



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,  
ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES**  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY  
SERVICES (NAADS)**



# NAADS Newsletter

Issue NO. 4 July 2022

## The Sweet Taste of growing pineapples

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Arab Investors to  
construct seven factories

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NAADS partners with Gulu  
Archdiocese to commercialise  
cassava production

**YUMBE MANGO FACTORY :**  
Gov't injects shs.3.5bn for  
its completion





# NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY SERVICES (NAADS)

## Steps of Acquiring Agricultural Inputs

1



A farmer presents his/her request for input needs to his/her farmer group or takes it to the Production office at Parish/Sub County.

2



The district assesses the requests submitted by the farmers and compiles the specific planting and stocking materials required across the district.

3



The District submits their specific needs to the NAADS Secretariat.

4



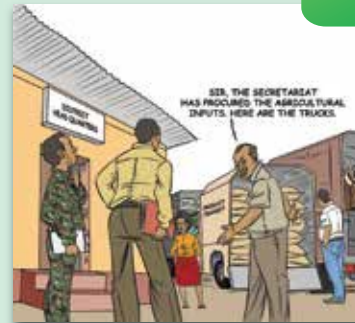
NAADS Secretariat makes an assessment of district submissions and sends an advice slip to each with details of how much inputs are to be provided based on the available resources.

5



Communication is sent to the farmers on the availability of the inputs (type and quantity) and the date of distribution to enable them prepare adequately.

6



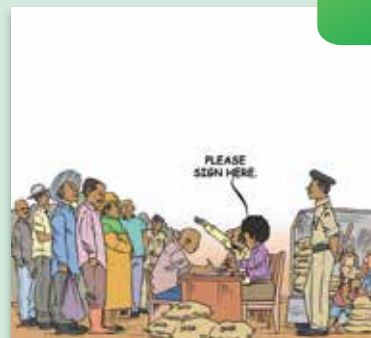
NAADS Secretariat procures the agricultural inputs from pre-qualified service providers who deliver the inputs to the district.

7



The Input Distribution Committee at the district makes an inspection of the delivered inputs to ensure the right quantity and quality as per given specifications.

8



The supplier delivers the inputs to the Parish/ Sub County and distribution is done accordingly. The farmer signs the distribution sheet. The sheet is endorsed by Operation Wealth Creation (OWC), extension stuff and Parish/ Sub County Chief.

### Mandate:

To manage Input Distribution Chains; Support Strategic Manage Input Distribution Chains; Support Strategic Interventions, Promote Agribusiness and Value Chain Development



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## Word from the

Editor

**D**ear Reader, The COVID19 pandemic has altered our lives; leaving shocks in the different sectors of the economy including agriculture. Agriculture is, therefore, of fundamental importance to any discussion about the impact of the pandemic on the economy.

To the individual Ugandan/ farmer, so much fear and anxiety has been spread, uncertainty about the future has become a silent preoccupation.

At a certain point, majority of the farmers thought that they were headed for a catastrophe but this has not come to pass, the future looks bright as they have started to emerge as winners. Farmers need to recognize the COVID pandemic has actually provided an opportunity for renewed investment in

the sector.

In response to the crisis, many Ugandans shifted to agriculture to revive food production and create jobs. To be a farmer, one needs to be a number of things, first, an eternal optimist otherwise you cannot last. Secondly, one must have long-term view otherwise with a short term view, chances of failure are extremely high.

In the long term, you wait out failures and tragedies in the firm belief that they will pass and sunny days will return. Thirdly, one needs to be resilient and persistent. You must have a survivor mindset. Four, you must develop a failure coping mechanism.

Pain and frustration is such a regular reality in farming, so when you find it in other spheres, the default is to face it. It is widely said that you may suffer

defeat but you must never be defeated. This should reflect the attitude of a farmer. We keep going back even after pestilence and weather have hit us hard.

There is need to reflect on the post COVID World especially for the farmers. The only thing that is certain about the new World is that it is different from what we knew. But also that the need to eat has not gone away.

The demand for food will always be there. So this is an economic activity that will continue to give with or without COVID 19. There are those who have suffered because of the closure of the hospitality industry and schools. But that is only temporary.

From our recent field visits and also the testimonies of the farmers profiled in this Newsletter, agriculture is proving to be resilient and may indeed offer a long term refuge for many. If there is any point that COVID has made, it is that we need food security and exportable production.

Good reading!

*Khadija Nakakande*

**Head Communication and Public  
Relations  
NAADS Secretariat**





## Message from the Executive Director NAADS

**W**elcome to the fourth edition of our Newsletter as we keep our assurance of conveying to you the information in the agricultural sector. Consistent interface with our stakeholders is our main focus in order to build a progressive long term connection.

Cognisant of the fact that the biggest opportunities for employment for our mostly young population is in agriculture, NAADS secretariat has for the last three years showcased model

farmers who are making farming a successful business enterprise.

In this fourth edition of the NAADS Newsletter, we profile yet another set of exemplary farmers drawn from selected districts and we hope you find the stories truly inspirational.

This performance is not a coincidental. The available statistics indicates that the production and export volumes for major enterprises notably maize, beans, cassava, Tea, Cocoa, fruits (Citrus, Mangoes, Pineapples, and Apples) and Dairy among others has significantly increased.

This is a result of several years of mobilisation by H.E President Yoweri Museveni who has encouraged families to improve their incomes by investing in agriculture, following a four acre





model approach.

In order to increase production and productivity, this financial year our work will be achieved through procurement and distribution of improved planting materials including seeds and vegetative materials and/or seedlings to increase access to agriculture inputs to all categories of farmers, including youth, women, PWDs and older persons.

These interventions are aimed at increasing production and productivity of the various priority and strategic crop commodities for improved household food and income security; as well as export earnings in the case of the strategic crop commodities.

It is worth noting that these interventions put special emphasis on special interest groups, especially youth and women and beneficiaries in urban and semi-urban areas, especially in the case of livestock materials for heifers, poultry and pigs.

NAADS is also committed to continue providing agro machinery to support farm mechanisation. This intervention is aimed at increasing farm production and productivity for increased household food security and incomes through adoption of improved and efficient production technologies.

**NAADS  
is committed  
to procure and  
distribute planting  
and stocking  
materials to selected  
beneficiaries  
across the  
country**

enhancement of timeliness and profitability of farm operations and intensified farm production systems; as well as provision of water for production to address adverse effects of climate change.

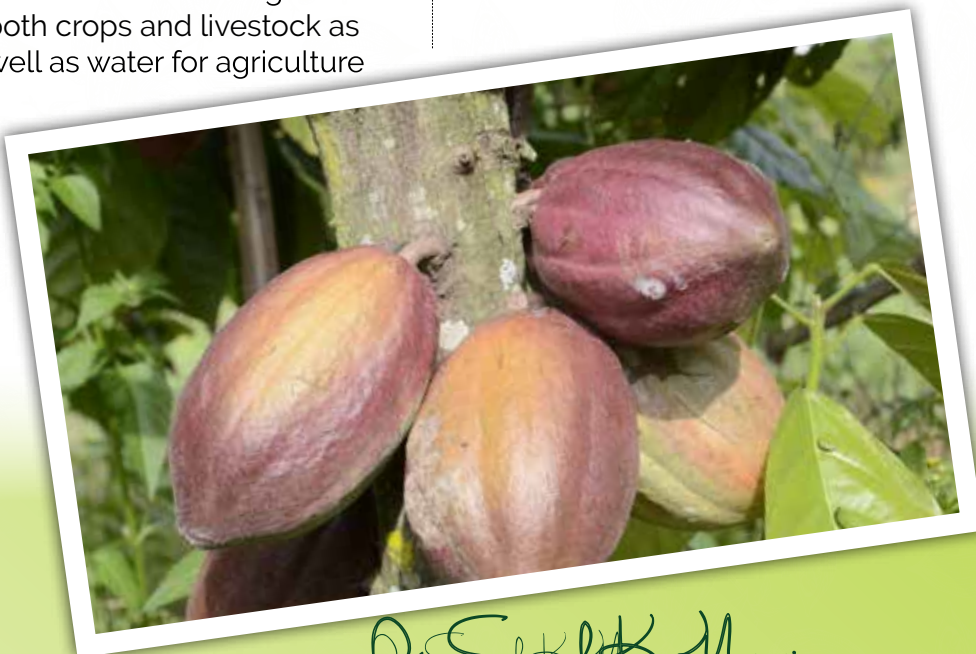
We have also provided appropriate irrigation technologies to promote adoption of improved and efficient water for agricultural production technologies for both crops and livestock as well as water for agriculture

production.

In the same spirit, we have supported farmers with value addition equipment to enable them reduce post-harvest losses and improved shelf life of agricultural produce so as to increase profitability of agricultural enterprises and job creation for rural and urban population especially the youth.

It is therefore comforting to note that government's support through NAADS has partly contributed to the transformation in proportion of household in the subsistence economy from 68% to 39% (UNHS 2019/20, UBOS).

NAADS is still committed towards making remarkable contribution to wealth creation and it is our pleasure to share with you some of our success stories.



*Dr. Samuel Mugasi*  
**NAADS Executive Director**





# Single mother educates her children through farming

**H**usbands in most parts of rural Uganda are the sources of livelihood – the other family members are usually dependants. By implication, therefore, in case of irreversible marriage breakdown, the woman gets affected most as a dependant – she cannot look after herself. This, however, was not the fate that 60-year-old Kekulina Nabandha of Bugiri municipality

within Bugiri district was decimated to. When her marriage halted into a separation in 1981, she did not wallow into self-blame and regret as most women do.

Instead, Nabandha, a single mother of three children, envisaged opportunities in her moments of difficulty – she took strides into poultry and dairy production. "I was a clinical nursing

officer and I had never thought of practicing farming as a serious business until I was exposed to the trainings by experts from the NAADS programme," she narrates.

Certainly, with the NAADS trainings and faced with the responsibility to look after her children, Nabandha had to view life with a new and magnifying lens: "When I started fending for the family, I realized





Her fortunes kept widening, for example, NAADS later supported Nabandha with an in-calf heifer and she has since expanded her cattle to now the current six.

"We were equipped with skills on animal husbandry practices including, housing, feeding and disease control," explains Nabandha. The training menu they were fed on also included other aspect areas, for example, tick control, record keeping, savings and linkages with other livestock farmers among others. Today, Nabandha shares these skills with other farmers,

whom she teaches good livestock production practices.

Indeed, upon visiting her some of the children at home were busy picking the laid eggs from the poultry house, while others were busy chopping elephant grass and maize stalks for their dairy cows, an enterprise they have also found useful in improving their family nutrition.

Impressively, Nabandha's dairy animals give her about 40 litres

of milk daily and picks three trays of eggs which she sells at a price of sh11,000. On the other hand, a litre of milk goes for sh2,000 at her farm, earning her a daily income of sh80,000.

With such a stable cash flow, there is no doubt that Nabandha has indeed had unrestrained financial capacity to pay school fees for all her three children, all of whom have graduated from university.

Notably, on her list of achievements accruing from the business is a big house under construction. On the other hand, she has bought more pieces of land on which she grows elephant grass for the dairy cows. She also has her eyes set on goat rearing.

In a good season, she is capable of earning a profit of about sh3.6m to sh5m from eggs and milk sales alone. From her sweat Nabandha is not only constructing a permanent house but has bought a motorcycle to aid her daily errands.

"Farming pays and at the end of it all, you will get back your money if you do it right and have the right information, she avers, advising: "You must have passion and do not venture into farming without information. Do research by visiting farmers, research institutes and agriculture shows."

On his part, the Bugiri district production officer, Moses Isiko noted that Bugiri district has benefited a lot and farmers have put to proper use most of the farm inputs received under the NAADS support.

"During the preparatory process before a farmer gets involved into dairy keeping, we always emphasise to first construct a housing unit, have at least a plot of land planted with elephant grass," noted Isiko.

**Nabandha's dairy cows give her about 40 litres of milk daily and picks three trays of eggs which she sells at a cost of sh11,000. On the other hand, a litre of milk goes for sh2,000 at her farm, earning her a daily income of sh80,000.**

I needed to do things differently. That is why I teamed up with the Bugiri district production department for trainings."

It is through her association with the production department, that Nabandha got the training opportunity and a possible support of 100 poultry birds under the NAADS programme arrangement in 2008.





# Sh5bn cage fish farming project launched in Kabarole district

**T**he Government through the NAADS programme has launched cage fish farming on the 42 crater lakes located in Kabarole district.

Implemented under the Presidential Initiative on Agro Industrialization for local economic development (AGRILED) in the Rwenzori Region, the project is estimated to cost sh5bn.

AGRILED is aimed at transforming local government system to facilitate effective

business oriented local development with a focus on poverty reduction and sustainable wealth creation.

Speaking during the project's launch, Grace Kazigati, an Agribusiness Development Officer at NAADS Secretariat noted that the project will start with 7 crater lakes spread out in Rutete, Kasenda and Kichwamba sub-counties.

"These were selected after a feasibility study on the waters of the lakes and their past history of supporting fish life," she explained.





She revealed that NAADS technical officials had so far trained 150 farmers in mindset change, of business development plans, cost benefit analysis for fish farming and the role of farmer organizations in maximizing profits in cage fish farming.



"NAADS has also committed to provide 30 fish cages with each cage accommodating 3,500 fingerings, install the cages and stock them with fish fingerings," said Kazigati.

The Kabarole district fisheries officer, Brian Baguma observed that there are fewer risks associated with fish farming compared to the crop sub-sector which is affected by weather changes.

The Vice Chairperson Kabarole district; Stella Kyorampe, was optimistic that the project will create employment opportunities for about 5,000 locals. Others will be involved in fish processing, fish feeds, fish trading, export and other fish related activities like boat making.

The RDC of Kabarole; Julian Ayesiga, pledged to offer all the necessary support to ensure all the key players in the district benefit from the project.

Kabarole District is one of the few areas in Uganda endowed with crater lakes which are mainly used as tourist sites with miniature fishing activities around them.

The district is gifted with 42 crater lakes in total, however, most of them have not been fully utilized for fishing due to limited technology to utilize the deep lakes.

Kabarole and the entire Rwenzori region's domestic fish production is dominated by the small-scale artisanal farmers whom government is encouraging to go into cage fish farming system to

utilize the vast available scattered inland water bodies.

Cage fish farming is in line with the objective of the National Development Program (NDP III) of increasing fish production by 2030 where the fisheries sub-sector is expected to produce up to one million metric tons mostly through revamped aquaculture and restocking of small lakes and making use of emerging fishery of small fishes like Mukene on Lake Victoria and Ragogi on Lake Albert.

According to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, the fisheries sector in Uganda provides a vital source of food, providing about 50% of animal protein and employing close to 80,000 people who are directly involved in catching fish, while 800,000 people are involved in the downstream activities related to fishing. It is also a form of recreation and trade with over \$80M earned per annum from fish exports making the sector second to coffee as a foreign exchange earner.

The United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), fish farming currently accounts for more than 30% of global fish supply of which Africa contributes less than 2%.

**“  
NAADS has  
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fish cages with  
each cage  
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3,500 fingerings,  
install the  
cages and stock  
them with fish  
fingerings**



# Banana and Cocoa cultivation brings fortune to Nyende's family



*Nyende preparing to harvest a bunch of banana*

**6**0-year-old, Wilber Nyende had previously relied on sugarcane, beans and maize growing as his sole source of income.

However, his complacency suffered a shock in 2003 when Sugarcane growing, which augmented the beans and maize finances, hit a four-year systematic downward spiral, occasioning a rude awakening.

Faced with such a hard reality, Nyende, who is now engaged in coffee, cocoa, bananas, dairy and goat farming in Iganga district, started contemplating abandoning sugarcane farming.

"I have given up on sugarcane and I have since slashed down most of my 10-acre plantation and my focus now is to concentrate on the cultivation of cocoa, bananas and dairy cows," he said during the interview.

But just at the time he was nursing the move, little did he know it would never come to be – a wind of resilience manifested in the coming of the NAADS trainings and provision of planting materials.

As a result, Nyende was among the farmers who were trained on good agronomic practices, for example, stumping out old coffee trees, spraying against pests and diseases, and managing soil fertility, especially through using organic fertilizers.

Applying the knowledge he obtained from the training and the first batch of 400 banana suckers that he received under the NAADS arrangement, Nyende has a nice looking banana plantation, and has also since ventured into massive cocoa cultivation, setting his eyes on being the leading farmer in this rural setting.





***Nyende standing next to a cocoa plant***

In 2020 alone, Nyende managed to sell banana suckers and bunches worth UGX12million. "The buyers find me at my home," he boasts.

Selling each banana sucker at UGX2,000 each and mature banana bunches at UGX15,000, Nyende is set to earn UGX15 million before end of the year.

Having tasted the unlimited increased benefits of banana cultivation, he has hired more land expanding his banana plantation to five acres.

"I have since added cocoa cultivation onto my growing list of crops that I

think will make me earn handsomely in the next five years," Nyende reports.

For that reason, Nyende's monthly cocoa production from his entire two acres has since increased to 150kg from 70kg, although his target is 500kgs by the end of 2022.

On the financial front, Nyende with NAADS' support is basking in ripple benefits, for example, he does not only sell bigger banana bunches at a cost of

UGX15,000, but has equally seen the milk production from his three lactating cows increase to 18 litres per day up from 10 litres three years ago.

Arguably, it is with such financial inflows that most of his children have graduated with degrees in different disciplines at Makerere University. The rest of his children are still in secondary school.

With such achievements garnered, it is only understandable that Nyende boasts: "People used to despise me just because I did not have a decent house, but to me educating my children has been and will remain a priority," he recounts, adding: "I have at last built a decent house for the family, installed it with solar and bought a coloured Television set. I attribute all this to farming as a business, something that I realized after attending the trainings organised by NAADS."

Soaked with the same hardworking spirit, Nyende, a resident of Bukonko village in Magogo parish, Nawanjinji sub-county, also cultivates cassava on a two-acre-piece of land.

***Applying the knowledge he obtained from the training and the first batch of 400 banana suckers that he received under the NAADS arrangement, Nyende has a nice looking banana plantation***



***Nyende feeding his heifer***



# NAADS partners with Gulu Archdiocese to commercialise cassava production

**T**he government through the NAADS programme has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Gulu Archdiocese to promote cassava commercialization in Northern Uganda.

The project is aimed at contributing towards the economic transformation of Northern Uganda through improved cassava production and value addition for better livelihoods and increased

household incomes.

Party to the project are the dioceses of Lira, Nebi and Arua and respective district local governments implementing the project.

The MOU is cognizant of the financial and technical obligations of NAADS, the roles of the Ministry of Agriculture and local governments, as well as the



opportunities for mass mobilization presented by the Archdiocese.

While NAADS is committed to providing cassava cuttings of improved varieties from NARO, the Archdiocese will continue to promote cooperatives at the chapel level of organization and to mobilize more farmers in the project activities.

So far over 30 cooperatives have been established in Pader district.

The NAADS executive director; Dr. Samuel Mugasi observed that

government has so far injected sh8bn to provide improved high



*Dr. Samuel Mugasi (Right) E.D NAADS during the signing ceremony of the MOU with Gulu Archdiocese*





*The Archbishop of Gulu Archdiocese, John Baptist Odama signing the MOU with NAADS*



***NAADS is committed to providing improved cassava varieties, the Archdiocese will continue to promote cooperatives at the chapel level of organization and to engage more farmers to participate in the supply of planting materials.***

yielding and disease resistant planting materials to farmers in the eight districts of Acholi sub-region.

In 2018/19 financial year, Mugasi said, 2,500 farmers in Pader district benefited from 40,000 bags of cassava cuttings, while 5,300 farmers in all the eight districts of Acholi sub-region were provided with 75,000 bags of cassava planting materials in 2019/20 financial year. In the 2020/21, financial year, NAADS delivered 75,000 bags of cassava cuttings to farmers in Pader, Gulu, Nwoya, Lamwo and Omoro.

Speaking after the signing ceremony; the Archbishop of Gulu Archdiocese; John Baptist Odama noted that the church is committed to partner with the government to deliver the people of Northern Uganda out of poverty

through mass production and value addition to cassava.

Odama urged government to expedite the establishment of the cassava processing facility to provide a ready market for the cassava grown in the region.

It is hoped that promotion of contract farming and organized marketing through processors such as Bukona processing facility will help to harmonize production and earnings from cassava.

Cassava is among the most important crops grown for both food and income. It produces the highest amount of starch per unit area relative to other crops and can be planted with many other crops.

Cassava can grow under marginal environment conditions with limited external inputs, making it a suitable crop for a wide range of farmers.







# Iganga's **BOSCO LUKUNGU** switches to Cocoa and dairy production

**F**or most of his adult life, Bosco Lukungu derived his livelihood from growing maize, coffee and beans. Previously, his farming was predominantly subsistence-based, that is, growing for family consumption and partly selling the surplus if any.

However, what was always sold was often too little to raise any substantial cash to cure many of the family's financial needs such as medical and school fees costs.

A new page, however, opened for Lukungu, a resident of Bukonko in Buwonde sub-county, Iganga district, when the district officials identified him to be a beneficiary of a heifer and cocoa seedlings that were provided under the NAADS programme. Subsequently, trainings were organized and Lukungu was one of the farmers who attended the trainings during which



*Lukungu's Cows and house under construction*



*Lukungu attending to his cocoa plantation*



they were promised planting materials and indeed they were delivered to him.

For that matter, Hajjat Nuuru Kasiira, previously the sub-county extension worker now the district animal husbandry officer, was handy in guiding dairy farmers on the requirements of looking after the cows so as to get more milk from their livestock animals.

From Nuuru's services and trainings, Lukungu is one of the greatest beneficiaries.

"We were trained on how to construct housing units for the heifers, planting of nutritious pastures, provided with market information and linkages for our produce," says Lukungu.

That the knowledge obtained has been applied is explicit in the fact that 60-year-old Lukungu today gets between 16 litres to 20 litres from his two lactating heifers.

On the other hand from his newly planted cocoa garden, Lukungu harvests between 60kgs to 100kgs of cocoa beans in a month. With a kilo sold at UGX6,500 and UGX7,000 he rakes in between UGX420,000 and UGX700,000 from cocoa sales alone.

Looking at coffee, Lukungu harvests about 2,000kgs from his two acre plantation. With a kilo sold at UGX8,000, he earns an additional UGX1.6 million,

making a turnover of about UGX5 million from his agricultural undertakings.

Relying on such financial taps, Lukungu is building a four bedroom brick house. Impressively, he pays school fees for his six children and has also bought more dairy cows.

Notably, Lukungu's achievements, he reports, have seen his farming neighbours into adopting the good farming practices and technologies in anticipation of equally changing their lives.

"The main motivation for the new farmers is teamwork in farming, which we have proved is necessary if the lives of small

holder farmers are to be uplifted," he argues, appreciating: "I am really grateful for the NAADS support – we have improved our agricultural undertakings."

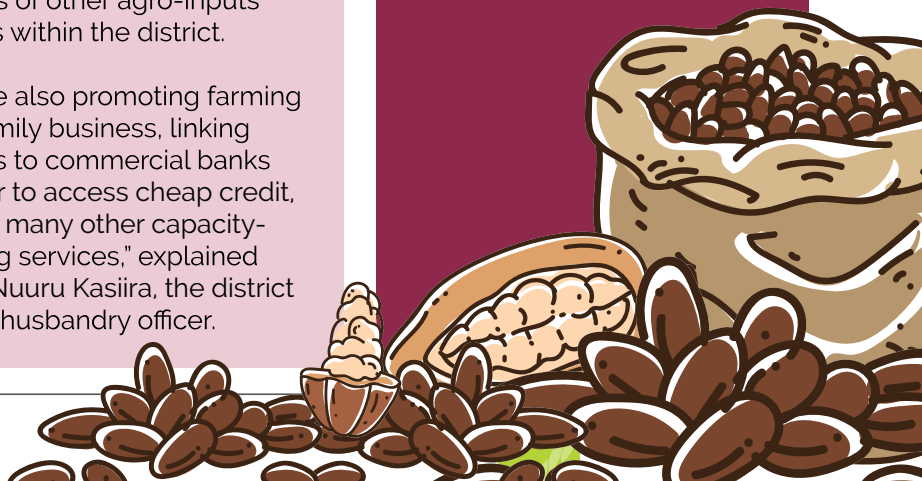
Apart from the inputs provided by NAADS, the district production department has for the last five years linked farmers to other sources of other agro-inputs dealers within the district.

"We are also promoting farming as a family business, linking farmers to commercial banks in order to access cheap credit, among many other capacity-building services," explained Hajjat Nuuru Kasiira, the district animal husbandry officer.

***We were trained on how to construct housing units for the heifers, planting of nutritious grass, provided with market information and linkages for our produce," says Lukungu.***



***On the other hand from his newly planted cocoa garden, Lukungu harvests between 60kgs to 100kgs of cocoa beans in a month. With a kilo sold at UGX6,500 and UGX7,000 he rakes in between UGX420,000 and UGX700,000 from cocoa sales alone***





# Arab investors to establish tea factories in Uganda



*A farmer demonstrating how tea is harvested to a delegation from UAE, MAAIF and NAADS Secretariat*

**The Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with UAE based Elite Agro LLC (EAG) to explore potential business opportunities in the country's tea sub-sector.**

**E**lite Agro is one of the leading producers and distributors of daily fresh vegetables and fruits in the Middle East and engages in growing, sourcing, importing and marketing of a wide range of high quality agricultural products through world-class technology and effective distribution chain.

Key among the opportunities of the MOU is to set up processing factories in the country. The Ministry's permanent secretary; Maj. Gen. David Kasura Kyomukama signed the MOU with the Elite Agro Deputy CEO and board member Dr. Abdul

Monem Almarzoogi recently in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. It was witnessed by Uganda's ambassador to UAE Mr. Zaake W. Kibedi and the Elite Agro Business Development Director (Agriculture); Mr. Chandra P. Singh.

Maj. Gen. David Kasura Kyomukama commended the partnership noting that its part of the ministry's mandate to offer possibilities for prospective business opportunities in Uganda's tea sector.

The next step for both parties was to conduct a feasibility study and evaluate various site options for suitability in setting up tea factories.







*A group photo of UAE investors, farmers and NAADS Executive Director; Dr. Samuel Mugasi*

This breakthrough comes at the backdrop of Uganda's successful participation in the recent Dubai Expo and subsequent engagements with the Uganda Tea Growers Association and tea farmers in seven districts including Rukiga, Bushenyi, Buhweju, Kabarole, Sheema, Buikwe and Zombo.

Prior to signing of the MOU, the investors had visited Uganda and were led on a guided tour of the tea growing districts by Dr. Samuel Mugasi, the NAADS executive director and Mr. Steven Byantware the director crop resources from the ministry of agriculture. Dr. Mugasi informed the investors that the country currently produces over 80,000 metric tons of tea annually which is over and above the processing capacity of the existing 32 tea processing factories in the country.

"Since 2013, the government through NAADS under the 'tea industry expansion initiative' has procured and distributed over 500 million tea seedlings to farmers resulting into increased production of green leaf," explained Dr. Mugasi

The Executive Director informed the delegation that there is need for increased investment in the national tea processing capacity starting with the 19 factories which are still in the pipeline.

On his part, Dr. Almarzooqi was impressed with the tea development in Uganda and promised that a decision would be made after their assessment of the investment potential.

"From our on spot assessment, we have established that Uganda has enough green leaf that would support operationalization of close

to seven tea processing factories," explained Dr. Almarzooqi.

Currently, tea is the fourth largest agricultural export commodity following coffee, maize and fisheries. Tea has produced an average 3.6% of Uganda's export earnings over the last five years and is recognized to have a higher potential to contribute more to national income, employment and environmental conservation.

Tea employs close to 80,000 farming households and supports 150,000 skilled and unskilled workers and about one million people directly derive their livelihoods from tea growing.

Over the past eight years, tea has been fetching an averaged earning of \$76m. In 2018, however, the country earned \$93.879 from its exports.



# How a tractor from NAADS turns into a cash cow for Nambale Co-operative

**F**or the last four years, Jane Baitanunga, who heads a local produce group of 1,181 members, has been helping and rewarding traders who bulk quality maize, beans and rice. "We had never thought of bulking quality produce until the NAADS team trained us on its benefits and later provided us with a tractor which cultivates for our farmers on a timely manner," she says. Baitanunga, who has been a maize farmer and trader in Iganga district since 2009 commends NAADS support, which she says has earned the cooperative a milling facility, motivating them to recruit more association members.

Additionally, when the cooperative was in need of financial support to co-fund establishment of

the milling facility, the district's production department linked them to the ministry of Agriculture's Agriculture Cluster Development Project for the support.

Using the proceeds from hiring out the tractor, they were able to contribute the required 33%, a requirement for them to benefit from the store and milling equipment.

Subsequently, the association has increased the quality and quantity of produce being bulked that are being handled. For example, last season they bulked 1028 metric tonnes of maize, 15 metric tonnes of beans and 25 tonnes of rice. Hiring out the tractor at a fee of UGX80,000 to members and UGX90,000 to non-members

respectively for first ploughing the cooperative was able to contribute UGX65m towards acquisition of the mill and the shelter from Agriculture Cluster Development Project (ACDP).

The tractor has not only become a cash cow for the group, but has also improved farming in the area – they are currently using it to open farmer's fields at a reasonable fee. However, tractor services are also extended to farmers who do not have cash



*We had never thought of bulking quality produce until the NAADS team trained us on its benefits and later provided us with a tractor which cultivates for our farmers on a timely manner*



at hand, allowing them to pay later after they have harvested and sold their produce to the cooperative.

On top of ploughing for the farmers, they also advance them other agricultural inputs like improved seeds, fertilisers and herbicides. Because of their hard work and proper organisation, they recently benefited from a modern maize mill facility from ACDP with a milling capacity of 1,500kgs of maize grain daily. As a result, members who bulk with the cooperative are now able to open up their land for timely planting.

Observably, members are now in better position to supply the cooperative with produce that has been handled with the greatest



care. To get such produce, farmers undertake to keep their soil rich with organic matter, keep their gardens free of weeds and build terraces to prevent soil erosion.

The farmers are rewarded for their work by the premium price the cooperative pays for the improved

produce a strategy Baitanunga opines is a powerful incentive.

She, however, expresses dissatisfaction with the big maize buyers, whom she says make a lot of profit, but never incentivize the farmers. "It is like milking a cow that you don't feed. In the end, it will give you less milk, then none at all," she analogises.

Today, the cooperative, comprising 1080 farmers, 528 of whom are women, has with several support expanded its business portfolio – it is now dealing in milling and packaging of maize which it sells locally at an affordable price.

As a mark of distinction, unlike other farmers' groups, women have taken on a central role in the management of the cooperative, thus male farmers, reasons Baitanunga, can no longer get away with selfish misuse of maize sales to the detriment of their wives and children.

Peering into the future of maize growing in Uganda, especially in Busoga sub-region, Baitanunga speaks of it with galloping hope.

Baitanunga strengthens her line of thought with the hailing assertion that through an initiative dubbed 'Have your land cultivated at a cheaper cost', farmers are now realizing the accruing benefits from maize cultivation.

She, however, explained that high electricity costs of up to UGX2.4m monthly still remains their biggest challenge.



***An Employee of Nambale Agribusiness Cooperative opening up land using a tractor they received from NAADS***





# Determination birthed Saawe's fishing farming venture

**G**eoffrey Saawe is a trained teacher but has embraced fish farming as another source of income following the closer of schools in 2020 as a mitigation measure towards further spread of Covid19.

"Because I did not have money to feed my family as a result of Covid19 which led us to close our schools, I decided to consult the district's fisheries department to guide me on how to make ends meet through fish farming," says 38-year-old Geoffrey Saawe.

Obviously, these were hard times, but unknown to him, this experience accidentally prepared him for the tough world of work outside the school environment.

It is, therefore, arguable that with such a background, and with his inability to feed his family that he decided to turn one of the classrooms at Saawe Victory primary schools into a fish pond.

With the little fish pond



construction skills up his sleeves, in 2020, the district selected him to be one of the beneficiaries of the 2,000 fish fingerlings that had been provided by NAADS secretariat.

In pursuit of his plans, Saawe borrowed funds to fund his new venture: "I borrowed UGX400,000



from a friend to hire out previously abandoned fish ponds within the neighbourhood," he explains.

Just like any other business, Saawe's business was unfortunately on the edge of collapse, due to bad debts occasioned by lending to schools owners who negated on their payment obligations.

However, a negotiation with his lenders to reschedule the previous loan he had received to set up structures for the primary school, became Saawe's salvaging thread.

Eager to drink from fisheries gourd of agricultural knowledge, he constantly consulted the district officials who liked his interest in fish farming, advising him to focus on buying quality feeds and protection of the ponds against the predators.

But, Saawe could not do this alone – he had to engage the services of a local security guard to help him scare away thieves so as to meet his target in fish farming.

To boost his ambitions, the district production office extended to him another 4,000 fish fingerlings of which 2,000 was tilapia and 2,000 fingerlings of cat fish that had been secured from NAADS.

Despite accessing all this support, Saawe, still lacks the most essential ingredient, that is, the skills. His turning point, however, has started to manifest from the regular trainings that he has continued to attend organised by the district fisheries department.

It is these trainings and regular consultations that have armed Saawe with business skills and knowledge on pond construction,

feeding and reverse sex techniques.

Consequently, upon acquiring the relevant skills from the trainings, he has

***It is, therefore, arguable that with such a background, and with his inability to feed his family that he decided to turn one of the classrooms at Saawe Victory primary schools into a fish pond.***

decided to take a bold step to close the secondary school and concentrate his efforts on managing the primary school and fish farming.

For example, during the first harvest he sold a kilo of Tilapia at a price of sh4,000 to sh5,000 while that of catfish sells between sh6,500 and sh7,500. Although at times the price can go as high as sh10,000 to sh20,000 per mature fish depending on their respective sizes.

It is these first earnings of about UGX10m that have enabled him

have a smooth loan repayment plan.

Subsequently, Saawe, a resident of Bulanga town council, Nantamu zone, Waibuga sub-county has every reason to acknowledge: "Fish farming is one of the most rewarding businesses. I am really proud of NAADS because it opened my eyes to business," he commends, noting: "Because of the training that I attended, I am running a successful fish business and I have offered agricultural advice to other farmers as well."

His acknowledgement of NAADS contribution of an additional 3,000 tilapia and 3,000 cat fish including feeds reflects in the fact that upon expanding his fish farming on the basis of the advice of fisheries department, Saawe, whose family comprises 10 people, is optimistic of getting enough resources to enable him commit the profits to his children's hospital and school costs.

About the future, Saawe exudes optimism: "I am optimistic about the future and I am hoping to expand my business with the help of the knowledge and linkages I have made through the district's fisheries department. Having come this far, the future has to be better," argues Saawe, who is currently sourcing for his own land to establish his permanent fish pond business.



***Saawe (right) showing some of the harvested fish from his ponds***





# Luuka politician adds farming onto his political job

**W**hat do you do when you find yourself out of employment all of a sudden? You could start a business, look for another job or retire and enjoy your pension. But, what if you are a politician and fail to recapture your seat? For Hussein Tayitika, the 52-year-old, LC3 chairperson of Bulongo sub-county in Luuka district, has not waited for a political loss to befall him but instead ventured in commercial agriculture thanks to the support extended to him by the NAADS programme.

With just a short stint with dairy production and cocoa growing, he proudly says that his life has greatly changed.

NAADS has so far supported him with 5,000 cocoa seedlings, 200 mango seedlings and 200 citrus seedlings.

Equally, because of his hard work, in 2017, Tayitika benefited from an in-calf heifer. His herd has now increased to five heifers.



*Tayitika in his Cocoa garden*



*Tayitika with his heifer*



"I am really honoured for the cocoa seedlings that I received through the NAADS programme arrangement, more farmers have embraced cocoa farming despite being a new crop," says Tayitika during the interview.

Standing adjacent to his fruiting cocoa garden, he enumerates other benefits they have benefited from the farming.

His engagement with NAADS started way back in 2014, when he was invited to attend a training in Iganga district.

A resident of Buyonze 'A' Nakabugu Parish, recalls that a one-day event, held at one of the prominent farms in Iganga, opened his eyes and also enabled him to exchange contacts with other farmers from several regions.

Today, because of NAADS support, he has also extended some seedlings to about 40 farmers within the locality.

Being a cassava growing area as well, Tayitika recently benefited from the cassava cuttings that are also distributed under the NAADS programme.

Through the trainings conducted by the district extension workers, Tayitika noted that he has been able to double agricultural production from his 15 acre piece of land by three folds.

"We used to plant local seeds without fertilisers, but this has since changed with the trainings from the experts from the

district's production office," Tayitika explains.

Today, because of the improved agricultural practices, he recently harvested and sold

cocoa beans worth UGX16m, an amount he says was a huge boost to take care of his 12 children and other dependents.

When they take their cocoa to Mayuge, it is weighed using a digital weighing scale. It is very accurate. "We don't have any mistrust, it give us actual weights," he says.

They have since formed Luuka Cocoa farmer's cooperative and it has so far attracted about 300 farmers and their overall target is to share knowledge on how to improve on the crop's cultivation, pull resources together and acquire the required inputs at a slightly cheaper price.

With such support amongst themselves, they will be assured of registering good harvests every season.

The Luuka district agriculture officer Geoffrey Babinga is so appreciative of the NAADS programme arrangement.

However, he complained about the ever reducing quantities of planting materials that the district keeps on receiving.

"We have mobilized and sensitized farmers to embrace commercial and profitable farming. But the quantities that we used to receive from the secretariat continue to reduce," he lamented.



**NAADS has so far supported him with 5,000 cocoa seedlings, 200 mango seedlings and 200 citrus seedlings.**



# Former school inspector finds fortune in mixed farming

**W**hen Deogratiou Byabagambi retired as a school inspector in Hoima district and ventured into commercial farming, most people thought he had gotten it all wrong. But determination knows no borders and almost four years down the line, the 66-year-old is running a booming mixed farm that has turned him into an employer.

"Many people did not expect me to become a serious farmer and undertake such a risky business where everything is determined by market forces of demand and supply, but look at where I am now," says Byabagambi whose career was looking rosy as a school inspector in Hoima district.

A holder of bachelor and master's degrees in education from Makerere and Kyambongo University respectively says he developed a passion for agriculture way back while working at the district.

"When I realized that the NAADS programme was supporting farmers with agricultural farm inputs through the Hoima District Production Office, on top of my busy schedule of inspecting schools, I interested myself in the agricultural sector as my retirement plan," he recalls.

Byabagambi says the beginning was not a bed of roses. Just



***Byabagambi holding harvested oranges from his garden***

like all entrepreneurs, farmers require start-up capital and extra money set aside for emergencies. "The advantage is I had land to accommodate food crops, poultry, pineapples, piggery and mangoes," says Byabagambi who conducts his activities in Hoima City and Kikuube district.

"If you want to realise a profit, you should be ready to take risks and that is how I managed to concentrate fully on my farm activities," he says, adding that he had to make many sacrifices due to low returns at the beginning.

His biggest breakthrough has been with the pig farming. From just four piglets he received from the NAADS programme three years ago, he has managed to multiply them to the current 50 mature pigs.

"Although initial capital to venture into pig farming is colossal, the ultimate returns are attractive. All that one requires is proper animal husbandry since there is always a ready market for piglets and pork," he says. A 3-month-old piglet at his farm costs sh120,000.

To generate additional income, he keeps poultry- 2,000 layers, 3,000 broilers and 500 Kuroilers giving him a substantial income through monthly sales of eggs and the mature birds. With NAADS support, Byabagambi has also diversified into pineapple farming. He was recently supported with 500 pineapple suckers. A mature pineapple at his farm costs sh2,000. "The good thing with agribusiness, you are your own boss and you can diversify in response to market forces unlike in white-collar jobs where you strict yourself to an area of specialisation," notes Byabagambi.

He also has seven acres of coffee which he intercropped with passion fruits. He anticipates to harvest at least a bag of passion fruits every day when they are mature in three months'



time earning him an average of Sh20,000.

"In this kind of farming, one cannot depend on a single enterprise. I have diversified to get an additional income unlike in formal employment," Byabagambi says.

Mango cultivation is another alternative source of income at his expansive farm. He has planted 500 fruit trees on eight acres of land thanks to the NAADS programme support.

Because erratic climatic conditions mean uncertain harvests, his plan is to acquire irrigation equipment to have water supply for his agricultural activities.

"The trees have started to fruit and very soon I will be able to harvest

and sell mango fruits to nearby markets in Hoima city," he says.

At his expansive farm, he employs three people on a permanent basis and part-time casual labourers whom he contracts whenever there is need for weeding, pruning, harvesting and post-harvest handling.

He says most of his farm produce has a ready market in Kikuube district and Hoima City.

Using the savings from his previous job and the proceeds from his farming venture,

Byabagambi has managed to construct a permanent house and educated all his four children up to university level.

Asked about his advice to the youth planning to delve into agriculture. He advised: "You require discipline, focus, and determination to succeed, just like in any kind of business," he opines.



***Byabagambi standing next to his pig sty***

***Byabagambi holding the harvested pineapples from his garden***





# Government injects sh3.5bn towards completion of Yumbe mango factory

**T**he government through the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) has released sh3.5bn to commence the second phase of the construction of Yumbe mango processing factory. The government has so far injected over sh10bn into the project located in Yumbe district.

According to Eng. Michael Shuwu, the NAADS Value Chain Development officer, who is coordinating the construction of the factory, the second phase of construction is expected to take

eight months, from November 2021. The factory is expected to start juice production in 2022.

The second phase of construction involves fencing of the facility, paving and landscaping of the compound, construction of a store for sorting raw materials, the packaging store, guard's house and the weighbridge.

"With the completion of the external works during the second phase, the factory will be in position to begin production, mainly producing pulp from

local mangoes," explained Eng. Shuwu.

Yumbe Mango Processing factory is a value addition initiative by the Government of Uganda through NAADS in partnership with Food and Nutrition Solutions Ltd (FONUS), Aringa Mango Farmers' Cooperative Society and Uganda Development Corporation (UDC).

The project is a fulfilment of the pledge President Yoweri Museveni made during the West



Eng. Michael Shuwu explaining a point to NAADS E.D Dr. Samuel Mugasi and other officials during an inspection exercise of the Mango processing factory in Yumbe district



Nile Centenary celebrations to the people of West Nile.

The 5 metric ton factory is intended to end the big post-harvest losses and exploitation of farmers by middlemen, who buy the mangoes cheaply.

The Executive Director of NAADS, Dr Samuel Mugasi, said 90% of the works in phase one have been completed, with the processing equipment fully installed and tested and the main factory building completed.



***NAADS  
signed an  
MOU committing  
to contribute the  
resources for the  
establishment of  
the factory***

Upon commencement of production, Uganda Development Corporation will ensure smooth commercial operations and management of the fruit factory in collaboration with FONUS, and Aringa Fruit Farmers' Cooperative Society Ltd

as well as to oversee the smooth transition of Government's divestiture period and passing on the project to the private sector.

In 2019, the Government, through NAADS signed an MOU committing to contribute the resources for the establishment of the factory.

NAADS also committed to supervise and monitor the project and oversee the transition of Government's stake in the project to the Farmers while FONUS committed to offer technological expertise, identify and provide advice on appropriate technologies, avail the required land for setting up the mango processing plant; and contribute resources for the establishment and operationalization for the factory.







# Bugiri association supported with 2,000 litre milk cooler

**T**hree years ago, Betinah Nyongereza nearly quit dairy farming. But when she learnt that a milk-cooling plant was to be provided to Nabukalu dairy farmer's association in Bugiri municipality by NAADS Secretariat, she changed her mind. Before then, Nyongereza said, she struggled to sell more than half of the 12 litres of milk her brace of cows gave during their morning and evening milking sessions.

Selling those six litres earned her about sh5,000; the rest of the milk went to her relatives on credit or

was drunk by the family members.

Breaking even was hard, she said, with the key problem being lack of refrigerated storage.

"I could spend the whole day at the farm waiting to sell milk to my fellow village customers," Nyongereza told us during the interview.

And if the morning's collected milk was difficult to sell, she was at least able to pasteurize it to ensure it did not go bad. The evening's milk supply was trickier.

"If there were no customers, it all

***Two years later, a milk cooler with a generator was delivered and installed at our premises," said Mwase, the chairperson of the association.***



went to waste," she lamented.

Like Nyongereza, all 98 members of Nabukalu association had the same problem, so through their chairperson, they approached the district production office and requested that he links them to the NAADS secretariat to be able to get a milk-cooling equipment.

"We are pleased with the production office because in 2018, we started our discussions with NAADS secretariat and two years later, a milk cooler with a generator was delivered and installed at our premises," said Mwase, the chairperson of the association.

These days, Nyongereza no longer sells milk to the villagers. Her family uses two litres a day, while the rest goes to the association-owned plant.

"The amount I deliver is recorded every day, and then I am paid at the end of the month," she said.

The association's milk-cooling plant ensures that farmers like Nyongereza can store their milk safely, day or night, without it going off.

The timing is good: demand for dairy products is rising fast, particularly in rapidly growing urban areas, according to Khadija Nakakande, the NAADS programme spokesperson.

"This means that farmers must have access to storage facilities that work around the 24-hour clock without interruption," said Nakakande.

Typically, the government through the NAADS secretariat paid for the facility and installations of the plant after technical testing, then handed over ownership to dairy association, said Eng. Micheal Shuwu, the NAADS Value Chain Development Officer.



It is then the responsibility of the farmers to pay for maintenance, Shuwu added. The Bugiri association does that by deducting 10 percent of each farmer's weekly earnings.

Apart from being community-owned, Shuwu said, milk-cooling plants are cheap to maintain and can deal with the blackouts that continue to trouble the country.

With demand for dairy products on the increase, Mwase said, there are plans for plants in key production areas to boost their capacity to process milk into products such as yoghurt.

At the office of the Nabukalu Dairy Farmers Association, Mwase spends his day monitoring the milk containers that farmers bring in, and checking that either the electricity or the generator is keeping the coolers humming.

Before he buys milk from farmers, Mwase says they conduct three tests, namely for smell to ascertain freshness as some farmers are cunning and milk their animals

at night and deliver the milk in the morning.

The second is acidity test, where the acid levels are checked using a lactometer and third, the density test is carried out before the milk is accepted for processing.

The plant receives more than 500 liters of milk a day, he said, with about one-third consumed by people within the municipality, the rest sent to Iganga, for processing.

And, he added, the fact that milk can be refrigerated means more local people are turning to dairy farming within this border district located in Eastern Uganda.

The association buys the milk from the farmers at sh1,200 to sh1,400 and then sells to the buyers at sh1,600, making a profit of between sh200 or sh400 per litre.

Mwase explained that they also assist their members with quick loans of about sh500,000. "When a member fails to pay back the funds, they are asked to pay back in form of milk including the resultant profit," he explained.

He said their main challenge so far is failure of Dairy Development Authority to enforce the standards. "Farmers are required to transport the milk in metallic cans not jerricans but there are those who have failed to adhere to this," observed Mwase.



*Mwase standing next to a milk cooler*



# Irrigation facility makes Buwembo's farming venture easy

**A**LTHOUGH he wears a smile of a prosperous farmer today, Wilberforce Buwembo's road to success has been a bumpy one. He was one of the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) beneficiaries in 2004 but for 10 years could hardly realise substantial profits.

"I embraced bananas, coffee, piggery breeding and vegetable cultivation among other enterprises, but the cost of labour and other inputs were so high that it became rather hard to get tangible profits," he recalls. The situation was worsened by water scarcity in his village of Buwaga in Lweru Parish, Buikwe town council, Buikwe district.

"I used to use a minimum of 40 jerricans of water a day to feed my animals yet we would buy each Jerrican at sh300," he says.

Other challenges included poor crop yields, markets, pests and diseases. The high cost of maize bran for the piggery enterprise made the farming venture expensive venture for Buwembo.

The situation has, however, since changed, thanks to the rigorous training sessions that were organised in his locality by NAADS officials in the first stages of the programme's implementation.

On top of the trainings, he was selected to host a technology demonstration site of 30 tissue cultured bananas, to act as a

***Buwembo uses the irrigation equipment to cultivate crops during the off season, as a result he has expanded all his agricultural undertakings on 20 acres of land, from which he earns more than 60 million in a year.***



training centre for other farmers in the area.

With this support coupled with his continued engagements with the extension workers at the time, his impulse for banana cultivation increased.

From just a small plot of land meant for learning purposes, he opened up a bigger area and planted it with an extra 300 banana suckers.

"It was because of my seriousness that at the end of the year when an evaluation was carried out in our locality, I was among the best farmers and as a result I was rewarded with an additional 900 suckers which I planted on two acres," he happily said during the interview.

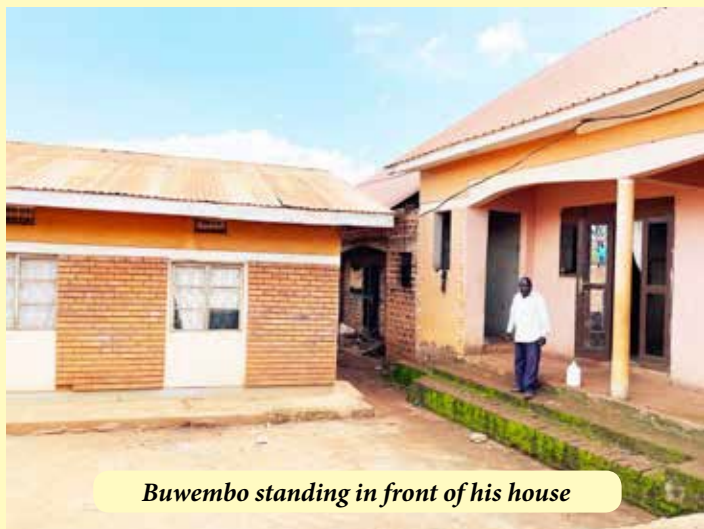
Through the trainings, Buwembo says they were informed that it was because of laziness and failure to apply nutrients into the soil that had led to a decline in banana production in their area.

Armed with such knowledge, he made sure that he applied the needed





**Buwembo sorting the harvested tomatoes from his farm**



**Buwembo standing in front of his house**



**Piglets at Buwembo's mixed farm**

fertilisers, mulched the banana plantation whenever need arose and today, it is not surprising that Buwembo is such an inspirational farmer in this rural setting.

He, however, recalls that after planting the bananas, his area like any other part

of the country experienced prolonged dry spells which greatly affected his entire crop enterprises.

In 2016, when another opportunity to benefit from NAADS programme, presented itself, Buwembo made no mistake, but instead

asked to be supported with an irrigation facility and indeed in the same year, it was provided.

Buwembo uses the irrigation equipment to cultivate crops during the off season, as a result he has expanded all his agricultural undertakings on 20 acres of land, from which he earns more than 60 million in a year.

He has also expanded his piggery project and is able to breed 240 piglets twice a year. Selling each piglet at a cost of sh100,000, he is able to earn sh24million.

Selling a bunch of banana at a cost of between sh10,000 and sh20,000, he earns about sh20m while from his coffee harvests Buwembo takes home an estimated sh10 million.

"Now I am steadily on my way to proper prosperity," he says.

Recently, Buwembo added tomato and cabbages on his ever growing list of the cultivated crops, and they are earning him an extra sh15m from their sales. On top of paying school fees for his children, Paying his casual labourers, Buwembo has also constructed a modern house and recently acquired a truck to aid transportation of his produce onto the market.

## Water for agricultural production

Ugandan farmers are slowly moving away from total reliance on rain fed agriculture to the use of irrigation equipment, however, the ever shrinking resource envelope can't allow more farmers to be supported with the irrigation facilities.

This, unfortunately, remains an insignificant step in the right direction given that 68% of the 45 million Ugandans are engaged in agriculture.

Experts are, however, optimistic that agricultural productivity could amplify if the new technology of irrigation facilities that are ideal for the small and medium scale farmers is scaled up.

"Rain fed agriculture is no longer viable. it is a pity that almost more than 60% of farmers still depend on it," he remarked.

With the high population growth rate, he believes Uganda needs to find ways of boosting agricultural productivity.

Provision of water for agricultural production thus remains the missing link and small irrigation facilities have proved a viable solution because they are cheap to maintain.







# Buikwe's mixed farmer thrives on mangoes and banana cultivation

**P**AUL Jjumba is one of the exciting mixed farmer in Buikwe district. With the advent of the NAADS programme in the district 10 years ago, he became among the first beneficiaries to attend the trainings on how to improve on his agricultural practices.

"I learnt a lot from the NAADS extension workers and the different exchange visits, helped me pick interest in a number of crops and livestock enterprises," he said during the interview.

Through embracing a number of

crop and livestock enterprises, he has set his foot on becoming a model farm in Koba village, Kiyindi Parish, Buikwe town council.

"I used to grow a few crops on my father's land basically for home consumption. We did not have access to improved seeds and fertilizers," explains Jjumba.

As a consequence, he adds, the harvests were discouragingly poor, yielding 3 to 5 bags of maize from an acre of land.

The poor harvests were equally, Jjumba notes, exacerbated by a continued wide scale presence of

*I learnt a lot from the NAADS extension workers and the different exchange visits, helped me pick interest in a number of crops and livestock enterprises," he said during the interview.*



striga weed which attacked various maize fields.

"It is in light of such limitations that when the opportunity for training called, I took it up and listened attentively to learn for my good and future farming prospects," he reports, emphasizing: "Like other farmers, I wanted to find solutions to the continued poor yields at my farm and on my neighbours' farms."

With such unwavering resolve, Jjumba and other farmers were trained on better farming practices for maize, beans, bananas, piggyery, fish farming, dairy, book keeping, mind-set change among others.

Similarly, they were equipped with skills on good agronomic practices, including safe use and handling of agro-chemicals.

Later, in 2010 he was supported with 10kgs of maize seed, 50kgs of DAP, 30kgs of Urea and chemicals to spray the herbicides.

"I looked after my maize garden and I remember harvesting 22 bags of corn," he said. Adding that: "This marked the beginning of my farming journey as a business."

Upon harvest, Jjumba decided to make flour out of his maize and supplied his product to a nearby primary school.

With some resources at his

disposal, he increased his acreage in the subsequent season to 5 acres until 2016, when NAADS again supported him with 200 day-old poultry birds with start-up feeds.

Because he was engaged in maize cultivation, he didn't find any challenges in poultry keeping and it is not surprising that from 200 birds he added another 200 birds and later stocked his farm with 700 kuroilers in 2017.

To address the challenge of food security, Jjumba was in 2019 supported with 100 tissue cultured banana suckers and 200 mango seedlings.

"All my enterprises are doing well, save for the recent Covid19 outbreak which led to low

purchasing power of our commodities," he said during the interview.

Armed with the knowledge from the trainings, Jjumba today is regarded as a mixed farmer because he has added piggyery, heifers and 40 goats onto his growing list of crop and livestock enterprises.

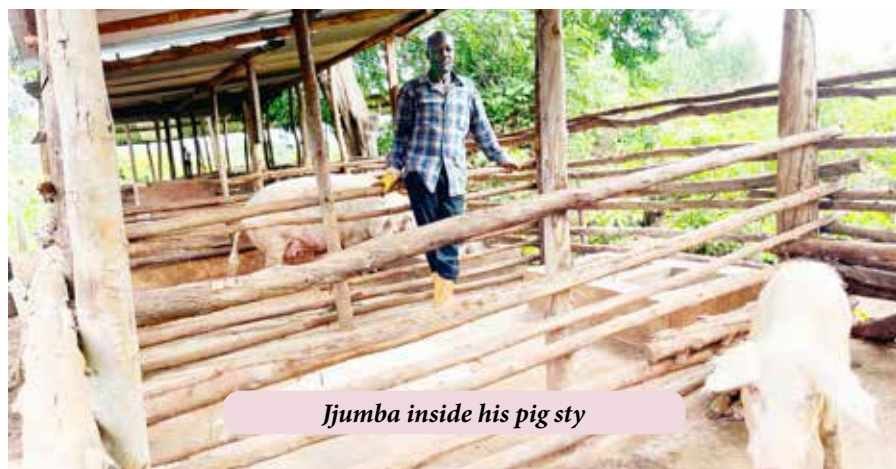
Budding with a business mind Jjumba sells a bigger bunch of the harvested banana at a cost of between UGX20,000 to UGX30,000, while a 3-month piglet costs UGX100,000 at his farm.

All his activities put together, Jjumba, who is a father of five, boasts a seasonal earning of about UGX10m.

Invigorated by such a cash inflow, Jjumba has the financial muscle to not only undertake development projects currently, but also dream big.

"I am now financially stable. That is why I have embarked on a constructing a better house for my children," he boasts, adding: "After, I shall embark on expanding my goat project."

With an assured financial tide now in his favour, Jjumba cannot be pulled back – he has since added pine trees and 1,500 coffee trees to his growing list of activities in this rural setting.



*Jjumba inside his pig sty*





# Bugiri farmers Supported with a rice milling machine



*David Mukone, explaining a point during the interview*

***This cooperative is changing the lives of farmers in Bugiri district," Moses Isiko, the Bugiri district production officer said as we drove into the compound of Busowa Rice Cooperative in Bugiri district.***

A large, brick warehouse now dwarfs the actual mill. Paddy rice was drying on tarps in front of the building while young men scooped it up into bags to store it. The association's board chairman, David Mukone led us through the warehouse. It was big enough to host a basket ball game including spectators, and it was almost full of bags of rice.

A closer look revealed that the rice bags were not new factory sacks but the worn, used bags provided by the farmers themselves. Although the bags were arranged in small, neat piles, they were not stacked in the regular geometrical pattern of a warehouse but were placed a ton here, two tonnes there and a couple of hundred kilos over there.

Each bag was labelled with the name of a farmer who

owned it, and each pile of bags belonged to a different farmer.

The mill is a brain child of the cooperative but for more than 10 years, they have been operating using poor quality machines until recently when the NAADS secretariat availed them with the modern equipment.

The machine that was provided by the NAADS secretariat cleans, hulls, sorts, polishes and bags the rice in neat plastic gunny sacks, branded with the Busowa's name and logo, but with a farmer's initials again written with a marker







***A technician operating a rice milling machine at Busowa Cooperative***

At Busowe, to mill a kilo of paddy rice, a farmer has to part with sh100. Non-members, however, pay an extra sh50 per kilo of milled rice.

Toll milling also lowers risks and storage costs because the farmers take their rice away at the end of the day. The board chair explained that rice is in such demand in the district and beyond that some mills stand empty for five months a year.

The bottleneck is getting enough rice to the mill. "Rice is a sellers' market, so it makes sense to cultivate relationships with farmers," he explained during the interview.

As part of building farmer's trust, Busowa cooperative gives farmers affordable loans. "We are not sure whether the other toll millers are as hospitable to farmers as Busowa, but since Paddy rice is the mill's scarcest resource, it is in the miller's best interest to treat the farmers with enough courtesy to keep them coming back," said Mukone.

pen on the new bag. "We are very happy about NAADS secretariat's gesture because the mill that was installed at our place removes all the stones and sorts the grain well," explained Mukone.

Adding that, "Because the mill is only medium-sized, it is fairly easy to start and stop, and to run small batches from individual farmers." Although the small batches cost the mill more time and electricity, the farmers really prefer getting their own rice back, which builds their trust in the mill and ultimately in their market too.

In much of the World, mills buy paddy outright from the farmers, who never see their product again then the mill owner sells the milled rice. Perhaps 40 percent of the rice in Uganda is milled that way, but about a fourth of the rice in the country is done as "toll milling". A toll miller simply mills the rice, for a fee, and returns the polished rice to the farmer.

Toll milling has some advantages for the miller, too. It lowers capital costs because the miller doesn't have to pay cash for the rice and the miller earns a fee for milling.







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