

PEOPLE ARE ABANDONING MAIZE AND OPTING FOR FISH FARMING AND POULTRY

## IGANGA

By George Bita

Maize gardens in Busoga sub-region have again been raided by the fall armyworm, despite many attempts by farmers to fight off the destructive pests.

Sheila Kaswa, a farmer in Bukanga, Luuka district, said despite spending a lot of money on buying pesticides, the worms have kept on resurfacing in her four-acre maize garden.

"We were told by agriculture extension workers to use striga and a range of other chemicals. Unfortunately, none of them has worked effectively," Kaswa said.

Tolofisa Nakagolo, the LC1 chairperson of Nawaningi in Iganga district, told *New Vision* on Saturday that over 20 acres of maize in the area had been affected.

"The pesticides recommended by extension workers seem not to have any impact on the worm. These attacks will affect our yields," Nakagolo said.

David Waako, a farmer in Namwiwa parish, Kaliro district, said he lost an acre of maize in the last season to the worms.

"We are now abandoning the growing of crops, especially maize, since it is susceptible to armyworm attacks. We would rather practise fish farming or poultry," Waako said.

Saleh Kumbuga, the Namutumba district chairperson, said experts should intervene and help residents to fight the worms.

"People have tried unsuccessfully to kill the armyworm. They need external support," Kumbuga said.

Abdul Samanya, the Iganga

# Armyworm destroys Busoga maize gardens



An armyworm-infested maize garden in Ntinda, Iganga district. Photo by George Bita

district natural resources officer, said the impact of the worm on the environment has been disastrous.

"In certain instances, the armyworm has moved to other plants, leaving the

maize crops bare. We need to find a solution to this menace," Samanya said.

Gerald Tayebwa, an extension worker in Ivukula sub-county,

Namutumba district, attributed the problem to fake pesticides.

"Farmers are killing insects and leaving eggs behind. The eggs left behind then hatch and produce more

## WHAT FARMERS SAY



**Edinansi Logose**  
The armyworm has made many people have lose interest in growing maize.



**Tom Dhatemwa**  
The armyworm eggs come with the seeds bought from some shops. How else could we explain that the worms appeared from nowhere?

insects," Tayebwa said.

"Some fake pesticides on the market could be responsible for this failure. Farmers should be cautious when buying them," Samanya said.