

Best farmer receives education ministry certification

By Herbert Musoke

Ministry of Education and Sports, through the Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) has authorised Dr Dianah Nambatya Nsubuga's Integrated Health Kwagala Farm to award its trainees with certificates by the ministry.

The certification came at a time when Nambatya is yet to graduate her second batch of trainees. The first batch had over 100 farmers from Kiboga, Kampala, Mityana districts. Dr Nambatya gives her students practical skills in urban farming. Nambatya is one of the best farmers 2015. The best farmers competition is organised by Vision Group and sponsored by the Embassy of the Netherlands, KLM Airlines and dfcu Bank. The competition is now running for the fourth year. The winning farmers share sh150m, plus an all-expenses-paid tour of the Netherlands.

Nambatya explains that through her partners, AVSI/SKY from Netherlands, a team of experts from the ministry assessed her farm, especially the training programme. It was ascertained that the skills



Dr Nambatya (right) explaining to Gayaza High School teachers and their American counterparts how she adds value to cow dung to make fertilisers for export

taught impact the farmerd greatly.

"The farm was assessed late last month and I was given the certification in this month. Since this is an important step, the second

class that was to graduate this early this month, shall have to first do the practical exams assessed by the ministry," Nambatya says.

She explains that through the

assessment, all trainees are expected to show what they have learnt.

"Unlike the trainees, this time for one to graduate and be awarded a certificate, they must pass the

set exams and those who fail are expected to repeat the training next year," she says.

Meanwhile, teachers have been asked to stop teaching pupils and students for the sake of passing exams, but to give them practical skills that will help them in their daily lives even after school.

Annet Nantumbwe, the secretary for women at the Ttuba-Kulambiro LC 1, while addressing a team from Gayaza High School who visited Dr Kwagala Farm, said teaching to pass exams has failed the nation because it produces semi-skilled work force.

"Farming is the best way of teach the young generation responsibility. Farming can be integrated in the syllabus to teach English, mathematics by computing their earnings, biology, chemistry, commerce and economics and other subjects," Nantumbwe said.

Nantumbwe, who is one of the women who have benefited from Dr Nambatya's project of skilling youth and women asked teachers and schools' administrators to stop punishing students by making them dig. She said this discourages them from engaging in farming activities, thinking they are on punishment.