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men would squander the proceeds from the sales. The pilot project intervention, which has now lasted for a year, is being implemented by Communication for Development Foundation Uganda (CDFU) and Legal AID Project in Awach sub-

region fight ag... The legal assistant and Women co-ordinator, Dorah Acaye, said to perfect the reporting system, they had introduced a toll free line, which victims could call to get help.

disciplinary committee... IUIU is run according to the Islamic principles of Sharia and is renowned for strictly enforcing its rules regardless of whether one is a student or member of staff.

Iganga farmers fail to get market for fruit seedlings

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Meeting

IGANGA

By Moses Bikala

A group of farmers in Iganga district has failed to secure market for thousands of fruit seedlings.

Under their association Veterans for Sustainable Development, the farmers, most of them army veterans, said they injected millions of shillings into orange and mango nurseries, but had for the past three seasons waited for buyers in vain.

Lawrence Ayesiga, the association chairperson, told *New Vision* on Saturday that the farmers borrowed money in the hope that they would be repay after selling the seedlings, but had instead been frustrated.

Ayesiga said 100 of the farmers

"It is surprising that people refuse to buy items within their localities and go elsewhere," Farmer

who belong to the association planted 7,000 orange and mango seedlings in nursery beds in Busei village, Nakalama sub-county in Iganga, worth sh5.6b.

He has asked the Government

to help them secure market.

Sande Mukisa, one of the affected farmers, said he had expected to sell 1,500 orange seedlings within the first six months, but is shocked that to date, he has failed to get market for them.

"These seedlings are normally sold when they are 2ft tall, but they are now more than 7ft tall," he said.

Mukisa said he was earlier promised market by a supplier of Operation Wealth Creation in Iganga, but was surprised when he (the supplier) instead opted to purchase orange and mango seedlings in Wakiso.

"It is surprising that people refuse to buy items within their localities and go elsewhere yet they are of the same quality," he said.

Abdul Kiyemba, another

farmer, said were also facing the challenge of fake agricultural inputs on the market and lack of water for the seedlings, especially during the dry season.

He said they were likely to make huge losses in case the Government failed to secure market for their seedlings.

Kiyemba accused Iganga district leaders of failing to get them market for the seedlings.

When contacted, the district chairperson, Patrick Kayemba, said he had received farmers' complaints and efforts were being made to ensure the matter is handled.

The resident district commissioner, Purukeriya Muhindo, said suppliers normally buy seedlings from outside Iganga because of the attractive prices.

