# OWC advised on Korean model

By Vivian Agaba

The implementers of the Operation Wealth Creation programme (OWC) have been advised to adopt the Korean Saemaul Undong (SMU) model if they are to reach and benefit more farmers in the country.

The SMU model is a South Korean village-based development model, which emphasises a shift from state-driven to community-driven development.

Under the model, communities agree to work together on development projects. In some districts, where the model has been implemented, such as Kabarole, Luuka, Tororo, Maracha and Kampala, positive strides are being registered.

The communities are engaged in banana, tomato, maize, rice, cassava, piggery and dairy farming.

Speaking at the first annual Saemaul Undong stakeholders workshop at Copper Chimney Restaurant on Monday, Ministry of Local Government technical advisor Assumpta Ikiriza Tibamwenda, said though the programme has money and agricultural inputs to supply to farmers, some of the targeted farmers have not embraced it.

The workshop was organised under the theme: "Improving linkages and collaboration among SMU stakeholders in Uganda".

Tibamwenda revealed that despite SMU being a good model, it is not well-known by the Government because the communities using it are working in isolation

"OWC has money and agricultural inputs, but some farmers have not fully embraced it because of negative attitude. Some sell the animals given to them, while others misuse inputs. Implementors of OWC should adopt the model, which targets groups that are interested in developing their communities," she said.

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