

MARKET-PREFERRED BANANA VARIETIES

The East African highland cooking banana (matooke) is a key source of livelihood for over 13 million farmers in Uganda. The banana fruits all year round - a characteristic that makes it an important income and food security crop. Although farmers grow many banana varieties, only a few are preferred by traders and consumers outside the production areas. The most commonly preferred varieties are **Kibuzi, Nakitembe, Musakala and Mbwazirume**. The attributes responsible for their popularity are:



MBWAZIRUME, NAKITEMBE

- Stout pseudo-stems
- Compact bunches
- Medium-sized fingers
- Fast maturing, but can also be eaten when not fully mature
- Golden yellow, soft and tasty food (Nakitembe has the best flavour according to consumers)



KIBUZI

- **Stout pseudo-stem**
- **Big, compact bunches**
- **Long shelf-life**
- **Hard skin (does not bruise easily)**
- **Makes tasty food with a nice aroma**

MUSAKALA

- **Big bunches**
- **Big, loosely packed clusters**
- **Long fingers**
- **Makes soft, tasty food**
- **A few fingers give a lot of food**



For planting materials and bananas

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