



Kamuli farmers worried as OWC cows fail to conceive

Concerns. The farmers say they have spend a lot of money on using artificial insemination to fertilise the animals for the past two years in vain.

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KAMULI. Farmers in Mbulamuti Sub-county, Kamuli District, say the Friesian cows distributed under government's Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) programme have failed to conceive through artificial insemination, a technique devised for the genetic improvement of farm animals.

The farmers say they spend a lot of money on using the method to fertilise the animals yet they never conceive, which forces them to opt for the natural fertilisation method.

Mr Hassan Ssali, who received a

Friesian cow in November 2016, says it has failed to conceive through artificial insemination on three occasions, first in December 2016, then in March and May last year.

"It was after I took it to a bull for mounting that it conceived. Each time a veterinary doctor comes to inseminate the cow, he is paid Shs40,000 and sometimes one is forced to pay for his transport since most of us are based in rural areas," says Mr Ssali.

"I have spent more than Shs200,000 on artificial insemination to have my cow conceive but it has not been successful. It was until when a friend advised me to take it for bull mounting at Shs20,000 that it conceived and is about to deliver," he adds.

Mr Ismail Byansi, who received a cow in 2016, says it failed to conceive thrice under artificial insemination.

"I was told my cow was infected and I bought drugs that were inserted into

FAILED METHOD

Artificial insemination is one of the most important techniques ever devised for the genetic improvement of farm animals. Its greatest advantage is that there is maximum use of superior bulls which does not happen with natural service.

its stomach but they did not yield any positive results. Not until I took it to a friend's farm for bull mounting at Shs20,000 did it conceive," Mr Byansi says.

He adds that government should establish why their animals cannot be fertilised under artificial insemination.

He adds that under OPW, government should distribute bulls to farmers for fertilisation than artificial insemination, which has proved ineffective.

However, Dr Ronald Ntenywa, a veterinary doctor, said there are various factors hindering the cows from conceiving, notably poor feeding of the cows by their owners.

"These cows are different from the local breeds, which are common in our communities. Poor feeding, bad

CONTINUES TO PAGE 10