BUKALANGO AGRICULTURE DEMONSTRATION FARM

Buganda is traditionally an agricultural Kingdom with Matooke as its staple food and coffee as the main cash crop. Since time immemorial, farming has evolved world over following the emergence of new of economic, political, social, natural and technological challenges, implying that predominantly agricultural states had to devise means of adapting to the unfolding realities in order to remain competitive whilst relying on agriculture for social-economic transformation of the deprived communities.

Uganda and Buganda in particular suffered serious setbacks between 1966 till late 1980 due to the political turmoil that rocked most parts of the country affecting many economic activities including agriculture, as people kept running away from gardens for their dear life. In addition, the abolition of Kingship during the same period created a very big vacuum since the Kabaka was the center for all programs in Buganda, agriculture inclusive. Also, the increasing scarcity for land overtime due to high population growth in Uganda (3.2%, currently one of the highest in the world) created need to shift from the hitherto extensive and subsistence farming to intensive-commercial farming. Thus upon the restoration of Kingship in 1993, the Kabaka initiated campaigns to revamp agriculture in Buganda and Uganda at large, through empowering communities with necessary modern agricultural information and skills. This interest was later enshrined under Kabaka Foundation Programs

In its first interventions to restore the agricultural glory of the Kingdom, Kabaka Foundation started supporting efforts of Wakiso residents (Busiro county), and neighboring communities interested in farming, and funded the establishment of Bukalango Demonstration Farm. This farm provides practical and applied agricultural knowledge concerning best farming practices, yields, and technologies. The farm is located in Wakiso district and is accommodated on 20 acres of land with all components of agriculture i.e Food crops, Cash crops, animal husbandly, poultry and aquatic life. Communities are taught modern farming practices that are market based with great concern to environmental conservation. The farm thus provides advisory services, support farmers with improved seeds, and also provides a multiplication center for improved live stock and poultry.

For the period this farm has been in existence, many farmers have switched from traditional/subsistence agriculture to modern commercial farming. Kabaka Foundation is therefore grateful to those who have participated in this arrangement and intends to support the rolling out this project to all other 17 counties in Buganda, which will in the end transform agriculture from being a mere source of food into a reliable source of employment, and a strong pillar for community development like was the case in the pre-colonial and colonial periods.