

Lack of packaging materials remains a challenge to exporters

By Vision Reporter

The scarcity of packaging materials is one of the reasons Uganda's exports are low. The most affected sector is horticulture. The observation was made by Serina Namata who exports greens and vegetables to the Netherlands. Namata was also the Youth Exporter of the year.

She says the matter has been made worse by inconsistent supply of raw materials.

"It is very difficult to get packaging materials. When the products are poorly packaged, the quality is compromised and by the time it gets to the export destination, it will have lost freshness," Namata says.

She adds that most exporters in the horticulture sector rely on Riley packaging for supplies, which is not adequate, given the growing demand from different



Workers packaging chilli for export.

Photo by Prossy Nandudu

sections. She added that apart from getting the packaging materials, it is equally expensive for one to brand the boxes with their logos and names of the company, yet it is a requirement when exporting for proper

identification.

Other challenges faced by the youth exporter include lack of working capital, rent for the pack house, the long procedures of getting a phytosanitary certificate, among others.