

BY BUSEIN SAMILU

**KAMPALA.** Environmental and agricultural experts have implored the government to increase the budgeting of climate financing to curb the future catastrophe orchestrated by the negative impact of climate change, which has in the past resulted in the death of thousands and destroyed properties worth billions.

Last month, more than 20 people died after Mother Nature unleashed its wrath, causing floods and mudslides that swept away homes and gardens in Bukwo and Kween districts, which are in eastern Uganda. The cause of the floods has been largely attributed to the negative impact of climate change, which has rendered some parts of the affected areas uninhabitable.

At the same time, the torrential rain, coupled with poor drainage planning, led to massive flooding in Kampala Capital City, destroying traders' properties worth billions.

The events are part of the regular occurrences that have struck the country for years, especially in districts like Bududa, Bulambuli, Sironko, Kasese, and Bundibugyo, among others.

# Experts say climate financing should be prioritised now

Experts who have long warned and asked the government to prioritise climate change financing. They say it's time for the government, especially Parliament, which plays the appropriation role, to increase the budget for climate financing.

Dr Arthur Bainomugisha, the executive director of the Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE), said: "Agriculture employs 80 percent of our population. The MPs represent those people. Most of the money should be going into the agriculture sector, should be going into the environmental and natural resources, because that's where the majority of our citizens derive their livelihoods."

He made the remarks during the national dialogue on the integration of the Productive Use of Solar Energy (PUSE) project.

Dr Bainomugisha added: "I personally planted over 3,000 seedlings of coffee last year, and they all died. They dried up because of the dry spell. So what we are trying to do here now is to inform

## CASH FOR CLIMATE ACTION

In the last three financial years, the budget for climate financing, which is categorised as natural resources, environment, climate change, land and water management programme, has been fluctuating. The programme re-

ceived Shs364.9b in the current 2025/2026 financial year (FY), which is less than one percent of the total Shs72.3 trillion budget. The budget for the same programme in the last financial year was Shs642b, which was higher than the Shs516.8b allocated to the sector in FY2023/2024.

the government to prioritise access to this solar energy to the citizens, especially small-scale farmers, who are actually the backbone of agriculture, because, as I said, the majority of our farmers are not large-scale farmers. It is these small-holding farmers who are the backbone of the agriculture sector."

Mr Julius Twinamasiko, the programme coordinator for strategic interventions to boost food and animal feed security at the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, said his ministry is engaging its Energy counterpart to ensure the budget for climate

and green financing is increased.

"We work together to ensure renewable energy helps the agricultural activities to continue, for example, we have a lot of irrigation activities that use energy going on, we have a lot of agro-processing, so the synergy between these two ministries is strong and we are always striving to make sure that the government allocates enough funds to this sector," he said.

Mr Carlos Bueso Varela, the programme lead at Power for Food Partnership in Uganda, a sub-project under the Power for Food project, said funding cli-

mate change mitigation and adaptation is critical now since food production is under threat.

ACODE, in collaboration with Heifer International Uganda, under the Distributed Renewable Energy Ecosystems Model (DREEM) project, is currently running the PUSE technologies programme, which is aimed at driving economic growth in the agricultural sector, given the sector's importance to Uganda's population and economy.

Ms Anna Amumpiire, a research fellow at ACODE, said: "Supporting the PUSE in agricultural value chains to increase productivity and value addition is one of the most relevant means to improve small holder farmers' livelihoods and increase their resilience to climate change. This cannot happen without a good policy environment. ACODE under the DREEM project works with partners to implement activities aimed at strengthening the policy and regulatory environment to promote PUSE."

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