

By Joshua Kato

At exactly 10:30pm on Friday, KLM Airbus A350-500 touched down at Entebbe International Airport. Among the people anxiously waiting for their cargo was Johnson Basangwa, who was nervously pacing up and down the area that handles incoming cargo.

On board was his consignment of 10,000 day-old chicks, imported from the Netherlands.

Basangwa, a 2015 Vision Group Best Farmer, visited the Netherlands in 2016 and it was during the trip that he visited Verbeek Hatchery, Holland, one of the main breeders of day-old chicks. He vowed to start importing chicken from them.

Other than chicken, there were also seeds, cartons of agri-inputs, and electronics among others.

"KLM is committed to promoting agriculture in Uganda and the region across the value chain," Godfrey Opicha, the KLM station manager at Entebbe airport, said as he oversaw the unloading of the chicks and other cargo.

KLM is one of the sponsors of the Vision Group's best farmer's competition.

The other sponsors of the competition are Vision Group, dfcu Bank and the Embassy of the Netherlands.

Opicha pointed out that while KLM brings in chicken, seeds and other agro-inputs from Netherlands, the return flight takes back flowers and fruits from Uganda.

"As you can see, after unloading the incoming cargo, they are going to load the outgoing goods," he said.

"This first batch has come in after a period of negotiations with my now business partners in Netherlands," Basangwa said. Each of the

# 2015 Best Farmer imports 10,000 chicks



Basangwa's colleague has a look at the chicks

Basangwa receiving his chicks flown in by KLM Airlines from the Netherlands

chicks cost about sh3,600 to import it. Basangwa is a poultry farmer in Kamuli municipality, Kamuli district.

Under the Vision Group's Best Farmers competition, 10 winners — one from each of the 10 sub-regions — are selected for a tour of the Netherlands, while the top three out of the 10 share a sh150m prize.

The 2015 winners included Apollo Ataho, Robert Okodia, John Winter Bagada, Nicholas Matsiko, Dr Diana Nambatya Nsubuga, Johnson Basangwa, Stephen Kibuuka, Richard Bayo, Eddy Morris Ogweng, Isaac Sowedi Malemya, Godfrey Musanje, Alfred Okiring and Tony Kidega