

## **AFRISA EMBARKS ON INDUSTRIALIZATION OF AGRICULTURE IN BUTEBO DISTRICT: RETOOLS FARMERS WITH INDUSTRIAL FARM SKILLS**

In Uganda, subsistence agricultural production is reported to be an ultimate contributor to household poverty, which is regarded as a setback to Uganda's economic development. This challenge initiates the need for farmers' mindset shift from being micro farm producers to industrial farm producers. However, this should be accompanied by building farmers' capacities in industrial farm production.

As a leading institution in community development, African Institute for Strategic Animal Resource Services and Development (AFRISA), with support from the Government of Uganda, through Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MoSTI) is retooling farmers at household level with industrial farm skills.

This initiative is part of the Parish Development Model (PDM) which was launched by the President, HE. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022 in Kibuku District as a Government strategy to improve incomes and livelihoods of Ugandans at household level.

The households' agricultural capacity development activities which are coordinated by AFRISA, under the leadership of its Director, Mr. Felix Okello, were officially launched by the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Hon. Dr. Monica Musenero on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 in Butebo District, Petete Village.

At the event, the Minister in a special way reiterated government's commitment to development, adding that more projects are on the way just like the Parish Development Model. However, for this to be achieved, she tasked communities to be faithful with the current similar government projects.

She also emphasized the importance of mindset change if development is to be achieved in the country.

In context to this, Musenero biblically quoted Paul saying, “When I was a child, I behaved like a child, but when I grew up, my thinking changed,” leaving participants with food for thought.

To crown off the day, she thanked all participants for turning up and embracing the Parish Development Model which is aimed at delivering services closer to the people, while providing measurable results at the Parish level in order to ensure transformation of the subsistence households into the money economy

AFRISA is currently revamping farmers’ knowledge and skills on generating income from the various animal products’ value chains of poultry, apiary, meat, piggery, diary, and crop products. Communities are as well being tipped on essentials of land utilization, understanding consumer needs, demand, supply and production in the market place among others.

## **PICTORIAL**



*The Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Hon. Dr. Monica Musenero speaks to Butebo community members during the implementation launch of the Parish Development Model by AFRISA in Butebo District on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 in Petete Village.*



*The Director, AFRISA, Mr. Felix Okello making his remarks during the implementation launch of the Parish Development Model by AFRISA in Butebo District on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 in Petete Village.*