

Uganda Development Bank Inspires Development through Supporting Innovations and Start-up Enterprises.

Celebrating and Supporting Innovation: The UDB i-Growth Accelerator Program

Uganda Development Bank Limited (UDBL) in partnership with the ResilientAfrica Network (RAN Innovation Lab) launched the inaugural **UDB i-Growth Accelerator Program** in November 2017 focusing on supporting the commercialization of local start-ups and stimulating a culture of innovation in Uganda. The program is in tandem with UDB's mandate of fostering socio economic development through intervention in priority sectors of the economy.

The Program, held under the theme **'Towards a Smart and Sustainable Agricultural and Manufacturing Sector'** for 2017, targeted local start-up enterprises in the Agriculture and manufacturing sectors that require financial support to grow and commercialize.



L-R: Nathan Tumuhairwe (RAN), Chief Executive Officer UDB Patricia Ojwangi, Professor William Bwalya (RAN), Dr. Dorothy Okello (RAN) Conduct a press briefing at the launch of the 2017 i-Growth Accelerator Program.

The call was open to individuals, youth groups, community based organisations, vocational institutes, students, and young entrepreneurs involved in projects that demonstrated transformative interventions in the form of 'solutions' or 'technologies'. Additionally, the successful projects had to portray attributes of regional, national and community-level scalability, creation of employment opportunities, multi-sectoral collaboration, and environmental conservation. Other aspects include: Originality of the idea, business sustainability, clear implementation plan, cost effectiveness and a clear competitive advantage of the solution.

At the close of the 8-week application window on 25th January 2018, a total of 430 projects were submitted for vetting. These were reviewed by a diverse panel of 20 Judges who selected the projects that best fit the application criteria. The top 25 applicants were granted the opportunity to showcase their projects at a public Exhibition held at Hotel Africana on 28th of February 2018.

The eventual award recipients were unveiled at a function presided over by the State Minister for Finance, Planning and Economic Development Incharge of general duties, Dr Gabriel Ajedra.



Chief Executive Officer UDB Patricia Ojwangi exchanges the MCU with Professor William Bwalya, the Chief of Party of RAN.

UDB UNVEILS WINNERS OF THE 2017 i-GROWTH ACCELERATOR PROGRAM AWARDS

TOP WINNER

GUIDE LEISURE FARM OF THE ORGAPESTICIDE INNOVATION TOOK HOME THE FIRST PRIZE OF UGX 25 MILLION.



Dr Gabriel Ajedra Andru, flanked by Prof. Samuel Sejjaka, Board Chair UDB, CEO UDB Patricia Ojwangi hands over a cheque of Ugx 25 million to Gudula Njaga Bwaza, the promoter of Guide Leisure Farm.

In order to maintain productive soil quality as well as fight crop pests, farmers in Uganda usually rely on use of chemicals and other forms of pesticides, some of which are hazardous to the environment and human life.

In response, Gudula Leisure Farm produces Orgapesticide, an organic fertilizer made from pepper, garlic and hydrogen from earthworms. The farm also integrates other low cost agricultural approaches and practices including 'Resol' (an organic soil enhancer that boosts soil quality), Orgafume (uses micro-organisms and yeast bacteria to colonise harmful organisms). The farm is also conducting trials for weed master, an organic weed control solution.

The project has been in existence for 2 years and has the capacity to produce 500 liters of Orgapesticide per week. Their intention is to reduce farmers losses associated with pests and diseases.



Dr Gudula explains the process of how to use Orgapesticide at the i-Growth expo.

The Winner's Testimony

"A few years back, I committed to transform 200,000 smallholder farmers to commercial farmers by 2026. These would grow on ten metrics that are measurable on a growth ladder, the ultimate being:

- Ability to save UGX10,000 per day,
- Business worth of UGX10m,
- Employing 4 persons,
- Balanced food security for the family,
- Using renewable energy for heating and lighting plus embracing organic farming,
- Secure health through family health insurance,
- Acquisition of basic assets (land, home, communication and transport means among others),
- Joining the Guide Cooperative,
- A net income of US\$50 per month and being able to pay taxes on profit.

In the last five years we reached 37,800 farmers in 315 villages. They are hardworking yet they earn so little, a big indicator of time poverty. We have been challenged to find solutions to the challenges that limit their productivity and thus profitability. We have made an ecosystem mapping of the

FIRST RUNNER-UP

HYBRID SLAGGE AND HAY MACHINE WON 10 MILLION UGANDA SHILLINGS.



Bryan Seemanga the inventor of Hybrid Slagge and Hay Machine receives his cheque of Ugx 10 million from Prof. Samuel Sejjaka the Chairman UDB.

As a response to the unpredictable weather patterns, members of this team come together to develop an affordable, locally produced and maintained hybrid Hay and Slagge Machine.

The Machine produces and compacts Hay and slagge that can be kept for a period of up to 5-years; this enables farmers to feed their animals through periods of drought and scarcity. Additionally, the solution not only combines Hay and Slagge production there by eliminating the need for two separate machines, it also provides a cost effective alternative to the Hay and Slagge production machines in Uganda that are imported.



The project has been in existence for nearly two years and has been tested variously on farms in Mukono. Tests have confirmed that the machine can produce 20 tones of hay or slagge over a period of 10 hours using just 24 liters of diesel.

partners we need for backstopping so that we offer a comprehensive solution. These include the National Agriculture Research Organization (NARO), Mannerheim University of Germany, Makerere University Business School, afcu bank, Private Sector Foundation of Uganda and Uganda women entrepreneurs Association limited.

We responded to the UDB 2017 i-Growth Accelerator call seeking innovation to address farmers' challenges at production. We had four products that we had developed and proved to enhance farmer productivity, marketability of produce and ultimately profitability. We submitted two innovations and Orgapesticide emerged a winner. Orgapesticide is an organic pesticide that relies on the anti-virus, anti-fungal and anti-bacterial properties of garlic, insect repelling properties of pepper, stinging nettle and hydrogen and animal urine. This combination has given us a superior organic product for preventing and controlling pests and diseases.

We are very excited because we shall contribute to reduction of losses due to pests and diseases. It is estimated that a farmer loses

SECOND WINNER

SOLAR IRRIGATION PUMP, A PROJECT THAT HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR A YEAR WON THE PRIZE OF UGX 5 MILLION.



CEO UDB Patricia hands over a Ugx 5 million cheque to Senga Pump officials.

On the back of increased incidences of prolonged drought, the youthful team from Senga Pump Ltd. developed a Low Cost Solar Irrigation Pump.

The pump is manufactured from locally sourced materials and uses solar renewable energy. It also comes with a sprinkler mechanism that is also locally fabricated. The set is priced at Ugx 600,000. The team has reported the project with three farmers who have reported positively about its functionality.



Locally made solar irrigation pump.

up to 20% of their produce before harvest, 40% post-harvest and 100% at export because of pests and diseases. Farmers are willing to pay a premium for organic products. We need to guarantee that there are organic solutions along the value chain that can be traced and tested. Uganda has a competitive advantage in marketing organic products. Our ambition is to have an agent in each district in Uganda by the end of five years. We want to contribute to policy and promotion of marketing organic products.

What does the winning mean? Apart from the increased visibility, the Ugx 25 million that we won and the potential to access equity financing to increase investment in our project in a shorter time, the grant will support our initiatives for increased production to meet the demands, more research and certification of our product, increased promotion and opening an organic solutions outlet in container village in addition to getting agents in various towns of Uganda."

Gudula Njaga Bwaza, PhD Grand Winner, 2017 UDB i-Growth Accelerator Awards

Other Finalists

Bank at House Factor X-change

This team identified poor packaging of agricultural produce as one of the major challenges in the agricultural sector. They therefore came up with their project - a solution that uses 3 pig bags to keep produce for longer periods and enable the produce to earn better. The team further works to link farms to whole seller to increase their revenues

EcoSmart Pads

This project has been in existence for 8 months. The project utilizes sugar cane fibre/ residue to produce eco-friendly sanitary pads, thereby minimize agricultural waste whilst also addressing reproductive health needs. Since its start, the project has supported 420 women and girls, and employs several individuals within the chain of production. The project has also indirectly impacted the productivity of adolescent girls and women, offering them low-cost sanitary pads.

Kados

This project was founded by four University students. They came up with a mobile application that helps farmers in rural areas gain knowledge and access to appropriate markets, in a language of their convenience. The platform also includes support for farmers to access affordable loans. The project was named kados, a term that means 'above the rest'.

Sparky Dryer

This project was founded by two recent graduates of mechanical engineering who were inspired by the background of their families being majority dependent on agriculture, and yet facing the challenge of extra produce rotting every season. They decided to develop a product to improve storage of agricultural produce. They based their product on locally used methods of drying by making improvements to provide a faster and more hygienic drying. The sparky dryer is 5X faster than traditional sun drying and 2X faster than the existing solar dryers.

Oribags

This project has been in existence for 8 years. The concept was birthed at a time when there was a lot of debate over the regulation of plastic bags (Kovara). These plastic bags are often discarded, blocking drainage systems or burnt, resulting in pollution of the environment.

After identifying a solution to this problem, the founder approached an agricultural research institute to test her solution, an environmentally friendly paper product processed from bio-waste, agricultural fibres and other forms of waste like cotton waste, offcuts from shopping malls, among others.

To date, Oribags has over 30 designs of gift boxes and paper bags that are available in 40 stores across the country. Oribags has also collaborated with various farmer groups from whom they collect waste and whom they have trained in waste management; they have also helped them establish other revenue streams through the sale of this waste.



Professor William Bwalya hands over a cheque to Eco Smart Pads Official.

Mr. Henry Bwalya Magina, member of the Board(UDB) hands over a cheque to Oribags officials.

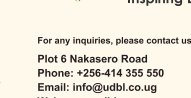


Mr. Nimrod Wanziba, member of the Board(UDB) hands over a cheque to Sparky Dryer.

Prof. Samboos Nowangwe, the Vice Chancellor Makerere University hands over a cheque to Kados officials.



Hon Vincent Wabwaba MP Bududa County East hands over a cheque to Oribags from Kados.



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