

NAADS to blacklist suppliers of fake agricultural inputs

By Charles Kakamwa
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The National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) secretariat will soon blacklist companies caught supplying substandard agricultural inputs to farmers.

The NAADS board chairperson, Robert Kibirango, also revealed that apart from being blacklisted, those engaged in the practice would be prosecuted for derailing a government development programme, geared towards improving the household income of the recipients.

"Quality is crucial in this programme, so when suppliers bring substandard inputs, reject them and report to the authorities so that action is taken against the culprits. Such people cause losses to farmers," he said.

Kibirango made the remarks on Friday while speaking at a meeting with leaders of the Seventh Day Adventist churches in Busoga sub-region, at YMCA conference hall in Jinja municipality.

At the meeting, he revealed that they would receive 50 heifers and 3,000 chicken (layers), under the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) programme, as soon as they are ready. He added that more support would be given to the group in the next financial year's budget.

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The intervention follows a meeting the SDA church leaders from Busoga had with President Yoweri Museveni in March this year, the NAADS executive director, Dr Samuel Mugasi, said.

"The President directed us to come and discuss with the SDA leaders from the 10 districts of Busoga. We discussed a number of enterprises, such as poultry, animal husbandry, citrus fruits, coffee and cocoa farming," he told *New Vision*.

The presidential advisor on political affairs, Milly Babirye Babalanda, urged the religious leaders to utilise the opportunity to champion the fight against poverty.

She noted that once such interventions are harnessed, the middle-income status as envisaged by the Government will become a reality.

Babalanda also advised households in Busoga to move from the rudimentary agricultural practices to modern ones so as to realise better rewards for their effort.