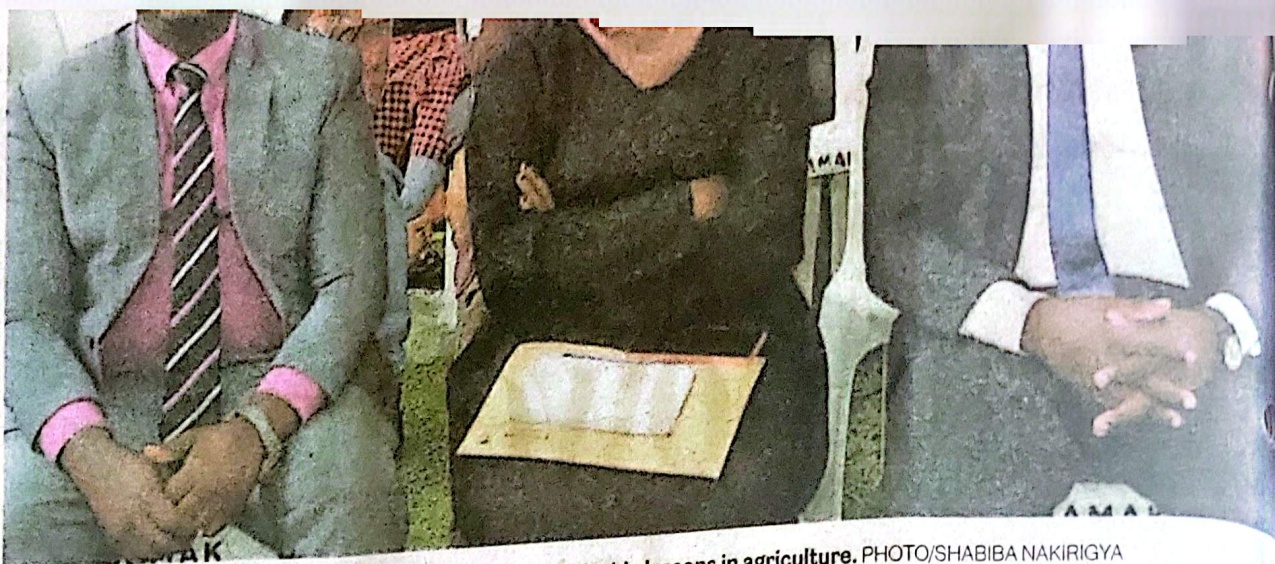




Some of the youth who attended the training and received valuable lessons in agriculture. PHOTO/SHABIBA NAKIRIGYA

Buganda Kingdom rallies youth to turn to agriculture

The initiative - in partnership with Kabaka Foundation and Buganda Cultural and Development Foundation (BUCADEF) - is aimed at equipping young people with practical knowledge and skills in crop and animal production.

BY SHABIBA NAKIRIGYA

Buganda Kingdom, has through the ministries of Agriculture and Youth, organised a youth training programme themed 'Omulimi Kkungwa' - (The Empowered Farmer).

The initiative - in partnership with Kabaka Foundation and Buganda Cultural and Development Foundation (BUCADEF) - is aimed at equipping young people with practical knowledge and skills in crop and animal production.

According to the Katikkiro of Buganda, Charles Peter Mayiga, youth are encouraged to pursue agricultural studies and acquire technical expertise that will not only make them self-reliant but also attract them to actively engage in farming and animal husbandry.

Katikkiro Mayiga advised young people to begin with the small pieces of land available to them instead of waiting to acquire vast acreage before venturing into agriculture. According to the Katikkiro, agriculture has for generations sustained families across Buganda and continues to offer immense opportunities for wealth creation.

"For a long time, agriculture has supported many households in Buganda. Even today, a young person who takes the initiative and starts early will reap significant benefits," the Katikkiro noted.

The Minister for Youth in Buganda,

Oweek. Ssaalongo Robert Serwanga, who is also a practicing farmer, emphasised the importance of proper planning before embarking on any agricultural project. He urged participants to prepare adequately and understand the demands of farming before investing their time and resources.

"You have received valuable lessons today, but that does not mean you should rush into implementation without preparation. Agriculture and livestock farming require patience and proper planning. They are not ventures for shortcuts," he advised.

Mr Serwanga cautioned that many young people fail in agribusiness due to inadequate preparation and lack of commitment. He encouraged them to follow the right procedures, seek guidance from experts, and treat farming as a business rather than a side activity.

The Executive Director of Kabaka Foundation, Mr Eddie Kaggwa Ndagala, challenged the youth to shift their mindset from chasing scarce white-collar jobs to creating opportunities within the agricultural sector. He noted that agriculture remains a key source of wealth and employment, often offering greater returns than many office jobs.

"There are limited formal jobs available, yet agriculture provides endless opportunities. Wealth begins with production, and agriculture is the backbone of production," Mr Ndagala said, before revealing

Empowering young people.

The kingdom remains optimistic that sustained training and partnerships will empower young people to view agriculture not merely as subsistence activity, but as a pathway to entrepreneurship and long-term economic transformation.

that through various partners the foundation plans to expand support for youth in agriculture by facilitating specialised training, exposure visits to successful model farmers, and access to essential inputs such as livestock.

Similarly, the Executive Director of BUCADEF, Mr Alfred Bakyusa, encouraged young farmers to diversify their income streams to enhance resilience. He advised them to combine agriculture with other complementary activities to reduce risks associated with relying on a single source of income.

"The training programme forms part of the Buganda Kingdom's broader strategy to empower youth economically and promote sustainable development. We believe that by equipping young people with practical skills and encouraging a positive attitude towards agriculture, the kingdom can address unemployment and boost household incomes," he said.

He said as the kingdom continues to champion youth involvement in agribusiness, the initiatives such as Omulimi Kkungwa will nurture a new generation of skilled, business-oriented farmers capable of transforming agriculture into a leading driver of economic growth in Buganda and beyond.



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