

the lives of Ugandans.

Rev. Fr. Richard Kayaga Gonza,

the president of the Lions Club of Jinja, said people with eye defects received eye glasses while others

more eye camps.

He explained that Lions Club has served people since 1917 and in

three years and my teaching job, but the glasses will help me a lot," Kamanye said.

Farmers want bylaws on environmental protection

UKIGA

By Job Namanya

Farmers in Rukiga district are calling on authorities to pass bylaws on environmental protection if they are to benefit from their agricultural products.

The call comes after the district has had continuous rains that have devastated a lot of gardens and property. The rains have in the past claimed the lives of people and animals.

In September, heavy rains hit Rukiga district, affecting most gardens in the area, causing immense losses to farmers.

The downpour also claimed the life of Gideon Nabaasa, an eight-year-old resident of Rwemiba cell, Kyerero parish, Bukinda sub-county. September rains destroyed villages of Kandago and Kabimbiri in Bukinda sub-county.

In Rwamucucu sub-county, especially Sindi, Kitojo, Bulime and Nyakagabagaba villages, gardens, livestock and roads were destroyed. Kasambya sub-county was not spared either.

Farmers now feel that the best solution to the persistent losses would be the passing of bylaws.

During a one-day farmers meeting organised by Kyosiga Kyokungula One Voice Campaign, a community-based organisation in Kasambya sub-county, Rukiga district on Monday, farmers expressed a need for bylaws to ensure environmental protection.

According to James Kagina, a resident of

Nyakariba village in Kasambya sub-county, most farmers have not respected environmental protection calls, which has led to more destruction during heavy rains.

"Traditional farming practices, such as the use of contours and terraces, have been abandoned. We believe that the only way the situation can be restored is through the passing of a bylaw," Kagina said.

Andrew Mwebesa, an agricultural trainer, said most farmers have failed to practise best farming practices.

"Farmers claim their lands are not big enough to apply some of the agricultural procedures," Mwebesa said.

Innocent Tugume, Kyosiga Kyokungula's managing director, said training farmers in the best practices will help them acquire skills to increase production and guarantee an efficient sector.

Eddie Mugisha, the Rwamucucu sub-county LC5 councillor, said Rukiga district by the nature of its hilly terrain experiences heavy rains and thus an effective strategy is needed to reduce the negative effects of the rains.

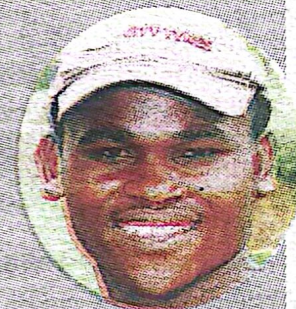
Bernard Kibuuka, a bar owner in Sindi village, said his bar, which mainly sells local brew, was greatly affected by the September rains. He has since then been struggling to meet his daily expenses.

"I had 120 bags of sorghum flour. They were all swept away by the rains," Kibuuka said.

WHAT OTHERS SAID



Evas Barisimaki, farmer: I have started using contours and the latest rains did not sweep away my crops. I wish every farmer takes that route.



Desire Owamazima, resident: Since many people have failed to adhere to proper land management, the best way out is strong laws.



Arthur Muluuta, farmer:

Passing bylaws without proper sensitisation will not help. We need to have extension workers in the villages to sensitise us on proper land management.