

the market, both locally and in the international market," Mega said. Kabushenga's visitors revealed that

agricultural sector. Kabushenga encouraged Ugandans practising farming to commit more

Have ... activities physically, ... said.

pu...



Teach students modern farming – Gayaza headteacher

By Eddie Ssejjoba

Unlike most star schools in Uganda, Gayaza High School not only focuses on academics but imparts agri-business skills in its students.

The school was one of the first to book space at the Vision Group's Harvest Money Expo 2017 to be held at Namboole stadium within a few days.

"I am appealing to schools to organise students to attend the expo so that they can learn how to practise agriculture in the most economic and smart way, so that they open their eyes, and break even in sustaining themselves in future," the headteacher, Victoria Kisarale Sserunkuma, observed during a farm tour on Thursday.

Kisarale said since its inception in 1905, the school has always put emphasis on agri-business.

She said although the focus on agri-business in the school had declined in the previous two decades, it was revived six years ago.

Student involvement

She said a considerable chunk of the school's 104 acres of land is dedicated to animal and crop husbandry, where students are directly involved.



Majwala taking care of cattle at Gayaza High School farm. The school will send students to the Harvest Money Expo. Photo by Eddie Ssejjoba

A'level students are allowed to own plots (gardens) where they plant crops and give the crops they have planted their names.

In Senior One, students are introduced to modern vegetable growing and within months, they are able to engage in agri-business.

"I grow vegetables on my verandah because I want to be an example to my girls. We want people to be able to sustain themselves using agriculture even when they have a small piece of land. We

want to show girls that one can practise smart agriculture, regardless of who they are," Kisarale explained.

In Senior Two, the students at Gayaza start engaging in dairy farming. Under this programme, they go to the school farm, where they learn milking, mixing vaccines, making silage as well as spraying and feeding animals.

In Senior Three, the school introduces poultry and piggery but the candidates in Senior Four and Senior Six are given

a break to concentrate on academics.

In Senior Five, the girls learn banana growing, where many of them have an opportunity to plant their own suckers and place name-tags around them. Each girl takes care of their plant with some getting the opportunity to harvest before completing Senior Six.

Nelson Majwala, the assistant farm manager, said the students of Gayaza have a positive attitude towards agriculture and by the time they leave the



Kisarale has revived farming at Gayaza

the surrounding communities.

The camp, according to Kisarale, is funded by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in conjunction with the Netherlands Embassy to the tune of 80 million Euros. Under the programme, the school will soon build a modern cattle barn. The theme of the farm camp is 'Skilling Youth in sustainable agri-business for self-reliance'.

Kisarale said the school is using a tractor it received from President Yoweri Museveni to open up more land for agriculture.

"We believe

school they have the necessary skills to start out on their own.

He said students are allowed to harvest their vegetables and bananas, which they sell to the school kitchen, teachers and parents. The practice motivates students to work harder and look after their crops well since they retain the proceeds from the sold items.

In addition, the school has started a farm camp programme that is always organised during the second term holidays. It attracts students and teachers from other schools as well as

that scoring 'As' alone is not enough, we want our students to get additional skills. That is why we are looking forward to participating in the Harvest Money Expo so that our girls learn more from other successful farmers and how they have been able to make it," she explained.

She said all institutions of learning should take up the programme and teach students modern agriculture to enable them develop the capacity to feed Africa and protect the environment.