

YOUR FREE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

www.agriculture.go.ug

# OIL PALM NEWS

Vol. 001 NO.001 | 2021

**Investment** Oil Palm Buvuma Limited Genral manager Mr. Chin Pit Te has asked Government and Buvuma residents to support the project and enable full transformation of the island into a world standard community. >>> Full story on page 2

 Twitter  
nopp\_oilpamUC

 Facebook: National oil  
palmProjectUganda

 E-mail: nopp@agriculture.go.ug Write: The Editor, P.O. Box 12041. Kampala

## OIL PALM PLANTING STARTS IN BUVUMA

**PANDEMIC:** The COVID-19 pandemic and associated control measures have had far-reaching effects on societies worldwide, on the global economy and on employment. The Oil Palm establishment in Buvuma district was not spared



Former Minister for Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries Hon. Vincent Ssempijja (C) together with other officials witness the launch of planting oil palm in Buvuma by the National Oil Palm Project Manager Connie Masaba.



H.E. Rtd.Maj. Jessica Alupo

### Vice President Commends Oil Palm Farmers

Uganda's Vice President Jessica Alupo has expressed her excitement over seeing a display of products produced from Oil palm plantations in Kalangala district, the products which included cooking oil, soap, creams etc. the impressed Vice President said these are pure visible efforts of Uganda's farmers. Jesca Alupo who was chief guest at the 2021 world food day celebration in Kawanda made the remarks while visiting the National Oil Palm Project exhibition stall.

"I am very happy to see all these aligned products from BIDCO and other actors, this is a sign the sweat of our farmers is on the shelf and we hope it will translate into better income." said Jessica Alupo

.....Continues on Page 5



**APPRECIATION**  
Agriculture Minister Hails NOPP's 4-P Model

03



**DEVELOPMENT**  
Transport to be improved

07



## OIL PALM PLANTING KICKS OFF AMIDST BUVUMA LAND ISSUES

Farmers in Buvuma have started planting their oil palm as small holder farmers under the National Oil Palm Project, Seedlings were supplied to small holder farmers by Oil Palm Buvuma Limited (OBPL) the oil palm nursery in Buvuma district for immediate planting., According to Ms. Connie Masaba Magomu, physical planting kicked off around April 2021 and expected first harvest shall be in the next three years.

“We have started physical field planting, after 3 years the trees will start bearing fruits. In the next three years OPBL will start building a palm oil mill in Buvuma that will add value on oil palm fresh fruit bunches or produce crude palm oil which will be then taken to Jinja for refining and producing final products like fortune butto and others.” Said Masaba. She adds that for

this to succeed and ensure planting happens, the National Oil Palm Project (NOPP) is working with smallholder farmers and has already surveyed their land for planting. “We have facilitated processes to help farmers establish Buvuma Oil Palm Growers Cooperative. This will ensure taht small holder farmers have a voice, ensure that their issues are heard and also enable the project to support the farmers to access good seedlings , have access to fertilizers, to technical support, have a loan facility that they will be able to repay after they start selling their fresh fruit bunches and this loan facility will be able to help establish their plantations.” Explains Masaba

In Kalangala, Government of Uganda through the Vegetable Oil Development Project (VODP1&2) gave loans worth 53 billion



**“We have facilitated processes to help farmers establish Buvuma Oil Palm Growers Cooperative .this will make sure they have a voice”**

**Connie Magomu Masaba**

UGX but as we speak, farmers have already paid back over 40 billion UGX , this is an indicator that Oil Palm as a crop can greatly transform livelihoods. Masaba says, despite the positive strides in ensuring planting

kicks off , there are challenges of land acquisition. Many farmers in Buvuma have voluntarily availed land to establish nucleus estate plantations. This is attributed to the good working relationship with the community and district authority.

“We have 5000 hectares of the nucleus estate land in Buvuma. Land acquisition had a number of issues. There are very many people who were settling on it, for instance you find the land owner, tenants,

squatters, licensee so we really had issues with them but now we have been gradually sorting them, Government of Uganda compensated, those who accepted on willing seller willing buyer principle. Those who would refuse were left with their land.” explains Masaba.

Masaba adds that under the NOPP arrangement, everyone that gives out land is paid and there is no one that is forced to give up their land. Every one that was paid gave out their land genuinely and was not forced.

According to Serunjoji Wilson , the NOPP focal person of Buvuma, most people that were compensated for their land have since settled elsewhere and their lives have changed. Some built houses whilst others have been able to reconstruct their lives and others are working with the Nucleus estate.

## Investors ask for better cooperation in Buvuma Project.

Oil palm Buvuma Limited General Manager Chin Pit Te has asked government and Buvuma residents to support the project to enable full transformation of the island into a world standard community. Speaking at the roll out of smallholder oil palm scheme, he committed the company’s continued support to farmers to ensure good yields at harvest.

“We know this is a new crop in the area but not new in the country, we pledge to work with you farmers to ensure you look after your crops until harvest time, this will help in enabling good harvests

for all farmers.” Says Chin

The General Manager adds that, Agriculture was a very key sector for any country to invest. He cited an example of Indonesia, saying there was already increased famine, however, Indonesia today is one of the most productive countries, In 2015, Indonesia was the fourth largest economy in the world because it had invested in Agriculture. “Indonesia has made it, because of Agriculture and small holder farming, we cannot debate about it. Once of you’ve got Agriculture, Health comes in Education comes in Transport comes in, progress of society

& community rises.” adds. He further advises that investing in agriculture has a direct positive impact on the next generation, it automatically will be for professionals. The country then starts to see a very progressing society and community in Uganda.

“The first example is Oil Palm Uganda Limited (OPUL) in Kalangala and with Kalangala the seeds were from Malaysia and they get 18 tonnes per hectare but for Buvuma the seeds are from South America two USD per seedling and that can give according to the supplier of the seed from

South America can give you 30 tonnes per hectares, so you can double your income for every small holder.” The Government of Uganda under the cooperation of Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry & Fisheries and Buvuma Oil Palm Growers Cooperative Society Limited has started the smallholder oil palm scheme simultaneously with the nucleus, so the chance of Uganda reaching the Indonesian level is high. He further urged Government of Uganda for maximum cooperation as they scale up oil palm growing in Uganda.

## FROM THE EDITOR

### Buvuma Hub to Reduce Oil Importation and create employment

The National Oil Palm Project is a follow on project of the Vegetable Oil Development Project (VODP 1&2) and it is promoting oil palm production in Uganda for import substitution . Uganda imports a lot of vegetable oils, we spend over 200 million USD every year importing vegetable oils and that means we are donating money into other economies in other countries yet we can grow it here and benefit our farmers. Buvuma is one of the hubs where oil palm development will take place. We have five hubs where the project is being implemented These include Buvuma, Mayuge, Greater Masaka, Mukono-Bwikwe and Kalangala which is a mature hub. In Kalangala farmers are already doing well. They are building houses and educating their children and they are buying land investing in other areas. After Buvuma, the project will expand activities to Mayuge although it will be we exclusive to small holder farmers with no nucleus estate. In Buvuma we have a nucleus estate and we have smallholder . We are developing about 7,500 hectares of oil palm in total; 5,000 hectares under nucleus estate and 2,500 under smallholder scheme. In Mayuge we will develop a minimum of 3000 hectares under small holder scheme. Development in other hubs will kick off after necessary environmental assessments have been conducted. As a project we are working on what we call alternative livelihoods that is supporting Intensive Agriculture and other businesses for some of the farmers that will not participate in growing oil palm (especially women and youths) within the oil palm growing areas. This will support workers in the oil palm, any thing that will be grown here will have market because these are people who are working in the sector so that all of them benefit. NOPP is also working with the youths as people who provide labour to the farming communities in these hubs. This is also a component in the project that we are developing. This is because we realize youths do not own land but have labour and want employment as tomorrow’s farmers.

Environmental Management is crucial and central in the project, the project is ensuring that at least 200 meters area along the lake shores is protected and making sure that people don’t grow oil palm in forest reserves and wetlands . Here, we want to make sure the oil palm is sustainable. These models have been successful in transforming Kalangala and its our strong belief that we Buvuma is also going to transform because oil palm is going to give farmers regular incomes. Oil palm is a very good crop; it makes farmers salaried and so every month they earn money or every 10 days they are able to harvest and this happens immediately after your first harvesting after 3 years you will do that in the next 25 years and so the farmer’s livelihoods will improve.

**Anthony Wanyoto**  
Editor in chief Oil Palm News

## Agriculture Minister hails 4P Farmer development model

The Kalangala oil palm project is the first major agricultural Public-Private-Producer-Partnership (4P) model in Uganda. It built an innovative partnership between the private sector, local and national governments and farmer organizations.



Hon. Minister Frank Tumwebaze

The Minister of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries Hon. Frank Tumwebaze has hailed the four partnership model commonly referred to as (4-P Model) of implementation that has enabled successful implementation of the oil palm project in Kalangala.

The model adopted by farmers, Government and private sector, brings together the four partners into close collaboration to enable tracked productivity until setting of prices for the product. The Minister said the 4-P model should be scaled for other enterprises and cash crops like sugarcane for attainment of better results. The model organizes farmers into a cooperative, ensures collective bulking, marketing and price negotiations with the investor.

“ This 4-P model is impressive, I see farmers benefit from the kind of arrangement and reduces the fears that exist between the farmers and investors thus leading to mistrust by all parties. We need to study it and replicate it for other enterprises. I urge the project team to avail a model factsheets on how successful the model is , so that we try to scale it up.” Said Frank Tumwebaze

The minister made the remarks after presentation of a progress report by Ms. Connie Magomu Masaba the National Oil Palm Project (NOPP) Project Manager at the ministry headquarters. Ms. Masaba was among different Project Managers at the ministry who were briefing the new Ministers on the different projects. Masaba informed the minister that farmers under the Oil palm model in Kalangala district and the investor were happy and had a lot of trust for each other. She said the model had further

attracted more support to expand oil palm production in the country. “ Farmers in Kalangala , who were the pioneers of oil palm production, have a Ssese Oil Palm Growers Cooperative Society Limited. Here the farmers are able to track the trending international prices and avoid exploitation by middle men and low prices from investors. Farmers are already sharing dividends totaling to over 60 billion shillings annually as a result of the 4-P model.” Adds Connie Masaba

The Kalangala oil palm project is the first major agricultural Public-Private-Producer-Partnership (4P) model in Uganda. It built an innovative partnership between the private sector, local and national governments and farmer organizations. Under the arrangement, the Government of Uganda (GoU) made available land and provided fiscal incentives to leverage the initial investment from the private sector; the competitively selected private investor then developed a nucleus estate and processing capacity, and provided seedlings, agricultural inputs and a transparent and reliable market to smallholder oil palm growers, hence the 4P model.

Through the project, GoU has improved critical infrastructure like farm roads, fertilizer stores, ferry services, tractors and provided the growers with financial, technical and organizational support through Kalangala Oil Palm Growers Trust (KOPGT). This has enabled smallholder farmers to plant a new industrial crop up to the same standards as the Oil Palm Uganda Limited nucleus estate, assured them of a market for their produce, and enabled them to become suppliers to the Crude Palm Oil (CPO) mill – making it a genuine 4P model.

The 4P model is primarily built on trust. Transparent land purchases (‘willing buyer, willing seller basis’) for the nucleus estate and tenants/landlord relationship are the starting point. Clearly defined roles and responsibilities, articulated in written agreements, as well as transparent and formal mechanisms for shared governance and decision-making, have also been essential.



## Oil Palm Pathway To Buvuma Transformation-MP Migadde

“Oil Palm Project in Buvuma has many benefits, our people are going to get opportunities because the lake is depleted and actually many are stranded in the islands.”

First of all, we want to thank the Government of Uganda because it reached an agreement and acquired a loan for oil palm development. Despite the fact that this will be paid back by Ugandans, the most important issue is that our Government took a risk to invest in transforming the livelihoods of the people of Buvuma. We should agree, we have come from far but today we are able to see the oil palm seedlings that were raised at the nursery. We have seen those oil palm seedlings being planted in the nucleus estate. We have hope that our people who had lost jobs from the lake are going to get employed; although many have already gotten jobs. It has been a long time and actually many thought this project will not kick off. Many projects fail because of political interference and likewise for Buvuma in the early stages we had the same. Fortunately elections are gone and we must help our people earn income.

It should be noted that any leader who does not help his/her people to earn an income, is not a good leader and is a bigger problem to the society than poverty itself. So for us as area political leaders, this project is welcomed with open arms and will be supported at all costs. Oil Palm Project in Buvuma has many benefits; our people are going to get jobs because the lake is depleted and actually many are stranded in the islands. I have been receiving calls from residents asking if they could get some jobs in the plantations. Even when the plantations are not yet ready, many have also asked if they can work in the nursery. This is already employing hundreds of our people. So, this project brings hope of good life because people are unemployed, because the lake is too depleted. We don't have any single sector where 5000 people are employed in Buvuma; so the direction we are taking we expect to have over 5000 people earning an income and a monthly salary. If someone is earning a monthly income then your children cannot fail to go school because you know how much you earn determines which school you take your child so at the end of the day salary will

come. So even those who never went to school are going to earn salary, which is not the case in the lake. In the lake, it's a matter of chance. You just use probabilities of a good catch; tomorrow your nets are stolen, the other day other related problems, which is not the case with oil palm crop. Oil Palm cannot be stolen so this is better income and there are multiplier effects such as roads, a new ferry, electricity, banks and so on that come with oil palm planting. So, I think we are moving in the right direction and I request the people of Buvuma to embrace this project. Politics shouldn't interfere. We want everyone to benefit, even those who are not working at the plantation to benefit, those who have land will have to produce food and it will be quite expensive because it will not be a lot because others surrendered their land to the project but by the end of the day everyone will have benefitted. So we welcome the project and we don't want political interference in implementation of this project.

However, it should be noted that this project has already been embraced by the people of Buvuma. Where you see oil palm on the nucleus estate, it is not established by force. You can not find people unhappy. Previously people were complaining of their land but the fact is that land acquisition was not forceful. We used the principle of willing buyer willing seller. Many people have expressed the desire to give out land for the nucleus estate oil palm plantations. However, we are now encouraging and calling upon them to become smallholders. In that, if you have 10 acres, there is what we call five acre model. You get a loan from Government (Government already acquired a the loan) and with this loan, you are able to obtain oil palm seedling, fertilizers, cash for maintaining the oil palm gardens then technical assistance upon harvest, smallholder oil palm farmers will start paying back using income from their monthly sales.

What we want to ask people is that if you remained with over 10 acres, five acres can be used to grow oil palm and five acres can be used to grow other food crops. But the



Hon. Migadde Robert planting an oil palm seedling at OPBL offices

money you get from the oil palm does not hinder you to get land elsewhere because land is not finished. For instance if you are able to get 400,000 UGX per acre per month and you over five acres that means that you will have gotten over 2 million. Get somewhere and buy a piece of land. You have a benefit out of the project. That is what we tell people that we don't have the same problem as that in the sugar cane sector where most people use the money they benefited from sugarcane plantations to marry other women. We are also asking the people that as soon as you have started harvesting you shouldn't be over excited. For instance some people who have 10 acres are only supposed to give out only five but instead they rush to register the other five acres in the different names so that they sell off and get money. This is excitement. So we are calling upon the people not be excited and also remain with land that can be used to grow other food crops because will also be needed.

I am glad that the smallholders haven't started but we want to harvest at the same period but we don't want to have the burden of cultivating the small holders' gardens put on BIDCO. We have the Mechanization department at the Ministry of Agriculture and they can give us a bulldozer. This project brings great hope. People call us from other islands



Miggade Robert  
MP Buvuma  
County

## Buvuma Oil Palm Planting Process On Track

**ON GROUND:** The COVID-19 pandemic and associated control measures have had far-reaching effects on societies worldwide, on the global economy and on employment. The Oil Palm establishment in Buvuma district was not spared. According to Mr. Sembatya Charles, the Project Agronomist at the National Oil Palm Project the establishment was slowed by COVID 19 pandemic and its associated lockdowns, saying people could not come to the seedling nursery to work, then teams supposed to help farmers in profiling and surveying could not move too.

“There were delays due to a number of factors; COVID-19 lockdown being major. Planting was supposed to happen in 2020 but this did not take off. We have started planting now. Setting up the seedling nursery process also went a bit slow. The smallholder farmers were anxiously waiting.” Said Sembatya.

an average of 500 hectares.



Mr. Sembatya Charles.

According to him, before lock down, the project had already done smallholder farmers mobilization, after mobilizing them to understand the project, a register was developed and profiling farmers conducted.

In Buvuma, the National Oil Palm Project plans to establish smallholder scheme covering 2,500 hectares of oil palm to be planted in a period of over 5 years which is the establishment phase but this will be phased in such a way that every year there is

“The farmers are registered and we now have a register for our annual target. Next year we will be just continuing with the land suitability assessments, and right now we have been carrying out the lining exercise with support from the Oil Palm Limited, which has been giving us the technical team and we mobilize labour gangs and we involve the farmers. We are going to train smallholder farmers to build their capacity and the company is willing to help us build the capacity of farmers and the youths that are going to gain experience. The Project will also train the District extension workers to support smallholder farmers” adds Sembatya

For a successful implementation of the oil palm planting phase, the district local government technical



An oil palm farmer, Kyoziira Shamina, planting oil palm in her 3 acre garden in Bukinalwa, Nairambi block

team is very crucial. The Project has supported establishment of a full farmer organisation structure that will have field extension officers, with a whole setup of the farmer leadership (in formation stages) working with the local government production department

The National Oil Palm Project is one that is mainly built on the achievements, lessons learnt and impacts of the then Vegetable oil development project phase 1 and phase 2. These two projects have been in major investments for increasing the production of oil palm, increasing value addition and of course reducing poverty. This investment had initially largely

concentrated in the areas of Kalangala especially in Bugala Island and VODP Phase 2 also initiated in Buvuma expansion of activities in Buvuma as well as consolidating achievements in Kalangala.

“The National Oil Palm Project is as a result of the positive impact and lessons learnt because of rural industrialization. What we are talking about is emerging in Kalangala. We have two palm oil processing factories. The mills ferry services have increased, and all these investment are mounting to the rural industrialization, so this is the picture we would love to see in Buvuma soon.”

## Vice President Commends Oil Palm Farmers

Continues from front page.....

The Vice President of the Republic of Uganda Rtd. Maj. Jessica Alupo accompanied by the state Minister of Agriculture Bwino Kyakulaga, Food and Agriculture Country represented his excellency Antonio Querido and other dignitaries from development partners, said if sustainable agriculture is to be promoted, it was important to transform and add value to farmer's products to enable them become premium market products.

National Oil Palm Project is a ten year project under Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries. The project takes over from the then VOPD1 and VODP 2 which initiated Oil palm production in Uganda. Kalangala Island is the seed Oil palm production district. Hon. Bwino Kyakulaga state Minister for Agriculture, informed the Vice President that National Oil Palm Project was one of the projects that had created traceable impact in



NOPP's Anthony Wanyoto presents to the V.P Maj. Rtd. Jesica Alupo Second left, FAO Country Representative, Anthony Querido extreme left and State Min. for Agriculture Hon. Bwino Fred Kyakulaga, third left during the World Food day celebrations at Kawanda Research centre

the sector and contributes to the country's GDP.

“Your Excellency, the Ministry is proud of this project because of its models that have led to result evident impacts. You need to visit Kalangala to see how farmer's livelihoods have been transformed and the level of production. We want to support them further to transform farmers in the other areas they are implementing.” Said Bwino. Mr. Anthony Wanyoto the Communications and Knowledge Management Officer at NOPP informed the Vice President that the project had scaled up and had expanded to four other hubs.

“From Kalangala, the project has moved to four hubs of Greater Masaka, Buvuma, Mayuge, and Mukono-Buike. And this time its oil palm development and livelihood development. We have already started in Buvuma district with over 5000 seedlings planted already. “said Wanyoto.





Workers carrying potted oil palm seedlings to the planting area of Kasajja's plantation in Tome, Buvuma Town Council.

Buvuma Youth Gangs Employed in Oil Palm Fields

“we want to have close to 1000 youth employed. This year, because of preparatory work of survey and demarcation we are a bit late by establishment so we targeted to plant 200 hectares of smallholder oil palm gardens during first rains and then 300 hectares during thr second rains but the good thing is that all the 500 hectares that we need this phase is already surveyed so even the youth numbers shall be added as we phase” -Sembatya

There is no scarcity of initiatives to address youth unemployment in Uganda. In recent years, well-intentioned donors have established programs in the country aimed at putting young people to work. At the same time, the Ugandan Government has set out several strategic plans and initiatives to tackle the issue. This level of donor and domestic interest is unsurprising: Uganda has one of the youngest populations in the world, with 78% under the age of 30, representing significant development potential. But if left untapped, it could turn into a major development challenge. Despite job creation efforts, the youth unemployment challenge has hardly diminished. It's time to reassess the program and try something new. As the National Oil Palm Projects embarks on its establishment phase of Oil Palm plantations in Buvuma district,, the project is engaging youth gangs to clear fields and plant the seedlings on the farmers fields According to Mr. Charles Sembatya the project Agronomist, because of changing livelihood factors many youths had become very idle and unemployed which prompted the project to engage them.

“The company has been giving us the technical team and we mobilize the labour gangs and we involve the farmers.

The recruitment of the labour gangs, this is basically youth in the community that are to be trained to build capacity. The company is willing to help us build the capacity of farmers and the youths that are going to obtain experience.” Said sembatya. Sembatya adds that the project is focusing on establishing 2,500 hectares of smallholders to be planted in a period of over 5 years which is the establishment phase. This shall be rolled out in phases where every year an average of 500 hectares of oil palm shall be planted. “We want to have close to 1000 youth employed. This year because of preparatory work of survey and demarcation we are a bit late by establishment so we targeted to plant 200 hectares of smallholder oil palm gardens during the first rains and then 300 hectares during second rains but the good thing all the 500 hectares that we need this phase is already surveyed so even the youth numbers shall be added as we phase” adds Sembatya Uganda’s national unemployment rate is 9.2%, while the unemployment rate for youth aged 18–30 is 13.3%. Although looking high, these rates are not so far removed from global averages. Consider the European Union, where the average youth unemployment rate has hovered at 14.3% for the last few months of 2019.

Oil Palm Offers Hope For Poverty Alleviation In Buvuma-RDC.

The Resident District Commissioner for Buvuma district, Mr. Tilotya Godfrey has declared Buvuma the new poverty free district if oil palm harvest takes root. He further urged all residents of Buvuma district to turn oil palm into their new mine for golden opportunity. In a recent interview with Oil Palm News, the RDC said picking from the success and transformation of Kalangala through oil palm production, this was a very great opportunity for Buvuma which should be embraced. “Oil Palm is Gold mine, Buvuma people should embrace it, the more our farmers work with the oil palm project, then we shall chase poverty, and the recent establishment of oil palm farmers office, for the oil palm farmers I declare that poverty has been chased in Buvuma.” he said Mr Tilotya adds that after a recent visit to farmers, there is steady progress towards good plantations. Saying many farmers need to clear their backyards for next batch of seedlings “We’ve just started, it is a very good step. I want to thank the farmers I have managed to visit; thank you for being good farmers and also other farmers that we haven’t visited. The start is not bad. It really shows that the direction we are heading to is good.” Tilotya said as Government representative to the district, he was reassured of the development agenda that government has towards the district. Saying I want to inform residents that this government is committed to transform this district. “This project brings hope that the government loves us, but above all this government loves this island because we don’t resemble other islands districts. Government has showed us that it wants to uplift the people of Buvuma from the poverty line, adds Tilotya. However, he says the only challenge the district had was of many forests, this has kept many people survive on livelihoods around the lake shores. “Only that what I have realized that in Buvuma there are more forests. The forests are still a challenge. My people are still on the shores; they are still unruly, they are confined in very small houses, prone to crime, others are marrying off the underage girls. There is a lot of immorality. It is then my sincere call that Government intervenes and makes sure these people are settled. For instance when am giving out “Emyooga” the beneficiaries keep on moving from place to place so that means that saving won’t be good nevertheless convincing these people to change won’t be an easy task. Otherwise the government has given good education, seed, security benefits from Operation Wealth Creation and the Oil Palm Project.” He adds.



Mr. Tilotya Godfrey  
Resident District Commissioner  
Buvuma

District Leadership Embarks on successful implementation of Oil Palm Project- Former CAO

The district undertook to register all farmers who pledged to participate as small holder farmers and we grouped them from 1–5 acres. Under the implementation of oil planting in Buvuma, the Oil Palm Buvuma Limited has so far planted over 1000 hectares under the nucleus estate. For small holder farmers, we have so far covered 226 farmers (63 are women) who have pledged 1443 hectares. Specifically by subcounty we have 45 hectares in Nairambi, 59 hectares under Busamuzi 33 hectares under Buvuma town council and 66 hecatres under Buwoya. Still under establishment of small holder farmers we have an activity of specialized training in palm oil planting we have trained extension workers, farmer leaders and youth labour gangs on planting, For land acquisition, so far the Government of Uganda in collaboration with the district local government have acquired 8,629 hectares of land

of which 5,114 hectares have been offered to the project and this is actually the target which means that so far the district and the government have managed to reach the desired target of the 5000 hectares of land needed for the project and under this so far 1,885 hectares have been leased with 27 titles given out. Under mobilization for communities in the project areas, 18 community meetings have so far been undertaken and meetings in villages and subcounties, held. We have also an activity of physical planning. We develop the physical plan, where area for settlement is different, there are areas of livelihood here they learn preservation even about degradation other livelihood activities, protections for example the buffer zones are also undertaken. Under the physical plan so we have under taken rapid physical planning assessment involving stakeholders and data collected and its available for public consumption.



Some oil palm farmers and district officials in Buvuma listening to Chin Pit Te during the tour and learning exercise at the oil palm nursery in Buwangwe, Buvuma District..



Former CAO Mr. Omonda Grandfield  
Between the Lines

Under the implementation of oil planting in Buvuma, the Oil Palm Buvuma Limited has so far planted under nucleus over 1000 hectares and small holder farmers, we have so far covered 226 farmers (63 being women) who have pledged 1443 hectares

We have the component of farmer institution development under this component we have conducted farmer organisation capacity assessment and the results was distributed in Buvuma 60 farmer leaders and 6 technical staff from the district, we have also developed a farmer organization action plan, also conducted sensitization

of farmers formation of a producer cooperative and 59 farmers leaders and 10 technical staff were sensitized. Under this same component we also registered the Buvuma Oil Palm Growers Cooperative Society with 47 founder members and we have also taken a step of recruitment of other farmers, so far we have 170 farmers who have subscribed to the cooperative

across all the four sub counties. A District based smallholders farmers’ service cost panel has been instituted with two farmer representatives who have been nominated by the cooperative to lead in the negotiation for prices of inputs and services with the private sector partner and other service providers. So far the journey we have moved is good. However as we progress we’ve had a few challenges but we believe with the collaboration of the Government and our private sector partners, we shall be able to address some of these challenges among them is the challenge in the delay of payment of land compensates. We frequently can sort out the challenge of land acquisition but sorting out this will require monies such that the land can be vacated and be left for farming activities. Another one is also scattered plantations making demarcation road network hard and so forth There is also negative publicity that we as the local leaders are trying to address but we need more engagement with the communities public in order to overcome that.



# Buvuma Farmers Speakout On New Oilplam Growing



**Nsiro Abu Lwenyanja town council  
Buvuma district aged 56 years**

As a person, I used to do banana production but I used not to gain much that's why I ventured into oil palm growing and see how it goes. But what I see in oil palm growing is that it might uplift me from poverty because I have school going children and other responsibilities. So I if I grow oil palm it is going to work for me.

My first time to hear about oil palm, we were invited around the month of April and we were told to go and study about the oil palm growing most especially those who had enough land so we went for those studies at the Hub office in Majjo. So, we were thoroughly taught about it; how long it takes to grow, its suitability, and its life span.

I have over 10 acres of land. Ever since I joined the cooperative the members helped me to grow the oil palm plants even the vehicle that brought the crops I didn't pay him because it is on loan scheme. Again being a member of the cooperative, I have been able to get fertilizers. As regards to challenges I say I have not gotten any serious challenges so far though there are some plants are not growing foristance; those that dry and die but there aren't any serious problems I have faced so far. Pest control is done by spraying pesticides in my garden. I use small plastic bottles to drop the pesticides. I put a bottle with pesticide near the oil palm crop and the pesticide keeps dropping. This kind of method is time saving because I even take a month with the other method of spraying.

I think for other people who are not going to grow the oil palm they can do other businesses say establishing retail shops and other small trade activities because for me my personal aim that made me venture into oil palm growing was to be able to educate my kids, so even the others if they have gotten other alternatives to earn a living I think it is better for them to do so because they need to educate their kids.

Though I haven't seen the real benefit of growing oil palm because this is also my first time to grow oil palm, but I call upon others to come and start growing oil palm and follow all the steps of growing this crop because it's benefits go up to around 20-30 years, and I can assure you that oil palm is one of the best crops because a crop that benefits you for over 30 years is really good. So, I call upon fellow residents of Buvuma if they have land then let them go into oil palm growing.

I compared what I learnt about the oil palm returns and what I was getting previously in what I was growing and I picked to venture into interest oil palm growing.

It was calculated that in over 1 acre of land, one can get over 500,000 UGX up to 1million UGX every month depending on how you manage the plants and I saw that in my garden, the money I get per year is not even 500,000 UGX from other crops. So that's why I decided to grow oil palm



I am a farmer, residing in Bukinalwa parish, Buwooya subcounty, I have a lot of hope in this project because me I started in 2008 when I heard the emergence of oil palm in Kalangala and it excited me so much and I put it closer to my heart and I was always hopeful that growing it would find me alive and be able to move along with other smallholder farmers and up to now am moving along with them and happy that I was even elected to be their chairperson of the Oil Palm Cooperative Society and that is my garden. I don't have any challenge with my oil palms and they are growing steadily. I am now an expert, am very hopeful that through oil palm I will to wealthier and I will be able

to change my life though am already changed. Our cooperative is Buvuma Oil Palm Growers Cooperative, and we launched it the month of March when it started working officially I think those who are not able to grow the oil palm because of the land can be helped in terms of practicing activities like zero grazing, trade, and I have many friends of mine in that category and others belong to other producer cooperatives. As a member of the cooperative I have gained many things but first of all I want to thank the Government of Uganda, most especially the President of Uganda His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for thinking about us and accepting to extend this project of

oil palm to our Island of Buvuma. The truth is we were hopeless then but now we see a bright future ahead of us. People's livelihoods have changed. As a leader of the Oil Palm Cooperative I have seen a few challenges foristance people used not to want to contribute membership fees and shares but now they have been sensitized and responded and some land owners were also not willing to give out part of their land for oil palm production for fear of loosing their land and we sensitized them that when you grow oil palm as a smallholder farmer, the land and the oil palm is yours and it remains in your garden just like other plants and I have always told them that the government has always fought hard to bring us seedlings like coffee, cocoa to see that we are uplifted from poverty and so it is the same intervention for oil palm. On the side of the smallholder farmers scheme foristance people with have grown oil palm as their crop. They have been able to get seedlings, fertilizers, pesticides and other establishment services. I urge other farmers to come and learn from me because I now consider myself to be an expert because I happened to work and learn from the Private Sector partner who taught me many things. So I request other farmers to come and learn from me because my oil palm field is doing well.

**Iruba Salim Maiso , 65 years old, Chairperson Buvuma Oil Palm Growers Cooperative Society Limited**

My name is Kyoziira Shamina, 26 years old, and I do my farm work in Bukinalwa, Buwooya subcounty. My garden size is 3 acres big. Ever since I started growing oil palm, I have not encountered any serious challenges so far and the termites that were trying to attack my garden are no more because of the technical advice I got of applying pesticides and ever since that I applied the pesticides the termites are no longer a threat. I would advise my other friends who are not able to grow oil palm because of the insufficient land to grow ground nuts because the price of ground nuts is a little bit higher than beans.

If we grow the oil palm very well, I think we shall benefit so much from the oil palm, because after 4 years I will be able to benefit from the oil palm, but as for now am also doing some farm work for some other crops to be able to feed myself and my kids. I want to advice those that are going to start growing the oil palm to know that the crop we have received is what is going to help us get uplifted from poverty and so we need to take it serious because this project will also benefit even our future generations and indeed it will benefit has us so much most especially we the people of Buvuma.



**Kyoziira Shamina, 26 years old  
Bukinalwa, Buwooya subcounty**



**NOPP Project Manager Ms. Connie Masaba (C) waves at farmers together with the General Manager BIDCO Uganda Limited, Sharma (L) and Chin Pit Te Managing Director Oil Palm Buvuma Limited on arrival at the nursery in Buwangwe in Busamuzi Sub-county Buvuma District**



**The Kiyindi-Kirongo ferry docking in Buvuma**



**Hon. Migadde planting planting oil palm seedling, looking on is former Minister for Agriculture Hon. Ssempiija Vicent as district leaders initiate planting the oil palm seedling**



**Farmer Nsiro Abu in Lwenyanja Subcounty poses with his family**



**OPBL workers standing at the OPBL nursery in Buwangwe, Buvuma**





State Minister for Agriculture Animal Industry & Fisheries Hon. Fred Bwino Kyakulaga 3rd right together with NOPP Project Manager Ms.Connie Masaba (C) and other officials pose for a group photo during the Minister's first visit at the NOPP offices in Kampala



NOPP Project Manager Ms.Connie Masaba handover a gift to State Minister for Agriculture Hon. Bwino Fred Kyakulaga at the NOPP offices in Kampala



The CAO, Buvuma District with NOPP, OPBL & BOPGCo officials during a courtesy visit to the BOPGCo offices. The 4 entities are working together to realise the full potential of Oil Palm growing



Planting the first oil palm Seedling in Lwembawo William's garden in Tome Ward Buvuma Town Council



An aerial view of Oil Palm Seedling field in Buvuma District