

By Andrew Musinguzi

In a bid to boost agricultural modernisation and create wealth at the household level through commercial farming practices, more than 5,000 model farmers from the entire Bunyoro sub-region have been trained in a four-acre model farming system at Buseesa demonstration farm in Kibaale district.

Dr Richard Lubega, the director of Buseesa demonstration farm and a model farmer in greater Kibaale, who officiated at the training on May 15, said he has trained over 5,000 farmers, including religious leaders, leaders of savings and credit co-operative societies, political leaders, youth and community members.

He recently hosted President Yoweri Museveni at his four-acre model farm. The President donated sh2m to him.

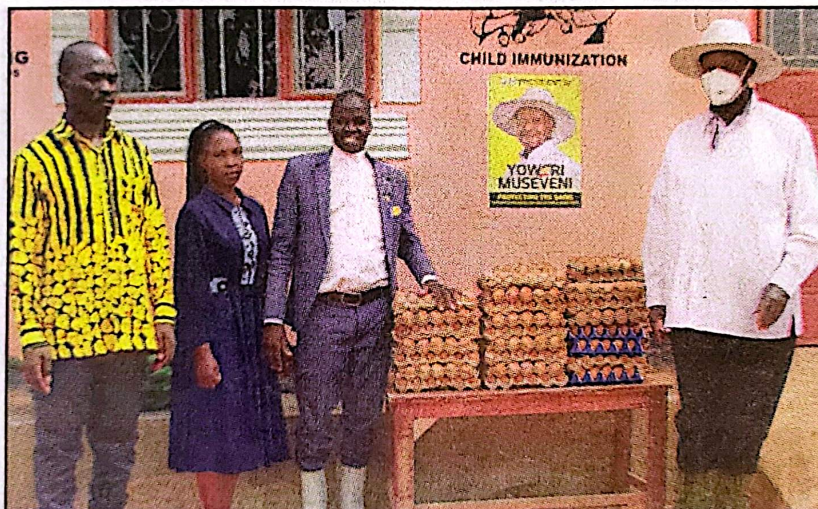
Lubega said he earns a total of sh290m from his projects in poultry, piggery, fish farming, rabbit keeping, dairy cattle and beekeeping. Both the farm and medical centre, established using profits earned from his projects, employ 40 workers.

"I get 75 trays of eggs, each sold at sh10,000; each piglet is sold at sh200,000; young goats are sold at sh300,000; each fish fingerling is sold at sh10,000 and a litre of milk is sold at sh2,000," Dr Lubega revealed.

Lubega, 41, a resident of Buseesa A in

HOW LUBEGA EARNS SH290M FROM COMMERCIAL FARMING

Museveni (right) with Lubega (second-right) at Buseesa demonstration farm in Kibaale district, works state minister Fred Byamukama looks on



Kaisenkenkere parish, Matala sub-county, Kibaale district, is a medical professional by training and holds a master's degree in medicine.

He said after listening to Museveni's speech

on commercial farming and wealth creation in 2014.

"As a medical practitioner, I did not seek government employment. I became creative and started a demonstration farm in 2014. After receiving sh1m from Emyooga funds in 2021,

I expanded it into a four-acre model farm where I now earn sh290m annually," Lubega explained.

He said he has expanded his projects with innovations in silage processing, biogas, maize processing and industrial training. Each of the 40 workers on his project earns between sh100,000 and sh500,000 per month.

TRAINEES VOICES

Dan Twagira, 60, a model farmer from Kagadi, said: "I have learnt how to manage my small farm and expand it. One can begin small and grow big. I have projects in piggery, dairy cattle and poultry from which I earn at least sh10m annually, but with this training I expect to expand using locally available and affordable materials and earn more."

Paul Kiiza, 40, a resident of Kyangwali, said: "I will improve my farming activities through research on the variety of animal and bird species as advised by Dr Lubega. I have already improved my farm products through research on various species at his farm. I expect to start earning more than what I have been getting from my dairy cattle and fishing projects."