

RESIDENTS COMPLAINED THAT THE ABSENCE OF DAMS IS MAKING THEIR CATTLE FAIL TO PRODUCE MILK

Masindi residents ask govt for dams

Masindi

By Priscillar Nyamahunge

Residents in Masindi have asked the Government to construct water dams to counter the challenge of drought, which affects milk production.

Speaking to *New Vision* during the national June Dairy Day celebrations at Masindi Boma grounds last Thursday, residents complained that the absence of dams is making their cattle fail to produce adequate milk due to the drought.

The June Dairy Day is celebrated annually to recognise stakeholders in the value chain.

This year's celebrations were held under the theme, *Adopting technologies for enhancing milk production and consumption*.

Over 5,000 litres of milk were given to residents.

Joseph Rujumba, a resident of Kalyango cell in Nyangahya division, said most people hike milk prices during the dry season, citing drought as the excuse.

WHAT RESIDENTS SAY

Flavia Ajok, The Government should give at least one cow to each household and teach people how to feed the cows properly for better milk yields.



Marion Kabagenyi, We need extension workers to teach cattle keepers about alternative ways of feeding cattle even during drought.



Ismail Bategeka,

Most people are still ignorant about the importance of milk consumption and some think they are saving money by not buying it. They need to be sensitised about its importance."

this year, a litre of milk cost sh2,600 and milk sellers always complained that this was still low. Not everyone can afford milk at that price, yet it is a nutritious food that most of us would wish to have," Rujumba said.

Stephen Kabindi, a cattle keeper from Kijunjubwa village in Kimengo sub-county, said:

during the dry season in search of water. Even the little pasture we come across is usually shared among many herds from different households," Kabindi said.

He said the President, during the 2006 presidential campaigns, promised to provide equipment for the construction of dams, but the



Kabatsi (centre) inspecting a Lato milk stall during the June Dairy celebrations at Masindi Boma grounds on Thursday. Photos by Priscillar Nyamahunge

Meanwhile, Michael Onadra, a resident of Kijura cell, central division, called on the Government, through Operation Wealth Creation, to provide high-quality breeds to ensure a high milk production.

During the celebrations, the state minister for animal husbandry, Joy Kabatsi, advised locals to drink milk at all functions, emphasising that milk is more nutritious than other drinks.

"Please replace alcohol and sodas with milk and its products during weddings, birthdays, graduations and introductions parties. At least

BETWEEN THE LINES:

■ Stephen Kabindi, a cattlekeeper, said the President promised during the 2006 Presidential campaigns to provide equipment for the construction of dams, but the pledge has never been fulfilled.

because they need it to build their bodies," the minister said. Kabatsi, who also commissioned a milk collection centre in Masindi town said

Uganda are still low compared to other East African countries.

Jolly Zaribwende, the executive director of the Dairy Development Authority (DDA), cautioned people against buying milk carried in jerrycans and encouraged milk sellers to buy cans.

"Avoid transporting milk in jerrycans because it is not healthy. If you want to benefit from the milk business, buy milk cans," Zaribwende said.

Kassim Kabagonza, the Masindi district secretary for production said 90% of the cattle in the district are the indigenous type which