

Agriculture graduates get hands-on skills

By Stella Naigino

Stephen Kijali, who holds a diploma in animal production and management from Busitema University, struggled for long to get a job.

"I applied to many companies and only stopped at sitting the written interviews. I did not make it to the oral interviews," Kijali said.

He needed a job, but none was forthcoming. He grew desperate. Just then, a friend called him and informed him about a six-week training opportunity in agricultural skills. I applied immediately and Sukuma Uganda Ltd admitted me to the training.

Kijali is one of 80 graduates from different universities who have been trained by Sukuma Uganda Ltd to get agriculture skills so that they can create employment for themselves.

They are taught how to innovate and manage farm enterprises to ensure that

ON THE GROUND

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He noted that Uganda finds itself in an unemployment dilemma because

people have limited skills. He said this frustrates employers and at the same time the concerned youth are unable to create their own jobs.

He noted that out of the 400,000 young people who are said to graduate from universities every year, only 150,000 get employed.

He encouraged youth to embrace hands-on skills because with such skills, one can easily find or create employment.

Jimmy Wesiga, one of the directors of Sukuma Uganda, said they came up with the training after realising agriculture graduates, especially diploma-holders, struggle a lot to get employed.

"It is for that reason that we decided to give them further training so that they can have a competitive edge in the job market or create their own jobs and employ others. They will also be able to promote agricultural technologies and other related socio-economic products and services," Wesiga explained.

DII is a Ugandan registered organization whose mission is "to improve the quality of life of the informal sector by supporting, intervening and championing their own development and growth. DII is seeking for individuals to be part of the Service (HTS) team project as part time. The positions will be in the Wakiso districts.

A. Laboratory

Qualifications, Experience

1. A certificate or diploma in a recognized field of study
2. At least 2 years of experience in HIV testing sites or in a laboratory
3. Have a good work ethic
4. Good communication skills

B. Counselling