



**MAKING
UGANDA
THE BEST**

February 2025 - NEWSLETTER

STI, MONTH IN REVIEW



Thursday 27th February 2025

TOP STORY

PRIME MINISTER Rt. HON. ROBINAH NABANJA LAUNCHES FIRST BIOSCIENCES PARK

Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja the Prime Minister of the republic of Uganda officially launched the commencement of construction works at the first biosciences park in Uganda, Nakasongola district. Biotechnology parks drive innovation, collaborations, and industrial development by integrating research, commercialisation, and strategic partnerships. Uganda, through the STI-OP, is spearheading the National Biosciences Park at T-6 Industrial Park, Katuugo, Nakasongola District.

The Park is more than just a facility, it is a strategic investment in Uganda's future. Spanning 152 acres, with potential for expansion. The park will house cutting-edge research and manufacturing facilities for vaccines, diagnostics, and natural therapeutics. This initiative aligns with Uganda's Vision 2040, emphasising industrialisation, import substitution, and the growth of a knowledge-based economy.



NEW ECONOMY HIGHLIGHTS



Pathogen Economy; Research, Development, technology transfer and commercialisation of innovations targeting pathogen control and management such as vaccines, diagnostics, therapeutics, inputs, supplies and related technologies for plant, animal, and human health threats



Mobility
Klira Motors, the pathfinder mobility project housed in Jinja flags off production processes. The plant is projected to have a bus manufacturing capacity of up to 2,500 per-annum



Industry 4.0+
A MicroFuse stick computer developed by MicroFuse electronics development. The device turns elective screens, desktop monitors & projectors into a computer.



Aeronautics and space.
Efforts are underway to develop & launch our second satellite. This following the very first Ugandan satellite that was built by Ugandans & launched in 2022.



Infrastructure Innovations; Focuses on areas of roads, railways, air-transport, minerals, material development, nanoparticles, sti & communications structure among others.



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Monday 10th February 2025

A SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGH!!

Ugandan Scientists made a scientific breakthrough with two (2) locally developed herbal drugs that successfully completed clinical trials and now due NDA certification to hit the market.

A triumphant revelation was made on the 10th February 2025 at the Uganda media centre of the two locally made herbal drugs that successfully made it through clinical trials (Tazcov & Vidicine). Accompanied by clinicians from Makerere University Lung Institute, the minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, Office of the President Hon. Dr. Monica Musenero Masanza said the drugs were confirmed safe & effective.



PATHOGEN ECONOMY WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TAZCOV & VIDICINE CLINICAL TRIAL FINDINGS



“This milestone not only positions Uganda as a leader in herbal medicine research but also paves the way for further advancements in science and technology, offering hope for affordable and effective healthcare solutions..” A local journal quoted.

Innovations of the month.

Both Tazcov and Vidicine are geared at treating acute respiratory infections which scientists have proven prevalent in both the elderly and infants. These when ignored are feared to advance into pneumonia. Tazcov, attached to Busitema university and Vidicine from Kazire under went a two (2) year scientific clinical trials that saw their approval by government. This is the first time local herbs in Uganda are going through a scientific standardisation procedure of this kind.

According to the lead investigator Prof. Bruce Kirenga the clinical trials are categorised in four (4) phases constituting of;

- Safety
- Side effects
- Confirmation
- Post Market Surveillance

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY HIGHLIGHTS



Productivity Acceleration
Aims to amplify Value of, knowledge based, traditional economy products per unit resources input contributing USD 33.68 billion to National GDP by 2040.



Import Substitution
Several endeavours have been undertaken to reduce notional import bill with deliberate focus on specific major/ leading imports through the scientific reverse engineering for local production.



Export Promotion;
Focuses on areas of roads, railways, air-transport, minerals, material development, nanoparticles, sti & communications structure among others. .

INDUSTRY 4.0+



Wednesday 19th February 2025

Hon. Ruth Nankabirwa launches the DeepTech Centre, Namanve.

The minister of Energy and Mineral Development, hosted by the Science, Technology & Innovation minister Hon. Dr. Monica Musenero inspect innovations.

Uganda currently imports electronic and electrical equipment worth over \$400 million annually

Uganda's technological landscape is currently dominated by digital technologies such as mobile apps, fintech solutions, and e-commerce platforms, while the deep technology sector remains largely underdeveloped.

Additionally, Uganda currently imports electronic and electrical equipment worth over \$400 million annually, highlighting a significant gap in local manufacturing capacity, with our electronics market primarily dominated by a supply chain reliant on Chinese manufactured hardware and local retailers.

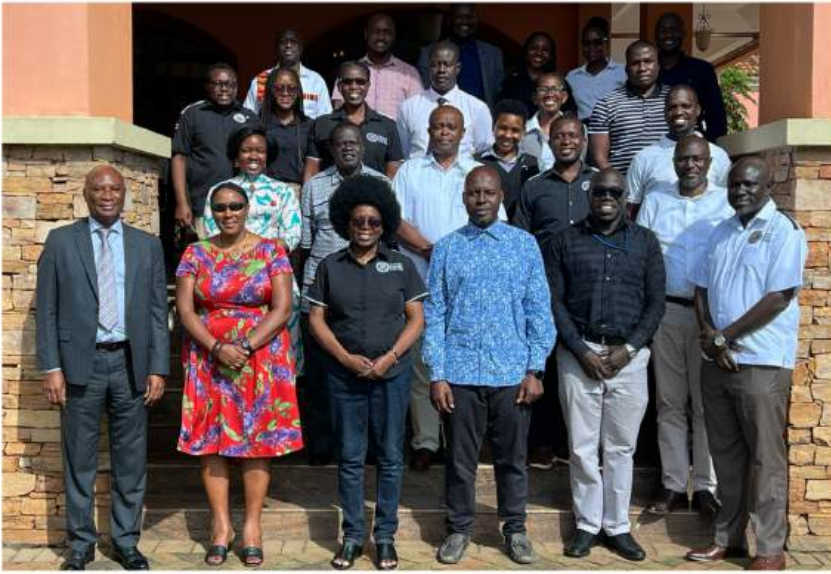
The Government of Uganda has established a Local Electronics Hardware Manufacturing facility with a manufacturing capacity of 100,000 per year as an enabler for the deep tech ecosystem. This facility has a state-of-the-art fabrication laboratory (FabLab) and a contract manufacturing facility, to boost local production capability of electronics hardware. Some locally manufactured products in the facility include: hairdryers, calculators, drones etc.

ABOUT DEEP-TECH, THE LOCAL CONTEXT

Deep-tech innovations are defined as disruptive solutions built around unique, protected or hard-to-reproduce technological or scientific advances. These innovations have the potential to advance technological frontiers. Deep technology encompasses areas of fundamental sciences, robotics, and biotechnology, as well as frontier industries like artificial intelligence and the internet of things.



STI-OP STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS



Saturday 19th February 2025



STI-OP & NPA HOLD ENGAGEMENTS.

Strengthening Intra-Government collaborations towards a prosperous Uganda!

STI-OP Top Leadership under the stewardship of Hon. Dr. Monica Musenero had fruitful engagement with the Top Leadership of National Planning Authority (NPA) held discussions focused on the STI Strategic Plan, which is expected to anchor the Qualitative Leap (ten-fold growth) of the national economy, with a GDP target of USD 550Bn by 2040.

COMMISSIONING OF THE UGANDA SOCIETY FOR HUMAN GENETICS & BIOINFORMATICS

Dr. Cosmas Mwikirize, the Superintendent Industrial Value Chains Development, delivered a keynote speech on behalf of the Minister for Science, Technology & Innovation, at the inauguration of the 15th African Society of Human Genetics Conference, hosted at Speke Resort Munyonyo.

He mentioned that the Conference, under the theme: **"Harnessing Data Science and Artificial Intelligence for African Genomics"** is timely. **"Africa must take the lead in Harnessing AI to lead new discoveries at the intersection of genomics and AI."**



Monday 3rd February 2025

He committed Government's support to scientists, especially in translating research into practical solutions that solve public health challenges, and at the same time, develop the economy.

STI-OP & DEFENCE MINISTRY HOLD ENGAGEMENTS.

Strengthening Intra-Government collaborations towards a prosperous Uganda!

The STI Secretariat team, led by the Superintendent Industrial Value Chains Development, held a follow up meeting with the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs to develop a roadmap for collaboration in the Pathogen Economy Bureau.



MOBILITY



A meeting between Uganda Heart Institute, led by their Executive Director Dr. John Omagino and a team from Kiira Motors Corporation (KMC) was held at the science technology and innovation secretariat to discussing tailored mobility needs for the health sector.

MORE OF INDUSTRY 4.0+ STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS ON THE SIDELINES OF DEEP-TECH USA COLLABORATIONS



The Honorable Minister for STI and her technical team had a meeting with Bill Wright and John Overton, Technology experts from the USA and co-founders of Enterprise Neurosystem (<https://www.enterpriseneurosystem.org>).



The two are in Uganda at the invitation of the Industry 4.0+ Bureau, to support implementation of the Deep Tech and Climate Tech Strategies

HON. DR. MONICA MUSENERO ON A MONITORING TOUR IN KWEEN DISTRICT, SEBEI SUBREGION, EASTERN UGANDA

PRODUCTIVITY ACCELERATION BUREAU (PAB)

On Friday, February 14, 2025, Hon. Dr. Monica Musenero Masanza, Minister for Science, Technology, and Innovation embarks on a monitoring tour to assess the progress and Viability of various government programs in Kween District, Sebei Subregion, Eastern Uganda.

- At Atari Irrigation Scheme Dr. Musenero, urged the technical engineering and software design team of the Atari Irrigation Scheme to enhance the project’s design by incorporating water reservoirs to ensure its long-term sustainability.
- At the Sebei Farmers’ Cooperative Society Headquarters in Kween District, Hon. Dr. Musenero engaged with local community leaders where she encouraged them to collaborate with government for “Kibalo” comprehension for productivity acceleration.



MONITORING, EVALUATION & LEARNING VISIT TO STI FUNDED VENTURES IN WESTERN UGANDA

In February 2025, the Productivity Acceleration Bureau (PAB), led by Dr. Joshua Isiko, conducted an endline Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MELI) visit to assess the progress and impact of ventures funded through the National Research and Innovation Program (NRIP) in FY2023/24. The ventures visited under this category were:

1. Omukazi W’omutima Limited – Kanungu District
2. Rubanga Coffee Cooperatives Limited – Mitooma District
3. New Bukubi Coffee Company – Fort Portal City
4. Funzo Coffee Limited – Mubende District



MONTHLY QUOTE

“In order to accomplish so many things in a short time, we had to become semi-military. We work on time, we are really strict on corruption. We are totally intolerant of corruption. And Rt. Honourable, from time to time you write to me asking, what effort we have put in place. **STI, especially vouching for the scientists, we are aspiring to be 120% corrupt free.**

That means, not only don’t we waste national resources by diverting them but we contribute more and this is a pledge I make as we have heard from our anthem, we are people of virtue.”

Hon. Dr. Monica Musenero Masanza - Nakasongola, Biosciences Park 📍



27th February 2025

INNOVATORS' PITCH -DAY

PICTORIAL

Innovation highlights of the recently concluded pitching session held at the Science, Technology and Innovation Secretariat , Office of the President.

The one stop centre organises monthly pitching sessions where aligned innovators are scheduled to present before the pitch committee for support through the Ideation to Market Innovation journey. Representatives from the eight bureaus at the secretariat listen in to the innovator pitch and give necessary feedback or guide the innovator through the thinking process of better ways to handle the innovation to commercialisation.

Among key innovations exhibited are the anatomical biological models, National Medical E-portal system, Drone technology for medical supplies, mattress production scale-up etc.



Wednesday 12th February 2025