Stanbic Bank Uganda signed up to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Gender Equality Seal Certification Programme for public and private enterprises which aims to reduce gender gaps and promote equality at the work place and women’s economic empowerment. Pursuit of gender equality at workplace sets in motion employee performance schemes that reduce gender gaps, improving staff productivity and business profitability.

Gender equality and women empowerment is goal No.5 of the 2030 Agenda and it’s 17 sustainable development Goals that was adopted in September 2015 at an historic United Nations summit. The 2030 Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. Its mantra is “Leave Noone behind” and hence the importance of Gender Equality.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Stanbic Uganda’s Chief Executive Officer, Patrick Muheirwe said Stanbic is committed to reaching parity in leadership and executive positions across all our operations.

UNDP Resident Representative, Elssie Attahfuah said that Stanbic, one of Africa’s most recognized brands has made history by standing side by side with UNDP, and indeed, the larger United Nations family on the Gender Equality Seal. She explained that Gender Equality being recognized and affirmed as a precondition for the realization of sustainable development as it promises, “achievement (not just promotion) of equality and empowerment all women and girls.”

“I applaud UNDP Uganda for tracking the advancement of women in the private sector. Since the 41 private sector companies signed onto the Gender Equality Seal (GES) certification programme and their staff trained, we have seen significant behavioral and attitudinal changes in the companies.” Said Gideon Badagawa, Executive Director PSFU

UNDP is supporting public and private enterprises to implement Gender Equality Seal Programme which calls for gender equality at the workplace. Through the programme, UNDP provides both public and private institutions with tools to enable them put in place policies, products and services that are gender sensitive and inclusive for all. The institutions that sign-up to the GES are monitored through several stages before they get the certification. Companies that have signed on the GES Certification Programme have reported a motivated and more efficient workforce, with equitable policies that give equal opportunities for every employee with similar qualifications, regardless of their gender.

On August 16, 2016, Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) pledged to adopt the Gender Equality Seal Certification Programme for private enterprises. Stanbic signing makes it number 42 of the private enterprises that have since signed up to GES.
UGANDA TANZANIA BUSINESS SUMMIT

The two-day Uganda Tanzania business summit was held on 4th September 2019 at Julius Nyerere International Convention centre, Dar-es-salaam under the theme ‘Promoting bilateral trade and investment for growth and sustainable development’. The Forum was organized by the Uganda High Commission in Dar-es-salaam in partnership with PSFU & Tanzania Private Sector Foundation.

Over 500 business people and investors from Uganda & Tanzania attended the business Forum to share experiences, create business to business networks, and identify opportunities, as well as solutions to challenges of on-going trade and investments. There was also an opportunity for companies & businesses to showcase their products and services at the exhibition.

The two heads of state, Presidents Yoweri Museveni and John Magufuli graced this forum and key on their agenda was the removal of trade tariffs and other barriers that have affected the business relations of the two neighbouring East African countries. The two countries signed memoranda of understanding aimed at resolving bilateral issues such as immigration, work permits and higher inspection fees for their goods.

PRIVATE SECTOR WORKSHOPS ON INCREASING GREEN INVESTMENTS TO ACCELERATE NDC IMPLEMENTATION.

The UNDP NDC Support Programme in collaboration with PSFU, CCD/MWE and other partners including NDC Partnership (NDCP), GIZ, UNFCCC RCC organized a two-day (11th – 12th September, 2019) hands-on training workshop for the private sector on how to attract and implement green investments that contribute to the NDC and SDG implementation.

The objectives of the workshop included; increasing the readiness of the private sector to invest in low carbon climate resilient investment through practical skill training sessions on business skills, including business plans to enhance implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation projects; and providing skills to private sector on financial de-risking instruments, financing mechanisms under article 6 of the Paris Agreement, risk proofing of investments and other mechanisms that would incentivize green investments.

In attendance were representatives from Ugandan private sector companies in the NDC priority sectors of renewable energy and energy efficiency, agriculture, waste management, biomass and manufacturing, and transport and logistics.

Furthermore, UNDP in partnership with PSFU through the Imapcti Solutions Consultants carried out a survey on how the private sector can engage in climate mitigation and adaptation actions in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) priority sectors which are; Energy and Energy Efficiency, Manufacturing, Agriculture and Agri Business and Forestry, Waste Management and Transport and Logistics and Infrastructure.

About 35 companies filled in the survey and some notable ones which are members of PSFU (Corporate and Associations and recipients of grants under SDF AND ERT) include the following; Centenary Rural Development Bank, Roofings Group, Steel and Tube Industries, Uganda National Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Alliance (UNREEEA), Wind Power Association of Uganda and Kinawataka Women Initiative (Recycled Plastic Straws)

A workshop was then organized in June 18th -19th, 2019 to validate the findings of the survey for the private sector to engage in climate mitigation and adaptation actions gathering over 90 participants from the private sector, various Government ministries, development partners, media, and civil society.

The workshop invited private sector companies to join interactive discussions on the latest knowledge, progress and remaining gaps on: Understanding climate risks in Uganda, Business opportunities in Uganda’s NDC, Accessing climate financing, Supportive tools - SDG/NDC Impact Tool and Capacity building and partnerships.

Some of the findings of the workshop include that the private sector can contribute to climate action by reducing their Green House Gas emissions, climate proofing their operations, developing new climate resilient products and services and especially financial services providing financial and de-risking products to fund climate innovations.

In conclusion, the private sector needs a business case to invest in climate actions and SDGs and a business case can be enhanced through the following; an enabling policy environment with targeted policy incentives, improved ease of doing business to accelerate investment decisions of the private sector, targeted capacity building and lastly access to climate finance.

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The East African Business Council Chairman and Board Directors paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda and Member of the Summit of EAC Heads of State on Saturday, 24th August 2019 at the Entebbe State House, Uganda.

Leading the EABC delegation, Mr. Nick Nesbitt, EABC Chairman, was accompanied by Mr. Patrick Bitature, PSFU Chairman and EABC Board Directors & Members namely Mr. Mwine Jim Kabebo, EABC Vice-Chairman & Director, Madhvani Group of Companies, Hon. Peter Mathuki, CEO EABC, Mr. Chris Diaz, EABC Board Director & Group Director Bidco Africa Ltd, Ms. Barbara Mulwana, EABC Board Director & Director Nice House of Plastics, Mr. Godfrey Simbeye, CEO Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), Mr. Gideon Badagawa, CEO PSFU, Mr. Simon Kaheru, EABC Board Director, Ms. Merian Sebunya, Director PSFU & Member EABC as well as Ms. Waturi wa Matu, Senior Director, TradeMark East Africa and Mr. Moses Ogwal, PSFU.

“Your Excellency, first and foremost allow me, on behalf of the business community and private sector in East Africa congratulate you and more sincerely thank you not only for engaging closely towards a common vision with your counterparts in the other EAC Partner States but also for being a steadfast believer in regional integration,” said Mr. Nick Nesbitt.

Mr. Nesbitt further appreciated H.E. President Museveni for resolving border misunderstandings for the common good of the East African people as enshrined in the Treaty.

“This will go a long way in instilling confidence to the citizens and business community,” said Mr. Nesbitt.

He further said EABC is a respected coordinator and holds respective dialogue with EAC governments with balanced regional views and policy stance. He urged for closer government partnership and involvement with the private sector in policy formulation to enhance the competitiveness of the EAC region, value addition in agriculture, mining & services sectors among others as well as strengthening regional value chains.
Mr. Nick Nesbitt, EABC Chairman (front row 4th), Board Directors and Members in a group photo with H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda and Member of the Summit of EAC Heads of State at Entebbe State House, Uganda front row 5th).

Mr. Nesbitt engaged H.E. President Museveni on the need and importance to fast track the comprehensive review of EAC CET; Liberalization of Opens Skies; One Network Area on Telecommunication; Harmonization of Standards in the EAC; Strengthening the EAC Secretariat on enforcement of laws; Market access with Democratic Republic of the Congo; Transport interlinkages in the region - Road, Rail and Water (lake Victoria); Inter-governmental trade dispute resolution mechanism and closer government involvement and government partnership with the private sector.

“A healthy and vibrant private sector will support the social and economic development of the EAC. Involvement and partnership with private sector in budget planning process will allow the growth of local & regional value chains, hence reducing the imports gap in the EAC region,” said Mr. Nesbitt.

“Comprehensive review of the EAC Common External Tariff (CET) is yet to be finalized four years down the line adversely affecting intra-EAC trade,” said Hon. Peter Mathuki, EABC CEO.

“Liberalize the incoming cargo flights as it will increase cargo volume supporting exports of EAC horticultural products, urged Ms. Waturi Matu, TMEA.

In his remarks, H.E. President Yoweri Museveni reaffirmed the importance of partnership with the private sector.

“Where does wealth creation come from? Prosperity comes from trade! Commercial Agriculture, Industry, Services, ICT” said His Excellency.

H.E. President Museveni re-emphasized that there is no serious industry that can survive on the internal market alone, free trade is the minimum leaders can do to uplift East African livelihoods.

“Private sector is the dynamic and active element that unites the factors of economy, i.e., land, natural resources and labour. The private sector brings on board entrepreneurship and capital,” said H.E. President Museveni.

H.E. President Museveni advised for a common strategic ideology for all East Africa i.e. All Governments should see the primary interest is to promote prosperity, therefore Trade and partnership with Private Sector. H.E. further elaborated that there are no future markets for East African good and services without free-trade in East Africa Community, Africa and Globally. No country’s internal market only is sufficient and viable to survive.

H.E. President Museveni reiterated his commitment to champion the finalization of the comprehensive review of the CET with a focus on encouraging industrialization; Harmonization of Standards; Support EABC to be granted Headquarter Agreement with the United Republic of Tanzania; Improve efficiency and affordability of air passenger and cargo transport in the region and look at the potential of Lake Victoria transport infrastructure such as incentives to spur investment in the water transport sector.

The EABC Chairman and Board also met H.E. Salva Kiir, President of the Republic of South Sudan during the courtesy call to Entebbe State House. EABC requested H.E. President Salva Kiir to continue strengthening Private Sector in the Republic of South Sudan and enhancing security to improve trade and investments between other EAC partner states and the Republic of South Sudan.
The Uganda Freight Forwarders Association (UFFA) in partnership with PSFU National Logistics Platform, URA & Ministry of Works held a 3 days expo from 21st – 22nd August 2019 at Sheraton Hotel Kampala.

At least 500 participants attended the second Regional Logistics Expo 2019 under the theme ‘Innovative and Sustainable Solutions for Freight Logistics,’ the expo examined how the industry can keep readjusting in an ever-shifting business environment. Some of the interventions that were discussed at the conference included human resource skilling and reskilling, professionalism and self-regulation, as well as embracing innovations like blockchain technology, artificial intelligence, the internet of things and big data.

“We intend to align our views on whatever is happening in the East African Community (EAC) and beyond so that we can position freight logistics better, to meet the dynamic demands of these projects and opportunities,” said Hussein Kiddedde, the UFFA chairman, who also doubles as the chairperson, Organizing Committee, of the Expo.

The exhibition which was set up outside the conference hall was free to the public, and this was an opportunity for the public to appreciate the different players in the logistics industry across the region.

More discussions during the conference were around the fragmentation at both enterprise and regulatory level within the freight logistics industry. This division has resulted in a disjointed industry with limited information sharing and difficulties in quantifying practicing professionals.

In addition, the numerous policy and regulatory challenges that hinder competitiveness in freight logistics including inconsistent vehicle axle load control limits, dimensions and numbers of axle limits, operational costs and tariffs, amongst others, were also tackled.

“Government’s commitment towards developing railway transport; financing arrangements for the development of SGR Uganda are being concluded & Government has prioritized rehabilitation of the Metre gauge railway as well as works for Tororo-Gulu railway line will commence soon.” Siad Hon. Minister Monica Azuba, Minister of Works & Transport.
On 3rd September 2019, Uganda Development Bank (UDB) in conjunction with Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic Development convened a high level breakfast meeting for private & public sector players to discuss a paper on the 21st-century economy as well as share digitization insights from Mr. Arshad Rab, CEO of the European Organisation for Sustainable Development (EOSD) & he emphasized that Ugandans might have to acquire more skills especially in the technology sector if they are to sustain their jobs or find employment in high paying sectors.

Mr. Arshad Rab said that the internet and technology were disrupting every industry from the way we produce food, manufacturing and do other jobs. Rab said not far from now, a job previously done by a low skilled employee will be easily done by a robot, which employers might find more affordable and convenient.

He noted Uganda needed to create at least 600,000 jobs a year to meet the demand but this calls for rethink on the which sectors to emphasize and tech-oriented businesses are the way to go, adding that agriculture, where 70 per cent of Ugandans are employed, needs to be thought through.

During the event, a joint statement was also signed between the Bank of Uganda and the European Organisation for Sustainable Development-EOSD to signify Uganda’s commitment to creating a strong financial sector.

During the presentation, Rab said that the government should facilitate the formation of agri-tech startups, facilitate irrigation, fertilizer applications, and use of robots to monitor plantations.

He added that companies carrying out manufacturing might not need any human being in their process of production, other than those in the control room.

He also noted that many Ugandans are also employed in the informal sector but these are low paying jobs and a lot of them would want to graduate to high paying jobs. These need high skills.

Bank of Uganda (BOU) Governor, Emmanuel Tumusiime Mutebile said the bank is facilitating the usage of technology to reach financial services users and financial inclusion.

The EOSD is pushing for the benefits of the 4th industrial revolution, where new industry sectors are being created, reshaping manufacturing and making some of the decades-old industries obsolete.

The EOSD will work with BoU and Uganda Development Bank to invest in organisations to help firms investing in technology and green economy.
EABC 20TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A GREAT SUCCESS

The East African Business Council re-elected Mr. Nicholas Nesbitt as Chairman, during the 20th EABC Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 8th August 2019 at Serena Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya.

The AGM also elected Amb. Denis Karera, Mr. Mwine Jim Kabeho, Mr. Audace Ndayizeye and Mr. Salum Shamte as Vice-Chairs and Members of the EABC Executive Committee who will strategically guide EABC’s mission of promoting sustainable Private Sector driven growth.

“The EABC should take the lead in reviewing the EAC Common External Tariff (CET) and come up with a CET structure that is beneficial to the East African private sector and make the region more competitive,” said Hon Mohamed in his remark to the AGM.

The Chief Guest Hon. Mohamed, emphasized that African’s unity, future strength and power lies in the larger market. He further noted the importance of public-private dialogue to fast track targeted policy reforms to improve the business environment and reposition the EAC bloc to seize benefits availed by the AfCFTA.

In his remarks Mr. Nick Nesbitt, EABC Chairman urged the EAC Governments to enhance public-private dialogue and formulate policies that will solve logistical challenges, fix fragmented value chains, and enhance value addition of products in the region to be competitive in light of the AfCFTA.

The Annual General meetings reviewed the achievements and milestones of the year 2018/19.

In his remarks, Hon Peter Mathuki, EABC CEO said “EABC continues to be the only voice of the private sector at the regional level and plays that critical role of advocating for a conducive business environment in the region.”

He further said “EABC is awake to the fact that the intra-EAC trade is below 20% vis-à-vis other RECs such as SADC at 40% and EU at 68%, therefore, there is need to strengthen public-private dialogue that will spur the regional intra trade to above 30% in the next two years.” said Hon Mathuki.

During the 20th EABC Annual General Meeting, EABC recognized outgoing Board Directors for their distinguished service to the council in the year 2018.

The Annual General Meeting was followed by a Get together - B2B Match Making and networking event for East African SMEs under the Project “Creating Perspectives: Business for Development (East Africa).” The Chief Guest at the Get-together event was Dr. Vimal Shah, EABC Chairman Emeritus and H.E Annett Gunther, German Ambassador to the Republic of Kenya who shared insights on SME development and strengthening the manufacturing sector in EAC. In his remarks during the event, Dr. Vimal Shah urged businesses to embrace technology and spearhead the vision of a borderless East Africa for trade and investment.

The EABC appreciates the support of Mabati Rolling Mills Ltd, Coca-Cola Central, East and West Africa Ltd, TradeMark East Africa, the German Development Cooperation-GIZ, Federation of German Industries (BDI) and International Trade Centre (ITC) towards EABC’s initiatives to improve the business environment in the EAC. The AGM paid tribute to the late Dr. Reginald Mengi, EABC Chairman Emeritus, Mr. Amirali Karmali, Chairman Mukwano Group of Companies and Mr. Bobby Collymore, CEO Safaricom Plc for their contribution the EAC regional integration process.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is the supreme policy-making organ of the East African Business Council (EABC). The AGM meets once a year to elect the Executive Committee headed by the Chairperson, receive the annual report on the initiatives undertaken by the Secretariat and give overall direction to the Secretariat in line with the Strategic Plan and interests of the business community in East Africa.

The 20th Annual General Meeting elected the following to be members of the EABC Executive Committee for the period 2019-2020.

EABC Chairperson
Mr. Nicholas Nesbitt - from the Kenya Private Sector Alliance re-elected as Chairman EABC
EABC Board Members from Burundi
Mr. Audace Ndayizeye - Federal Chamber of Commerce Industries Burundi- Elected Vice Chair
Mr. Boaz Nimpe - Association des Banques et Établissements Financiers du Burundi (ABEF)
Mrs. Nadine Duhawenayo - AURA TELECOMS
Mrs. Amelie Ninganza - KHS Company Ltd
PSFU RECEIVED USD 650,000 FROM TMEA TO PROMOTE PUBLIC-PRIVATE SECTOR DIALOGUE (PPD) FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT

August 2019, TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) signed a partnership agreement worth USD 650,000 with Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) to address challenges in transport and logistics such as infrastructure, transport policy & regulation, licensing, fees and other obstacles along the Northern Corridor effectively absorbing the National Logistics Platform. TMEA was represented by Ms. Waturi Wa Matu, Senior Director Business Competitiveness; Mrs. Edith Mwanje, Permanent Secretary Ministry of EAC Affairs witnessed on behalf of the Government of Uganda; Mrs. Merian Sebunya & Mr. Francis Kisirinya represented PSFU.

It has been noted that to strengthen & sustain Uganda’s trade and investment; it is critical that an enabling environment be put in place to guarantee growth and predictability. PPD will play a crucial role in addressing constraints, providing short term stimulus with long term impact and contribute to economic growth and poverty reduction.
On 30th August 2019, PSFU in partnership with GAIN handed over WYD Iodine kits to Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS); Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI); National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) & Government Analytical Laboratory to ensure that salt imported is checked to confirm its level of iodine. WYD Iodine kit is a single kit/machine with the function of LCD readout, zero auto calibrated tool used for measuring salt iodine. PSFU role was to purchase WYD machines with collaboration with technical partners.

Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) received 14 kits, Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI) received 2 kits while National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) and the Directorate of Government Analytical Laboratory received one each.

Speaking at the handover ceremony at PSFU offices, PSFU Executive Director, Gideon Badagawa said the machines are deemed necessary to certify the quality of imported salt on the Ugandan market and because more people today are increasingly getting concerned with food products they consume.

These UNBS kits will be placed at all border entry points at Malaba & Busia for officers to make on spot decisions on whether the salt imported is iodized. The others will be placed in regional laboratories in Gulu, Mbarara and Mbale, among others.

Patricia Ejalu, Deputy Director Standards at UNBS said, “We have been testing salt with testing kits that run out sometimes which would hinder our work. With the new testing kits we will be able to do more and fast since they can be moved from one place to another.

GAIN’s overall goal is to increase compliance with mandatory fortification regulation for oil, wheat flour, salt and maize flour by 15% from the current baseline levels of 57.9%, 53.2%, 67.3% and 3.4% respectively.
The Qatar delegation visited Uganda for a two-day visit to discuss modalities on how the two countries can work together in different fields that could lead to investment, trade and technology transfer for economic development of both countries.

Uganda made a passionate appeal to the visiting Qatari business community to invest here because the pearl of Africa has a favourable trade environment and policies. Vice President Edward Ssekandi said Uganda has invested heavily in infrastructure development in order to support trade. He said roads, electricity, railway, trained labour and the ICT backbone are being improved day by day.

The vice president made the appeal on Tuesday, 10th September while addressing the business community at the Uganda-Qatar Trade Mission Africa 2019 organized by Qatar Development Bank (QDB), in Kampala. Ssekandi explained that through the Qatar-Uganda Trade Forum, the unfavorable balance of trade can change since Uganda has a comparative advantage especially in agricultural products like coffee, tea and fruits, among others.

"Uganda is the prime investment destination in Africa, we have natural resources, there is security, trade is liberalized, we have tax exemptions for agricultural and machinery imports and we work on first come first serve basis," he said. Minister of state for Trade Michael Werikhe Kafabusa revealed that trade and investment between Qatar and Uganda has improved. Uganda imported goods worth $8.4m from Qatar in 2016 but that has risen to $16.5m by 2018. Exports have also slightly improved from $0.4m in 2016 to $5.8m in 2018. Abdulaziz Nasser Al Khalifa, the QDB’s chief executive officer, said QDB brought in 15 investors in different sectors of mining, pharmaceutical, fast consumer moving goods, publishers, energy, electrical, steel and others interested in partnerships to start manufacturing industries in Uganda.

"Uganda can tap into the experience from Qatar in different fields; there is good business competitiveness since 2011 when QDB was formed as an export bank, we can work with traders from Uganda and Qatar," he said.
SOURCE 21 CBC INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR.

NAIROBI FROM 17TH TO 21ST JULY 2019 - PSFU participated at the Source 21 COMESA High Level Business Summit and International Trade Fair to be held n Nairobi, Kenya from 17 to 21 July 2019 representing its membership respectively.

The event was hosted at the Kenyatta International Conference Center, by the COMESA Business Council (CBC) in collaboration with the Government of Kenya and the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM).

The event was hosted at a time when COMESA’s was marking 25 years since its transformation from the Preferential Trade Area (PTA) thus marking an important milestone in the regional integration process.

Source 21 trade fair brought together public and private enterprises from the region and beyond to discuss pertinent issues that affect growth of businesses in the regional bloc. Policy makers and the private sector who are the drivers of trade and economic development also attended.

The Business Summit included a Presidential Dialogue where Heads of State interacted with business leaders on key strategies to enhance industry competitiveness and formulate strategies to enhance local sourcing and intra-regional trade. Sectorial roundtables were also held in providing a platform for engagement on sector specific issues. The topics selected for the event centered on Manufacturing competitiveness, Digitization and Trade Facilitation, Digital Financial Services and Regional Payment System, Standards and Quality Issues, Smart and Sustainable Cities and the Continental Free Trade Area.

The event was graced by 4 Head of States and these were; H.E. Yoweri Kaguta MUSEVENI, President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E. Uhuru KENYATTA, President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Edgar LUNGU, President of the Republic of Zambia, and H.E. Pillay Vyapoory PARAMASIVUM, President of the Republic of Mauritius. Some of our members represented included; Kakira Sugar, Lugazi Sugar, Lato Milk from Pearl Diaries, NFT consults, Abacus Pharmaceuticals, The Grain Council of Uganda and ETABCO Uganda Ltd. Information materials from these companies was shared through the PSFU stall at the trade fair.

Other delegates in attendance included Presidents of Mauritius and Zambia; Hon Sam Kuteesa the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Amb. Kabonera the High commissioner to Tanzania and Hon Amelia Kyambadde the Minister of Trade Industry and Cooperatives.
PSFU & PARTNERS TO PROMOTE SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDS (SUPPLE-F) ACTION

On 9th August 2019, PSFU on behalf of its partners signed a contract to implement the Promote supplementary feeds (Supple-F) action. This is part of a 5-year EU grant (under the 11th European Development Fund) extended to the Government of Uganda programme known as “Developing a Market-Oriented and Environmentally Sustainable Beef Meet Industry in Uganda (MOBIP)” programme. MOBIP implementation lies with Directorate of Animal Resources (DAR), which is under the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF).

PSFU partners include; Robran Holdings Ltd, College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (CAES) – Makerere University, Livestock Development Forum (LDF), The Green Elephant (TGE), Uganda Women Entrepreneurs Association & Uganda Beef Producers Association

The action shall be implemented in DCZs 1 & 2 targeting 10 districts, Kampala and Wakiso for a period of 28 months & has 02 result areas which include;

R.1: Increase access of quality supplementary feed in cattle production and uptake in disease control zones 1 and 2 within the Uganda’s cattle corridor.

R.2: Increase participation and uptake of supplementary feeds value chain opportunities by women and youth farmer groups in the project area

The project aims to adopt a holistic approach to the beef value chain in Uganda, constructed around three main pillars: support small-scale operators, women and youth, and nucleus farmers to participate in commercial production of silage, hay making, feedlots management through climate smart practices and in a sustainable manner.
PSFU CONDUCTED A FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT & PLANNING TRAINING ON 21st-23rd AUGUST 2019 AT UGANDA MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

Majority of the private sector are MSMEs which are faced with problems of poor performance that affects their continuity. According to Ahmad et al. (2011), approximately 80% to 90% of MSEs in Uganda fail within 5-10 years of operation. Poor financial management and planning practices have been noted to contribute immensely to MSMEs poor business performance. Experience over the years reveals that the financial management processes of MSEs are generally weak or non-existent. Financial management systems (working capital management, financing, investment, financial reporting, accounting information systems and budget process controls) have been largely ignored among SMEs since majority of the MSMEs are individually owned or family owned. These weaknesses often result into poor accountability, mismanagement of funds and shortage of long-term funds to meet the operating cost and capital expenditure which may affect business continuity.

With that background, PSFU Capacity Building Unit hosted a 3 days training for over 40 companies in financial management & planning. The overall objective of this training was to furnish finance managers, accountants, financial controllers, business owners and non-finance personnel among others with a better understanding of financial management practices so as to enable them effectively process financial information, manage finances, monitor budgets and make informed decisions, for enhanced performance.

Our members from ICPAU, Mr. Obed Tindyebwa & Mr. Timothy Basimampola were the facilitators of the training and they clearly demonstrated to participants how improved financial management systems can increase productivity and efficiency, as well as the importance of a well-defined budget process and essence of creating budgets relevant to one’s organization.
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ON THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME (NHIS) BILL

August 2019 - PSFU held a stakeholder engagement with its members & other relevant stakeholders from the health sector to deliberate on the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) Bill impact on employer and employee; equity of the contributions from the informal sector; affordability & sustainability of NHIS & understanding the structure; risks of NHIS. The Bill aims at improving the provision of accessible, affordable acceptable and quality healthcare services to all Ugandans irrespective of their age, economic, health and social status.

The National Health Insurance Scheme Bill proposes that individuals above the age of 18 years shall be required to remit a certain amount of money to the scheme and acquire an insurance card which shall be used to access health services.
PSFU PRESENTS POSITION ON THE NSSF (AMENDMENT) BILL 2019

On Wednesday, 18 September 2019, PSFU team led by Gideon Badagawa & Board Member, Mr. Gordon Sentiba presented to the Parliamentary Finance Committee the private sector position on the NSSF (Amendment) Bill 2019.

The position paper presented was drafted after consultations with our members, and emphasis was that the National Social Security Fund Amendment Bill, 2019 is discriminatory to employees in the informal sector. PSFU notes with concern that the bill only provided for mandatory contributions for employees and employers in the formal sector. PSFU wants the bill amended to provide for the mandatory contribution of employees and employers in the informal sector to the National Social Security Fund-NSSF.

The Executive Director, Gideon Badagawa made the proposal as part of the views on the NSSF Bill, which is being scrutinized by the joint Finance and Gender Committee. The Bill seeks to amend the NSSF Act 1985 to cater for the expansion of NSSF coverage through mandatory contribution from all firms that have employees, not a minimum of five workers, provide for midterm access to benefits for only voluntary members and to tax benefits of savers who withdraw before attaining the age of 60 years.

Badagawa argued that while the Bill removes the restriction on employers with less than five employees to contribute to long term savings and expands coverage beyond formal to informal enterprises, it only provides for voluntary contributions by people in the informal sector.

He says that the NSSF Act and the Bill don’t consider the need to include mandatory contributions from the self-employed people or those in the informal sector with about 15 million people compared to about 4 million workers in the formal sector.

Out of the 4 million workers in the formal sector, 500,000 are civil servants who don’t contribute to the mandatory savings. Badagawa says that the PSFU, with 250 members, and the private sector is interested in the Bill because it has the potential to make NSSF a source for cheap loans of less than 10 percent for long term investments that cannot be supported by the limited financial market.

He noted that NSSF has assets of Shillings 11.3 trillion out of the shillings 30 trillion in the financial market, arguing if all its members were active it would have assets of about Shillings 55 trillion, which would benefit farmers who are impeded by high commercial bank interest rates.

The PSFU Senior Private Sector Development Officer, Eric Sempambo, said that the private sector appreciates the provision to expand coverage but it must also consider workers from the informal sector to make mandatory contributions.

He argues that 15 million workers out of a total of 19 million workers in Uganda are in the informal sector, adding that introducing mandatory contributions for workers in the informal and formal sectors will result in more savings managed by NSSF.
SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FACILITY ENGAGES WITH WINDOW 3 GRANTEES

September, 2019- SDF team led by Ruth B. Musoke hosted Window 3 grantees to an information session where they shared experiences & challenges faced as they embark on training individuals in various skills. Window 3 targets private & autonomous public training institutions & the eligible activities under this window include development of learning & assessment materials, curriculum development, equipment, tools & instruction materials among others.

Some of the Invited grantees included Q-sourcing (TASC), Kabasanda Technical institute which has acquired new machinery to enhance industrial mechanical training; Ankole Western University who are growing the local silk industry by training in textile making; Muni University, TEXFAD who are making progress in creating artifacts out of banana stems and transforming communities with these skills causing some of the trainees to start domestic workshops.

Mr. Kimani, a representative from TEXFAD Vocational Business Incubator noted that they have been able to make innovative products from the banana fibers like phone jackets, wall clocks, gift bags and shoes among others utilizing the SDF grant support.
THE NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE SYMPOSIUM

4TH JULY, 2019 AT HOTEL AFRICANA-The climate change symposium was held on 4th July, 2019 at Hotel Africana under the theme “Accelerating Climate Actions through Innovations” under three subthemes; Gender and Climate Change (Impacts on women, youth, children, persons with disabilities), leveraging private sector engagement in climate actions and opportunities for climate finance. It was organized by the Climate Change Department, Ministry of Water and Environment, Nation Media Group, Office of the Prime Minister and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The main objective of the symposium was to provide platform for open dialogue on climate change between relevant stakeholders to deliberate on Uganda’s development and show case innovations that can be implemented to mitigate and adapt to climate change acts.

The event was well attended with stakeholders from the Ministries and relevant agencies, private sector players, community and civil service organizations, academia and research institutions, development partners, media and so forth. This event was organized under the following; conference where presentations were made, breakout sessions under the different subthemes, an exhibition by private sector companies engaged in climate friendly innovations and a televised panellist session by Nation Media group focusing again on the sub themes of the symposium.

Proceedings of the day
Remarks by the government, development partners and community and civil service organizations
The symposium started off with remarks from the Commissioner, Ministry of Water and Environment, Representative of the Resident Representative UNDP, MD Nation Media, CEO ABI Trust, Representative of the German Embassy, Permanent Secretary MWE and Minister of Water and Environment and the Key note address from the first Deputy Prime Minister. Key highlights from the symposium included:

- It is the responsibility of every Ugandan to take care of the environment so that natural resources are available for future generations to come (sustainability)
- The government of Uganda’s efforts are recognized by development partners in working with the private sector to reduce carbon emissions through low carbon development technologies and promoting an enabling environment and regulatory framework for the climate change actions to advance such as the climate change bill which is being tabled at the parliament currently
- Uganda like the rest of the world is very vulnerable to climate change and the decline in the productivity in the agriculture sector is quite evident. The goals of the agricultural sector cannot be attained if climate change is not addressed. Actions that can be undertaken include; rainwater harvesting and conservation, soil fertility enrichment, renewable energy options, protecting biodiversity and eco systems.
- Awareness and sensitization is important in advancing climate change especially in local communities this is to remove the notion that climate change
- Climate change represents a fundamental challenge to the sustainability of the growth momentum therefore it is imperative that Uganda invests in mechanisms that would mainstream climate change into Uganda’s development strategies to reduce the possible negative impacts.
- To enable transformational change to low carbon development the momentum of the private sector must be turned into more ambitious actions through catalytic financing to enable investment in climate action.
- Uganda needs to take key actions in enhancing its development agenda particularly its needs to strengthen understanding with a gender lense of policy strategies and practices towards creating a green economy and the role of green energy.
- The National Climate Change Bill is currently at the parliament level aimed at reducing emission levels by 22% as part of Uganda’s contribution towards the NDC.
The symposium was officially opened by the First Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Moses Ali and this was followed by the breakout sessions under the different sub themes.

Break out session: leveraging private sector engagement in climate actions and opportunities for climate finance session.

This session was conducted by Ms. Gloria Namande (UNDP) and it involved discussions on financing opportunities for investment by the Private Finance Advisory Network (PFAN), Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) on how to address gaps in private sector investment in mitigation and adaptation and Roofings Group Ltd and Village Power Ltd sharing their experiences on different innovations being undertaken within their business operations.

Key highlights of this session

- The private sector offers a potentially significant source of financing to augment public budgets and presents a wealth of ingenuity, know-how and networks that can be key to developing climate innovations.
- Enabling factors to engage the private sector to invest in climate change include; information sharing, enabling framework, partnerships, financing and capacity building among others.
- Partnerships should be created among private sector companies to share lessons and best practices on different climate change adaptation and mitigation interventions.
- Gaps on private sector investment in climate change include; limited information on the gravity of impacts of climate change, limited access to technical expertise, access to dedicated climate finance, unfriendly enabling environment.
- Solutions to the gaps on investment in climate change include; general and targeted awareness programs, setting up a credit support facility, policy coordination between different government ministries, funding to research institutions.
AWARENESS AND MARKET ACTIVATION SUPA SIGIRI CAMPAIGN UNDER THE UGANDA CLEAN COOKING SUPPLY CHAIN EXPANSION PROJECT.

The Government of Uganda through the Uganda Clean Cooking Supply Chain Expansion Project, a Government of Uganda project, implemented by Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) is encouraging the public to use improved cook stoves dubbed ‘Supa Sigiris’ designed to use less charcoal, emit less smoke and cook faster than the ordinary cooking stoves found in most homes. Currently, Supa Sigiri’s can relieve their users of at least 360,000Ushs worth of annual charcoal expenses.

According to the 2016/2017 Uganda National Household Survey, almost every household in the country either uses charcoal or firewood for cooking, revealing that the dependency on firewood as a source of energy is straining the environment locally, regionally and globally. Ordinary Sigiri’s emit large amounts of black carbon which in the long run contribute to global warming.

The collective benefits of using any of the Supa Sigiri types are:

• Supa Sigiris use less charcoal,
• Supa Sigiris cooking time is greatly reduced thus making them a faster means of meal preparation,
• Supa Sigiris emit less smoke, and therefore reduce the risk of health issues household members may face in association with smoke fumes released within the home,
• Supa Sigiris also ensure a cleaner and safer environment generally in the home because of their unique design.

There are various market activations that have been implemented through the months of June, July and August 2019 such as the Capital FM Cook off was held on Friday, 23rd August 2019, Michael Oboth Sales Personnel for the Envirofit and Ecozoom cook stoves explained that the Envirofit and Ecozoom are a product of a World Bank research to combat climatic change which has become a global concern. ‘Both Envirofit and Ecozoom cook stoves save consumption rate of fuel by 58%, have a 78% faster cooking rate and 82% smoke reduction,’ Oboth added that one can cook with the Envirofit cook stove in the comfort of one’s choice: on top of plastic tables, woollen carpets or tiles and they will not cause a fire outbreak.’

Biolite cook stove Representative Uganda Andrew Abacha said, ‘Biolite improved cook stoves can uniquely charge your phone or light up as you cook. It uses minimal amounts of firewood which in the long run addresses environmental, health and financial challenges. It also saves its users money as they need firewood worth only 500 Ushs to cook with every day.’

Charles Akamanya, Sales Representative and Project Development Officer for the Potential Energy cook stove said, ‘The Potential Energy cook stove is versatile, uses both charcoal and firewood, cooks at double the speed and comes with two provisions for cooking both at the top and bottom.

Debbi Nansumba, Project Officer for the Smart Home Supa Sigiri Cookstove said that being part of the Uganda Clean Cooking Supply Chain Expansion Project has generally created awareness for the cook stoves and widened the market. She called upon the public to use Supa Sigiris cook stoves because of their benefits that make them unique from ordinary sigiris.
Supa Sigiri’s can be bought either by cash or loan (PSFU is reaching out to the various office SACCO’s in and around Kampala for the member credit facility option). Supa Sigiri’s sale points around Kampala and Wakiso can be accessed at the following locations:

- Shop No. 4 located at Wandegeya market building, Northern wing,
- Johnrich supermarket Kabalagala entrance,
- Bugolobi market entrance,
- Nakawa market, charcoal entrance shop No. 278,
- Seeta Trading Centre next to Stanbic bank ATM,
- Capital Shoppers Ntinda and Nakawa Entrance
- Kasubi Market opposite Kobil Petrol Station

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 14th Trade Facilitation Expo - 12th - 14th November 2019
- Annual General Meeting - November 2019
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