

Dr Wejuli (left) and Mapenduzi (second-right) looking at the equipment supplied by FAO to make the laboratory functional. Photo by Arnest Tumwesige

Govt equips Gulu veterinary lab

GULU

By Arnest Tumwesige

The Ministry of Agriculture Animal, Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) has equipped Gulu regional veterinary laboratory which is expected to serve eight districts in the Acholi sub-region.

Dr Alfred Wejuli, the senior veterinary officer in charge of the laboratory, noted that it is no longer necessary for veterinary doctors from the Acholi sub-region to travel to Entebbe with samples and yet the services have been brought nearer.

The facility is among the 14 laboratories in Uganda that have been equipped with the support of Food And Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The equipment in the facility includes solar -powered fridge, an inverter, incubator reptile, water distiller, osmosis, spray pumps and laptops.

"Districts in the region can agree on a common fee to be contributed by each district."

MAAIF senior vet. officer

The facility has been equipped to handle diagnostic tests for all suspected animal diseases.

Sustainability plan

Wejuli said the laboratory will be sustained through the national laboratory facility. He explained that the regional facility will be restocked through the national facility.

"However, since this is a regional facility, the districts in the region can agree on a common fee to be contributed by each district. We do not want this laboratory to remain only in the hands of the host district," Wejuli said.

Suzan Ndyanabo, the FAO national laboratory expert, said staff will be recruited and trained to run the facility.

Leaders welcome kits

Dr Tony Aliro, the Gulu district veterinary officer, said the people, after sensitisation, shall be able to collect samples from the animals suspected to be sick thus avoiding the scenario where everybody goes to the veterinary laboratory.

The Gulu district chairperson, Martin Ojara Mapenduzi, said the facility will also help educational institutions, such as Gulu University, in carrying out their research work.

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