

Purpose. The clinics are planned to disseminate information on how to adapt to climate change, understand problems faced by farmers as well as find and share solutions.

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KAMPALA. As part of its commitment to making a positive contribution to the growth of agriculture, Monitor Publications Ltd will in May, July and September organise regional farm clinics focusing on climate smart agriculture, and hold a Climate Change Symposium in November.

The clinics will provide tips and best practices about crop and animal enterprises; provide farmers with knowledge on smart agriculture.

The clinics are meant to ensure better understanding of the global climate change framework, the key positions that Uganda needs to take to enhance its development agenda and under-

standing of the role of climate science data and analysis in Uganda's development.

According to MPL marketing manager Sarah Nalule, the regional farm clinics also intend to disseminate information on how to adapt to climate change and understand problems faced by farmers at the grassroots as well as find and share solutions through practical training, interaction with partners and formation of farmer support groups.

"Approximately 80 per cent of Ugandans depend on agriculture either as their main occupation, supplementary source of income or a hobby. The challenges within the sector like limited markets, [limited access] to credit facilities, expensive or poor quality

ABOUT THE FARM CLINICS

Schedule. Regional farm clinics are slated for May, July and September in West, East and Central region respectively.

Focus. The clinics will focus on crop and animal enterprises with emphasis on climate smart farming.

Venue. The first clinic will be held on Saturday, May 27 at Mbarara Zonal Agricultural Research & Development Institute (MBAZARDI) starting at 7am and will tackle enterprises of dairy, passion fruit, chili, beans and banana.

inputs, adversities of climate change, among others, have hindered growth within the industry.

"Daily Monitor saw the need to provide practical knowledge to bridge the gap between the will to farm and succeeding at it and so we intend to incorporate climate smart farming into our farm clinics as well as conduct climate change lessons," added Ms Nalule.

She said the Climate Change Symposium aims to provoke debate among experts and stakeholders on how opportunities in climate change can be used to enhance Uganda's transformative economic growth and development agenda.

Ms Nalule said the activities in the regional clinics will seek to address the need for improved climate data

and information for Uganda as well as to strengthen the use of such information for decision-making by supporting analytical capacity, knowledge generation and sharing.

Ms Sheila Wamboga, the editor of the *Seeds of Gold* magazine, which is published in *Saturday Monitor*, said MPL's farm clinics will strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters through practical training and dissemination of simplified information.

"The farm clinics will enrich communities with the knowledge and ability to respond to climate disaster risks, which are only limited due to inadequate climate information and early warning systems," said Ms Wamboga.