

# Newsflash

17th - 21st February 2025



## USSIA organizes a Networking Session for Women in Business

On February 18, 2025, the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) held an inspiring networking session aimed at empowering women in business.

The event gathered 27 female entrepreneurs and aspiring business owners to exchange ideas, share experiences, and discuss strategies for growth and success. A highlight of the session was the keynote address by Madam Lydiah, the CEO of Mesha Steel Limited,

who shared a compelling story of her entrepreneurial journey, focusing on the challenges she faced and how she overcame them to build a thriving business in a male-dominated industry. As a woman in the manufacturing sector, she faced significant barriers like gender bias, and the need to prove her credibility in an industry traditionally dominated by men.

However, through determination, strategic decision-making, and a clear vision for her business, Lydiah was able to break these barriers.



# Newsflash

17th - 21st February 2025

She emphasized the importance of building a strong support network, producing high quality products, leveraging mentorship, and being compliant in order to stay competitive. Her experience has been a testament to the power of resilience and hard work. Under her leadership, Mesha Steel Limited has grown to become one of the key players in the Ugandan steel market, providing high-quality products while creating jobs to 150 youth and contributing to the local economy.

The USSIA plans to continue organizing such events to encourage more women to pursue their business ventures and succeed. With leaders like Madam Lydiah paving the way, there is no doubt that the future is bright for women in business in Uganda.





## **USSIA Conducts Enterprise Visit to Member Businesses:**

On February 19, 2025, the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) organized a productive enterprise visit to member businesses. The first enterprise visited was in Kamwanyi, with a potential member that focuses on greening initiatives and bamboo value addition. The business is pioneering eco-friendly solutions, using bamboo as a sustainable resource for various products. The company specializes in bamboo processing, and the production of value-added products such as bamboo furniture, kitchen wear, crafts and interior designing

During the visit, the USSIA team Led by the Executive Secretary had the opportunity to tour the production facilities. The company's innovative approach to using bamboo as an

# **Newsflash**

**17th - 21st February 2025**

alternative to wood and plastic also aligns with global sustainability trends, offering both ecological and economic advantages.

The second visit took the USSIA team to Bakisakye Company

Limited, that deals in the production of Cosmetics offering a range of products such as soaps, lotions, oils, and perfumes, all formulated with natural ingredients sourced locally.

At the Bakisakye facility, the USSIA team was shown the different products.

The company's commitment to using organic, locally sourced ingredients not only enhances the efficacy of their products but also supports local farmers and suppliers.

The USSIA remains committed to supporting the growth of Uganda's small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Through regular enterprise visits and engagements with its members, the association is helping to foster an ecosystem of innovation, sustainability, and mutual support.



# Newsflash

17th - 21st February 2025



## USSIA Sensitization Campaign for Zonal Elections

In preparation for the upcoming USSIA zonal elections in March 2025, the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) launched a comprehensive sensitization campaign across several key regions. The campaign, which took place in Hoima, Masindi, Fort Portal, Mbarara, and Masaka, aimed to engage members, raise awareness about the election process, Roles and responsibilities of the leaders to be elected , and encourage active participation in choosing leaders who will guide the association into the next phase of growth and advocacy. The team also introduced the YOKAZZI app to the members

By reaching out to diverse regions, raising awareness, and promoting active participation, USSIA is ensuring that the elections will be a fair and transparent process that reflects the needs and aspirations of Uganda's small-scale industries.

# Newsflash

17th - 21st February, 2025



# SUCCESS STORIES



## USSIA Members Thrive with Commonwealth Standards Network: Success Stories of Peke Agrotek and Barista Coffee Dealers

On Thursday, 20th February 2025, two members of the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) marked a significant milestone in their business journeys. Peke Agrotek (U) Ltd and Barista Coffee Dealers, both of whom have benefited greatly from the Commonwealth Standards Network (CSN) program, were visited as part of a recognition of their success in certifying their products with international standards. The common wealth standards network program provided these members with the necessary guidance on improving their production

# Newsflash

17th - 21st February 2025

techniques, packaging, and quality control measures. By certifying their products, they have become competitive in the market, positioning themselves as trusted suppliers of high-quality products. This success story not only benefits the companies but also contributes to the broader goal of improving Uganda's business industry.

The success of Peke Agrotek (U) Ltd and Barista Coffee Dealers is a testament to the impact that proper certification and adherence to international standards can have on small-scale industries. With the help of the Commonwealth Standards Network and USSIA, these businesses have not only improved their product quality but also expanded their market reach. As the program continues to support more businesses, Uganda's small-scale industries can look forward to even greater success in the global marketplace.



# Newsflash

17th - 21st February 2025



# Newsflash

17th- 21st February 2025

UPCOMING TRAINING

**TOMATO SAUCE,  
CHILLI AND JAM  
MAKING TRAINING**



**FEE  
100,000 SHS**



**USSIA to Host  
Tomato Sauce, Chilli  
Sauce, and Jam  
Making Training**

On Saturday, March 29,  
2025, the Uganda Small  
Scale Industries  
Association (USSIA) will  
host a practical and  
informative training  
session on Tomato

Sauce,

Chilli Sauce, and Jam Making at its offices located at the UMA Show Grounds in Kampala. This hands-on workshop is designed for aspiring entrepreneurs and existing small-scale producers interested in expanding their product range to include these popular and profitable food items.

The training aims to equip participants with the skills, techniques, and knowledge needed to produce high-quality tomato and chilli sauces, as well as jams, which are in high demand both locally and internationally

The training is available for a fee of 100,000 UGX, which covers all training materials, practical demonstrations,

**For more information call**

**0789104638**

 **29th March,  
2025**

 **USSIA Offices, UMA  
show grounds Lugogo**

 **0787091022 /  
0751734621**