

**Seeds of GOLD**  
**9th**  
**FARM CLINIC 2018**  
**2**  
**DAY TO GO**

## The benefits of growing mangoes

BY DENIS BBOSA

dbbosa@ug.nationmedia.com

**KAMPALA.** Forget the days when mangoes were fruits reserved for home consumption. Fruit management and marketing expert Dina Nabasumba reveals that they are a treasure on the world market.

Ms Nabasumba, who holds a Bachelor's Degree in Forestry and a Masters in Agroforestry, says she will centre her practical tutorials at the *Saturday Monitor* Farm Clinic in Mbarara on the modern trends through which Ugandan farmers can tap into the vast and rich global market.

"With the growing local and export market, investing in commercial production is a worthwhile venture. The favourable environment for mango growing alongside availability of research tested improved varieties suitable for the different climatic zones in Uganda should encourage farmers to engage in commercial mango growing. The enterprise will help farmers diversify their sources of income," says Ms Nabasumba, a researcher at Mbarara Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MBA-ZARDI).

"The perennial nature of mangoes makes them highly resilient to climate change effects as they can adequately recover from climate variability shocks," Ms Nabasumba adds.

For a starting mango grower, she advises one to do the selection of varieties which can grow and yield well in a given environment. This should be followed by good site selection and preparation.

**RAMADHAN TIP**   
**BY AL-MAHDI SSENKABIRWA**