

8th- 12th September 2025

YEPPAD Launch Sparks Innovation at Sheraton Kampala

The grand launch of the Youth Empowerment & Participation in Policy & Development (YEPPAD) project at Sheraton Kampala was nothing short of inspiring, as young innovators showcased their potential to drive Uganda's future. The event brought together brilliant minds from four leading universities Makerere University (MUK), Muni University (MUNI), Uganda Christian University (UCU), and ISBAT University who pitched transformative ideas under the Entrepreneurship Booster Platform.

In a vibrant and competitive atmosphere, each university presented innovations aimed at addressing social and economic challenges through creativity and technology. The highlight of the day was ISBAT University's groundbreaking innovation,



the Kwetu Hub App, which emerged as the winning idea. The app demonstrated a unique approach to creating opportunities for young entrepreneurs, offering a practical solution to bridge gaps in mentorship, networking, and access to resources.

The YEPPAD project launch was more than a competition it was a platform for youth voices to be heard and their ideas amplified in policy and development spaces. By engaging students in problem-solving and enterprise creation, YEPPAD set the tone for a new wave of youth-led innovations that hold promise for transforming communities and shaping inclusive development in Uganda.



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8th- 12th September 2025



Enterprise Finance Summit 2025 Unlocks Pathways for SMEs

A fresh wave of optimism swept through Uganda's entrepreneurial community as the Enterprise Finance Summit 2025, hosted by Centenary Bank, brought together changemakers determined to rewrite the story of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). With Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) at the table, the summit became more than just a financial dialogue—it transformed into a call to action for SMEs to dream bigger, manage smarter, and seize new growth opportunities.

The summit unveiled Centenary Bank's innovative financing solutions designed with SMEs in mind—tools that can help business owners move from surviving to thriving. But the real spark came from the keynote delivered by Charles Ocici, Director General of Enterprise Uganda, who challenged entrepreneurs to face reality while embracing possibility.

Ocici painted a candid picture of Uganda's entrepreneurial landscape, highlighting the persistent “missing middle,” the short-lived nature of many brands, and the tough truths about loans. Yet, his message was clear: banks are not barriers they are springboards for growth if entrepreneurs know how to use them.

He left business owners with two golden rules to u

1. Keep records religiously not for the sake of paperwork, but as the foundation of trust and credibility.
2. Turn numbers into knowledge analyse your records, separate personal from business growth, and make decisions backed by evidence.

For USSIA members and the wider SME community, the summit wasn't just informative it was inspiring. It reminded entrepreneurs that access to finance is not a dream too far, but a reality that begins with discipline, innovation, and resilience.



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8th- 12th September 2025



Landmark Climate Finance Strategy and Green Taxonomy Unveiled

Kampala's Serena Hotel was transformed into a hub of ambition and innovation on 11th September 2025, as Uganda unveiled a powerful set of tools designed to reimagine its growth story through the lens of sustainability. From government leaders and development partners to private sector trailblazers and civil society champions, the room was united by one mission: to secure Uganda's future through climate-smart finance.

Key tools launched included the National Climate Finance Strategy, the National Green Taxonomy, the National Climate Finance Vehicle, the Country Climate & Development Report, and Guidelines for mainstreaming climate action in the financial sector. Together, these instruments create a framework to align Uganda's financial flows with sustainable development goals while unlocking opportunities for businesses, investors, and communities.

Global partners—including the European Union, World Bank, Denmark, the United Kingdom, and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) pledged continued support to mobilize climate finance, enhance resilience, and accelerate Uganda's tenfold growth agenda through sustainable pathways.

Uganda's leadership was applauded for weaving climate action into national planning, positioning the country as a regional trailblazer in climate finance. For SMEs and industry players, these tools signal new possibilities to innovate, access finance, and thrive in an economy where growth and green ambition go hand in hand.

8th- 12th September 2025

Coffee Dealers Engage on WE WORK Project

The aroma of collaboration filled the air as coffee dealers gathered at the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) secretariat for a stakeholder engagement session centered on the WE WORK Project. The meeting provided a platform for open dialogue, practical insights, and collective brainstorming on how best the project can be rolled out across its three targeted areas of operation.

The discussions focused on aligning the project's goals with the realities faced by coffee entrepreneurs from value chain gaps and financing needs to market opportunities and sustainable practices. Stakeholders emphasized that successful implementation would require not only resources, but also strong partnerships and shared commitment to innovation.



By creating space for dialogue between coffee dealers and industry support bodies, the engagement reaffirmed the power of collaboration in unlocking Uganda's coffee potential. The session closed with a renewed sense of purpose: to make the WE WORK Project a catalyst for resilience, competitiveness, and inclusive growth in Uganda's coffee sector.



For USSIA members, this engagement reaffirmed the Association's commitment to providing platforms where entrepreneurs' voices are heard, their ideas valued, and their growth supported through practical, well-aligned interventions.

8th- 12th September 2025

Strategic Engagement in Mbale Builds Pathways for SME Growth

In the heart of Mbale, a new chapter of collaboration began as the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) Far-Eastern Chapter hosted a strategic engagement with two development partners—Opportunity Bank and the Cost Sharing Facility project implementer. The session, attended by 15 dynamic members drawn from multiple sectors, wasn't just another meeting; it was the spark of fresh opportunities to unlock growth for small-scale industries.

The dialogue went beyond introductions, diving into how financial institutions and enterprise support programs can become true enablers for SMEs. Members explored pathways for affordable financing, technical know-how, and resource mobilization, with a shared vision of transforming small businesses into engines of regional and national development.

For the coffee processor, the textile maker, the agro-producer, and every entrepreneur present, the session opened doors to new possibilities—proof that when partnerships are intentional, they can fuel not just individual businesses, but entire value chains.



As the engagement closed, the atmosphere was charged with optimism. Members left not only with ideas, but with a clear sense of momentum: collaborations that once felt distant are now within reach, and the promise of a stronger, more resilient SME sector in Eastern Uganda is on the horizon.



8th- 12th September 2025

Wine Manufacturers Engage with Packaging Supplier in Strategic Online Session

Innovation met opportunity as 16 wine manufacturers came together in a dynamic online session under the Supplier Series, designed to bridge producers with key industry suppliers. The focus of this edition was on wine packaging materials, a critical component for product quality, branding, and market competitiveness.

The session provided a platform for manufacturers to interact directly with a packaging supplier, gaining insights into the latest trends, cost-effective solutions, and standards required for both local and export markets. From bottle designs and labels to sealing options, participants explored how packaging can elevate their products and capture consumer attention.

The Supplier Series continues to serve as a vital bridge for Uganda's wine industry, empowering manufacturers to innovate, scale, and strengthen their position in an increasingly competitive market.

The dialogue went beyond technical specifications. Manufacturers discussed challenges such as supply chain constraints, affordability, and sourcing consistency. The session also allowed for a rich exchange of ideas on collaborative strategies that can strengthen the wine value chain, including bulk sourcing, co-branding opportunities, and improved logistics for timely delivery.

This engagement is part of USSIA's ongoing commitment to linking entrepreneurs with critical industry suppliers, enabling small-scale producers to access resources, knowledge, and partnerships that support business growth. Participants left the session equipped not only with practical solutions for their packaging needs but also with a stronger understanding of how strategic supplier relationships can enhance competitiveness and open doors to new markets.

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8th- 12th September 2025

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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27th September, 2025



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8th- 12th September 2025



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8th- 12th September 2025

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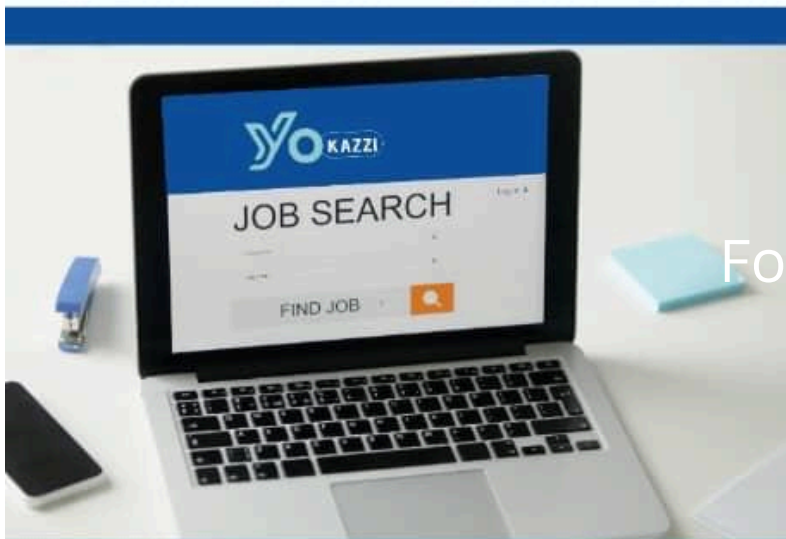
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8th- 12th September 2025

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