

# Kaliro farmers warned against fake seeds

**KALIRO**

By George Bita

As the rainy season starts, farmers in Kaliro district have been advised to buy farm inputs only from recommended agricultural shops.

According to Maj. Stephen Kivumbi, the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) district co-ordinator, some farmers have suffered huge losses due to the purchase of fake seeds and fertilisers.

"At OWC we supply farm inputs to farmers. Unfortunately, some ignore our supplies as well as the outlets we recommend, arguing that they already have their own suppliers," Kivumbi told *New Vision* on Saturday.

Peter Mujungu, a farmer in Namwiwa village, narrated how he recently bought 4kg of seemingly treated maize seeds from a local shop. However, the seeds failed to

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**Kaliro OWC boss**

germinate after planting.

"When I examined the seeds that were left over in my farm store, I realised that I had been duped. The green colouring on the 'treated seeds'

easily came off and I suspected ordinary paint had been used," Mujungu said.

Paul Diogo, the Kaliro district environment officer, encouraged farmers to have plant trees around their gardens to work as windbreaks.

"The rainstorms at times become a nuisance and damage young crops. So with trees as windbreaks, farmers will have a bountiful harvest," Diogo said.

Anna Mary Kemerwa, the Kaliro resident district commissioner, said the Government had injected a lot of money into the OWC programme and urged local farmers to take advantage of this so as to prosper.

"There was a time when farmers were complaining about late delivery of farm supplies. However, we have found a solution by buying the inputs early so that early planting is not affected," Kemerwa said.



Maj. Kivumbi interacts with a farmer in Namwiwa village, Kaliro on Saturday. OWC has stocked farm inputs early. Photo by George Bita

**WHAT RESIDENTS SAY ABOUT FARM INPUTS**

**Edith Mirembe, farmer in Bumanya village**  
I usually get my farm inputs from OWC. But in other instances I buy from shops that are recommended by OWC.



**Joseph Timuntu, Nawaikoke sub-county chief**  
There is no way we can completely eradicate fake farm inputs. Many farmers prepared their gardens early before the rains and are planting seeds from several outlets.



**Sam Bakalikwira, farmer in Gadumire village**  
The long distance from urban centres forces farmers to buy sub-standard seeds. Many times farmers entrust taxi drivers to deliver farm inputs for them, hence ending up with fake deliveries.



**UGANDA PLASTICS MANUFACTURERS AND RECYCLERS ASSOCIATION (UPMRA)**