

Low productivity- ity blamed on poor funding

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Caritas Uganda, an arm of Uganda Episcopal Conference together with the Uganda Farmers Common Voice Platform has released a study that highlights a co-relation between agricultural extension services and the performance of other sectors of the economy in Uganda such as Health, Trade and Industry, Water and Environment.

The report titled 'A desk study to ascertain the cost of agricultural extension to performance of key productive sectors of the economy besides agriculture' was conducted by the Department of Agribusiness and Natural Resource Economics College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Makerere University on behalf of Caritas Uganda.

The study was set out to provide evidence on the benefits of Agricultural extension to the performance of key productive sectors of the economy besides agriculture to include trade and industry, health and water and environment.

Speaking to Daily Monitor on the sidelines after the release of the findings of the study, Betty Rose Aguti- policy and advocacy specialist, Caritas Uganda said, "In Uganda, agriculture is the backbone of the economy and is dominated by small holder farmers who occupy majority of the arable land and produce most of the crop and livestock products, with most households directly or indirectly deriving their livelihood from the sector." However, much as the agricultural sector is crucial to Uganda's economy, it is still faced with challenges such as inadequate financing, unpredictable weather and minimal agricultural extension services. Currently, the number of farmers accessing agricultural extension is reported to range between 14 - 17 per cent, while 40 - 50 per cent access advisory services from fellow farmers and 25 per cent access services via radio.



Betty Aguti (C) of Caritas speaks moments the release of the findings PHOTO BY TOM BRIAN ANGURINI