

01st - 04th April 2025



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Workplace Learning Key to Boosting Small-Scale Industries

The importance of workplace learning in strengthening small and medium enterprises (SMEs) took center stage at the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) conference organized by HWK Koblenz. Held at Mistil Hotel from April 2th-3th, 2025, the event brought together industry leaders, policymakers, and training experts to discuss skills development and workforce readiness. Among the key participants was the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA), whose Executive Secretary highlighted the transformative potential of workplace learning for small-scale enterprises.

During a press conference, USSIA's Executive Secretary emphasized that workplace learning provides critical hands-on experience, helping small businesses bridge the skills gap

Despite the advantages, USSIA pointed out several hurdles small businesses face in adopting workplace learning. Limited financial resources make it difficult for many SMEs to host trainees or release staff for training. Additionally, some companies struggle with inadequate training infrastructure and a lack of structured programs aligned with industry demands.

The conference concluded with a commitment from stakeholders to enhance skills development initiatives, with USSIA advocating for greater inclusion of small enterprises in TVET programs



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Small-Scale Businesses in Soroti Raise Concerns Over Electricity Challenges

A critical dialogue on the challenges faced by small-scale industries in accessing and utilizing electricity for production took center stage during a recent sensitization meeting in Soroti. Organized by USSIA in partnership with the Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA), the event brought together 50 small scale industries from soroti region.

Participants cited frequent power outages and voltage fluctuations as major disruptions to production. Many small businesses reported damaged equipment due to unstable electricity, leading to financial losses. High operational costs were another pressing issue, with some entrepreneurs stating that electricity expenses consume a significant portion of their revenue, making it difficult to remain competitive.

Additionally, several business owners raised concerns about complex connection processes and delays in resolving faults by power distributors. These bottlenecks, they argued, hinder productivity and discourage potential investments in value addition.

The meeting concluded with a commitment from ERA to review some of the raised issues, while USSIA promised to escalate the concerns to relevant policymakers for long-term resolutions. For Soroti's small-scale industrialists, the engagement marked a crucial step toward addressing one of their most pressing operational challenges.

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Members in Mbarara Gain Insights on Tax Compliance in URA Workshop

Small and medium-scale manufacturers in Mbarara have gained crucial knowledge on tax obligations following a specialized training organized by the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) in partnership with the Uganda Manufacturers Association (UMA). Held in Mbarara, the workshop aimed to demystify tax processes and enhance compliance among local producers.

Members of the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) were among the key beneficiaries, with many expressing relief at gaining clarity on complex tax regulations that directly impact their operations.

USSIA members highlighted persistent difficulties, such as navigating multiple taxes, high compliance costs, and delays in VAT

refunds—issues that strain their working capital. Some small-scale producers also admitted to previously underdeclaring earnings due to a lack of awareness, risking penalties.

URA officials assured attendees of ongoing reforms, including faster processing of refunds and expanded taxpayer education programs. They encouraged manufacturers to use the URA WebPortal and URA Mobile App for seamless transactions.

The workshop concluded with a commitment from URA to hold regular engagements with industry associations, ensuring continuous support for Uganda's growing manufacturing sector. For USSIA members in Mbarara, the training provided not just knowledge, but also confidence in managing their tax responsibilities efficiently.



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Beyond the Workshop Walls: How Face-to-membership Visits Are Reshaping Support for Uganda's Small Manufacturers"

In a bid to ensure continuous support for its members and to identify challenges faced by small-scale businesses in Mukono, the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) recently conducted membership visits. Led by the National Women Chairperson and the Mukono Regional Coordinator, the visits took place on 2nd April 2025, providing an in-depth look at the operations and needs of member businesses.

The purpose of these visits was to engage directly with business owners, assess the performance of their enterprises, and gain insight into the day-to-day challenges that hinder their growth. The delegation aimed to foster stronger relationships between USSIA leadership and its members, ensuring that the association remains a valuable resource for small-scale industries across Uganda.

At the end of the visit, both the National Women Chairperson and the Mukono Regional Coordinator committed to bringing the concerns raised by the members to the attention of USSIA's leadership, with the goal of creating more targeted programs and interventions to address the specific needs of small-scale businesses.

For USSIA, these visits are part of a broader effort to ensure that the association's services are relevant and effective in meeting the needs of its diverse membership. As the visits continue across other regions, it is clear that direct engagement with members remains a key strategy for addressing the challenges faced by Uganda's small-scale industries and for helping them build a stronger, more resilient future.



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Assessing Business Growth and Challenges

In a bid to better understand the realities faced by small-scale industries, a recent membership visit took place in Wakiso, organized and led by the Regional Coordinator. The purpose of the visit was to connect with business owners, evaluate the performance of their enterprises, and gather first-hand insights into the challenges hindering their growth. The initiative was designed to foster a more direct and supportive relationship between small-scale entrepreneurs and the leadership of the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA), ensuring that their voices are heard and their needs are addressed.

Throughout the visit, the Regional Coordinator engaged with a diverse group of business owners across various sectors, from manufacturing to service industries.

These businesses shared both their accomplishments and the obstacles they face in the competitive market environment. For many, the visits provided a rare opportunity to discuss their struggles in a candid manner and seek practical solutions that could help them thrive.

The membership visits were a vital exercise in ensuring that the concerns of small-scale businesses are not only understood but actively addressed by the association. As the USSIA continues to gather feedback from its members, it is clear that strengthening the support network for small businesses in Uganda, especially in regions like Wakiso, is crucial to fostering sustainable growth and a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem.



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Sensitization Meeting in Mityana

A recent sensitization meeting held in Mityana provided an informative platform for both prospective and existing members of the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) to learn about the benefits of joining the association and the importance of renewing their subscriptions. The meeting, which brought together local business owners and entrepreneurs, was also an opportunity to inform the members about the upcoming Zonal Executive Committee elections.

The meeting also focused on encouraging long-standing members to renew their subscriptions. Many members, having enjoyed the benefits of USSIA's services over the years, were reminded of the importance of staying up-to-date with their membership in order to continue receiving full support and access to association activities.

In addition to discussing membership benefits, the meeting also touched on the upcoming Zonal Executive Committee elections. Members were sensitized about the significance of participating in the election process, which plays a crucial role in ensuring that USSIA's leadership reflects the interests and needs of its diverse membership.

The meeting concluded with an encouraging call to action for both new and existing members to get more involved in the association's activities. USSIA leadership stressed the importance of active participation in the upcoming elections, as it would help to ensure that the voices of small-scale entrepreneurs are heard and represented within the association.



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USSIA SACCO Grows roots in Luweero

Members of USSIA in Luweero were recently sensitized on the benefits of joining the USSIA Savings and Credit Cooperative Organization (SACCO) during an awareness meeting held on 4th April 2025. The event aimed to educate attendees on the importance of financial inclusion, savings, and access to affordable credit through USSIA SACCO.

- Members were encouraged to save regularly to secure their financial future and meet personal and business needs.
- Unlike traditional banks, USSIA SACCO offers low-interest loans to its members, enabling them to start or expand businesses.
- As a member-owned cooperative, USSIA SACCO distributes profits among its members in the form of dividends.
- Attendees were trained on proper financial management, budgeting, and investment strategies.

Many attendees expressed enthusiasm about joining USSIA SACCO, citing the need for a reliable savings and credit solution in the region. Local leaders also pledged to mobilize more residents to embrace the cooperative model for economic empowerment.

The sensitization meeting successfully raised awareness about USSIA SACCO's role in improving financial stability for individuals and businesses in Luweero. With increased membership, the cooperative is expected to play a significant role in driving economic growth in the district.



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Luweero Votes

The recent elections in Luweero saw the successful appointment of new leaders to the Zonal Executive Committees, aimed at driving the growth and sustainability of small-scale industries in this region.

The election process, marked by active participation from local entrepreneurs and industry stakeholders, resulted in the selection of key leaders who will represent the interests of small-scale industries at the grassroots level. The elected include the Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Sector Leader, Youth Representative, and Committee Members, all of whom will work to enhance the business environment for small-scale enterprises in the region. The newly elected leadership in Luweero will be instrumental in addressing the specific needs of small-scale industries in the area to thrive and expand.

As the local business environment continues to evolve, the role of these leaders will be critical in shaping and implementing initiatives that foster entrepreneurship, economic growth, and job creation.

As the new Zonal Executive Committees take office, their providing strong collaboration, and focus will be on fostering empowering small scale industries in Luweero. This region has great potential to contribute to Uganda's broader economic growth, and with the right support, small businesses will continue to thrive and expand.



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NEWS FLASH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Juice Training



JUICES YOU WILL LEARN:

- Mojito
- Natural juices
- Milk shakes
- cocktails and mocktail

Fee: 80,000



Saturday, 26th April 2025



USSIA Office, UMA show grounds Lugogo



0787091022/ 0789104638



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An exciting juice training session is scheduled for 26th April 2025 at the USSIA boardroom, offering an opportunity for participants to learn the art of making a variety of refreshing beverages. For a fee of 80,000 UGX, attendees will be trained on how to prepare delicious mojitos, natural juices, milkshakes, cocktails, and mocktails.

This hands-on training will equip participants with the skills to craft popular drinks that are perfect for any occasion, whether for business or personal use. It promises to be a valuable session for anyone interested in expanding their beverage-making skills or starting a new venture in the beverage industry. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to enhance your drink-making repertoire!



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NEWS FLASH

FLOWER BONQUET TRAINING



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!



23rd-24th May 2025
AT 09:00AM



**USSIA OFFICES, UMA SHOW
GROUNDS LUGOGO,**



0760228519 / 0706733792



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A two-day flower bouquet training will be held from 23rd to 24th April 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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NEWS FLASH

PITCHING AND PITCH DECK TRAINING

COME LEARN

- How to talk about your business in 3-5 minutes
- how to create a pitch deck to give any donor or funder
- And the main things to focus on while talking to an investor

DATE: 25TH APRIL 2025

TIME: 9AM

LOCATION: USSIA OFFICES, UMA

SHOWGROUNDS, LUGOGO

FEES: 30,000 UGX

PLEASE BOOK WITH US BEFORE THE DATE

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL
0789104638 OR 0706733792**

Are you ready to take your business idea to the next level? The Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) is hosting a Pitching and Pitch Deck Training designed to equip entrepreneurs and business owners with the skills they need to effectively pitch their ideas and present compelling business plans to investors.

Event Details:

Date: 25th April 2025

Time: 10 am

**Venue: USSIA Offices,
UMA Show Grounds,
Lugogo, Kampala**

**Fee: 30,000 UGX
(affordable training fee to
gain invaluable skills)**

Pitching and pitching deck development are crucial for any entrepreneur looking to attract investment or scale their business. Whether you're just starting out or aiming to refine your business strategy, this training will help you:

The event will feature industry experts and seasoned entrepreneurs who will guide you through the process and provide practical insights on what works and what doesn't in the world of pitching.



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