

# NEWSFLASH



30<sup>th</sup> June - 4<sup>th</sup> July 2025



## LEAD Project Progress Reflected at Partners' Meeting

Partners of the LEAD (Livelihoods and Employment for Artisan Development) Project convened for a reflection and strategy alignment meeting at the USSIA boardroom to take stock of progress made over the past six months and agree on priorities for the next implementation phase. The meeting brought together key stakeholders who play an active role in driving the project forward in Isingiro and Kyegegwa districts.

Now six months into its four-year journey, the LEAD Project is working to empower 1,000 youth and women across five high-potential sectors: bakery, textile, leather processing, motor bicycle repair, and phone repair. The initiative focuses on building sustainable livelihoods through skills training, mentorship, and improved access to markets.

The partners committed to refining delivery models, enhancing support systems for beneficiaries, and deepening collaboration with local stakeholders. As the LEAD Project enters its next phase, the shared focus remains clear: to build a skilled, confident, and self-reliant artisan community that drives economic transformation in Uganda's rural districts.





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## Stakeholders Push for Stronger Cross-Border Trade Systems

On 30th June 2025, key players in Uganda's trade and industrial sectors convened at Silver Springs Hotel, Bugolobi, for a high-level validation meeting focused on enhancing cross-border trade facilitation for agricultural produce. The session, organized by the Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU), sought to review and validate a new report assessing the current state of trade mechanisms between Uganda, Kenya, and South Sudan.

The report, presented by trade consultant Dr. Juliet Kyayesimira, provided a deep dive into the realities faced at major border points including Busia, Malaba, Elegu, and Lwakhakha. Among the top concerns raised were poor infrastructure, inconsistent sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) testing procedures, high informal costs, and gender-related trade barriers that continue to hinder smooth trade flows.

The Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA), participating in the meeting, strongly aligned with the findings and emphasized the need for urgent reforms that benefit small-scale industrialists and agro-processors who rely on regional markets for growth. USSIA backed several of the report's key recommendations, including: Digitization of border clearance processes, Operationalizing aflatoxin testing laboratories, Implementing 24/7 services at major border posts

As the meeting concluded, stakeholders expressed a shared commitment to pushing forward the recommendations through multi-agency collaboration, policy advocacy, and sustained investment in trade infrastructure.



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## Inclusive Post-Budget Dialogues Held in Arua and Mbale

As part of efforts to bridge national fiscal planning with grassroots priorities, the Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) successfully hosted Post-Budget Dialogues for the Financial Year 2025/26 in Arua and Mbale, drawing multi-sector participation and fostering meaningful conversations on Uganda's economic direction.

The dialogues, which were held in collaboration with the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA), aimed to unpack the recently announced national budget and assess its implications for small businesses, civil society, and local development actors. USSIA played a key role in mobilizing stakeholders, ensuring wide and inclusive representation across regions.



In Arua, the dialogue brought together a diverse group of participants including government officials, NGOs, community-based organizations (CBOs), and small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Conversations revolved around how the FY 2025/26 budget could more effectively support value addition, rural industrialization, and SME access to finance. The session concluded successfully with 35 participants drawn from all sectors.



Mbale dialogue, held at Mt. Elgon Hotel, saw an impressive turnout of over 100 USSIA-affiliated participants from across Eastern Uganda. The session, held under the theme "Strengthening Private Sector Voices in National Budget Discussions," served as a powerful platform for SMEs to raise critical policy issues directly with public and private sector leaders.



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USSIA's engagement in the meeting underscored its commitment to advancing the capabilities of small-scale wood processors and furniture makers. By benchmarking against larger players and learning from sector leaders, the association aims to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of its members through knowledge transfer, training, and strategic partnerships.

The event marked a significant step toward aligning the efforts of public and private sector actors in building a resilient, value-driven wood manufacturing sector that benefits both local communities and the national economy

## Strengthening Uganda's Wood Industry: Stakeholders Unite for Sustainable Growth

In a strategic move to bolster Uganda's wood and furniture manufacturing sector, the Uganda Manufacturers Association (UMA), in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, convened a high-level meeting that brought together key players from across the industry. The forum provided a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and exchange of innovative practices aimed at strengthening the wood value chain in Uganda.



Among the key participants was the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA), which joined the meeting with the objective of benchmarking industry best practices and identifying opportunities to support the growth of small-scale wood manufacturers. Through its participation, USSIA sought to gain insights into emerging trends, sustainable sourcing, and modern manufacturing technologies that can be adapted to meet the needs of its diverse membership.



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## Building Stronger Industry Roots: USSIA Engages Potential Members in Mbale

In a continued effort to grow and strengthen the voice of small-scale industries across Uganda, the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) recently carried out membership outreach visits to two potential enterprises in Mbale. The initiative was led by the USSIA Regional Coordinator for the Eastern Region, with the aim of engaging and encouraging local entrepreneurs to join the association.



The spice business—focused on drying, blending, and packaging local herbs and spices—welcomed the discussion on value addition, branding, and tapping into both local and regional markets through USSIA networks.

The carpentry workshop, which specializes in furniture making and interior fittings, expressed interest in learning more about how USSIA could support efforts to improve product quality, acquire modern tools, and expand market reach.



These personalized visits reflect USSIA's hands-on approach to member recruitment, grounded in understanding the unique needs of small businesses and showing them the tangible value of being part of a larger community of entrepreneurs. The Mbale outreach not only helped build awareness about USSIA but also opened the door for continued engagement and possible onboarding of new members from the region.



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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

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**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



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- 30th-31st 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**



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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  
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 6th-7th July, 2025

 8:00am - 1:00pm

 USSIA Offices, Layibi  
opposite Gasco petrol station

**FEE: 50,000/=**

 More Information  
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 Contact Us  
**0783446122**



For more information  
call **0789104638** or  
**0706733792**



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Get exclusive access to Ugandan-made products on our online shop by visiting. Discover a wide range of high-quality, proudly Ugandan-made products all in one place!

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