uganda (SAO) with support from the Inter Church Cooperation Organisation (ICCO), in Abim District recently, Emmanuel Eteru, a farmer in Adea Parish said, "We need to have access to information on good farming methods, farm inputs, better road networks and storage facilities if we are to have quality produce in bulk."

He said challenges such as the long distance they have to travel to access storage facilities and the limited access to profitable markets has forced them to sell their crops from the

garden and at cheap prices.

Jimmy Okiror, another farmer said the above challenges partly contributed to the famine that people in Abim faced between the end of 2016 and early 2017.

He explained that some farmers are also afraid of what will happen to their yields following harvest.

Okiror said: "So when a middle man approaches them and wants to buy the crops from the garden, they immediately sell it off," adding, "After selling your crops, you are not allowed to access the garden. This is one of the reasons many families were affected by the dry spell. They had no reserve produce."

However, Leo Amwona, the District Agricultural Officer of Abim said the district has come up with a number of interventions to ensure that farmers benefit from their work.