



A farmer in Bukedea shows a cassava tuber infested with the wilt disease. PHOTO BY LOMINDA AFEDRARU

Naro to contain vector diseases

Farmers across the country growing all types of crops are faced with the challenge of vector borne diseases leading to loss of better yields.

Some of the plant diseases have been in existence over time and others are emerging.

There are vector borne disease which have been affecting major crops grown by famers in Uganda over a period of time and this include cassava mosaic virus and cassava brown streak virus, Rice yellow mottle virus, banana bacterial wilt among others which scientists are trying to contain by breeding improved varieties.

However there are diseases where little attention is paid to such as passion fruit woodiness virus, groundnut rosette virus and maize lethal necrosis among others.

As such agricultural scientists at the National Agricultural Research Organisation (Naro) are teaming up with their colleagues in UK to conduct collaborative research initiatives in a bid to overcome challenges caused by vector borne diseases on some of Uganda's staple crops.

By Lominda Afedraru