

## **FARMERS IN NOTHERN UGANDA TO BENEFIT FROM MULTI-MILLION GROUNDNUT SEED PRODUCTION PROJECT**

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NaSARRI and Equator Seeds Company are in a partnership to implement a groundnut seed production project that will see farmers in the northern part of the country produce and supply over 800 metric tons to the seed company by the end of the project. With this, the farmers are bound to increase their income by at least by 10 per cent.

During the project, NaSARRI will provide breeder seed of SERENUT series (6T, 5R and 11T) varieties to the selected farmers for multiplication and Equator Seed Company will buy off all the produced seed.

The one year project funded by Master Card Foundation through Mercy Corps is set to help smallholder farmers in the sub-region produce and access quality groundnut seed to increase production and ultimately, their income.

“My husband and I have been trying to get into the seed production business for a long time. With the availability of this information and breeder seed, we are more than excited to participate in the project,” said Mrs. Ose Olalobo a farmer in Gulu District. She was speaking during a courtesy call to Equator Seed Company on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

During the engagement, Kalule Okello David, a Senior Research Officer on groundnuts, noted that the Project is feasible. “We have the seed and the required information and this project will help ensure that our varieties go out and benefit the farmers,” he emphasized.

According to Juliet Akumu the quality Controller at Equator seeds Equator seeds, farmers are already on board. “we have so far mobilized 200 individual farmers with at least two acres, 50 farmers groups and other Local seed business groups in districts including; Gulu, Pader, Omoro, Oyam, Kole, Nwoya, Amuru and Lamwo,” she said.