



Nankya (brown jacket) speaking to farmers about soil management on Friday in Bulambuli district. Photo by Faustine Odeke

Soil experts camp in Elgon to promote land management

BULAMBULI

By Faustine Odeke

Soil scientists from the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO), have pitched camp in the Elgon region, to promote sustainable land management practices.

The team is engaged in training farmers and community members on the need to integrate sustainable land management practices in order to increase productivity, restore soil fertility and control erosion.

Eseri Nankya, a soil scientist attached to Buginyanya Zonal Agriculture Research and Development Institute, said: "We have been conducting

sustainable land management research in the region and we are evaluating stabilising material for soil control and water conservation through the use of calliandra, leuceana, napier and brachiaria to discover which practice is best."

Nankya made the remarks on Friday during the farmer field day held at the Buginyanya centre in Bulambuli district. The institute, which covers 24 districts comprising the four sub-regions of Sebei, Bugisu, Bukedi and Busoga, has been conducting research under the World Bank-funded agriculture technology and agri-business advisory services project.

The project strengthens research extension farmer's

linkages by taking up generated technologies to the end users, especially of enterprises, such as maize, rice, cassava, beans and dairy.

Fanuel Ongua, the research officer of soil micro-biology at NARO, urged the farmers to adapt technology to increase productivity.

Ongua said the World Bank team was very impressed with the application of the technologies when they recently visited the region on a fact-finding mission for value for money.

Edward Bukoma, a farmer from Bududa, thanked the scientists for their work, saying since they started applying the appropriate methods, they have increased production.