

**Warren Arinaitwe, a Cambridge-Africa PhD student reaches out to smallholder farmers in Uganda on good crop husbandry practices.**

On 5th January 2019, seventy smallholder farmers drawn from peri-urban and rural communities were trained on integrated banana and vegetable farming practices at Busukuma Climate Smart Farm (See photo 1). The farm co-owned by Warren and Viola Arinaitwe is located 24 km North East of Uganda's capital city- Kampala. The training focused on core crop management practices, such as water, weed, pest/disease management and intercropping in bananas. A session on vegetable backyard gardens was specially organised for women farmers. They were trained on establishment and management of organic production of leafy vegetables. This was aimed to supplementing household nutrition with a rich source of plant-based fibre, micronutrients and vitamins. Lastly, farmers were introduced to biogas production which would help in management of their crop and animal waste efficiently and sustainably.



Photo 1: Part of the farmers during one of the training sessions on banana management at Busukuma Climate-Smart Banana Farm.

**Promotion of peer to peer learning among banana farmers**

Farmers adopt technologies more when they learn from fellow farmers. In the second week of January, I organised an exchange visit on banana management in the South Western part

Uganda. During the exchange visit, the host farmer gave a talk on good banana management practices (See photo 2). He also demonstrated some of the key practices for increased banana productivity. Visiting farmers appreciated the model and plan to implement learnt techniques and invite the host trainers to monitor and advise them onsite.



Photo 2: Exchange visit in South Western Uganda

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