

Gudula vows to lift farmers' livelihood through re-soil fertilisers

Gudula Naiga Basaza is determined to change the lives of farmers with her re-soil fertilisers, writes Denis Bbosa.

She has no regrets of forsaking pressing the keyboard and handling chalk every day to dip her well-manicured nails into soil.

In 2015, Gudula Naiga Basaza decided to retire early from her well-paying lecturing job at Uganda Martyrs University (UMU), Nkozi to start Gudie Leisure Farm - a zero waste integrated ecosystem farm in Najjera, a suburb of Kampala.

Sitting on nine acres, the farm is involved in poultry, piggery, aquaculture, horticulture and has now added the production of re-soil fertilisers to the growing list.

"While selling chicks, piglets and

chicks to farmers, we conceived an idea of getting fertilisers that can grow feeds in time. We partnered with experts from the University of Mannheim in Germany to come up with the re-soil fertilisers in 2015," Gudula recounts.

Among other traits that separate re-soil from the usual fertilisers is the ability to enhance soil. "This type also helps retain water for over 15 days, improve soil restructure, reduce the need for chemical fertilisers, give nutrition to the soil, allow aeration and last three years without reapplying," she said.

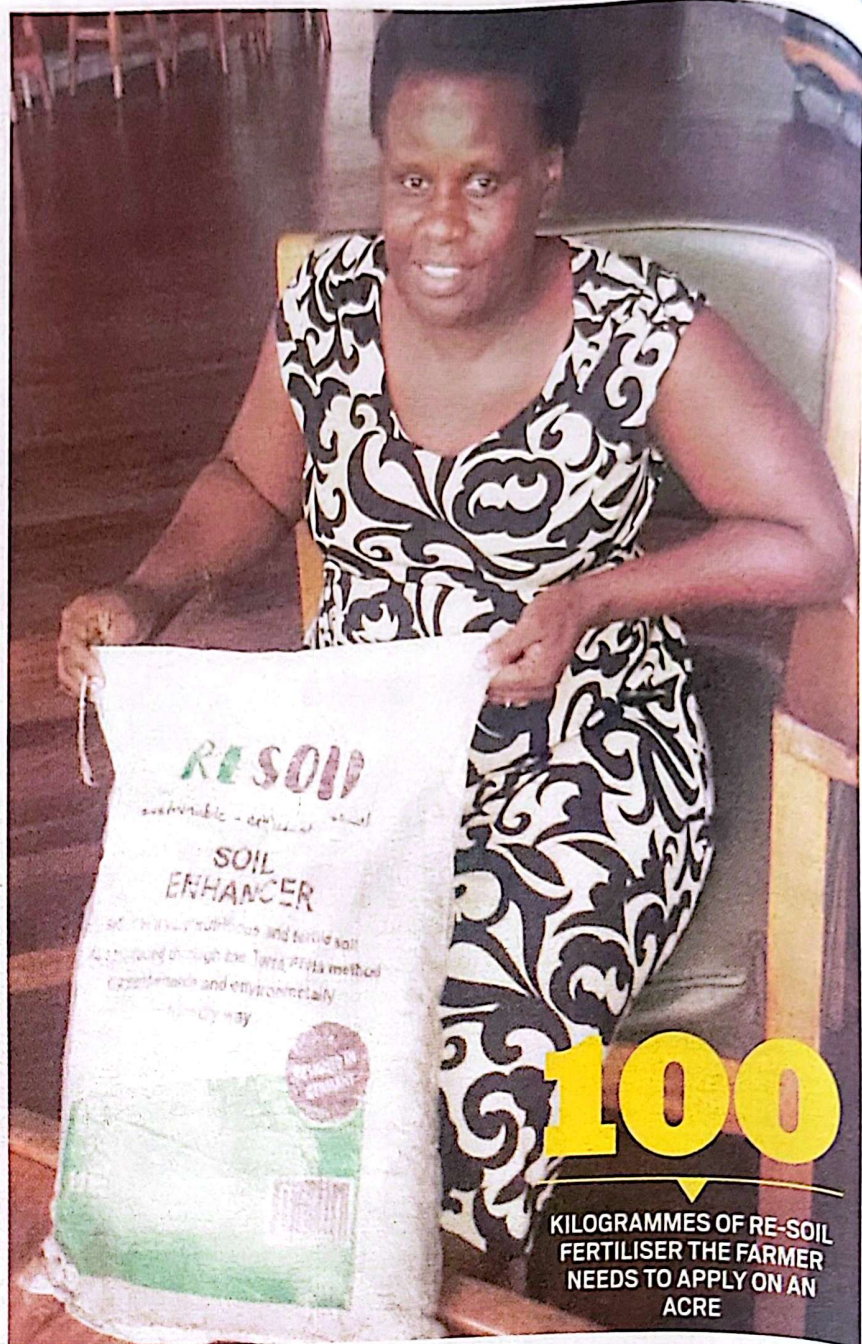
Less capital, big gains

Gudula injected about Shs8m as startup of the fertilisers venture two years ago from her savings accumulated over the years spent as an ICT lecturer at the university.

"Our main challenge is manifested in the packaging of the fertilisers, we



Gudula's three-week old chicks. She has also ventured into poultry and piggery.



A smiling Gudula Naiga Basaza carries a bag of re-soil fertiliser. PHOTOS BY DENIS BBOSA

wanted it to be sold in supermarkets and malls implying they shouldn't be leaking besides being an environmental burden," Gudula reveals.

The other challenge, she adds, is changing the people's mindset on investing in corporate farming.

"We have all our customers in our database and we are now trying to work out a process with dfcu bank to see that they save from their

earnings."

Daunting task of changing lives

Gudula says she is inspired by her digital background and the vow she took in her Transformers' Association to uplift the lives of 200,000 by 2026.

"The association has prominent people like Patrick Bitature who chose to change lives of 500,000

people through telecoms. I chose farming, and I'm still on course to achieve that," she explains.

"At University, you don't get a chance to dictate matters, in your garden, you do. I have no regret in joining the farming business because my researching background has helped hit the ground running."

Gudula at a glance

She describes herself as the first Ugandan doctor of ICT who has instilled knowledge...