



Doho Rice growers drying their rice

## Doho Irrigation Scheme turns Butaleja into food basket

**D**oho Large Scale Irrigation scheme is located in the two sub-counties of Kachonga and Mazimazi, Butaleja district, in Eastern Uganda.

The district Production Officer who is also the Principal Agricultural Officer, Dugu Amin, says that out of the district's 653 square kms, 455 square kms are estimated to be arable land where cultivation can be done.

There are 44,000 homesteads in the district and one extension worker is estimated to support agricultural work for 1,800 households. 70% of the population in the district is reported to be engaged rice growing.

The district categorises key enterprises of food security (beans, maize, rice and cassava), and

income in the areas of eastern and western where there are wetlands and irrigation schemes for rice.

Government spent Ugshs21Bn to rehabilitate the Irrigation scheme whose water comes all the way from River Manafwa.

Although government advised farmers to belong to Cooperatives after rehabilitation of the scheme, the chairman Board Doho Irrigation Scheme found in Mazimazi subcounty, says that some farmers have not yet joined the scheme.

Incomes for people in the Eastern part of the district come from dairy products, fish and rice. Incomes for people in the western part of the district come from ground nuts, dairy products and rice.

There are also enterprises under Northern



Rice plantation on Doho Irrigation scheme has adequate water



Butaleja district VC LC5, Mulebeke Donald, points at the rice plantations with adequate water supplied by the scheme



Dry rice in the store

Way  
narrates  
that



of Butaleja  
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Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF)-watermelon and tomatoes). Enterprises that are resilient to climate change are oranges and mangoes.

The chairperson LC5, Waya Richard, says that the district got tremendous support from Water for Production (WfP) in form of Doho irrigation scheme.

Waya narrates that 40% of Butaleja land is waterlogged which the residents consider as a natural gift from God.

The district chairperson mobilises farmers to appreciate the scheme, educates people to commercially grow rice for two (02) seasons, educates farmers to use nursery beds, and mobilizes people to offer land for such projects.

The district also reports to have sensitised people not to plough/dig near the channels.

Butaleja district is promoting the 4-acre Model Initiative popularized by His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, where small-scale irrigation is one of the techniques to apply.

We interacted with the district Secretary for Production and Marketing who also doubles as the Vice Chairperson, Donald Mulebeke.

He reveals how Butaleja district is creating a bylaw for a cropping calendar where 4,000 acres have been tilled.

The district sensitizes farmers to plant rice in lines than in 'broadcast' since planting in lines increases weight.

People/farmers are sensitized to pay Ugsh100,000 per season per acre to help in repairs, desilting and general mechanics.

Butaleja district proudly reports that it has the largest rice scheme in the country.

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