

NEWSFLASH

13th-17th October 2025



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Driving Sustainable Industry Through Green Chemistry



A new wave of innovation swept through Hotel Africana as the Green Chemistry Accelerator Demo Day 2025 brought together visionaries redefining the future of sustainable industry. The event, organized by the Uganda Cleaner Production Centre (UCPC) in partnership with UNIDO and Yale University, ran under the inspiring theme “Launching the Future of Green Chemistry.”

USSIA not only deepened collaboration with UCPC but also reaffirmed its dedication to advancing innovation, cleaner production, and sustainable MSME growth. The event marked a pivotal step toward a greener, more resilient industrial ecosystem—where science, entrepreneurship, and policy converge to power Uganda’s sustainable future.

The Demo Day showcased innovators, investors, and policy experts united by a shared mission—to promote environmentally friendly industrial solutions that balance profitability with sustainability. Attendees experienced a dynamic program featuring startup pitching sessions, a high-level panel discussion on “From Lab to Market,” and recognition of outstanding green innovations shaping Uganda’s cleaner production landscape.

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Steering Sustainable Industrial Growth Through Freezones



A new chapter in Uganda's journey toward sustainable industrialization has begun with the launch of the National Steering Committee on the Green Freezones Project, where the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) now holds an influential seat. The committee will oversee the implementation of the project titled "Developing the Capacity of Uganda Freezones Authority to Set Up Export Freezones that Meet Global Green Trade Standards."

The initiative will pilot the development of two model green industrial zones, with Lugazi and Jinja identified as key potential sites. These zones are envisioned to serve as blueprints for sustainable, inclusive, and globally competitive industrial growth.



The inaugural meeting brought together key partners, including the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), the Uganda Free Zones and Export Promotion Authority (UFZEPA), TradeMark Africa, and DANIDA.

The project aims to establish eco-friendly export-free zones that promote environmentally responsible industrial development, aligning with global green trade principles. Its focus areas include sustainable site development, environmental and social governance (ESG) compliance, and mobilization of climate finance to support green investments.

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Unveiling Uganda's Most Promising Value Chains

In a strategic move to strengthen Uganda's industrial landscape, the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) joined other key stakeholders in the completion of a three-day value chain analysis focusing on the textile and leather sectors. The comprehensive study was organized by the Science, Technology, and Innovation Secretariat, with the aim of determining which value chain holds greater profitability and long-term sustainability for investors.

The value chain analysis marks a crucial step toward building a more competitive, profitable, and sustainable textile and leather industry in Uganda, setting the stage for a future where innovation meets opportunity.

The exercise sought to generate evidence-based insights to guide investment decisions, ensuring that resources are directed toward areas with the highest potential for economic return and industrial growth. Through detailed analysis, participants explored every stage of both value chains—from raw material sourcing and processing to production, marketing, and export potential.

During the closing session, Hon. Dr. Monica Musenero, Minister for Science, Technology, and Innovation, urged entrepreneurs to embrace collaboration and make use of all available expertise to enhance the quality and competitiveness of their innovations. "Innovation thrives where people work together," she emphasized, encouraging stakeholders to pool knowledge, technology, and creativity to unlock the full potential of Uganda's manufacturing industries.



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Strengthening Collaboration Under the EU We Work Project

Partners under the EU We Work Project convened for a pivotal training session organized by ENABLE to assess progress and foster deeper collaboration within the Kampala Metropolitan Area. The engagement brought together all implementing partners to share experiences, reflect on milestones, and explore strategies for greater synergy and impact.

The Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) actively participated in the session, contributing insights on how collective effort and continuous collaboration can accelerate the achievement of project goals. The training focused on reviewing project performance, identifying opportunities for joint initiatives, and strengthening communication among the implementing partners.

Participants were guided on how to build synergies, align activities, and create an ecosystem that enhances support to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) within the Kampala metropolitan region. The discussions emphasized the importance of partnership, accountability, and innovation in delivering sustainable outcomes for entrepreneurs.



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Empowering Artisans Through Skill and Innovation



A wave of creativity and empowerment is taking shape at Muni University's Incubation Center, where 20 members of the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) have embarked on an inspiring journey under the Artisans Rising Training Program. The six-week initiative brings together both adults and youths with a shared goal—to refine their leather craft techniques while mastering business management skills that will help them grow sustainable enterprises.

Throughout the six weeks, participants will be exposed to hands-on sessions in design innovation, product finishing, marketing, and enterprise development, blending traditional craftsmanship with modern business practices.

The program is designed not only to strengthen individual capacities but also to create ripple effects of impact through the Rural Employment and Transformation Initiative (RETI) project. By equipping artisans with practical production and entrepreneurial skills, the training aims to position them as change agents who can mentor and inspire others within their communities.

The Artisans Rising Program represents a significant step toward nurturing Uganda's creative industry—bridging the gap between talent and opportunity. As these artisans grow in skill and confidence, they carry with them the promise of transforming local craftsmanship into engines of employment, innovation, and inclusive economic growth.

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Entrepreneurs in Masaka Embrace Online Business Tools

A new wave of digital transformation is sweeping through the entrepreneurial community in Masaka as local business owners are onboarded onto Yokazzi and the E-Starters Platform, while also being introduced to the USSIA Online Shop. The initiative aims to equip small-scale entrepreneurs with the digital tools and knowledge needed to market their products, expand their reach, and boost online sales.

The session provided hands-on guidance on how to create and manage digital profiles, upload products, process online transactions, and leverage e-commerce platforms to grow their businesses. By embracing these platforms, artisans and small manufacturers in Masaka are gaining access to a broader market ecosystem, connecting them to customers beyond their physical locations.

The USSIA Online Shop in particular is serving as a vital bridge—linking Uganda's small-scale producers to local and global buyers while promoting visibility for made-in-Uganda products. Participants expressed enthusiasm about the potential to digitally showcase their innovations and strengthen their brand presence in a rapidly evolving market.

This digital onboarding marks a significant milestone in empowering MSMEs to thrive in the digital economy, reinforcing the importance of technology in driving inclusive and sustainable industrial growth across Uganda.



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Entrepreneurs Gain Clarity on Excise Duty and Digital Stamps

In a continued effort to build tax awareness and compliance among small-scale enterprises, the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA), in partnership with the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), organized an awareness session on excise duty and digital stamps. The interactive session attracted 18 USSIA members, all eager to deepen their understanding of Uganda's evolving tax landscape.

The session provided participants with practical insights into how excise duty operates, which products are affected, and the procedures for implementing digital tax stamps. URA officials took participants through step-by-step guidance on registration, compliance requirements, and the role of digital stamps in enhancing transparency and curbing counterfeit goods.



Members actively engaged in discussions, seeking clarity on how these tax obligations apply to their various sectors, and how to remain compliant while maintaining business growth. The facilitators emphasized that understanding tax systems is key to building trust, competitiveness, and long-term sustainability for small-scale industries.



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Wakiso Entrepreneurs Honored with USSIA Membership Certificates



A spirit of pride and accomplishment filled the air as 11 entrepreneurs from Wakiso District received their official membership certificates under the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA). The certification marks an important milestone for the members, symbolizing their formal inclusion in Uganda's growing community of small-scale industrialists.

During the handover, the recipients expressed deep gratitude for USSIA's continued support, noting that their businesses have experienced remarkable growth through the association's guidance, training, and networking opportunities. For many, joining USSIA has opened doors to new markets, business development knowledge, and a stronger sense of belonging within Uganda's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The certification exercise also served as a reminder of the power of collective effort in strengthening small industries and promoting local enterprise development.



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Customer Service Week



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UPCOMING EVENTS



TAX PLANNING

Why attend

Take charge of your business finances—join our Tax Planning Session and discover smart strategies to save more, grow faster, and stay ahead of the game!



Training Details



21st October 2025



USSIA Offices, UMA show grounds
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