

12th - 16th May 2025



NEWS FLASH



Empowering Progress: Industry at the Forefront of Inclusive Innovation

In a vibrant showcase of collaboration and forward-thinking, the Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU), in partnership with the World Bank, hosted the Gender Inclusive Financing and Innovation Expo from May 15th to 16th, 2025. The event brought together key players in Uganda's economic and industrial landscape to explore sustainable, inclusive solutions for business growth and innovation.

Among the standout participants was the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA), which played a critical role in highlighting the contributions of small-scale industries toward gender inclusivity and innovation. USSIA showcased a range of products and services from its members, with a strong emphasis on women-led enterprises and youth-driven innovations.

USSIA praised the expo as a “timely platform for advocating inclusive growth,” noting that supporting gender equity in industry is essential for achieving Uganda’s Vision 2040. The association reaffirmed its commitment to advancing equitable access to capital, training, and markets for its diverse membership.



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Stakeholders Align Ahead of International Cooperatives Day

As preparations heighten for the International Cooperatives Day celebrations set to take place in Fort Portal, key players in Uganda's agribusiness ecosystem convened for a pivotal Agribusiness Hub Coordination Meeting aimed at streamlining collaborative efforts and amplifying impact.

The meeting aimed to streamline strategies for enhancing agribusiness cooperatives, fostering sustainable growth, and improving market access for small-scale farmers and producers. USSIA's involvement underscored its commitment to empowering local cooperatives through capacity building, advocacy, and innovative agribusiness solutions.



Speaking at the event, USSIA representatives emphasized the importance of collaboration among cooperatives, government agencies, and private sector players to drive economic resilience. "Cooperatives are the backbone of Uganda's agricultural sector," noted one USSIA delegate. "By working together, we can unlock new opportunities and ensure inclusive growth for all stakeholders."



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Building the Future of Woodwork: Stakeholders Advance National Strategy for Sector Growth



Key players in Uganda's wood and furniture sector gathered at the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives (MTIC) headquarters in Farmers House for a pivotal meeting to finalize the design and implementation framework of the National Wood and Furniture Industry Strategy. The discussions built on earlier engagements, focusing on actionable steps to enhance value addition, productivity, and competitiveness in the sector.

High on the agenda was the establishment of Shared Facility Centers and SME parks to offer affordable, centralized access to advanced processing technologies. These centers are envisioned as critical enablers for small and medium-sized enterprises to improve efficiency, meet quality standards, and tap into wider markets. The meeting also addressed the need for modern equipment acquisition and tailored government incentives aimed at empowering local artisans and furniture manufacturers.

USSIA, representing a wide network of small-scale industrialists, emphasized the importance of inclusive growth and equitable access to these initiatives. The association reaffirmed its role in mobilizing grassroots woodworkers and furniture producers to take advantage of the opportunities that the strategy will unlock.

The National Wood and Furniture Industry Strategy, once finalized, is expected to serve as a blueprint for driving sustainable growth, creating jobs, and enhancing Uganda's competitiveness in regional and global furniture markets.



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Powering Regional Access: ERA Launches Mbarara Office to Bring Services Closer to the People

In a strategic move to decentralize operations and enhance service delivery, the Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) officially opened its new regional office in Mbarara City today. The launch was marked by a high-level stakeholder meeting attended by industry players, civil society representatives, and private sector actors

Representing thousands of small-scale industrialists and entrepreneurs, USSIA welcomed the move as a timely intervention that will enhance accessibility and promote fairness in energy regulation. The association emphasized the critical role of affordable and reliable electricity in driving industrial growth, particularly for small-scale manufacturers who often face challenges related to high power costs and inconsistent supply.

USSIA also used the platform to advocate for continued engagement between ERA and local enterprises, especially in demystifying regulatory processes and ensuring that small businesses are supported in navigating energy reforms and opportunities.

As the Mbarara office begins operations, the collaboration between ERA and grassroots stakeholders like USSIA signals a promising step toward more inclusive, transparent, and responsive electricity governance in Uganda's regions.



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Raising the Bar: Training Spurs Quality and Certification in Small-Scale Manufacturing

With quality and safety taking center stage in modern manufacturing, a recent training session has equipped Uganda's small-scale industries with essential skills in hygiene, good manufacturing practices, and product certification.

The workshop brought together a wide range of participants from micro and small enterprises eager to strengthen their production processes and meet both local and international quality standards. The training underscored the importance of maintaining sanitary conditions, safe material handling, and clean workspaces as a foundation for producing safe, consumer-ready products.

Facilitators guided attendees through practical steps for implementing good hygiene practices in manufacturing environments, highlighting how simple adjustments can significantly reduce contamination risks and enhance overall product quality. The session also covered the procedures and requirements for obtaining product certification—an increasingly vital asset for businesses looking to expand their market reach and earn consumer trust.

USSIA reaffirmed its commitment to supporting small-scale manufacturers in building resilient and reputable enterprises.



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Blueprints for Success: Entrepreneurs Equipped with Business Planning Skills

In a bid to strengthen the foundation of small-scale enterprises, a hands-on business plan training was held at the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) offices, bringing together budding entrepreneurs and enterprise owners for an intensive capacity-building session

The training aimed to enhance participants' ability to develop structured, realistic, and goal-driven business plans—an essential tool for accessing finance, attracting investment, and steering business growth. The session covered critical components such as market analysis, financial forecasting, operational planning, and risk assessment.

Facilitated by experienced business development experts, the training also provided practical guidance on how to align business plans

with real market needs and evolving industry dynamics. Emphasis was placed on planning as a continuous process that helps entrepreneurs remain agile and focused in a competitive business environment.

With strong business plans in hand, participants are now better equipped to pursue funding opportunities, formal partnerships, and sustainable expansion—key ingredients for transforming small enterprises into resilient economic players.



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UPCOMING TRAINING

FLOWER BONQUET TRAINING

FEE: 150,000shs

Dive into the world of stunning floral arrangements? Whether you're a beginner or looking to refine your skills, our Flower Bouquet Training is the perfect opportunity for you!



5th - 6th June 2025
AT 09:00AM



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A two-day flower bouquet training will be held from 5th to 6th JUNE 2025 at the USSIA boardroom, offering participants a chance to learn the art of creating beautiful floral arrangements. For a fee of 100,000 UGX, attendees will be guided through the techniques of designing stunning bouquets for various occasions.

This hands-on workshop is perfect for those interested in starting a flower business or enhancing their skills in floral design. Participants will gain practical experience and insights into the world of flower arrangement, allowing them to create elegant bouquets that leave a lasting impression. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to master the art of floral design!



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