

info@acicom.co.ke, www.acicom.co.ke
New Vision
Daily circulation 35.000 copies
Published in Uganda
Friday March 21, 2008

The New Vision, Friday, March 21, 2008

New maize type coming

KAMPALA

Uganda has been chosen among the four countries to develop a drought-resistant maize variety for Africa. The five-year Water Efficient Maize for Africa project is a public-private partnership headed by African Agricultural Technology Foundation in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa.

Addressing a press conference yesterday in Kampala, the foundation's executive director, Dr. Mpoko Bokanga, said the project was in response to a growing call by African leaders and scientists to address the devastating effects of drought on small-scale farmers and their families. "Frequent droughts lead to crop failure, hunger and poverty," Bokanga noted. The Bill and Melinda Gates and the Howard Buffet foundations donated \$47m (sh80 billion) for the maize project that commences this year.