

Guidelines for agriculture mechanisation in the offing

By Prossy Nandudu

The agriculture ministry is drafting a policy that will guide the country on how to design appropriate interventions in agriculture mechanisation.

Agriculture mechanisation is the process of improving productivity on the farm using machinery or tools in production, water harvesting, storage, processing and farm preparation, among others.

Currently, there is no

government policy on agriculture mechanisation.

With a policy, the Government wants to raise the level of mechanisation for increased productivity and income for agricultural producers.

This was revealed by the acting commissioner for agriculture mechanisation, Eng. Ronald Kato Kayizzi, during a second stakeholders' consultative meeting on the Draft National Agriculture Mechanisation Policy at

Imperial Royal Hotel in Kampala last week.

The stakeholders include commercial and subsistence farmers, farmer organisations, manufactures and importers of agricultural produce, machinery, researchers and officials from the agriculture ministry.

Kayizzi said with limited agriculture mechanisation, the agriculture sector accounted for 24.7% of the total GDP.

"The current agriculture

production is not growing at the same pace as the population due to low levels of mechanisation, poor access to machines and technologies, which causes a delay in terms of farmer operations, leading to crop losses of up to 30%, high post-harvest losses and income losses," Kayizzi said.

The greatest challenge that is facing agriculture mechanisation in Uganda, according to Kayizzi, is land fragmentation.