

23rd - 27th June 2025



## Unlocking Regional Trade: Mbale SMEs Trained for AfCFTA Export Success

In a significant step towards boosting Uganda's participation in continental trade, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), conducted a comprehensive training programme on "How to Export under AfCFTA" in Mbale. The initiative targeted small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), aiming to enhance their readiness to tap into the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) market.

The training brought together a wide range of SME operators, with a focus on equipping them with practical knowledge and tools to navigate the complexities of regional and continental trade. The facilitators placed particular emphasis on key areas such as proper packaging and branding, product certification, labeling requirements, and quality assurance—critical components for success in competitive export markets.

The training concluded on a high note with the celebration of International MSMEs Day. The event was graced by the Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, who lauded the initiative and reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting SMEs as engines of economic growth. In her keynote address, the Minister urged participants to take advantage of platforms like AfCFTA to expand their market reach and increase production capacity.

The joint initiative by the Ministry and UNDP marks a crucial step in fostering inclusive trade development and ensuring that local businesses are not only aware of AfCFTA opportunities but are well-prepared to seize them.



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## BUILDING TRAINING CAPACITY: TRAINERS EQUIPPED TO SUPPORT LEAD PROJECT IN NAKIVALE AND KYEGEGWA

In a continued effort to enhance the impact and reach of the LEAD (Livelihoods and Enterprises for Agricultural Development) Project, a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop was recently conducted in the districts of Nakivale and Kyegegwa. The workshop aimed to build the capacity of selected trainers by equipping them with foundational skills and knowledge necessary for delivering effective training to project beneficiaries. Trainers were equipped with foundational skills and knowledge necessary for delivering effective training to project beneficiaries.

Facilitators guided participants through interactive sessions that covered the essentials of planning a training session, understanding different learning styles, using appropriate training tools, and monitoring learning outcomes. Emphasis was placed on ensuring that trainers can create inclusive, engaging, and culturally responsive learning environments as they work with beneficiaries in refugee settlements and host communities.

By empowering trainers with the right tools and mindset, the initiative sets the stage for a ripple effect of knowledge and skills that can transform communities across the project areas.



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## Strengthening Local Leadership: Jinja Zone ZEC Members Oriented for Impactful Service



The ZEC appreciated the hands-on approach of the orientation, noting that it deepened their understanding of their roles and equipped them to support members more effectively. They committed to fostering inclusive engagement, promoting accountability, and actively contributing to the advancement of small-scale industry in the region.

The orientation concluded with a renewed sense of unity and purpose among the Jinja Zone leadership, setting the tone for a more responsive and service-driven approach moving forward. This initiative reflects USSIA's broader commitment to building the capacity of its leadership structures to deliver value to its members and to drive sustainable industrial development across the country.

In a bid to enhance effective governance and strengthen service delivery at the grassroots level, the Zonal Executive Committee (ZEC) members of Jinja Zone underwent a comprehensive orientation program focused on leadership development and institutional understanding. The orientation, , was designed to equip the newly elected ZEC members with the skills, knowledge, and tools required to lead with purpose and positively influence the growth of small-scale industries within the zone.

Participants were educated on their roles and responsibilities, USSIA's policies and operational frameworks, and the importance of collaboration in achieving shared goals. The training also offered practical strategies for member mobilization, transparent governance, and strengthening relationships between the zonal leadership and the broader membership.





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Facilitators emphasized the importance of visionary leadership, teamwork, transparency, and member engagement in delivering tangible results for the association. Sessions included discussions on planning and coordination, resource mobilization, conflict resolution, and aligning zonal activities with USSIA's national priorities.

The orientation concluded with a collective commitment from the ZEC members to uphold the values of the association, work collaboratively, and champion the interests of small-scale enterprises in Mbale Zone. The session set a strong foundation for the new leadership to drive positive change and strengthen the association's presence in the region.

## Mbale ZEC Members Oriented on Mandate and Responsibilities

In a bid to ensure effective leadership and improved service delivery at the zonal level, the newly elected Zonal Executive Committee (ZEC) members in Mbale underwent a comprehensive orientation session focused on their roles, responsibilities, and the expectations of their leadership positions.

The orientation aimed to build the capacity of the incoming ZEC to lead with clarity, accountability, and purpose. The training provided an in-depth understanding of USSIA's governance structure, operational policies, and the strategic role of ZEC members in supporting and representing small-scale industrialists within the zone.

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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).

**BEST PRICE GUARANTEE** **HIGH QUALITY GUARANTEED**

**BUBU** Buy Ugandan

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

**Transport Road**  
Arua City

FOR BOOKING CALL > 0706733792 Or 0787100282



### LEATHER CRAFTING TRAINING

Come master the craft of making elegant and useful leather goods at our fun and educational Leather Crafting Workshop.

- ✓ Hands-On Learning
- ✓ Making of products like leather, belts, open shoes, and keyholders

**THE MONTH OF AUGUST** **FEE: 150,000/=**

**Location:**  
USSIA Facility Center, opposite Brac Bank. Isingiro town

Contact us: 0706545449 or 0778172578

### TRADITIONAL WEAR 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 - 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025 **Starting At** 9:00am

**0705378023 / 0773660688**  
**info@ussia.or.ug**  
**www.ussia.or.ug**

### BAR SOAP MAKING TRAINING

Ready to create something useful, beautiful, and profitable? Join our Bar Soap Making Training and discover how to make high-quality, skin-friendly soaps from scratch!

**30th-31st July, 2025**

**8:00am -1:00pm**

**USSIA Offices, Layibi opposite Gasco petrol station**

**FEE: 50,000/=**

**More Information**  
**www.ussia.or.ug**

**Contact Us**  
**0783446122**



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## UPCOMING EVENTS



### BEEF PROCESSING TRAINING


#### What to learn / Expect

Beef sausages  
Minced meat

Fee: 100,000  
/=

 USSIA Meat processing plant Mbarara

 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> July 2025  
09.00am

 0778172578  
0706545449


Visit Our Website  
[www.ussia.or.ug](http://www.ussia.or.ug)



### EXERCISE BOOKS MAKING TRAINING



Are you ready to turn your creativity into a profitable skill? Our hands-on training in exercise book making is the perfect opportunity to learn how to craft professional-quality books from scratch!

 6th-7th July, 2025

 8:00am - 1:00pm

 USSIA Offices, Layibi  
opposite Gasco petrol station

FEE: 50,000/=

 More Information  
[www.ussia.or.ug](http://www.ussia.or.ug)

 Contact Us  
0783446122



### RE-USABLE PADS TRAINING



19th July 2025 | 9:00AM

Location: USSIA Mbale Offices,  
along Tororo highway

Ready to take control of your health, your wallet, and the environment? Discover the power of crafting your own reusable menstrual pads a sustainable, affordable, and empowering alternative to disposable products.

CALL: 0704278386

 Website  
[www.ussia.or.ug](http://www.ussia.or.ug)

FEE: 50,000/=



For more information  
call 0789104638 or  
0706733792

[www.ussia.or.ug](http://www.ussia.or.ug)



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## START THE JOURNEY OF CERTIFYING YOUR PRODUCT TODAY. THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS

1. Application / process of certification (acquiring a Q mark)

NB: Forms can be obtained from UNBS or the UNBS Website- [www.unbs.go.ug](http://www.unbs.go.ug)

2. The forms are filled and returned to UNBS on-line

3. A date to visit and audit your factory is then set/fixed (at the company's expense)

4. During auditing, samples of the products will be taken for testing in UNBS Labs

5. Product evaluation committee meets to look at the files and then recommend grant or renewal of the permit

6. Grant of permit by UNBS upon payment of the permit fees

7. UNBS performs regular and surprise inspections, including retesting market samples, to ensure continued compliance

8. Certification must be renewed annually, which includes submitting updated documentation, paying fees, and undergoing another inspection.