

# Ugandans challenged on farming

By Jeff Andrew Lule

Smallholder farmers have been advised to venture into improved commercial agriculture to easily benefit from the oil sector.

Many Uganda farmers practise farming on small-scale using elementary methods, which greatly hinders the production levels and quality of yields.

Speaking during a Youth Agripreneur Champions sensitisation meeting at Gudie Leisure Farm in Wakiso, Elly Karuhanga, a dairy farmer, asked the youth and other smallholder farmers to change their mindset from subsistence to commercial farming if they want to improve their livelihood.

He said the move easily improves on quality and production levels.

Karuhanga, who is also the chairperson of the Uganda Chamber of Mines and Petroleum, noted that many Ugandan farmers are missing out on many contracts because they cannot sustainably meet the demand.

"We are trying to push for the local content, but we must make sure that our people prove that they can meet the demand and these supplies must be certified. We do not want to give people contracts to supply something and fail after a week or two. That is why I am urging the youth engaged in agriculture to venture into commercial farming to improve their yields and also increase production," Karuhanga said.

He added that there will be many opportunities when the construction works of the oil pipeline kick off with a workforce of 16,000 workers in need of various services and food supplies.

He said Ugandans can only be able to tap into these opportunities if they get organised to work together to increase production.