

Sh7.6b set aside for agriculture equipment

By Andrew Ssenyonga

The Government has set aside sh7.6b to procure agricultural equipment which will be hired out to farmers.

They include two wheel loaders and three excavators.

“Due to climate change, there is need to bring water near to farmers and this can be done by digging valley dams and tanks. This should be supplemented by opening up roads and farm land,” Vincent Ssempijja, the agriculture minister, said.

Improved yields

While addressing journalists at the Uganda Media Centre in Kampala on Thursday, Ssempijja said the equipment will be hired out to farmers on a cost sharing arrangement.

As the first planting season approaches, Ssempijja urged the extension workers across the country to guide farmers on early land preparation, selection and preparation of seeds and planting materials.

“For areas which were affected by the fall armyworm, farmers should practise crop rotation for maize with other crops to break the pests or disease cycles,” he advised.

Ssempijja said the ministry

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staff have been conducting supervision and field their reports indicate that some households have already sold off all the beans, yet they are the main source of protein.

“Harvesting of cereals is ongoing, farmers are advised to harvest quickly and to prepare fields for the next crop,” he said.

Beatrice Byaruhanga, the director agricultural extension services urged communities in drought prone areas to desilt dams in order to harvest enough water.

She also advised LCI chairpersons and parish chiefs to sensitise communities to enforce byelaws on wild fires, proper utilisation of wetlands and to discourage cultivation on steep slopes.