

## **NaSARRI WINS SECOND PHASE OF HOPE2 PROJECT**

The National Semi-Arid Resources Research Institute has won the second phase of the Harnessing Opportunities for productivity Enhancement –HOPE2 project.

Upon Successful Implementation of Phase one, NaSARRI has been considered to implement the second phase of the project adding sorghum as another crop to be improved upon. The project implemented in partnership with the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi -Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) based in Kenya had initially considered finger millet in its first phase.

The project will focus on developing high yielding finger millet and Sorghum varieties resistant drought and diseases, improve seed delivery systems and access by farmers to new varieties and also increase their adoption.

Over four hundred sixty one thousand (461,000) U.S dollars have been earmarked for the project throughout the five year of its implementation

During the project inception workshop held at Akello hotel in Soroti town, the Principal Finance Officer of National Agricultural Research Organization Mr. Mugisha Charles who represented NARO's Director General, cautioned scientist to utilize funds in line with the NARO principles of Effectiveness, Efficiency and Economic ways of generating technology and make research outputs more profitable especially to improve the livelihoods of farmers.

He added that HOPE project fits well in the national strategy of NARO that has been segmented down into OPERATION WEALTH CREATION and the country's VISION 2040. Dr Mugisha assured the Kenyan counterparts that NARO has a clear strategy of using donor funds and that the funds will be well spent as planned in the project. He also said that the research structures have been reviewed hence focusing on making research outputs more profitable.

The Director of Research NaSARRI Dr. Michael Ugen thanked scientists for their hard work and called for collective efforts for easy implementation of the project. He however asked the project partners to also consider other leguminous crops such as cowpea, Mung bean and pigeon pea as they are equally important to people in Semi- Arid areas of Uganda and East Africa in General.