

By Joshua Kato

After months of competition and hard work, the 2025 Best Farmers are ready for their reward: a week in the Netherlands learning from some of the most productive farms in the world. The group was flagged off on May 28 at dfcu Bank headquarters and will travel to the Netherlands on May 30 for a week-long study tour. They are expected back on June 6.

The Netherlands was chosen for the farmer tour because it is the world's second-largest exporter of agricultural products after the United States. It is renowned for innovations in livestock and horticulture, many of which are already present in Uganda.

The Best Farmers' competition is organised by Vision Group with sponsorship from the Embassy of the Netherlands, dfcu Bank, KLM Airlines and Koudijs Nutrition BV. Ten winners share sh150m and an all-expenses-paid study tour of the Netherlands.

From the experiences of previous best farmers, the trip helped improve their farming practices, with many earning productive partnerships with Dutch colleagues that included importing livestock breeds and feeds, among other benefits.

THE STUDY TOUR

The group will arrive in Amsterdam on Sunday morning, according to Michel Hillen of Emerging Markets for Africa, contracted by the Dutch government to host the farmers. They will enjoy a boat ride around the city before checking in at Fletcher Hotels in Doorwerth, followed by a welcome dinner.

On Monday, the farmers will visit the Koudijs/De Heus processing facility. Koudijs, a sponsor of the competition, opened a fish feeds plant in Njeru near Jinja in September 2024. Later, the group will tour Schippers Group, specialists in livestock hygiene solutions and a chocolate processing facility for those engaged in cocoa.

On Tuesday, the farmers will split into four groups. These include the coffee group, the dairy keeping group, the poultry group and the cocoa/horticulture group. The coffee farmers will visit We Wonder Company, dairy farmers will tour PUM, Organic Jersey cows and GD Deventer Animal Health, while poultry farmers will visit Eric Hubbers Poultry Farm, Vencomatic Poultry Equipment and Hendrix Genetics.

On Wednesday, all dairy and poultry farmers will spend the day at the ViV Livestock World Expo in Utrecht, while the coffee and cocoa groups

BEST FARMERS 2025 SET FOR THE NETHERLANDS



Seated, from second-left: Vision Group's Don Wanyama, Netherlands Ambassador to Uganda Frederieke Quispel, Dr Ruhakana Rugunda and wife, dfcu Bank's Annette Kiconco, country manager KLM Royal Dutch Airlines Lukia Otema, country manager Koudijs Nutrition BV Stevens Guido, with the Best Farmers 2025 competition winners during the award ceremony at Vision Group offices on December 10, 2025

will visit Dutch processors in Utrecht. On Thursday, the farmers will reunite for a matchmaking session.

Andrew Byaruhanga, the Policy Officer for Trade, Investment and Economic Diplomacy at the Embassy of the Netherlands, will lead the team.

On Thursday afternoon, the farmers will be treated to

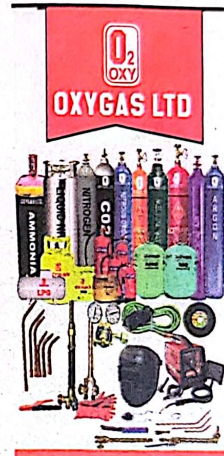
sightseeing around Utrecht. Friday will feature visits to

dairy farms, sightseeing and shopping in Utrecht.

2025 WINNERS

This year's travelling farmers are:

- Hood Kasirye Kiwana of Kasirye Breeders, Mityana
- Pison Busingye of Itungo Pastures in Kiruhura
- Richard Wemesa of Jolwe Farm in Gayaza
- Nelly Turyahebwa from Tororo
- Charles Oyuk, a layers chicken farmer from Serere
- Ann Hope Anguyo from Arua
- Alfred Ojok from Gulu who is a coffee farmer
- Joan Kantu, a cocoa processor from Fort Portal
- Grace Natukunda, from Dem Farm, Mityana
- Patrick Olobo a banana farmer from Lira
- Zubair Mukaaya from Kamuli
- Christopher Okwang from Alito Co-operative in Lira
- Daniel Kiguwa from Kibinge Coffee Farmers' Co-operative.



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