

Monitor to host climate change conference

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KAMPALA. More than 80 per cent of Ugandans depend on agriculture as a source of livelihood yet the sector is hit by climate change effects.

These range from over flooding arising from torrential rain causing soil erosion and depletion, prolonged drought during dry season and greenhouse gas emissions, posing a challenge in the agriculture sector.

As such, Monitor Publications Ltd in partnership with Agricultural Business Initiative (ABI), Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA), the Ministry of Water and Environment Climate Change Department, USAID-Feed the Future and NTV Uganda, is organising the first ever Uganda Climate Change Symposium 2017 under the theme, "A Climate Smart Uganda, A proud Ugandan" at Kampala Serena Hotel on October 26.

The Managing Director of Monitor Publications Ltd, Mr Tony Glencross,

in a press briefing at the company offices in Namwongo yesterday, noted the challenges within the agriculture sector such as limited markets, inaccessibility to credit facilities, poor quality inputs and adversities of climate change, which have hindered growth of the sector.

It is for the same reason that *Daily Monitor* saw the need to provide practical knowledge sharing to bridge the gap between farmers having the will to farm and succeeding in the same.

"This is part of other initiatives of the weekly publication that comes out in the *Seeds of Gold* Magazine every Saturday focusing on farming information, including practical trainings done for farmers for the last five years under the *Seeds of Gold* Farm Clinic where farmers dealing in animal husbandry, poultry, agro inputs and the crop sector have benefited," he said.

Mr Glencross explained that the symposium will provoke debate, dialogue and engagement of stakehold-



Partnership. Mr Tony Glencross (2nd left), the Monitor Publications Ltd managing director, shares a light moment with Mr Alfred Okidi Okot, the permanent secretary at the Ministry of Water and Environment, after addressing the media about the symposium at Monitor Publications offices in Kampala yesterday. PHOTO BY STEPHEN OTAGE

ers to ensure harmonised and coordinated approach in solving challenges caused by climate change as well as utilising opportunities such as carbon foot prints by farmers engaged in agro forest.

Mr Robert Kalibala from ABI expressed gratitude by being key partner in *Seeds of Gold* farm clinic sensitisation activities.

"I know Ugandans do not invest

in climate smart agriculture initiatives but ABI has taken this on and we have funding in form of lending money to those interested in investing in climate smart agriculture under the clean technology fund in agroforestry," he said.

The Commissioner Ministry of Water and Environment, Mr Alfred Okot, noted that the country depends on agriculture, which is rain-fed and it

is subject to climate change causing negative impact on farmers.

Mr Apollo Kamugisha from UCDA said coffee is one of the sectors that have been affected by climate change.

He added that coffee production is currently at 4.2 million bags per annum saying there is need to increase production to 20 million bags by 2020.

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