

BUSOGA FISH FARMERS TOUR KENYA

By Vision Reporter

President Yoweri Museveni's drive to promote fish farming and alternative livelihoods in Busoga has gained momentum, with 60 model farmers from the sub-region travelling to Kenya for a three-day benchmark study on modern aquaculture and livestock practices.

Organised by State House through the Office of the Special Presidential Assistant – Press and Mobilisation, Faruk Kirunda, the delegation visited the Fish Farm Paradise and Resort in Kamulu, Machakos County, near Nairobi, which practices integrated fish and dairy farming.

The initiative is part of government efforts to reduce over-reliance on sugarcane growing and promote diversified income-generating activities, such as fish farming, poultry, cocoa growing and dairy production in Busoga.

Leading the delegation, Florence Mutyabule, the

senior presidential advisor on poverty alleviation in Busoga, said the visit comes at a critical time when the region is seeking more profitable and sustainable economic activities.

She said Museveni has consistently encouraged communities to make productive use of wetlands through controlled fish farming, arguing that it supports wealth creation while protecting the environment.

"The strategy is working well. Fish farming will help Busoga fight poverty. We are surrounded by water bodies like Lake Victoria, which gives us a strong comparative advantage," Mutyabule said.

She praised the Kenyan facility for demonstrating how wetlands can be productively utilised without degradation, noting that the Fish Farm Paradise and Resort combines aquaculture with tourism and hospitality. "The proprietor has effectively used the wetland for a fish hatchery, ponds



Model farmers from Busoga while on a three-day study tour on modern and best practices of fish and livestock farming in Kenya

for catfish and tilapia and a recreation centre. He earns from both fish and hospitality. We need similar models in Busoga," she said, adding that the region should also establish fish holding centres to improve market access.

Mutyabule urged the farmers to act as change agents in their respective districts by applying the knowledge acquired during the study tour.

BETWEEN THE LINES

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At the facility, the CEO of the Aquaculture Association of Kenya, Stanley Mworio, took the delegation through modern fish farming techniques, including high-capacity ponds and hatchery systems.

He said each pond is capable of holding about 3,000 fish, supported by integrated systems powered by electricity, generators and solar energy to ensure constant aeration.

Mworio also explained the use of fish holding tanks that allow farmers to store mature fish until market demand is available.

"We have the capacity to produce about 500,000 fish per month," he said.

Members of the delegation described the study tour as an eye-opener.

Jacob Kazindura, a model farmer from Jinja, said he had acquired practical skills in fish and dairy farming, including water recycling techniques and fish feed formulation.

Mary Immaculate Abwooli from Namutumba called for the formation of a strong farmers' association in Busoga to enhance collective marketing and bargaining power.

Another farmer, Samuel Magala Ngobi from Luuka district, thanked State House for the opportunity, noting that while farmers have the capacity to construct fish ponds, access to capital remains a challenge.



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LIRA CITY COUNCIL
P.O Box 199 Lira



Email: liracitycouncil@gmail.com



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