

Farm Clinic to tackle Climate Smart farming

Seeds of GOLD
9th
FARM CLINIC 2018
06

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It would be a fallacy for any active or prospective farmer to expect high yields without following the guidelines of Smart Farm farming.

According to Shedrach Muhangi, a climate change champion, Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) can be defined as agricultural practices that sustainably increase productivity and system resilience while reducing greenhouse gases.

He hastily adds that among the innumerable benefits to farmers include but not limited to; increased food security and income, having enough to eat and sell.

Muhangi, also a banana expert, says participants that will grace the *Seeds of Gold* Farm Clinic session at Mbazardi, Mbarara will be taught how to synchronize banana production and climate farm agriculture for improved farm produce.

"They will learn how to use adaptation and mitigation measures. Water harvesting interventions help in achieving results," he says.

Participants at the ninth Farm Clinic will on top of learning the different enterprises also learn several climate farm agriculture techniques.

These include, selecting best varieties that are drought tolerant, practice line planting this allows other activities to be done easily like irrigation, mulching the plantation and irrigation during drought season using all simple technologies like plastic bottles.

The plant agronomist, also a climate change champion network trainer, gives chopping the harvested plants into small pieces to cover the soil, banana peels used as livestock feeds, planting leguminous trees in the boundaries of the plantation these serve as wind breakers and stakes for banana from falling down and applying manure as their other technologies that aid climate smart farming.

MPL marketing manager Sarah Nalule

FACILITATORS

- Dr Peace Kankwasa – Cassava
- John Bosco Muhumuza – Passion Fruits
- Dr Moses Dikhusooka – Dairy Health
- Dr Irene Mbatidde – Dairy Hygiene
- Geoffrey Beyihayo – Dairy Nutrition and Pasture
- Dina Nabasumba – Mangoes
- Amos Aturinda – Maize
- Shedrach Muhangi – Bananas
- Daniel Minero – Beans
- John Ssendawula – Lands



A trainer explains to participants how to plant bananas during the 8th Seeds of Gold farm Clinic last year at Mbazardi PHOTO BY ALEX ESAGALA

Walakira sheds more light on why the climate smart farming theme is imperative.

"Approximately 80 per cent of Ugandans depend on rain fed agriculture either as their main occupation, supplementary source of income or a hobby.

"The challenges within the sector

like limited markets, inaccessibility to credit facilities, expensive or poor quality inputs, adversities of climate change among others have hindered growth within the industry," she stressed.

Nalule adds that agriculture is one of the most vulnerable to climate change impacts.

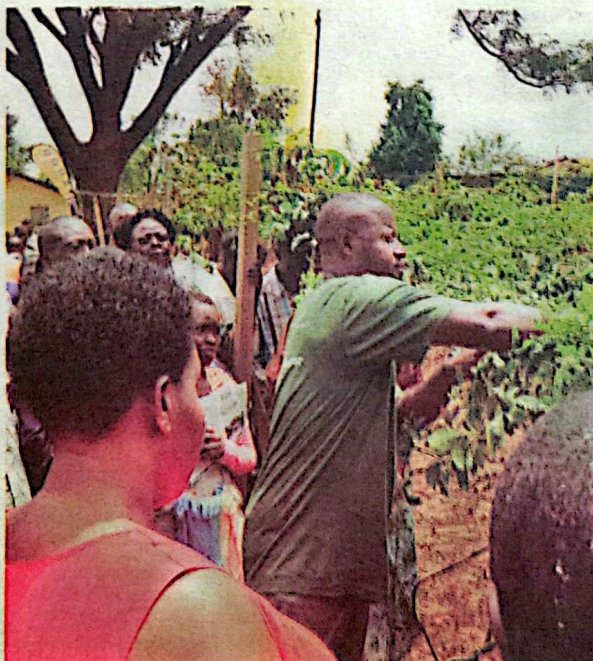
"The ability of communities to respond to climate disaster risks remains limited due to inadequate climate information and early warning systems."

Joint efforts must be made to identify and exploit the opportunities that climate change presents.

To achieve this, Nalule expounds,

there must be a concerted effort by all key players including the media.

"The ordinary person must receive continuous information on new innovative climate smart technologies. This Daily Monitor thrives to achieve through the clinics," Nalule says.



Julius Ahagaana (in green) explains the agronomy of passion fruits. FILE PHOTO



Justice Augustine Nshimye (in blue) was among the farmers that attended the 7th Seeds of Gold Farm Clinic at Kabanyolo last year. FILE PHOTO