



President Museveni gives direction on FAO's fruit project at Agricultural Show



It was not just the proximity of FAO's stall— near the podium but the style and products on display and their relevance to the theme of the show that seemed to attract big numbers of show goers during the just concluded 19th Annual Agricultural Trade Show in Jinja.

Government officials including His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the Prime Minister, Hon. Amama Mbabazi, the Minister for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Tress Buchanayandi and the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs, Hon. Eriya Kategaya also visited the FAO stall.

Organized by the Uganda National Farmers' Federation, the show is a provides an opportunity to showcase the latest innovations and technologies in the agriculture sector and to establish business linkages.

This years' theme was "Promoting Agricultural Commercialization to Access the East African Common Markets". One of the show organizers, Mr. Charles Ogang said people come to the show and learn new technologies and innovations". It therefore addresses the gaps that exist in agriculture in terms of production, market linkages, processing, packaging, coping with weather challenges among other issues", he added.

FAO fronts fruit value chain project

FAO focused on one regional project—the GTFS/RAF/391/ITA 'Improvement of food security in cross-border districts of Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda in support of modernization of agriculture under the NEPAD-CAADP framework".

Only one component of the project was displayed—the fruit value chain in Kasese. Most show goers were amazed at the size of mangoes that were brought by some farmers, with many wondering if they were mangoes or paw-paws.

Our farmers, project personnel and the District Agriculture Officer for Kasese were at hand to talk about the varieties, how to grow the mangoes, how to prevent or control pests and diseases, when and how to harvest and process the mangoes.

President Museveni tells Agriculture Ministry to deal with flies

With many parts of Uganda accustomed to the traditional small mangoes, many saw and tapped a big opportunity as they could be seen buying seedlings of their choice from the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) stall.

For seven days, visitor after visitor came to learn about FAO and we were at hand to share as much information as we could.

The President of the Republic of Uganda was impressed with the value chain approach that FAO had taken to improve productivity and promote processing and marketing but was concerned about he problem of fruit flies that he had encountered earlier.

David, the FAO consultant ably explained the fruit trapping technologies that the project is using.

The president then directed the Ministry of Agriculture to find a solution to the problem.



Farmers from Kasese talk to pupils

“Go into fruit processing” President advises

Just when we thought the President was done visiting our stall, he was back after walking around the show ground, this time accompanied by an investor.

He advised that rather than concentrate on fruit drying, FAO considers processing of fruits into juice or jam. He came with an Egyptian investor who he introduced to the project personnel and requested her to buy fruits from FAO supported farmers in Kasese for her processing business.





The Prime Minister, Honorable Amama Mbabazi



The First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs, Eriya Kategaya (in purple shirt)



The Minister of Agriculture, Tress Buchanayandi



Learning. The DAO—Kasese talks to visitors



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School children were not left out