

Museveni gives youth maize threshers

PHOTO BY JOSEPH MAKUMBA

By Joseph Makumbi

Kyankwanzi youth farmers have received a major boost in maize processing following the donation of three specialised threshing machines from President Yoweri Museveni, a move expected to transform agro-processing and reduce post-harvest losses in the district.

The machines, handed over to the KATIKA Empowerment Association in Kayonza sub-county, have a combined capacity of threshing one tonne of maize per hour and if all three are deployed to work every day, they can produce 30,000 tonnes per day. The support is aimed at strengthening value addition, increasing productivity, and promoting mechanised agriculture among youth groups.

KATIKA Empowerment Association, a youth-led maize producers' organisation with 101 registered members, most of whom are below the age of 27, also works with more than 10,000 out-growers across Kyankwanzi, Kiboga, Kikube, and Kyangwali districts.

Speaking during the handover, senior presidential advisor on agribusiness and value addition development, Dr Hillary Emmanuel Musoke



Musoke (third-left), handing over threshing machines that were donated by Museveni

Kisanja, described the donation as a strategic investment in youth-led agriculture and agro-processing.

According to Musoke, the association directly petitioned President Museveni after identifying a need for specialised threshing equipment to improve maize handling and processing.

"The President recognised the potential of this youthful group and responded positively to their request. This demonstrates government commitment to supporting youth participation in agriculture and wealth creation," he added.

The association's chairperson, Teddy Tracy Nagawa, said the group had been struggling with high post-harvest losses due to reliance on manual harvesting methods and ordinary threshing machines.

"Before receiving these machines, we faced serious challenges including grain breakage, contamination with dirt and stones, high labour costs, delays in harvesting and losses caused by rain because threshing took too long," Nagawa explained.

The initiative has also received support from several government officials and community leaders.