



OPPORTUNITIES



FARMERS TO REAP BIG FROM \$350M WORLD BANK AGRICULTURE PROJECT

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Approximately 125 farmer groups in Kiryandongo and farmers from other districts are set to benefit from the World Bank-funded Uganda Climate-Smart Agricultural Transformation Project (UCSATP).

This initiative, implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and local governments, aims to increase productivity, market access and the resilience of selected value chains in the project area, and to respond promptly and effectively to an eligible crisis or emergency.

During the official launch of the E-Voucher system at Masindi Port sub-county on May 11, Issa Hassan Byenkya, the Kiryandongo district

production officer, announced that 125 farmer groups had been mobilised and submitted to the agriculture ministry for consideration.

The E-Voucher system is an electronic mechanism that profiles and validates beneficiaries, allowing farmers to place orders for agricultural inputs and pay their required 20% contribution.

"Each farmer is entitled to a package worth sh800,000 but is required to pay 20% of this amount, with the Government contributing 80%. Twenty of the 125 groups have already made their deposit. Farmers, fully mobilised through their groups, have enthusiastically embraced the project," Byenkya said.

The agricultural input package

includes items such as spray pumps, protective gear, herbicides, improved maize seeds, fertilisers and tarpaulins.

Alfred Hakizimaana, the UCSATP supervisor, said farmer groups and district officials have received comprehensive training on using the E-Voucher system and are proficient in its operation.

Anselem Kyaligonza, the chief administrative officer of Kiryandongo, said government projects like UCSATP are designed to transform livelihoods.

Jonathan Akweteireho, the Kiryandongo deputy resident district commissioner, called upon all the extension workers in the district to provide adequate services to farmers.

The UCSATP is a six-year project



Kyaligonza speaking to the beneficiary farmers. They received items such as spray pumps, fertilisers, improved maize seeds, herbicides and tarpaulins as part of their agricultural input package

implemented by the agriculture ministry and its agencies: the National Agricultural Research Organisation, the National Animal Genetics Resources Centre and Data Bank and the Uganda National Meteorological Authority.

The World Bank has invested \$350m (sh1.3 trillion) in UCSATP, approved in late 2022 and implementation began in June

2024. This includes a \$325m loan (sh1.2 trillion) and a \$25m (sh93b) grant to support and enhance agricultural productivity across 69 districts in Uganda.

The project will support the Government in identifying, developing and incentivising the adoption of climate-smart agriculture technologies and management practices.