

## **NARO TRAINS BREEDING TECHNICIANS**

Addressing challenges facing agriculture in Uganda and Africa in general will not only need the financial resources but equally a skilled human resource.

It's against the back drop that the National agricultural Research Organization in partnership with the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa – AGRA initiated a course to train the technicians in breeding techniques.

According to Dr. Michael Otim the project coordinator the training will improve efficiency in the development of the highly needed crop varieties and to bridge the productivity gap.

He adds that varieties are at the core of addressing constraints in crop production.

Dr Otim says that previously most of the short and long term trainings were benefiting scientists at master's and doctorate level leaving out technicians yet they mostly do the core work on the ground a reason NARO initiated the course.

The project started in 2014 and saw over 47 technicians from 9 African countries of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Malawi, south Sudan, Zambia, Mozambique and Ethiopia trained.

The second phase will train 34 technicians from all the countries mentioned above only with the exception of south Sudan.

The training targets breeding in soybean, common bean, groundnuts, sesame, maize, rice, sorghum, finger millet, cassava and sweet potato.