

Kakinga dam provides adequate water for residents of Ntusi sub-county

Residents of Ntusi sub-county in Kakinga village, Ntusi sub-county, Sembabule district, have attributed increase in milk yield and crop production to the existence of Kakinga dam which was constructed by Ministry of Water and Environment.

With Sembabule falling in the cattle corridor, this comes with experiencing long dry seasons much of the year, except for this season, where most parts of the district are still experiencing rains.

So, government saw it prudent to construct what you may now call a permanent dam and in a rainy season like this, the dam is harvesting all the water that farmers will need when the dry spell reaches.

John Baguma a water-board member, and area councilor Ntusi sub-county in Lwemiyaga county, heaps praises at the Ministry of Water and Environment for the construction of the dam.

Baguma says that before construction of the dam, he used to lose cattle during dry seasons but the situation has since changed.

“Apparently, the number of cows has increased due to constant availability of water and I am thinking of putting aside money to hire a paddock that will accommodate a bigger number of cows,” says Baguma.

The District Water Officer, Engineer Lule Ronald, says government has implemented more water schemes in form of piped water for domestic and commercial use and also valley dams for both livestock and home use.

“Our district used to have valley tanks where animals



shared water with people. This posed the challenge of exposure to waterborne diseases that the district grappled with in the past.

Apparently, there are valley tanks in Kawanda sub-county and Rugushuru sub-county. The valley tanks have been constructed by government of Uganda through Water for Production Department in the Ministry of Water and Environment,” Eng. Lule said.

Some of the components of the schemes are; a pumping house, generator, solar panels. Animals on these tanks access water on troughs and people have tap stands.

In Sembabule, initially it was hard to establish valley tanks and dams because land was for cultivation and the people had a wrong perception that government always wanted to grab their land.

Regarding this perception, the Ministry of Water and Environment through Water for Production Department, carried out a lot of sensitization and mobilization campaigns and communities got to understand that government was willing to help

them access water facilities.

The district water engineer noted that key water installations are protected by leaders at the district level and water user committees play a tremendous role too.

He adds that the office of the Resident District Commissioner being the custodian of security in the district, ensures there are no cases of theft of water equipment.

According to the district water engineer, the RDC sensitises communities to safeguard projects and report any challenges to their leaders.

On land acquisition, leaders initially negotiated with land owners for agreements. The Land surveyors' office would generate files and process titles. "Everywhere we put up a project we ensure there are proper agreements. The District Land Board engages in the process of titling and the water user committee fences off the land." Eng. Lule explained.

John Baguma the area councilor and water board member.

The district meets and interacts with MWE/WfP officials all the time. On some occasions it is during planning meetings, site handover, site meetings/routine follow-ups and both during technical and political commissioning functions.

Eng. Lule reported that at times, district officials make impromptu visits to all government project without first informing the implementors. According to him, these spot-on checks are aimed at ensuring highest level of accountability and transparency.

He appreciates machines assigned to the water stressed districts of Sembabule, Bukomansimbi and Gomba.

The district appreciates support from WfP to construct individual valley tanks. "every farm has a valley tank compared to the past time when farmers moved with their animals.



John Baguma a water-board member, and area councilor Ntutsi sub-county



Sembabule district water officer, Eng. Lule Ronald at Kakinga dam

They (individuals) pay Ugshs1.5M for fuel and allowance to the operator. Valley tanks have modernized agriculture.

Eng. Lule revealed that Kakinga dam is a big investment and biggest man-made dam (7 s/q miles) in Eastern and Central Africa.

"When it's a dry season, farmers and businessmen use trucks to fetch water from Kakinga dam. They vend water in trading centres and earn a living," Eng. Lule revealed.

A wide view of Kakinga dam in Sembabule district.

According to Eng. Ronald Lule, MWE/WfP has improved in the areas of provision of water for production. Over eight (08) valley tanks have been constructed (05 in greater Kisozi) and (03 in GCCCA).

A local Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) CEDFA has taught communities on the importance of WfP facilities which has improved the role communities play in Operation and Maintenance (O&M) and strengthening of Farmer Field Schools.

MWE/WfP has reportedly encouraged the district to construct rain-water harvesting tanks which people use for small scale irrigation and domestic use.

MWE/WfP has helped and strengthened the district to conduct various technologies to capture data on functionality and management of water sources. The DWO reported that he may not move to all areas looking for data but he may have data captured at all levels.

It was observed that there are cases of vandalism of valley tank equipment when water is not flowing and thus there is need for the district (RDC's office) to improve/tighten security.

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