

OWC WILL EXPLAIN TO FARMERS WAYS OF GETTING BETTER YIELDS WHILE USING THEIR FARMLAND SUSTAINABLY



Angina (left) and Taweeka exchanging copies of the contract for Operation Wealth Creation sponsorship towards the Harvest Money Expo on Saturday. Centre is Maj. Kiconco Tabaro. Photo by Kennedy Oryema

OWC to train farmers at Harvest Money Expo

By Prossy Nandudu

The Government, through Operation Wealth Creation (OWC), is to use the upcoming Harvest Money Expo to launch the second phase of their operations across the country.

The first phase was the foundation stage, which involved mobilisation of farmers and understanding the challenges that they face.

This was revealed by the deputy chief co-ordinator of OWC, Lt. Gen. Charles Angina on Saturday, while signing a

partnership with Vision Group as one of the key sponsors of the three-day Harvest Money Expo at Mandela National Stadium, Namboole, beginning on Friday, this week.

OWC is the latest institution to announce sponsorship towards the expo under the theme: "From the farm to the market" organised annually by Vision Group.

The other major sponsors are: dfcu Bank, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Engsol, Uganda Revenue

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Authority, Davis & Shirtliff and Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries. Angina said under phase

2 code-named 'Stabilisation', OWC will continue with the sensitisation of farmers on land usage and choice of enterprises

- Angina said Operation Wealth Creation will mobilise and register farmers' groups for collective marketing, bulking, procurement of machinery such as irrigation equipment and tractors to improve production.
- He said farmers will have to form four committees on finance, management, technical and supervision with a composition of 65 members.
- The technical committee would monitor machinery given to the group, finance to manage funds, supervision to monitor the two committees and the management committee will ensure proper management within the group.
- The groups will get training and equipment for value addition, thus creating jobs through processing, packaging, branding, sales, among others, hence creating wealth for all, Angina said.

OWC ACTIVITIES AT EXPO

for investment.

"We shall teach farmers that one does not have to fragment one's piece of land among children because our intention is mechanisation, which we think will take agriculture to another level," Angina said.

"Under enterprise selection, farmers will be introduced to crops that mature early, are of high value and can increase household incomes within a short time," Angina added.

He cited the example of farmers in Busoga who have concentrated on growing cane, a plantation crop that takes 18 months to yield profit. He said by the time the profits are realised, they would be spent within a short time on household priorities such as school fees and debts.

However, Angina called on farmers in Busoga to emulate the Minister of State for Urban Development, Isaac Musumba, whom he said earns sh26m from an acre of onions in a 4-month season.

"Through sensitisation, we shall be able to change the

mindset of farmers and show them better crops so they can plan for their farmland in a sustainable manner," Angina said. Angina said on Friday, OWC will unveil other activities, in addition to the ones they have explained above.

"The annual Harvest Money Expo brings together people who supply information on farming. We shall use the expo to sensitise farmers about our planned activities and reveal opportunities available to work with us," Angina said.

While signing the partnership on behalf of Vision Group, Jacqueline Taweeka, the senior advertising manager, said the second expo is set to attract over 20,000 people.

She added that the expo is to create space for ordinary people to meet their suppliers and learn about the latest technologies in farming in one place.

She said entrance fee is sh10,000, but those who will be attending different training sessions will pay another sh10,000.