

Each district to have a demonstration garden

BUGIRI

By Paul Watala

The Government will soon establish demonstration farms to guide farmers in each district.

This was revealed by the commissioner for water for production in the water ministry, Eng. John Twinomujuni, during the handover of Lwemba piloting scheme and demonstration garden to Bugiri district leaders and farmers recently.

According to Twinomujuni, the programme is a result of a presidential directive that the water ministry should establish at least 500 small scale irrigation schemes and demonstration gardens across the country.

"In the first phase, we shall establish at least one demonstration farm in each district," he said.

The farmland will be managed by a board proposed by the water ministry. The board will comprise of women, model farmers and LCs.

"We have started with 40 districts in eastern and northern Uganda," Twinomujuni said, adding that each demonstration farm will cost sh200m.

"The farmers will not need to wait for rains to produce crops. Our biggest challenge is the people that are trying to frustrate the programme by telling people to deny us land for establishing the irrigation schemes," he said.

Leaders hail govt

Farmers in Bugiri hailed the Government for setting up the irrigation scheme for them.

"We are always idle during the dry season. The establishment of irrigation schemes will enable us learn more and empower us to fight poverty," Jamawa Nabirye, a farmers' leader, said.

Nabirye asked the Government to help them find ready market for their produce.

BETWEEN THE LINES:

■ The move is a result of a presidential directive to establish 500 small scale schemes.

Fatima Namuwoya, a farmer, also said the scheme will help farmers grow crops all-year round.

"We shall be able to have balanced diet for our children," Namuwoya said.