



MAKING UGANDA THE BEST

MONTH IN REVIEW

March 2025 - NEWSLETTER

# STI, TELEGRAPH



Monday 25th March 2025, Kabale University lab

## TOP STORIES



### MAIDEN MINISTERIAL REGIONAL TOUR OF STI-OP FUNDED PROJECTS.

#### SOUTHWESTERN UGANDA

Hon. Dr. Monica Musenero led a technical team on a weeklong monitoring and evaluation tour with in the southwestern Uganda region from 25th - 30th March 2025.

**The Goal:** To evaluate how STI-OP-funded projects have progressed and engage stakeholders on how to harness our collective efforts in STI

#### On Day - 1, Kabale & Ntungamo



The minister looking through a microscope at Kabale University, Kabale district



A bird's view of the 360 vintage point at the Inspire Africa coffee hub, Ntungamo district.



Close-up of roasted coffee seeds, at Rubanga



Close-up of roasted coffee seeds



STI Stakeholder engagements. The goal is to rally stakeholders for NDP IV implementation

### 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**  
A globally competitive and sustainable mobility ecosystem in Uganda contributing 12.5% to National GDP by 2040.



**Industry 4.0+**  
The establishment of a vibrant, self-sustaining electronics and high-tech development ecosystem contributing 2.7% of Uganda's GDP by 2040.



**Aeronautics and space.**  
A sustainable aerospace industry that accelerates development in; environmental resource management, national security, innovation and economic growth, contributing \$8Bn to the National GDP by 2040.



**Infrastructure Innovations;** Industrialisation and commercialisation of high value Engineering products leveraging locally available resources, Contributing 30% to GDP by 2040.



## **STI-OP STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS**



19th March 2025

### **STI-OP & NEC HOLD ENGAGEMENT**

The Honourable Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation together with her Team held a high level Strategic meeting with a team from National Enterprise Cooperation (NEC) the business arm of UPDF & the defence ministry, led by the Managing Director and CEO, Gen. James Mugira. Discussions focused on increasing collaborations between NEC and STI-OP in innovation and developing a facilitative STI ecosystem

### **THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF PAKISTAN PAYS COURTESY VISIT TO THE MINISTER OF STI**

Bilateral talks were held to strengthen STI partnerships and economic relations between Uganda and Pakistan when the minister for science, technology and innovation hosted the high commissioner of Pakistan and his deputy at the STI-OP secretariat head offices in Naguru.



19th March 2025

The government of Uganda and STI-OP in particular remains committed to strengthening international collaborations for cross border trade and STI knowledge transfer.



## **MOBILITY**

### **KMC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

The mobility bureau legacy pathfinder project, Kiira Motors Corporation(KMC) held their Annual General Meeting at the Science, Technology and Innovation secretariat, Office of the President head offices in Naguru. The meeting highlighted the set objectives at the beginning of the year, achievements or hit targets and pending objectives for the forthcoming financial year. The meeting precedes closure of the financial year 2024-2025.



18th March 2025



18th March 2025

Kiira Motors Corporation is a State Enterprise with shareholding of 96% by Government represented by the Minister for STI and 4% by Makerere University.

**Kiira Motors Corporation (KMC) is a Mobility Enterprise. The Corporation's Core Business is to Develop, Make and Sell Sustainable Mobility Solutions**

#### **KMC OBJECTIVES**

- Produce vehicles including but not limited to conventional, electric and new energy Buses, Pick-ups, SUVs, light and medium duty trucks, 2 & 3 wheelers.
- Localise key mobility parts, components, systems and services.
- Establish a smart, reliable and convenient charging network for e-mobility solutions.
- Support the establishment of integrated, sustainable and inclusive mass transit system in Uganda and the region.
- Skill and re-skill mobility industry value chain actors.

### **KMC ROLLS OUT MASS MANUFACTURING OF BUSES AT THE MAIN PLANT IN JINJA**



Kiira Motors Corporation on the 3rd March 2025 officially rolled out mass manufacturing of busses. The event was officiated by the STI minister Hon. Dr. Monica Musenero Masanza.



## PRODUCTIVITY ACCELERATION

### PRODUCTIVITY ACCELERATION BUREAU ENGAGES AMOS WEKESA A TOURISM GURU

**Cutting across industries for an integral economic impact!**

STI - OP, Productivity Acceleration Bureau met with Amos Wekesa of Great Lakes Safaris & discussed innovations for integrating tourism in strategies for export of “minimal Aflatoxin” for agro-processed foods. The two parties also discussed a partnership with PELA for export promotions which is located in Soroti district.



20th March 2025



15th March 2025

### ROLLING OUT IN IMAGINE BUKEDI, BUSIA IN BUKEDI SUBREGION

On 15th March 2025, Hon. Minister Dr. Monica Musenero engaged farmers & leaders of Busia to drive the 'Imagine Bukedi 2040' vision. This is aimed at envisioning Bukedi out of the “nkolera kida” through industrialisation and high-tech growth for a prosperous future!

#ImagineBukedi2040



## “DO IT SPEAKS BETTER THAN SAY IT



24th March 2025



The Honorable Minister for STI and the team-lead productivity acceleration harvest an abnormally big banana within the STI-OP offices premises. ‘Small changes with Science become big changes! Harvesting matooke from the Office compound! Science is like Magic but with an explanation! . STI Tooke Harvest Day!’ the minister exclaimed via her official X page.



## **PATHOGEN ECONOMY**



20th March 2025

### **SITE POSSESSION BY NEC FOR CONSTRUCTION AT T-6 Katuugo, NAKASONGOLA BIOSCIENCES PARK.**

Site possession exercise by the National Enterprise Corporation (NEC) for the construction of the PCR facility. The event was attended by key stakeholders, including representatives from the funding agency STI-OP, the employer, the contractor, and district officials. The meeting was structured to ensure clear communication of expectations, discuss required documentation, and to address initial concerns for the project execution.



15th March 2025

The team leader Pathogen Economy delivered a groundbreaking lecture on the pathogen economy at the School of Public Health, Makerere University, marking the first of its kind there. She discussed recent advancements in the pathogen economy, focusing on public-private sector partnerships in Uganda's pharmaceutical industry, as well as the government's latest investments in infrastructure, human capital development, and ecosystem growth, joined by Mr. Patrick Albert Ipola and Dr. Kungu Peter

[@PathogenEconomy](#)

### **FIRST EVER PATHOGEN ECONOMY LECTURE AT THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, MAKERERE UNIVERSITY IN UGANDA**





## SOUTHWESTERN UGANDA, STI TOUR

### Day - 1, IN DETAIL ...

On the first day of the STI-OP regional M & E ministerial tour, the team visited two ventures in two institutions.

### PATHOGEN ECONOMY

In the company of the Under Secretary at the Science, Technology and Innovation secretariat, Office of the president, Mr. Peter Ourien, the team lead pathogen economy and productivity acceleration bureau, the minister inspected the STI-OP funded venture at Kabale university in Kabale district and Inspire Africa in Ntungamo districts respectively.

**Venture Target:** Formulation of Herbal Products for Treatment of Brucellosis and Osteomyelitis from Profiled Plants in Kigezi Region

**PICTORIAL: KABALE UNIVERSITY, VENTURE**



Pictures taken inside Kabale University laboratory, Kabale district.



### PRODUCTIVITY ACCELERATION

**PICTORIAL: NTUNGAMO, RWANSHAMAIRE VENTURE**

Inspire Africa in Ntungamo districts is the second STI-OP supported venture that the team visited on the same day 25th March 2025 for assessment. The Coffee hub is geared at facilitating the entire coffee value chain product line.

**Venture Target:** Coffee Value Addition





## PATHOGEN ECONOMY

### Day - 2

On the second day of the STI-OP regional M & E ministerial tour, the team similarly visited three ventures in three institutions.

First was at Rubanga Coffee Farmers Cooperative, in Mitooma district where the team was received by the venture leader Mr. James Muhangi for monitoring and evaluation tours which were concluded by a boardroom interaction.

**Venture Target:** Coffee Value Addition

**PICTORIAL:** MITOOMA , COFFEE VALUE ADDITION VENTURE



**PICTORIAL:** RUKARARWE, BUSHENYI HERBAL MEDICINE VENTURE

In total, 133 species, belonging to 34 families and 125 genera were identified. Fabaceae (65%), and Solanaceae (29%) were the dominant families. Leaves (80%), and roots (15%), were the commonest parts used in medicinal preparations; mostly administered orally as decoctions (34.6%) and infusions (16%). The commonest illnesses treated were cough (7.74%), gastric ulcers (7.42%), and malaria (4.52%).

Conservation and Sustainable Production of Highly Utilised Medicinal Plants, remains fundamentally critical for aiding processing and value addition for standard medicine development.





## **STI-OP team visited PIBID/ BIRDC on the second day of the regional M & E ministerial tour.**

On the same day 26th March 2026, the team concluded but a visit at the Presidential Initiative On Banana Industrial Development(PIBID) which doubles as the Banana Industrial Research and Development Center( BIRDC).

**Venture Target: Matooke Starch as a Pharmaceutical Excipient in Selected Medicinal Formulations for use in the treatment, Bushenyi**

**PICTORIAL: BUSHENYI, PIBID/ BIRDC BANANA STARCH FOR PHARMACEUTIAL EXCIPIENT**



## **Day - 3 & 4**

**On 27th-28th March 2025, the STI-OP team visited Mbarara university which houses several of the STI-OP supported ventures. Rangers spent two days at the varsity.**

First day at Mbarara University was spent in intensive pitching sessions for the several innovation ventures.

Second day at Mbarara university was crowned by the varsity **STI MUST 2025 Conference.**

**PICTORIAL: MBARARA UNIVERSITY**





## **PATHOGEN ECONOMY**

### **Day - 5**

**Chronologically the last day of the STI-OP regional M & E ministerial tour to southwestern Uganda saw two venture stopovers first at the snailtox, Kiruhura & Standard waves at Mpigi.**

On 29th March 2025, the STI-OP team visited and held deep interactive discussion with the now venture leader to snailtox on Commercialisation of *Phytolacca dodecandra* powder - Snailtox

**PICTORIAL: SANGA, KIRUHURA , SNAILTOX**



## **MOBILITY BUREAU**

### **HON. DR. MONICA MUSENERO VISITS STANDARD WAVES CAR PART MANUFACTURERS.**

The STI-OP minister visited and assessed Standard Wave car manufacturing plant for the first time and was impressed by the works their pledging to render government support. In support of the team-lead mobility bureau Allan Muhumuza, the first of a kind, the venture was identified in the outskirts of Mpigi district.

**PICTORIAL: STANDARD WAVES, MPIGI DISTRICT**





## **ENERGY MINISTER IN CONJUNCTION WITH STI - OP LAUNCHES FIRST PUBLIC ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION**

On 12th March 2025, the minister of energy and mineral development Hon. Ruth Nankabirwa officially launched the first ever electric vehicle charging station. The STI minister was represented by the team lead mobility bureau Mr. Allan Muhumuza at Amber house.

**PICTORIAL: AMBER HOUSE, KAMPALA CBD**



## **UDB LAUNCHES RISE, AN INNOVATIVE INVESTMENT PLATFORM**

The honourable minister for science, technology and innovation officiated at the launch of RISE a financial intervention. Reshaping Industries for a Sustainable Economy (RISE), the first of it's kind, in Innovation Driven Enterprises (IDEs) and in Uganda and one that is going to transform the way business is done.

**PICTORIAL: SERENA HOTEL, KAMPALA**





### **SCIENTIST SHOUT-OUT: UGANDAN DOCTOR HAILED FOR SAVING LIVES MID-FLIGHT.**

Ugandan doctor Mulungi Jonathan, a MUST graduate was hailed as a hero after saving two lives mid-flight to Brussels. He successfully resuscitated two unconscious passengers, earning praise for his quick action & medical expertise. National broadcaster UBC TV said via their official X platform.



### **ONLINE WEBINAR**



The second edition of The Science Journal Club, an online engagement by the Pathogen Economy Bureau was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> hosted by the bureau team lead. The discussions focused on the clinical trial success story for Tazcov as told by the venture lead.

## **INNOVATION OF THE MONTH**

**A premature baby carrier (Kangaroo Car Kit) with temperature monitoring and regulation system developed by students.**



Doreen Ninsiima a student at MUST, among the project members said the product if scaled would reduce new born mortality rates.



STI-OP through the one stop center promised to further engage the students and university administration for possible partnerships.



# THE PITCH -DAY

## PICTORIAL

### Innovation highlights of the March 2025 pitching session held at the Science, Technology and Innovation Secretariat, Office of the President.

The one stop centre organises monthly pitching sessions where innovators are scheduled to present before the pitch committee for support through the Idea to Market Innovation journey. Representatives from the eight thematic areas 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 the innovations was nyeru body butter a product of ghee.

- a. Mr. Kenneth Nyehoora Mugumya
- b. Mrs. Esther Nyehoora Mugumya
- c. Dr. Nasasira Elly



16th March 2025



## MONTHLY QUOTE

**“The main and consistent raw material of Scientific innovations are problems and those we have in abundance.”**

The minister made these remarks while addressing stakeholders including innovators at Mbarara university on the 28th March 2025 during the STI-MUST conference.

**Hon. Dr. Monica Musenero Masanza** - Minister for Science, Technology & Innovation, MUST, Kihumuro Campus



28th March 2025