ACF: OPENING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR FARMERS AND AGRIBUSINESSES IN KALANGALA

By Ntabaazi Geoffrey Nsumba. Communications Officer Kalangala District Local Government.

Agricultural financing could become a major driver of economic transformation in Kalangala as the District steps up efforts to connect farmers and agribusinesses to the **Agricultural Credit Facility (ACF)**. Established by the Government of Uganda in 2009 and administered by the Bank of Uganda (BoU) through Participating Financial Institutions (PFIs), the ACF provides affordable financing for eligible agricultural production, agro-processing, mechanisation, post-harvest handling, value addition and grain trade. Applications are made through participating financial institutions, not directly through Bank of Uganda.

For Kalangala, the opportunity is particularly significant and the sensitisation meeting was held on **30th July 2026** by The Bank of Uganda Staff . Agriculture, fisheries and oil-palm production remain important to the district economy, while growing enterprises require financing to improve production, storage, processing and marketing. The Uganda Investment Authority reports that Kalangala oil-palm growers are already accessing ACF financing through commercial banks, demonstrating that the facility can work within the district's agricultural value chains.

The participants pose for a photo after the sensitisation one day meeting at the district HQs

The Principal Commercial Officer M/s Nalukenge highlights the importance of bringing financial opportunities closer to local entrepreneurs, particularly by ensuring that farmers understand the ACF, its eligibility requirements and how to approach financial institutions.

The District Commercial Officer Mr. Kavuma Cyprian emphasises the need for financial literacy, proper business records and bankable business plans. Awareness alone, he/she notes, is not enough; farmers need the capacity to demonstrate that their enterprises can generate income and repay loans.

The Resident District Commissioner (RDC) Hon Fred Bada calls for stronger collaboration between Government, financial institutions, local leaders and communities to ensure that ACF benefits reach ordinary farmers and productive enterprises across the islands.

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Mr. Sebandeke Richard stresses coordinated district action, encouraging technical departments and partners to make agricultural financing part of broader local economic development efforts.

Agricultural Officers Mr, Nsimbi Frank, Mr.Buko Ggakiwango and others point to opportunities in oil palm, livestock, food production, agro-processing, storage and other eligible value chains, while urging farmers to invest borrowed funds productively and manage their enterprises professionally.

For **farmers and local leaders**, especially the Chairperson Kalangala Ward B Mr. Mubiru John Bosco and the renown farmer Mr. Ssemanda Paul agreed that the message is clear: access to finance must be matched with training, markets, record keeping and responsible borrowing.

The way forward is therefore not simply to increase loan applications, but to build **bankable agricultural enterprises**. Through sensitisation, financial-literacy training, PFI outreach, farmer organisation and continuous technical support, Kalangala can turn affordable agricultural finance into increased production, value addition, employment and household incomes.

ACF can become more than a loanit can become a pathway to transforming Kalangala's agricultural economy.

The Kalangala Community attending in big Numbers

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