

USSIA NEWSFLASH



10th - 13th June 2025

STAKEHOLDERS CHART THE FUTURE OF UGANDA'S LEATHER AND TEXTILE SECTOR

From June 11th to 13th, 2025, Kabira Country Club in Kampala hosted a pivotal Leather and Textile Value Chain Analysis Workshop organized by the Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Secretariat. The workshop brought together a diverse range of stakeholders policymakers, industry leaders, SMEs, and innovators to examine and strengthen the country's capacity in the leather and textile industries.

Gracing the event as Guest of Honor, the Honorable Minister of Science and Technology underscored the sector's strategic importance in Uganda's industrialization agenda. In her address, she emphasized the role of science, research, and innovation in transforming raw materials into high-value products, and reiterated the government's commitment to supporting the development of sustainable and competitive value chains.



During the three-day event, participants analyzed every stage of the value chain from livestock farming and hides collection, to tanning, design, production, and marketing. Recommendations were made to improve infrastructure, enhance technical training, and facilitate market access both locally and internationally.

The workshop concluded with a strong call for inter-agency cooperation and the creation of innovation hubs that support small-scale manufacturers. USSIA reaffirmed its commitment to working closely with the STI Secretariat and other stakeholders to ensure the growth of Uganda's leather and textile industries is inclusive, sustainable, and innovation-driven.

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SKILLING WITH PURPOSE: GET SKILLED TRAINERS RECALIBRATE FOR QUALITY AND SAFETY AT NOB VIEW HOTEL

Trainers under the Get Skilled Project gathered at Nob View Hotel for a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop focused on reviewing the Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET) workplan and strengthening Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) integration within training environments.

A significant portion of the workshop was dedicated to assessing the effectiveness of current training methods, learning outcomes, and how well OSH principles are being embedded across various training disciplines. Discussions also focused on the need for trainers to play a proactive role in cultivating a culture of safety in classrooms and workshops.

Through group work, peer reviews, and guided planning sessions, participants revisited key elements of the CBET workplan, aligning their strategies with national goals and the broader objectives of the Get Skilled Project. Key outputs from the training included revised workplans, practical safety guidelines, and an action plan for continuous trainer development.

By the end of the workshop, participants expressed renewed commitment to delivering high-quality, learner-centered, and safety-conscious training in their respective institutions.

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Building Momentum for a Greener Future

Stakeholders from across Uganda's industrial landscape convened at a key conference organized by the Uganda Cleaner Production Centre (UCPC) to launch and introduce the WEWORK Project a transformative initiative targeting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in agriculture value chains, green economy sectors, renewable energy, and forestry.



The conference served as a platform to unveil the project's objectives, which include building the capacity of SMEs through practical training, tailored technical support, and access to sustainable production practices. The WEWORK Project aims to position local enterprises as active contributors to Uganda's transition toward a green and resilient economy.

Conference sessions highlighted the project's structure, including its emphasis on resource efficiency, clean energy integration, sustainable land use, and market linkage strategies for environmentally-friendly products. Participants engaged in interactive discussions, case study presentations, and networking aimed at building partnerships that will support long-term project success.

As part of its post-conference commitment, USSIA expressed readiness to mobilize its member enterprises for participation in WEWORK activities, ensuring that SMEs from diverse regions and sectors can access the opportunities presented.



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Representatives from the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) played an important role in the mobilisation efforts, engaging directly with local youth groups, government officials, and community-based organisations. During the meeting, USSIA emphasized the value of community-driven skills development and enterprise support tailored to the realities of rural youth.

The mobilisation meeting included presentations on planned activities such as vocational training programs, green enterprise incubation, and financial literacy workshops. Local leaders welcomed the initiative and committed to providing ongoing support to ensure that the project reaches even the most remote youth populations. Participants left the meeting with renewed enthusiasm and a shared vision of building a greener, more inclusive economy in Kyegegwa.

Green and Decent Jobs Project Launched for Youth in Kyegegwa

Local leaders, youth representatives, and development partners gathered at the Kyegegwa District Headquarters for the Green and Decent Jobs for Youth inception and mobilisation meeting, marking the official launch of the project in the region. The meeting focused on introducing the objectives of the initiative, mobilising stakeholders, and identifying local opportunities for youth employment within the green economy.

The project aims to equip young people with skills, resources, and pathways to engage in environmentally sustainable and economically viable livelihoods. It targets sectors such as Agriculture value chains, renewable energy, green economy sectors, eco-tourism, and forestry sectors that not only support environmental resilience but also offer long-term, dignified employment.



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Charting the Way Forward: Zonal Leaders in Wakiso and Hoima Strengthen Regional Strategies

Leaders from Wakiso and Hoima zones convened in their respective Zonal Executive Committee (ZEC) meetings to discuss strategies for deepening organizational impact and building stronger, more sustainable local structures.



In Wakiso, the meeting was characterized by a collaborative spirit, as leaders shared best practices, discussed key initiatives, and refined a collective vision for the future of the zone. The focus was on improving coordination, boosting member engagement, and driving development through inclusive and member-driven activities.



In Hoima, the conversation centered on long-term sustainability and strategic growth. Leaders explored ways to solidify the organization's presence in the region while enhancing support to local enterprises. Discussions were geared toward building stronger leadership structures and ensuring continuity in key zonal activities.

Across both zones, several shared priorities emerged. These included membership recruitment to grow the association's network, local fundraising to sustain zonal programs, and publicity and visibility, with an emphasis on leveraging digital platforms to enhance public awareness, attract new members, and promote zonal achievements.

Both meetings concluded with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment. ZEC members pledged to work collaboratively, implement the agreed-upon strategies, and ensure consistent follow-up to translate ideas into tangible results.

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Empowering the Future: Youth Trained in Mukono, Wakiso, and Kampala on VSLA Leadership and Financial Skills



Young people from Mukono, Wakiso, and Kampala recently took part in an intensive training aimed at equipping them with practical knowledge and skills in the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) methodology. The training focused on key thematic areas including good leadership, loan management, record keeping, and financial management empowering participants to build strong, sustainable savings groups within their communities.

In each of the districts, participants engaged in interactive modules that covered how to elect effective leadership, manage group funds responsibly, and maintain accurate records. The training also introduced practical tools to support financial literacy and decision-making, especially among first-time savers and young entrepreneurs.

The initiative also encouraged youth to see VSLAs not just as savings groups, but as platforms for business growth, collective problem-solving, and personal development. By the end of the training, participants had developed action plans to establish or strengthen VSLAs in their areas, with a focus on inclusivity and long-term sustainability.

Held over several days, the sessions were designed to promote youth-led economic empowerment through improved access to finance and strengthened group governance. Facilitators emphasized the importance of transparency, trust, and accountability in managing group savings and loans.



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Empowering Urban Refugees with Food Safety Skills

In a transformative step toward promoting safe and sustainable livelihoods, participants from the Makasi Rescue Foundation have been equipped with vital knowledge on good hygiene and manufacturing practices. The training, facilitated by the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA), aimed at strengthening food safety awareness and practices among small-scale entrepreneurs in the food and drinks sector.

Using simplified guideline brochures provided by the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS), the training focused on practical approaches to ensuring hygienic food production, safe handling, and proper packaging—key components that uphold product quality and consumer health.



Participants expressed gratitude for the training, noting how the brochures made complex standards more accessible and actionable. Many highlighted how the new knowledge would help them avoid common food handling mistakes and improve the marketability of their products.

As small-scale food production continues to be a cornerstone of refugee livelihoods, initiatives like this not only enhance public health but also boost economic resilience within vulnerable communities. Through continued collaboration between industry associations like USSIA, standards bodies like UNBS, and grassroots organizations like Makasi, the pathway to dignified, independent living for urban refugees grows clearer and stronger.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

STREET MARKET

ARUA CITY

Looking for a unique shopping experience filled with local treasures and unbeatable prices? look no further than the USSIA street market in the heart of Arua. Proudly organized by the Uganda small scale industries association (USSIA)

August 7th - 9th, 2025

Transport Road Arua City

FOR BOOKING CALL > 0706733792 Or 0787100282

Arua Street Market

 **Date: 7th-9th August, 2025**



Arua City

TRADITIONAL MAKING TRAINING

- Gomesi
- Mushanana

Be sure to secure your spot today and embark on a journey of style and tradition

FEE: 100,000 shs

VENUE: USSIA Offices, UMA show grounds Lugogo

DATE: 28th - 30th July 2025

Starting At 9:00am

0705378023 / 0773660688

info@ussia.or.ug

www.ussia.or.ug

Gomesi and Mushana Training

 **Date: 28th-30th July, 2025**

 **Participation Fee: UGX 100,000 only**