



Stanbic Business
Incubator Limited

EMPOWERING SMEs TO GROW AND THRIVE SUSTAINABLY

QUARTER 2
NEWSLETTER

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As Uganda's trusted partner in enterprise development, we remain committed to empowering micro, small, and medium enterprises to grow, scale, and thrive sustainably. We're excited to share our latest updates, insights, and opportunities with you.

NEWSLETTER



Chief Executive's Foreword

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Catherine Poran,

Chief Executive,
Stanbic Business Incubator

Warm greetings from all of us at the Stanbic Business Incubator!

We closed the second quarter of 2025 on a high note with a vibrant and memorable graduation ceremony for the 2024 cohorts of the Stanbic Accelerator Programme (SAP) and the Supplier Development Programme (SDP).

Congratulations to the 48 entrepreneurs who successfully completed nine months of intensive training and capacity building. Your dedication, growth, and resilience inspire us all.

As we step into the third quarter, we're excited to introduce two new, high-impact programmes. But first, let's take a moment to celebrate an important policy win for Uganda's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

In the recently announced national budget, the government introduced a three-year tax holiday for start-ups, effective July 1st. This is a landmark policy shift that provides emerging entrepreneurs with much-needed breathing space. It's a powerful incentive to take risks, test new ideas, and innovate—without the immediate pressure of tax obligations.

At the Stanbic Business Incubator, we wholeheartedly welcome this development. It directly supports our mission to reduce the barriers to enterprise growth and unlock the potential of Uganda's next generation of business leaders.

One of our major new initiatives this quarter is the Agribusiness Albertine Development Programme (ADP), launched in Hoima City. This six-month programme is designed to empower commercial horticulture farmers in the Albertine Region with practical skills in financial management, production tracking, and market access.

In parallel, we are also inviting applications for the Women Entrepreneurs for the Green Transformation in Africa (WE4D) Programme—a regional initiative running in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania. This programme is tailored for women-led businesses working in sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, the circular economy and waste management.

If you're an entrepreneur passionate about driving sustainable change, don't miss this opportunity to scale your green enterprise. Beyond the intensive capacity building, successful applicants will also be well-positioned to access credit financing from Stanbic Bank Uganda, our sister company under the Stanbic Uganda Holdings Limited umbrella.

At the Stanbic Business Incubator, we remain deeply committed to your journey. Whether you are just starting out or looking to scale, we're here to walk with you—offering practical skilling, networking, mentorship, and the tools to unlock finance and markets. Here's to building a more resilient, inclusive, and prosperous Uganda—one entrepreneur at a time!

SBIL Champions Green Growth, Agribusiness & Entrepreneurship in Uganda

Stanbic Business Incubator Limited (SBIL) continues to drive sustainable development through multiple initiatives. The 2025 Agribusiness Albertine Development Programme, launched with UNOC and Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom, supports horticultural farmers in Hoima, Buliisa, and Kikuube with training in GAP, market access, and financial literacy. SBIL also celebrated the graduation of 48 entrepreneurs from its 2024 Accelerator and Supplier Development Programmes.

Meanwhile, the Uganda Climate Smart Jobs Programme engaged over 1,100 innovators through the Uganda Climate Innovation Fund. Additionally, SBIL and GIZ launched Cohort 2 of the Women Entrepreneurs for the Green Transformation in Africa (WE4D) Programme. This initiative aims to support women-led green businesses in Kampala, Mukono, and Wakiso with business development and access to financing.

SBIL Launches the 2025 Agribusiness Albertine Development Programme (ADP)



The Stanbic Business Incubator Limited (SBIL), in partnership with the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC) and the Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom, has officially launched the 2025 Agribusiness Albertine Development Programme—a six-month project aimed at empowering horticultural commercial farmers in the Albertine region.

The programme is being implemented across **Hoima City, Hoima District, Buliisa District, and Kikuube District**, with the goal of enhancing agricultural skills, addressing Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), improving market access, and strengthening financial literacy. Farmers will also receive guidance on quality standards and financial products available through Stanbic Bank.

From April 22nd to 25th, 2025, SBIL and its partners conducted information and needs assessment sessions in the target districts. These sessions engaged district officials and commercial farmers to introduce the programme and identify key challenges and opportunities in the region. A total of **34 commercial farmers** participated in these sessions.

The programme will proceed with capacity-building trainings and site visits to further support the selected commercial farmers by:

NEXT STEPS

Incorporating strong market access components

Delivering tailored training modules on Good Agricultural Practices and value addition

Strengthening extension services

Improving access to inputs such as seeds and irrigation systems.

This initiative underscores SBIL's commitment to fostering sustainable agribusiness growth and integrating local farmers into broader economic value chains.

SBIL Celebrates Graduation of 2024 Stanbic Accelerator Programme (SAP) and Supplier Development Programme (SDP) cohorts.

On May 16th, 2025, The Stanbic Business Incubator Limited (SBIL), proudly hosted the graduation ceremony for the 2024 cohorts of its flagship capacity-building programmes: the Stanbic Accelerator Programme (SAP) and the Supplier Development Programme (SDP).

The event celebrated the achievements of 48 entrepreneurs who successfully completed a rigorous nine-month journey of training, mentorship, and coaching.

Held at the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) Auditorium, the ceremony was themed "Stand Out for Uganda – Elevating the Next Chapter for Ugandan Businesses!" This theme served as a rallying call for graduates to rise above the challenges faced by SMEs and become key drivers of Uganda's socio-economic transformation.

Inspiring Words from Industry Leaders

Bruce Mpamizo, Executive Director of Movit Products Limited, delivered the keynote address, encouraging graduates to stay focused and resilient:

During tough times, always return to your core goals. Seek mentorship, do your research, and innovate. That's how we've grown Movit into a brand present in over eight African countries.

Empowering Entrepreneurs for Sustainable Growth

Launched in April 2024, the SAP and SDP programmes were designed to equip entrepreneurs with the skills, tools, and networks needed to scale their businesses and contribute meaningfully to Uganda's economic development.

The Stanbic Accelerator Programme (SAP) focused on investment readiness, helping business owners build capacity to raise capital, strengthen operations, and become bankable.

The Supplier Development Programme (SDP) targeted SMEs in Uganda's energy sector, offering insights into market trends, sector-specific challenges, and opportunities. It also facilitated market linkages and explored funding options, including grants and loans.

Leadership Perspectives

Speaking at the event, Francis Karuhanga, Chief Executive of SUHL, emphasized the importance of SME sustainability:

"Uganda has consistently ranked high on the Global Entrepreneurship Index, but our challenge remains the longevity of these businesses. At Stanbic, we believe that empowering SMEs is key to building economic resilience and sustainable growth."

Catherine A. Poran, Chief Executive of SBIL, echoed this sentiment, highlighting the alignment of SBIL's work with Uganda's National Development Plan (NDP) IV:

"MSMEs make up 90% of Uganda's private sector and contribute over 75% of GDP. Yet, their transition to the next level remains limited. Our programmes are designed to bridge this gap by improving access to finance, markets, and technical expertise."





Climate Smart Jobs Programme

UCIF Window III: Igniting Innovation Across Uganda

During the past quarter, the Climate Smart Jobs programme (CSJ) launched an ambitious outreach campaign to promote the third window of the Uganda Climate Innovation Fund (UCIF).

Through a series of targeted and regional field sessions, CSJ inspired and informed innovators from diverse backgrounds to apply for the grant opportunity.

These sessions reached an impressive 1,164 participants — 722 men and 442 women — across Uganda, with a strong focus on refugees (urban and rural), universities, higher learning institutions, farmer organizations, and research institutions like NARO. The events included ideations and information sessions, creating vibrant spaces for idea exchange and collaboration.

West Nile saw high engagement, especially at Muni University, which hosted two major sessions drawing over

300 participants. - Lango and Acholi sub-regions welcomed innovators from institutions like Lira University and Gulu University, as well as local cooperatives and agri-based organizations. - Western Uganda featured sessions at Bishop Stuart University and Mbarara University of Science & Technology (MUST).

1,164
participants
722 men | **442** women
across
Uganda

Urban refugee communities in areas like Lukuli Konge and Namungoona were actively involved, with a notable turnout of women participants. Eastern Uganda was represented by Busitema University, engaging students from both engineering and agricultural faculties.

A total of 305 concept notes were submitted under Window III. These are currently undergoing a rigorous eligibility check, scoring, and calibration by the grant selection judges. The most promising ideas will move forward for final selection.

While Window III gained momentum, CSJ also focused on onboarding four successful pioneers from Window II. These innovators participated in a workshop to align on contracting requirements, including milestone development, budgeting, and work planning. Meanwhile, Window I pioneers continued to receive incubation support in areas such as relationship management, financial planning, and contractual compliance, ensuring their projects remain on track and impactful.

Looking Ahead with each window, UCIF continues to unlock the potential of Uganda's innovators. The journey is far from over, and the seeds planted today promise a harvest of transformative solutions for tomorrow.

FINANCING FOR **GREEN** WOMEN-LED ENTERPRISES

Green Business and Jobs for the Green Transformation Project Uganda

The Women Entrepreneurs for the Green Transformation in Africa (WE4D) Programme is a regional initiative currently being implemented in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania. The project aims to foster the growth of green and women-led businesses that are committed to driving sustainable change.

Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and supported by the European Union and the Government of Norway, the program is implemented in Uganda by GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) GmbH, in partnership with the Stanbic Business Incubator (SBIL) and the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development (MGLSD).

 **Take the next step toward growing your impact-driven business!**

Apply Now:
<https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/QWESws>

Now Accepting Applications

The Stanbic Business Incubator (SBIL) is inviting applications from businesses located in Kampala, Mukono, and Wakiso that operate in the following sectors:

- Sustainable Agriculture
- Circular Economy & Waste Management
- Renewable Energy

We especially encourage female-led or women-owned enterprises with a strong vision for transformative green innovation to apply.

Call for Applications Cohort 2

Don't miss the chance to position your enterprise among a select group of forward-thinking businesses building bankable, sustainable, and competitive green business models. Through this opportunity, successful applicants will receive customized business development support and gain access to credit financing from Stanbic Bank to scale their green initiatives.



Driving Uganda's Agro-Industrial Future: Highlights from the Stanbic Consumer Conference

In Q2 2025, the Stanbic Consumer Conference convened key stakeholders under the theme “Accelerating the Momentum Towards Agro-Industrialisation.” The event spotlighted Uganda’s urgent need to transition from exporting raw agricultural products to building a robust value-added economy.

Government officials, financial leaders, and policymakers echoed a unified message: Uganda cannot afford to continue exporting raw coffee, maize, and other commodities without processing. The call to action was clear: invest in agro-processing, packaging, and compliance with international standards to unlock global markets and uplift rural livelihoods.



State Minister for Animal Industry, Hon. Bright Rwamirama, emphasized the need for affordable financing and lower interest rates to empower farmers and agribusinesses. Despite a significant budget cut to the agro-industrialisation sector—from UGX 1.08 trillion to UGX 170 billion—momentum remains strong.

Stanbic Bank reaffirmed its commitment to this transformation by championing innovative financing models, digital tools for farmers, and strategic partnerships. The bank continues to play a pivotal role in enabling Uganda’s journey from subsistence farming to becoming a regional agro-industrial powerhouse. As Uganda targets a tenfold GDP growth by 2040, the conference served as a timely reminder: value addition is not just an economic strategy—it’s a national imperative.

Portfolio Management for Business Sustainability

As part of our commitment to unlocking the full potential of Small and Growing Businesses (SGBs) within the NSSF Hi-Innovator Program, the Stanbic Business Incubator has launched a focused 6-month business growth support initiative. This effort is embedded within our broader portfolio management strategy aimed at accelerating the readiness of SGBs for scale and investment.

Through this initiative, we are offering hands-on business development services tailored to the unique needs of 22 SGBs in our portfolio. Working closely with a dedicated consultant, each business will undergo a needs-based assessment followed by personalized on-site mentorship and strategic growth planning.

The journey also includes active involvement from the Incubator team and Stanbic Bank business bankers to create a collaborative ecosystem of support. Our goal is to ensure these businesses are better positioned to access funding, improve operations, and build sustainable enterprises capable of long-term impact.

As part of this process, we have already begun conducting joint field visits with business bankers to several SGBs that previously received seed capital under the NSSF Hi-Innovator Program—each having received up to USD 20,000 in funding.

These visits are helping identify businesses ready for follow-on financing, while also giving the bank an opportunity to understand the context and capital needs of these enterprises firsthand. We believe that by bringing ecosystem players closer to the entrepreneurs, we can unlock new capital pathways and deepen support where it matters most.



THE STANBIC UNIT TRUST

The Stanbic Unit Trust is an investment vehicle that enables you to pool your money together with several investors, to be invested in the capital markets by a professional fund manager. The fund manager aims to deliver a favourable return on your investment through investing in a range of securities that include fixed income and equity assets.

The SBGS Umbrella Unit Trust Fund is comprised of three sub funds as follows:

The Money Market Fund

invests in low-risk, short term fixed income instruments with a maturity of less than 12 months and aims to protect investor capital while providing competitive returns more than short-term deposit rates. The fund is suitable for investors with a short-term investment horizon, high liquidity needs and a conservative risk profile. The average yield on the fund for the month of May 2025 was 10.9%.

The Bond Fund

invests in fixed income instruments across all available tenors with investments in term and call deposits, treasury bills, treasury bonds, corporate bonds, and commercial paper. The fund has a target portfolio duration of 3.5 to 4 years and seeks to generate competitive returns above money-market rates while providing capital preservation. The fund is suitable for investors with a medium-term investment horizon and a moderate risk profile. The fund returned an Effective Annual Yield of 15.8% for the month of May 2025.

Money Market Fund (%)

May-25 (E.A.Y)	YTD 25 Avg. (E.A.Y)	2024 Av. Yield
10.9	10.6	9.7

Bond Fund (%)

May-25 (E.A.Y)	YTD 25 Avg. (E.A.Y)	2024 (E.A.Y)
15.8	14.9	12.53

The Balanced Fund

invests in a mix of fixed income instruments across all tenors and publicly listed equity instruments. The fund seeks to maximise total return with a target portfolio duration of 4 years. The Balanced Fund is suitable for investors seeking long-term capital growth and who are comfortable with periodic fluctuations in returns. The fund returned an Effective Annual Yield of 14.6% for the month of May 2025.

Balanced Fund (%)

May-25 (E.A.Y)	YTD 25 Avg. (E.A.Y)	2024 (E.A.Y)
14.6	13.9	11.85

How to invest

Individuals

Visit our website www.sbgsecurities.co.ug.
Or Click <https://invest.sbgsecurities.co.ug/>
to create an account. You will be required to attach:
passport size photograph
a copy of your National ID
A confirmation will be sent to your registered email.

Corporates, Trust Accounts and Joint Accounts

Visit our offices at Crested Tower, Block D, Ground
Floor, Plot 17 Hannington Road
Contacts: **031222 6649 / 4587**
Website: www.sbgsecurities.co.ug

Empowering Agribusiness and the Green Economy through Vehicle and Asset Finance (Supporting SMEs for a Sustainable Future)

Why Agribusiness and the Green Economy Matter

Over 70% of Uganda's population is employed in agriculture. SMEs are the backbone of agricultural value chains. The Green Economy promotes eco-friendly, sustainable, and climate-smart solutions.

Vehicle & Asset Finance: A Catalyst for Agribusiness Transformation

Easy access to essential assets: tractors, irrigation systems, solar dryers. Flexible financing aligned with seasonal cash flows. Empowering stakeholders across the value chain—farmers, processors, and aggregators.

Impact Highlights (Q2 Snapshot)

- 150+ agri-equipment loans disbursed
- 60% of financed assets support post-harvest value addition
- 20 SMEs financed for solar-based irrigation systems
- 25% reduction in post-harvest losses among supported SMEs

Our Key Financing Solutions

Agri-Asset Finance: New and used tractors, harvesters, sprayers.

Green Energy Equipment Finance: Solar-powered cold rooms, irrigation pumps.

Transport Finance: Vehicles for produce delivery and logistics.

Processing Equipment Finance: Mills, dryers, packaging machines.

Financing Terms: Up to 80% financing
Competitive 12% interest rate under the Agricultural Credit Facility (ACF) Repayment periods of up to 60 months



Driving the Green Agenda

Financing climate-smart agricultural equipment

Promoting solar-powered and energy-efficient solutions

Partnering with eco-tech suppliers for bundled offers

Offering incentives for SMEs adopting sustainable practices

Basic Eligibility Criteria

Business Registration & Legal Status

Must be a registered entity (sole proprietorship, partnership, company, etc.).
Valid trading license and registration documents

Creditworthiness

Clean record with the Credit Reference Bureau (CRB)
No recent defaults or bounced cheques

Purpose of Finance

Acquisition of income-generating assets that enhance productivity

Business Vintage

Minimum 2 years of operational history
New businesses may require guarantors

Business Vintage

Minimum 2 years of operational history
New businesses may require guarantors

Proof of Income

Demonstrated ability to service loan repayments

Reach out to our team for more information or to apply:

Denis Zziwa:
0787 422 452

Arthur Ochwo:
0773 049 064

Alumni Spotlight:



Unlocking Green Business Potential through the Stanbic Business Incubator

Julius Busingye

Company: **Eco-Fresh Solutions Ltd**
Sector: **Green Business**

Julius Busingye, founder of Eco-Fresh Solutions Ltd, is a proud alumnus of the Stanbic Business Incubator Programme. His journey is a testament to how structured business training and strategic exposure can unlock new opportunities and elevate entrepreneurial ventures.

“The programme equipped me with contemporary business practices and corporate governance principles,” Julius shares.



Incorporating these into our daily operations has transformed our business and made us more attractive to investors.



One of the standout moments for Julius was a field trip to Uganda’s Albertine region in July 2024. The trip opened his eyes to the vast potential in the Oil and Gas sector an area he had previously overlooked.

Following the trip, Julius benefited from a facilitated registration with the National Suppliers Database by the Petroleum Authority of Uganda a critical step for businesses aiming to bid in the sector. “This significantly boosted our competitiveness,” he notes.

Beyond business insights, the programme also fostered a strong network of like-minded entrepreneurs. “It created a platform to share challenges and solutions based on real experiences,” Julius added.

Alumni Spotlight:



**Easy Ride Accident Solutions Ltd –
Driving Innovation at Easy Ride
Accident Solutions Ltd**

Isaac Kiwanda

**Company: Easy Ride Accident
Solutions Ltd**

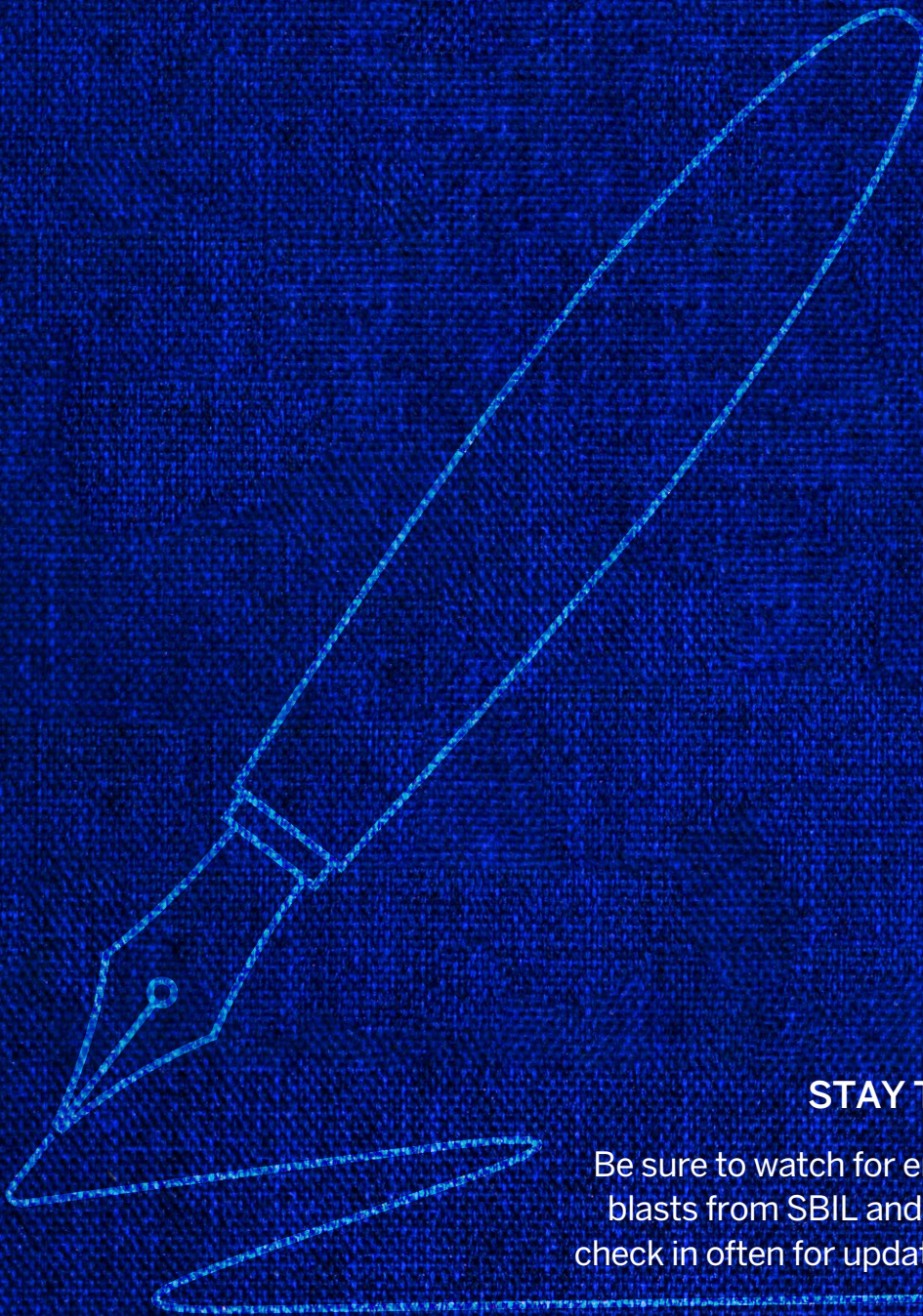
In 2024–2025, under the visionary leadership of Isaac Kiwanda, Easy Ride Accident Solutions Ltd achieved a major milestone surpassing \$1 million in annual revenue. This success reflects a strategic blend of innovation, customer focus, and operational excellence.

By leveraging digital platforms including a web and mobile app Easy Ride reached **10%** of Uganda's **\$42M** serviceable market for towing and repair services.

The introduction of Auto Credit, a financing solution for customers and partner garages, contributed 20% of revenue growth, making vehicle repair more accessible. The company recorded 30% year-on-year revenue growth.

Customer satisfaction was a top priority. Easy Ride conducted over 1,200 rescues, expanded its portfolio to 65 corporate clients, and achieved a 4-star customer satisfaction rating. A dedicated customer service and emergency center was established to improve communication and resolution rates.

Internally, the company built a high-performing, agile team and improved employee engagement through strong values and mentorship. Isaac's participation in the Stanbic Business Incubator Supplier Development Programme, provided hands-on support and strategic training, empowering the company to scale effectively.



STAY TUNED

Be sure to watch for emails, social media blasts from SBIL and other partners so check in often for updates and information!

Twitter: **@SBIncubatorUG**

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FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT



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