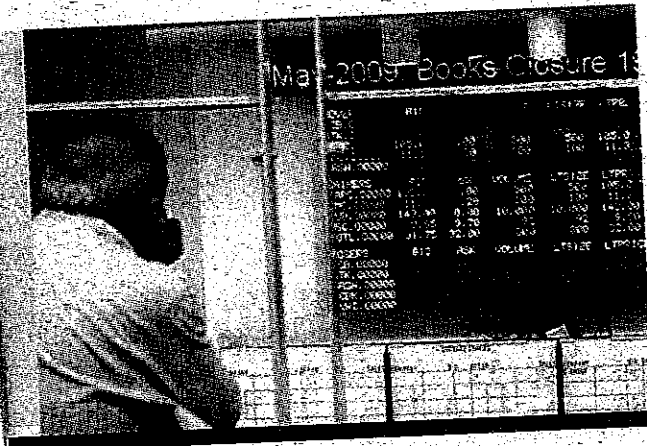


Daily Monitor Dec. 8, 2011



Govt must review liberalisation of agriculture - expert

For at least two decades now, the liberalisation policy has not achieved in the transformation of agriculture.

BY NICHOLAS KALUNGI
nkalungi@ug.nationmedia.com

KAMPALA. The government must review the liberalisation of the agriculture sector to boost productivity so as to curb food insecurity, according to Dr Lawrence Bategeka, a research fellow at Makerere University.

Speaking during the agriculture development and food security conference in Kampala recently, Dr Bategeka, said the current agricultural shortfalls are a result of the liberalization policy, which was undertaken with the introduction of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) by the government.

"Liberalisation is not a bad policy but it needs to be guided, where the government needs to implement only what is appropriate for the economy, while leaving out whatever is found to be irrelevant," Dr Bategeka said.

Becoming proactive

Dr Sarah Ssewanyana, the executive director of the Economic Policy Research Centre, said the government must be proactive and implement projects that will safe guard Uganda against food insecurity.

She said: "The agriculture sector has had a great decline in the last decade; therefore, there is an urgent need for measures that can lead to the achievement of food security. The government must in particular increase funding of the sector for both small scale and large scale firms."