

# FARM Africa

## George

**George's rice harvests have almost doubled in size thanks to training from FARM-Africa about how to cultivate a new, higher yielding rice crop...**



George Guludene is a subsistence farmer from Uganda's Luwero district. Like many in the district, he relies on what rice he can grow to survive.

George and other farmers in his community were growing their rice in the nearby wetlands. They had little knowledge about what was the best type of rice to grow and how to harvest and store the crop.

Productivity was very low and people were struggling to feed their families and earn enough to send their children to school.

FARM-Africa's Maendeleo Technology Fund (MATF) worked with a local organisation to teach George and other farmers in the community about a different type of rice. This new variety performs well on drylands and can be grown on the hillsides around the wetlands. It also yields a much larger harvest in less time than the wetland varieties.

George is one of 600 farmers who received training in how to cultivate the new rice crop. Each farmers' group also learnt how they could work together as a savings group to provide loans to members to buy seeds and fertiliser. Bigger harvests mean farmers can sell any surplus at market, so they also learnt about marketing and collaborating to get a good price for any rice they had to sell.

Funding from FARM-Africa has enabled George to buy some of the new rice seeds at half price and try them out. His local farmers' group helped him access a loan towards the cost of fertiliser.

George and the other farmers in Luwero district are now harvesting almost twice as much rice. In the first season, George managed to grow more than enough to feed his family. He sold his surplus crops for a good price, which enabled him to buy the uniforms and books his children need to attend school. The training has improved George's agricultural knowledge and now he is growing maize too!