

**EDITOR'S
NOTE****Let us grab
government
opportunities**

During the just concluded Harvest Money Expo at Kololo, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), was one of the sponsors and a major exhibitor.

MAAIF is the 'father' of all farming innovations in Uganda. From new seed varieties from the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) to modern embryo transfer methods from NAGRC, from coffee researchers, NAGRC and coffee researchers, it was clear that coffee is no longer just a beverage, but can be processed into many other products.

The water for production unit also had something for farmers, a mobile drilling system that farmers can access if they need water. However, the public barely knows these innovations.

A platform, such as the expo, helped expose them and, hopefully, farmers will adopt them.

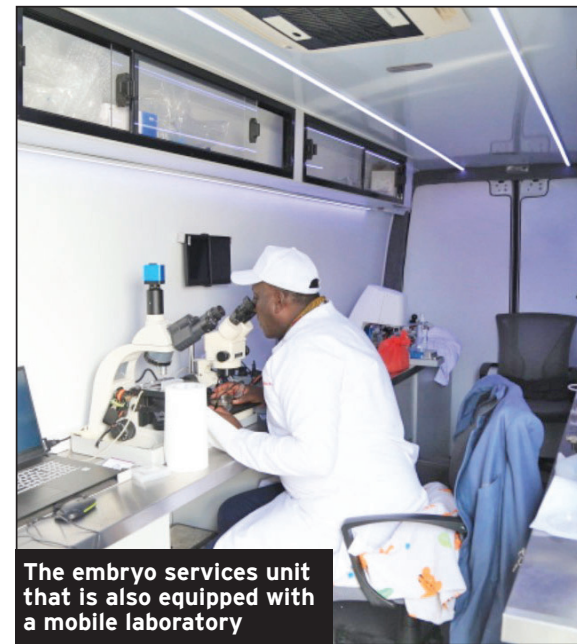
Dear farmers, MAAIF technologies are your own and you must find a way of accessing them. MAAIF research centres, like Namulonge, Kawanda, Kachwekano, Mbarara ZARDI, Namalerere, Serere, Bulindi, NAGRC Entebbe and the various ranches in the country and NACORI, among others, are open to the public.

Do not be afraid to visit the centres and access the technologies there because the Government prepared them for you. Go there and improve your farming.

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Liquid nitrogen truck used to store semen for artificial insemination



The embryo services unit that is also equipped with a mobile laboratory

NAGRC'S EMBRYO TRANSFER TECHNOLOGY EXCITES AT EXPO

By Joshua Kato

Located in the livestock section, the National Animal Genetics Resources Centre & Data Bank (NAGRC&DB) stall at the 2022 Expo attracted many expo goers.

Under its two-fold mandate and using the theme *Farming As a Business*, with value addition, the Government agency showcased their poultry enterprise, the embryo transfer van – mobile laboratory services and the liquid nitrogen truck.

NAGRC&DB is the Government livestock breeding arm responsible for researching, breeding and storing livestock breeds in the country.

"These technologies can fundamentally change the scope of livestock practice for the better. We need easy access to better livestock breeds and this is exactly what NAGRC has," Sam Majwega, a farmer who was visiting the stall, observed.

The NAGRC stall attracted hundreds of visitors, mainly livestock keepers, who wanted to access the exhibited technologies.

EMBRYO TRANSFER SERVICES UNIT

One of the big attractions at the NAGRC stall was the embryo transfer mobile unit. According to Dr Jackson Mubiru, from NAGRC, during the FY2020/21, NAGRC&DB embarked on the establishment of the Embryo Transfer Services Unit to deliver superior animal genetic resources. The unit has since been equipped with a mobile laboratory.

The mobile laboratory is to aid



The NAGRC&DB stall attracted hundreds of visitors

in embryo transfer, field semen collection and evaluation of semen dispatched to Artificial Insemination (AI) technicians at the parish level. The van facilitates the use of superior female animal breeds as donors for embryos that are carried by low-producing animals to ensure a quick shift in productivity through massive improved breed production.

NAGRC&DB was established by the Animal Breeding Act, 2001. It is one of the statutory semi-autonomous bodies of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries

(MAAIF).

NAGRC&DB is one of the MDAs implementing the agro-industrialisation programme in National Development Plan (NDPIII) contributing to agricultural production and productivity, with the objective of increasing production and productivity.

According to Mubiru, to increase production and productivity, NAGRC&DB focuses on increasing access to improved animal genetic resources or semen and this has been as a result of enhanced community-based breeding initiatives, with better conception rates, increased availability of

TRANSFERS
The mobile laboratory aids embryo transfer, field semen collection and evaluation of the semen dispatched.

liquid nitrogen, which has boosted the use of artificial insemination countrywide; the liquid nitrogen is used to preserve the semen at a temperature of 196°C.

Dairy farmers can now receive semen not only faster, but also when it is still good.

"The agency has installed and operationalised a mini liquid nitrogen plant and production of liquid nitrogen in Mbarara to serve western Uganda and the greater Masaka," Mubiru said at the expo.

The liquid nitrogen plants at Entebbe headquarters and Njeru-Buikwe are also maintained to ensure steady supply of liquid nitrogen across the country.

KUROILER AND CAGE CHICKEN

The NAGRC&DB stalls showcased the day-old-chicks and brooded of the pure kuroiler multi-purpose scavenging poultry breed.

Farmers flocked the stalls for advice on vaccination schedules and better poultry rearing tips.

The agency procures poultry parent stock of both the kuroiler and Rainbow rooster breed for multiplication, the chicks are hatched in the NAGRC&DB hatcheries and availed to farmers countrywide. Farmers can directly book the chicks at Entebbe.

"I keep kuroilers commercially. I always wanted to get in touch with NAGRC, so that I get genuine kuroiler breeds. I have visited them here at Kololo and I will also go to Entebbe to book my chicks," Sarah Musuuza, a farmer in Mukono, said.