



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

KABALE DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**MOTION FOR PROPOSED POTATO INVESTMENT PRIORITIES THAT NEED TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 5 (FIVE YEAR) DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Mr. Speaker Sir and the August House, allow me with pleasure to move a motion for the proposed potato investment priorities that need to be included in the 5 (five year) District Development Plan. **Refer to annex I attached.**

Mr. Speaker Sir and the August House, Kabale District has been identified to pioneer the growing of high quality Irish potato to be supplied to big hotels and a chain of supermarkets. This will be achieved through a range of value chain processes right from the selection of high quality Irish potato seed, proper management of harvesting, post harvest handling and effective marketing strategies.

Mr. Speaker Sir and the August House, I beg to move on this Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 that the District Council approves the inclusion of the Irish potato investment priorities in the 5 (Five) year District Development Plan

  
The stamp is rectangular with a red border and contains the text 'DISTRICT CHAIRPERSON' at the top, 'Kabale District Local Government' at the bottom, and a small coat of arms on the right side.

**Hon. Patrick Besigye Keihwa**

**District Chairperson/ Secretary for Production and Marketing/ Natural Resources.**

# KABALE DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## PROPOSED POTATO INVESTMENT PRIORITIES THAT NEED TO BE INTEGRATED IN THE 5 YEAR DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

### Introduction

Kabale among leading Districts in producing Irish potato in the country. Irish Potato is planted across all sub counties in the district on an estimated total area of 9,000ha of land with estimated annual yields of 61,000 metric tons. Potato productivity is still low at an average of 7 – 10 tons per hectare, compared to 15 – 25 tons per ha achieved at research stations and some farmers.

The total area under production has of late surpassed that of other crops produced within the District as it is estimated that over 87.6% of the farm households grow Irish potato. Potato has become the most potential cash crop that has improved farmers' income & livelihoods over the past years.

Although the District has tremendous potentials (grown throughout the all year, fairly good soils, Political support and farmers' enthusiasm) for increasing potato production, productivity and Quality, Players in the potato value chain are encountering several constraints that inhibit their ability to improve potato productivity, quality and profitability as evidenced from the findings of the research studies conducted by International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) under PASIC project which were disseminated to the stakeholders in the feedback workshop from 04<sup>th</sup>, 05<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at Kirigime Guest House, Kabale town.

These challenges require urgent definition and redress. In addressing some of these challenges the team discussed the results and came up with interventions and activities that need to be integrated in the District development plan as indicated in the table below

## KABALE DISTRICT PRIORITIES FOR THE DDP 2015/2016 -2019/2020

Key observations	Key issues identified	Priorities for DDP	Possible activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low usage of fertilisers because farmers think that they deplete soils.</li> <li>• The district uses more organic than inorganic fertilizers</li> <li>• Poor quality seeds (recycling every season)</li> <li>• Decline in potato yield</li> <li>• Limited value addition in form of branding, packaging and marketing.</li> <li>• Yields are affected by weeds, pests and diseases.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive seed selection</li> <li>• Control of pests and diseases</li> <li>• Provision of extension services</li> <li>• Increase use of fertiliser.</li> <li>• Training farmers on doing agriculture as a business</li> <li>• Government should intervene in ensuring loans are affordable by the farmers.</li> <li>• Set standards in packaging, branding and marketing.</li> <li>• Encourage group formation which stimulates collective action.</li> <li>• Advocate for an agricultural bank</li> <li>• Streamline cross border trade</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate data collection on production from the grassroots up to the district.</li> <li>• Lobby the central government to include potato as a strategic cash crop for this region.</li> <li>• Promote collective marketing.</li> <li>• Have a clear strategy on marketing regarding packaging and branding.</li> <li>• Support farmers/groups to produce good quality seed.</li> <li>• Support farmer groups to have quality seed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designing data collection tools</li> <li>• Develop budget for data collection and analysis</li> <li>• Train extension workers in data collection and improved potato productivity</li> <li>• Based on the above, develop a profile for potato crop and a policy brief</li> <li>• Strengthen farmer groups</li> <li>• Synthesis of lessons on innovative approaches to farmer group strengthening and scale up innovative approaches e.g. FFS and Commodity Innovation platforms</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Supporting narrative</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Importance of potato industry to the district to economic progress.</li> <li>2. Challenges facing the value chain process.</li> <li>3. Opportunities that exist at the various levels (build on the existing work done by other partners)</li> <li>4. Crop level: Inadequate seed (quantity and quality), pests and diseases including new ones like leaf minors, declining soil fertility and climate change impacts.</li> <li>5. Farm level: Unreliable input sources.</li> <li>6. Household level -Post harvest handling technologies limited.</li> <li>7. Community Level: limited cooperation / collective action.</li> <li>8. Institutional/policy framework: weak enforcement of potato related ordinance, bye laws and policies, need to make more bye laws and policies.</li> </ol>		