



Food and Agriculture
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THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



African Agribusiness
Incubators Network

Harvesting Impact

INSIGHTS FROM THE UGANDA AGRIFOOD
SYSTEMS INVESTMENT AND FINANCING
CONFERENCE JUNE 2025



care





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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

In moments of great ambition, it is often the quiet pages of reflection that hold the power to shape what comes next.

This magazine was born out of such a moment - the Uganda Agrifood Systems Investment and Financing Summit 2025. Over two intense days, we witnessed a convergence of ideas, investments, and commitments that have the potential to redefine Uganda's food systems. This edition captures those voices, those intentions, and that shared energy to move from planning to bold, transformative action.

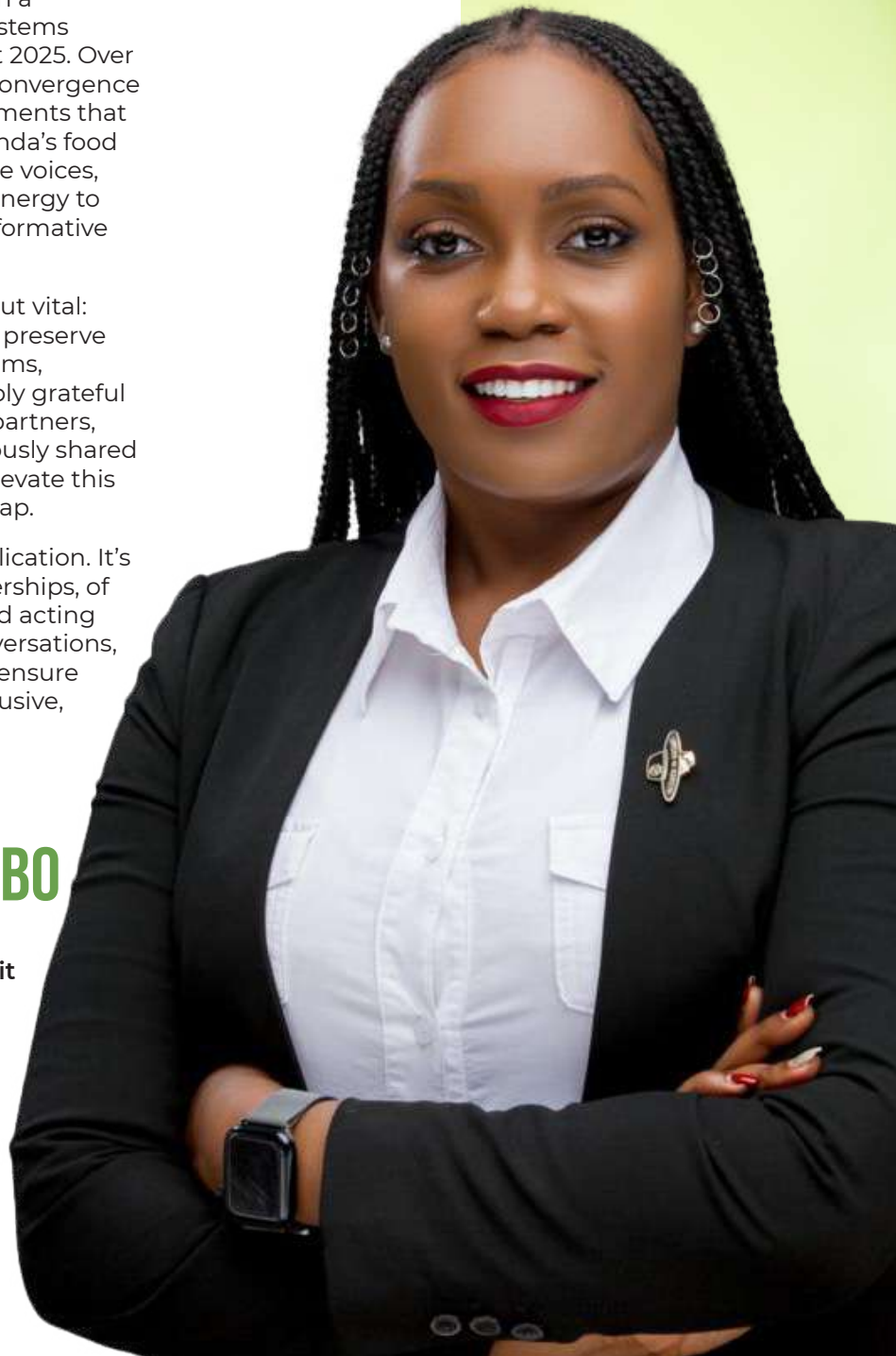
As Editor, my mission was simple but vital: to give structure to inspiration and preserve this momentum in a way that informs, motivates, and catalyzes. I am deeply grateful to all the delegates, development partners, institutions, and youth who generously shared their insights. Your contributions elevate this magazine from a recap to a roadmap.

This is more than a post-event publication. It's a testament to the power of partnerships, of listening deeply, of thinking big and acting boldly. May it spark continued conversations, investments, and innovations that ensure Uganda's agrifood systems are inclusive, resilient, and future-ready.

Onward together,

KADLAH NABAKEMBO

Editor, Uganda Agrifood Systems
Investment and Financing Summit
Magazine 2025



PREFACE

Prof. Alex Ariho

Chief Executive Officer, AAIN



About

African Agribusiness Incubators Network (AAIN)

Driving Agribusiness Transformation through Innovation and Investment

The African Agribusiness Incubators Network (AAIN) is a continental platform that supports youth- and women-led agribusinesses through incubation, investment facilitation, and capacity building. With a footprint across 20+ African countries, AAIN fosters entrepreneurship, access to finance, and scalable innovations in food systems.

As convener of the Uganda Agrifood Systems Investment and Financing Conference 2025, AAIN mobilized stakeholders, curated expert panels, and showcased inclusive investment models aligned with Uganda's development goals.

Kampala, Uganda | www.africaain.org | info@africaain.org

The Uganda Agrifood Systems Investment and Financing Conference 2025 marks a transformative chapter in our journey toward resilient, inclusive, and sustainable agrifood systems across Africa. As AAIN, we were honoured to convene this catalytic platform that brought together bold thinkers, policy leaders, investors, youth innovators, and smallholder champions under one vision — to ignite action and accelerate agribusiness transformation from the ground up.

Our mission has always been clear: to create ecosystems that enable African agripreneurs — especially youth and women — to thrive. This conference has proven that when public-private partnerships are fused with innovation and trust, real change takes root. Over these two days, we didn't just discuss financing; we co-created solutions, built bridges, and dared to dream of an Africa that feeds itself and the world.

The insights captured in this magazine are more than just highlights — they are seeds of inspiration and evidence of impact. I invite all readers, stakeholders, and partners to reflect on the momentum we have built and the new opportunities emerging in Uganda and beyond. Let this not be the end of the conversation, but the beginning of sustained collaboration.

To our partners — the Government of Uganda, FAO, WFP, private sector actors, and development stakeholders — we extend our deepest appreciation. Together, we are not just investing in food systems; we are investing in futures.



This conference is not just a milestone; it's a movement towards self-sustaining agrifood ecosystems.

Uganda AgriFood

SYSTEMS INVESTMENT AND FINANCING CONFERENCE

Theme: Catalyzing innovative financing
Agrifood systems for accelerated
and sustainable development

from

The MAAIF Representative

Rt. Hon. Bright Rwamirama

Minister of State for Agriculture, Animal
Industry and Fisheries

Guest of Honour – Uganda Agrifood
Systems Investment and Financing
Conference 2025

I was greatly honoured to serve as the Guest of Honour at the Uganda Agrifood Systems Investment and Financing Conference 2025. This event came at a critical time when we must strengthen our collective efforts to transform Uganda's agriculture sector, which employs over 68% of the population and contributes around 24% to national GDP. Despite this, 34% of Ugandans remain undernourished, and over 12 million people face chronic food insecurity (2024 State of Food Security and Nutrition Report).

I was pleased to see the strong collaboration between AAIN, FAO, and other partners, especially through the exhibition which clearly showcased innovation, entrepreneurship, and commitment from youth and women-led agribusinesses. These efforts are timely and align well with our national goals under Vision 2040, NDP III, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 and 2—to end poverty and hunger.



I congratulate all the stakeholders who made this event a success—over 500 delegates came together to share ideas, investments, and solutions that will help shape a stronger, more inclusive agrifood system in Uganda. Your active participation and contributions show that we are moving in the right direction.

Let us continue building strong partnerships, investing in innovation, and empowering our farmers. Together, we can achieve a food-secure and prosperous Uganda.



We must work together to mobilize investment for our food systems, explore innovative and blended financing solutions and promote integrated, systems-based financing that enhances productivity, nutrition, inclusion and climate resilience.

About Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)

MAAIF is Uganda's lead institution in promoting sustainable agriculture, food security, and agri-industrial transformation. Its mandate covers crop production, animal health, fisheries, value addition, and agricultural extension services.

Under Uganda's Vision 2040 and the upcoming National Development Plan IV, MAAIF is driving reforms to modernize agriculture, boost productivity, improve market access, and strengthen climate resilience. The Ministry champions inclusive policies that empower youth, women, and smallholder farmers.

As a key co-organizer of the 2025 Agrifood Conference, MAAIF played a central role in aligning national priorities with strategic investment partnerships for Uganda's food systems transformation.

www.agriculture.go.ug

Entebbe, Uganda



FAO Uganda Representative

Mr. Yergalem Taages Beraki



It is a great honour for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to partner with the Government of Uganda in this landmark conference advancing agrifood systems transformation.

This event reflects Uganda's leadership in delivering on the outcomes of the UN Food Systems Summit, the African Union's CAADP Strategy, and the Kampala Declaration — all aimed at building resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems.

Agriculture remains central to Uganda's development, contributing 24% to GDP and employing over 70% of the population. Yet, poverty and food insecurity persist, especially in the northern and eastern regions. Guided by

Vision 2040 and the upcoming NDP IV, Uganda is prioritizing inclusive rural transformation and sustainable agri-industrial growth.

This conference has underscored the power of multi-sectoral collaboration. With the right financing, inclusive policies, and bold investments, Uganda's agrifood systems can become a model for sustainable development.

FAO remains fully committed to supporting this vision — for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life for all.



**Investment in agriculture
is an investment in our
collective future.**

05

About

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – Uganda

FAO has been a trusted partner to Uganda since 1959, supporting agricultural development, policy, and resilience. With a formal country presence since 1981, FAO works to improve productivity, restore ecosystems, and build climate resilience—especially in vulnerable regions like Karamoja and the cattle corridor.

Guided by the Country Programming Framework (2022–2025), FAO focuses on three key areas: enabling environments, sustainable natural resources, and inclusive prosperity. Its work supports Uganda's National Development Plans and the SDGs, with special emphasis on climate adaptation, youth engagement, and reducing inequalities.

www.fao.org/uganda | Kampala, Uganda

CARE International Representative

Apollo B. Gabazira

Country Director, CARE International in Uganda



The Uganda Agrifood Systems Investment and Financing Summit provided an important moment to reflect and re-energize efforts toward building food systems that are inclusive, resilient, and equitable. At CARE, we recognize that sustainable transformation cannot happen without addressing the structural inequalities that hold back women, youth, and marginalized communities.

As a global humanitarian and development organization operating in over 100 countries—including Uganda—CARE has long championed gender-responsive programming and community-led solutions. In Uganda's agriculture sector, where women contribute nearly 75% of the labour force but receive less than 15% of available credit, closing these gaps is not only a matter of justice but of smart economics.

CARE is committed to partnering with government, private sector, and civil society to drive investments that respond to the lived realities of smallholder farmers. By embedding equity, climate resilience, and social protection into agrifood financing models, we can unlock the full potential of Uganda's food systems.

The pathway forward calls for courage, collaboration, and a relentless commitment to inclusion. Together, let's ensure that no voice is left unheard and no farmer is left behind.



Transforming agrifood systems means empowering farmers, protecting ecosystems, and ensuring no one is left behind.

About

**CARE
International in
Uganda**

CARE International in Uganda has worked since 1969 to improve livelihoods and reduce inequality through impactful programs in women's economic empowerment, climate-smart agriculture, education, and humanitarian response. With a rights-based and gender-transformative approach, CARE focuses on amplifying the voices of women and youth, enhancing resilience, and fostering locally led development that delivers lasting change in Uganda's rural and vulnerable communities.

Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)

Edward Fredrick Walugembe
Office of the Prime Minister –
Republic of Uganda



Agriculture employs over 70% of Uganda's workforce and sustains 68% of households—yet much of it remains subsistence-based. The Uganda Agrifood Systems Investment and Financing Conference 2025 responds directly to this challenge by aligning policy, finance, and enterprise action.

We commend the organizers for convening over 500 stakeholders, generating UGX 30 billion+ in investment interest, and promoting financing aligned with the Parish Development Model and NDP III.

This is not a one-time conversation. The Government welcomes the move to institutionalize the conference annually, with UIRI hosting the next edition in 2026. With continued collaboration, we can turn subsistence into sustainable agribusiness for every Ugandan



Government remains committed to turning agriculture into a true engine of economic transformation.

About

Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)

The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) coordinates government programs and ensures effective implementation of national policies across sectors. OPM plays a key role in disaster preparedness, refugee response, and development coordination—especially in vulnerable regions.

In Uganda's agrifood systems transformation, OPM champions cross-sectoral collaboration, inclusive service delivery, and resilience-building efforts that leave no one behind.

As a partner in the 2025 Agrifood Conference, OPM supported the alignment of investment actions with Uganda's broader development and humanitarian priorities.

www.opm.go.ug | Kampala, Uganda



National Planning Authority (NPA)

Prof. Pamela K Mbabazi
Chairperson, National Planning Authority (NPA)

The National Planning Authority (NPA) is pleased to have actively participated in the Uganda Agrifood Systems Investment and Financing Conference 2025—an important milestone in our collective journey toward transforming food systems in Uganda. We commend

the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), the Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI), and the African Agribusiness Incubators Network (AAIN) for convening this timely dialogue, and extend our appreciation to development partners including AGRA, FAO, WFP, and CARE for their continued support.

As a national co-convenor of food systems, NPA reaffirms its commitment to shaping this agenda through strategic planning and coordination. This conference comes at a time when we are embarking on the Fourth National Development Plan (NDPIV 2025/26–2029/30), a blueprint aligned with Uganda Vision 2040 and the government's 10-fold growth strategy aimed at increasing GDP from USD 50 billion to USD 500 billion by 2040. Transforming Uganda's food systems is a critical pillar in achieving this ambition.

The conversations held during this conference resonate deeply with the global

momentum leading to the second UN Food Systems Stocktaking Moment in Addis Ababa. They have underscored the urgent need to close the financing and investment gaps that continue to hinder food systems transformation. While government has allocated public resources under NDPIV, they are not sufficient. We must now act boldly and collectively—across government, development partners, and the private sector—to mobilize and invest in key game changers.

Let us work towards harmonized strategies, aligned plans, and coordinated action. By breaking silos and focusing on common results, we can ensure impactful and sustainable outcomes for Uganda's socio-economic transformation.

I wish all stakeholders continued resolve and commitment in this vital endeavor.

For God and My Country.

About

National Planning Authority (NPA)

The National Planning Authority (NPA) is mandated to produce comprehensive and integrated development plans for Uganda, including the long-term Vision 2040 and medium-term National Development Plans (NDPs).

NPA plays a strategic role in aligning policy, investment, and national priorities across sectors. Agriculture remains a core pillar in NDP IV, with emphasis on agrifood systems transformation, value addition, and inclusive rural development.

Through technical guidance and planning leadership, NPA supports evidence-based decision-making to drive Uganda's socio-economic transformation. Its involvement in the 2025 Agrifood Conference ensured strong integration of investment dialogue into national development frameworks.

www.npa.go.ug | Kampala, Uganda

AGRA Representative

HE. Alice Ruhweza
President, AGRA



Sub-Saharan Africa's agrifood financing gap is estimated at \$180 billion annually, with Uganda's share estimated at over \$1.2 billion per year, according to AGRA's 2024 Food Systems Financing Outlook. Bridging this gap is essential if we are to support smallholders, improve rural incomes, and ensure food security.

This conference showcased Uganda's bold commitment to addressing these gaps. We heard about the \$2 billion

annual contribution from coffee exports - a compelling case study on how strategic investment in value chains delivers high returns. Imagine if similar investments were scaled across dairy, cassava, horticulture, and fisheries.

AGRA stands ready to support Uganda in building stronger financing pipelines, enhancing agro-enterprise competitiveness, and equipping the next generation of agripreneurship - especially youth and women - with the tools they need to thrive.



David Wozemba Wetaka
Country Director, AGRA –
Uganda | Chair, Agriculture
Development Partners Group

The Uganda Agrifood Systems Investment and Financing Summit marked a pivotal step in closing the country's agrifood financing gap and unlocking the sector's full potential. In a country where agriculture employs over 70% of the population and contributes nearly a quarter of GDP, underfinancing and systemic inefficiencies remain critical barriers.

We commend the Government of Uganda for its leadership in developing

investable business cases and urge a shift from planning to bold implementation. Bridging the USD 1.2 billion annual financing gap requires catalytic public investment, private sector engagement, and inclusive financial tools that prioritize smallholders, women, and youth.

AGRA stands ready to support evidence-based investments, real-time data systems, and locally grounded coordination models. Together, let us convert momentum into action — for a thriving, resilient, and inclusive agrifood future for all Ugandans

About

Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)

AGRA is a farmer-centered, African-led institution working to transform agriculture into a highly productive, inclusive, and sustainable sector. In Uganda, AGRA partners with government, private sector, and local institutions to strengthen agricultural systems and improve food security.

AGRA's support focuses on enabling policy reforms, increasing access to inputs and finance, scaling climate-resilient technologies, and empowering youth and women in agribusiness.

As a strategic partner in the 2025 Agrifood Conference, AGRA reinforced its commitment to accelerating investment and innovation for Uganda's inclusive agricultural transformation.

www.agra.org | Kampala, Uganda

Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI)

Prof. Charles Kwesiga
Executive Director, Uganda
Industrial Research Institute (UIRI)



Uganda is entering a new era of agro-industrial transformation. With over 70% of our population in agriculture and the sector contributing 24% to GDP, the time to unlock its full potential is now. However, value addition, access to finance, and scalable innovation remain key bottlenecks.



Uganda's future is green, youthful, and digital – powered by agrifood innovation.

This year's conference brought together over 500 participants, charting actionable pathways for inclusive agribusiness growth. UIRI, currently incubating over 80 agro-processing SMEs, is proud to support this mission by bridging science, technology, and enterprise development.

In recognition of this platform's impact, UIRI will host the 2026 edition, officially making this an annual flagship event. Together, let's turn ideas into industries, and industries into livelihoods.

About

Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI)

UIRI is Uganda's premier institution for research, innovation, and technology transfer, focusing on agro-processing, value addition, and industrial development. It supports entrepreneurs and businesses to develop competitive products and enhance productivity.

UIRI plays a vital role in Uganda's agro-industrialization agenda, fostering collaboration between researchers, industry, and investors to drive agrifood systems transformation.

Hosting the 2025 Agrifood Systems Investment and Financing Conference underscored UIRI's commitment to innovation-led growth and sustainable development.

www.uiri.or.ug | Kampala, Uganda

MWE Representative

Dr. Callist Tindimugaya

Commissioner for Water Resources
Planning and Regulation

Ministry of Water and Environment
(MWE), Uganda



Water is life—and in Uganda, it is the backbone of our agrifood systems. As we reflect on the outcomes of the Uganda Agrifood Systems Investment and Financing Summit, it is evident that water security and sustainable resource management are integral to achieving food and nutrition security, rural livelihoods, and climate resilience.

The Ministry of Water and Environment recognizes the urgent need to address growing water demand across sectors, intensified by climate change and rapid population growth. Over 70% of Uganda's population depends on agriculture for survival, yet less than 5% of arable land is irrigated - leaving food production vulnerable to erratic rainfall patterns.

Through integrated planning, infrastructure development, and cross-sectoral coordination, the Ministry is committed to supporting efforts that expand irrigation coverage, protect watersheds, and ensure equitable access to water resources for all—especially smallholder farmers and vulnerable communities.

We applaud the multi-stakeholder spirit demonstrated at this Summit, and we reaffirm our role in enabling a future where water and environment systems power inclusive and sustainable agricultural transformation.

Let us continue to work together to ensure that every drop counts.

“ When we invest in food systems, we invest in people, resilience, and peace.

About

The Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE)

The Ministry of Water and Environment is the lead agency of the Government of Uganda responsible for ensuring sustainable management and development of water and environment resources. MWE oversees policy development, regulation, and coordination in the sectors of water supply, sanitation, water resources management, and environmental protection. Its work is essential in supporting Uganda's climate resilience, agricultural productivity, and overall socio-economic development.



Welthungerhilfe (WHH) Representative

Jeannette Wijnants
Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
Vice Chairperson,
Agriculture Development
Partners Group

At Welthungerhilfe (WHH), we believe that food systems must work for everyone—especially the most vulnerable. As Vice Chair of the Agriculture Development Partners Group, I was honored to witness the momentum generated by the Uganda Agrifood Systems Investment and Financing Summit.

This summit showcased not just Uganda's commitment to food systems transformation, but also the potential for collective action. The scale of need is undeniable—over 60% of Uganda's workforce is engaged in agriculture, yet many still lack access to finance, markets, and climate-resilient technologies.

Welthungerhilfe has worked in Uganda for over 40 years, supporting communities to overcome hunger and poverty through sustainable

agriculture, nutrition, and WASH interventions. We see firsthand that sustainable change is only possible when communities are empowered, solutions are locally led, and investments are inclusive.

We commend the Government of Uganda for its leadership and urge all stakeholders to keep pushing forward—to close funding gaps, prioritize rural women and youth, and ensure that climate-smart approaches become the norm.

Let us seize this moment to transform bold plans into real progress—for every farmer, every child, and every community.



No one should go hungry in a land full of potential – together, we can change this reality

About

Welthungerhilfe (WHH)

Welthungerhilfe (WHH) is one of Germany's largest private development and humanitarian aid organizations, operating in over 35 countries. In Uganda, WHH supports integrated programs in agriculture, nutrition, climate resilience, and water and sanitation. The organization empowers smallholder farmers and local communities to break the cycle of hunger and poverty through sustainable, locally driven solutions that prioritize equity, resilience, and long-term impact.

World Food Programme (WFP) – Uganda Representative

Lauren Landis

Country Director of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Uganda



Farmers must sit at the centre of the agribusiness value chain – not at its periphery

The Uganda Agrifood Systems Investment and Financing Summit arrives at a crucial juncture—when the global call to end hunger must be matched by local investment and innovation. The World Food Programme (WFP) applauds the Government of Uganda for bringing together key actors to align on priorities that will shape the future of food systems across the country.

At WFP, we recognize that food security is not just about feeding people today—it's about building the resilience and systems that ensure no one is left behind tomorrow. In Uganda, over 10 million people face food insecurity each year, a figure that underscores the urgent need for inclusive and sustained investment in agriculture, nutrition, and resilience-building.

WFP works across Uganda to support smallholder farmers, strengthen value chains, and improve nutrition outcomes—particularly among women, youth, and refugee-hosting communities. Our approach combines humanitarian assistance with development-oriented solutions such as climate-smart agriculture, supply chain innovation, and market access.

The outcomes of this summit reflect a shared understanding: transforming agrifood systems requires collective financing, stronger public-private coordination, and data-driven solutions. Let us work together—government, development partners, and the private sector—to turn these commitments into real impact for Uganda's farmers and families.

About

The World Food Programme (WFP) – Uganda

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian agency addressing hunger and promoting food security. In Uganda, WFP supports emergency relief, refugee assistance, school feeding, nutrition programs, and agricultural development. WFP also strengthens national systems and policies to ensure long-term food security and resilience for vulnerable populations across the country.



Mastercard Foundation Representative

Kaunda Keneth

Uganda · Lead Agribusiness (Commercialisation and Market Access) · Mastercard Foundation



No single actor can fix a food system—but together, we can finance its future

The Uganda Agrifood Systems Investment and Financing Summit stands as a testament to the country's commitment to unlocking the full potential of its agricultural sector through coordinated investment and inclusive innovation. The Mastercard Foundation is proud to stand alongside partners and government to reimagine food systems that work for youth, women, and rural communities.

Agriculture remains the backbone of Uganda's economy—employing over 70% of the population—yet young people continue to face barriers to entry, including limited access to capital, markets, and skills. At the Foundation, we believe that with the right support, agriculture can become a thriving source of dignified work for millions of youth across Uganda.

Through our Young Africa Works strategy, we are working to enable 4.3 million young Ugandans to access employment and entrepreneurship opportunities by 2030—many of these in the agrifood sector. We are investing in ecosystems that connect young people to finance, training, digital tools, and enterprise growth pathways.

This Summit has provided a vital platform to align efforts, mobilize resources, and drive forward the Kampala Declaration. We echo the call for action-oriented partnerships that prioritize local solutions, promote inclusion, and center youth in national development.

Together, we can transform Uganda's agrifood systems into engines of opportunity and resilience.

About

The Mastercard Foundation - Uganda

The Mastercard Foundation is a global foundation working to advance education and financial inclusion to enable young people, especially young women, to access dignified and fulfilling work. In Uganda, the Foundation is implementing the Young Africa Works strategy, aiming to equip youth with the skills, tools, and opportunities they need to succeed in a changing world, with a strong focus on agribusiness, digital innovation, and entrepreneurship.

02 ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Theme



Catalyzing Innovative Investments and Financing Partnerships to Transform Uganda's Agrifood Systems for Economic Growth, Food Security, and Sustainable Development.

Objectives

Mobilize investments, align policies and strategies, and drive systemic financial momentum in support of NDP IV.

Strategic Relevance

- Economic contribution
- Food security & poverty reduction
- Environmental sustainability
- Investment financing gaps

Key Stakeholders

Government ministries, FAO, AU, IFAD, AGRA, incubators, UDB, DFCU, Post Bank, civil society, youth, academia, and diaspora.



Agri culture

03 PRE-EVENT ACTIVITIES

Social Media Posts:

Social media played a vital role in generating buzz and excitement around the Uganda Agri Food Financing and Investment Conference. Through targeted posts and updates, organizers were able to reach a wide audience, share key information, and build anticipation for the event. The social media campaign helped to create a sense of community among attendees, speakers, and sponsors, and provided a platform for sharing insights and updates from the conference.



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African Agribusiness
Incubators Network

Uganda AgriFood

SYSTEMS INVESTMENT AND FINANCING CONFERENCE

Theme:

Catalyzing innovative financing and investments in Uganda's Agrifood systems for accelerated socio-economic transformation and sustainable development



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AGRA



Sustainably Growing
Africa's Food Systems



FRA

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01

DAY TO GO

Theme:

Catalyzing innovative
financing and
investments in
Uganda's agrifood
systems for accelerated
socio-economic
transformation and
sustainable
development

Theme:

24 -25
June

9AM
EAT

UIRI Namanve campus, Kampala



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Africa's Food Systems



FRA
Food Rights Alliance



Countdown Flyers:

The countdown flyers were a creative way to build anticipation and excitement for the Uganda Agri Food Financing and Investment Conference. Released in the lead-up to the event, these flyers provided a sneak peek into the conference program, highlighted key speakers and topics, and encouraged attendees to share their expectations and excitement on social media. The countdown flyers helped to create a sense of urgency and anticipation, setting the stage for a highly successful conference.



Stakeholder Planning Meetings:

The Uganda Agri Food Financing and Investment Conference was preceded by a series of stakeholder planning meetings. These meetings played a crucial role in shaping the conference program, ensuring that it addressed the key issues and opportunities in the agri-food sector. Through these meetings, organizers were able to engage with industry experts, investors, and other stakeholders to identify priority areas and develop a comprehensive agenda.





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Uganda AgriFood

SYSTEMS INVESTMENT
AND FINANCING
CONFERENCE



Theme:

Catalyzing
innovative financing
and investments in
Uganda's agrifood
systems for accelerated
Socio-economic
transformation &
Sustainable
Development



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SDG SECRETARIAT



PLANNING FOR DEVELOPMENT



04 EVENT

HIGHLIGHTS

The opening ceremony featured powerful keynote speeches from high-level dignitaries, as a conference room filled with like-minded stakeholders gathered to champion inclusive investment in Uganda's agrifood systems.

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The discussions highlighted that **financing must be people-centred and inclusive**, supporting innovations in food safety, digital technologies, value addition and climate-smart agriculture, while ensuring the engagement of women, youth, refugees and marginalized communities. This is particularly relevant in a country like Uganda, which hosts the largest refugee population in Africa.





05 EXHIBITION & INNOVATION SHOWCASE

The vibrant exhibition segment of the Uganda Agrifood Systems Investment and Financing Conference brought together over 30 exhibitors showcasing cutting-edge agritech solutions, innovative agro-processing techniques, and smart tools driving agricultural transformation. The space was a lively hub of activity, with strong participation from youth- and women-led enterprises, highlighting the growing role of inclusive agribusiness. From interactive demonstrations to inspiring displays of incubation models and strategic partnerships, the exhibition offered a dynamic glimpse into the future of food systems in Uganda and beyond.

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06 PARTICIPANTS' VOICES

(Survey Feedback)

Who Responded: 126

Top Findings

93%



*Rated the event
Good to Excellent*

88%



*Found content
relevant*

91%



*Want to attend
again*

Liked Most

■ Networking ■ Youth showcases ■ Speaker quality

Suggested Improvements

■ Better timekeeping ■ More investor-pitch sessions ■ Broader grassroots inclusion



07 MEDIA COVERAGE

The Uganda Agrifood Systems Investment and Financing Conference 2025 garnered wide-ranging media attention, reinforcing its significance on the national development agenda. The event attracted coverage from leading print, broadcast, and digital platforms, significantly amplifying its reach and impact.

UBC Television – the national broadcaster, which provided live highlights and interviews with key speakers.

KFM Radio – running bulletins that emphasized the importance of financing Uganda's agrifood transformation.

New Vision and Daily Monitor newspapers published in-depth articles and feature stories on the conference's objectives, themes, and outcomes.

The Observer Newspaper ran an opinion piece contextualizing the conference within the broader agri-investment landscape.

Online platforms, including government portals and media house websites, further amplified the visibility of the conference proceedings and post-event takeaways.

UGCIC (Uganda Government Citizen Interaction Centre) provided extensive social media coverage and supported live engagements via government communication channels, reinforcing the strategic value of the event at policy level.

WORLD
- EUROPE
- AMERICA
- ASIA
- AFRICA



The strong media presence and collaboration helped elevate the conference beyond the venue, enabling dialogue, accountability, and stakeholder mobilization nationwide



Why Uganda's Agri-food Systems Require Innovation Financing.

According to Prof Alex Ariho from the African Agribusiness Incubation Network, the conference that was held under the theme 'Catalyzing Innovative Financing and Investments in Uganda's Agrifood Systems for Accelerated Socio Economic Transformation and Sustainable Development' was aimed at finding ways through which food can be made available, accessible and affordable for the masses.

<https://www.harvestmoney.co.ug/why-ugandas-agri-food-systems-require-innovation-financing/>



Uganda Hosts Agrifood Systems Summit to Drive Investment and Accelerate Transformation

The summit marks a critical step in mobilizing investment and fostering innovation to transform Uganda's agrifood systems for a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future

<https://www.ugnewsline.com/uganda-hosts-agrifood-systems-summit-to-drive-investment-and-accelerate-transformation/>



African Agribusiness Incubators Network, FAO, and MAAIF Unite to host Agrifood Investment and Financing Conference in Kampala

The conference is about turning strategic intentions into tangible action by unlocking the investment required to transform our agrifood systems for the betterment of all Ugandans.

<https://www.ugnewsline.com/african-agribusiness-incubators-fao-and-maaif-unite-to-host-agrifood-investment-and-financing-in-kampala/>

08

PARTNERS & SPONSORS RECOGNITION

With deep appreciation, AAIN acknowledges the invaluable contributions of the following partners and sponsors, whose support made the Uganda Agrifood Systems Investment and Financing Conference 2025 a resounding success.

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Incubators Network



AGRA
Sustainably Growing
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09 LESSONS LEARNED & RECOMMENDATIONS

What Worked:

- Strong multi-stakeholder engagement across government, private sector, and development partners.
- High-quality discussions through well-curated expert panels and keynote presentations.
- A vibrant youth and women-focused exhibition that showcased innovation and enterprise.
- Consistent communication and branding that amplified visibility and participation.

Challenges

- Limited time for in-depth deliberations during panel sessions.
- Coordination constraints for onsite logistics and simultaneous activities.
- A need for stronger post-event follow-up mechanisms to sustain momentum.

Strategic Recommendations

- Increase the duration of panel discussions to allow for deeper engagement.
- Develop a digital event management system for smoother coordination.
- Institutionalize a post-conference action plan and stakeholder follow-through matrix.
- Enhance regional inclusivity by rotating the conference among different host regions.

10 ACKNOWLEDGING OUR ESTEEMED TECHNICAL EXPERTS

The success of the Uganda Agrifood Systems Investment and Financing Conference 2025 was greatly anchored in the wisdom, expertise, and unwavering support of our technical experts. With sincere appreciation and recognition, we celebrate the individuals whose contributions helped shape the vision, design, and execution of this milestone event.

1. Edward Tanyima (FAO)

Edward provided strategic oversight and technical grounding that enriched the conference's alignment with global agrifood investment priorities. His commitment was instrumental in harmonizing national efforts with FAO frameworks.

2. Jean Marie (FAO)

Jean Marie played a pivotal role in bridging policy, financing, and agrifood systems innovation. His insights brought depth to the investment dialogues and strengthened FAO's support in the Ugandan context.

3. Jacopo Schuerch (FAO)

Jacopo's data-driven approach and policy acumen helped guide evidence-based discussions throughout the conference. His analytical support was vital in shaping informed investment pathways.

4. Bosco Gumisiriza

Bosco's leadership in logistics and technical coordination ensured smooth stakeholder engagement. His ability to align operational details with strategic goals was invaluable.

5. Grace Kemirembe

Grace brought deep knowledge in agriculture value chain development, offering critical advice that informed the thematic sessions and program flow.

6. Grace Bwengye (NPA)

Representing the National Planning Authority, Grace offered critical insights on national development planning and policy alignment. His guidance ensured the conference outcomes were in sync with Uganda's Vision 2040 and strategic development frameworks..

7. Pamela Nyamutooka (IIRR)

Pamela, from the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR), offered valuable guidance on community-led development and capacity building. Her contributions ensured the conference remained grounded in practical, inclusive, and people-centered solutions.

8. Alex Rugabona

Alex offered strategic guidance on agricultural investment mechanisms and private sector engagement. His expertise greatly enriched the sessions focused on unlocking financing for agribusiness growth.

9. Agnes Kirabo (FRA)

As Executive Director of the Food Rights Alliance (FRA), Agnes championed inclusive, rights-based approaches to food systems. Her voice ensured the conference highlighted issues of food justice, equity, and community empowerment..

10. Sara Tusimire (CARE)

Representing CARE International, Sara provided sharp insights on agrifinance innovation and gender-responsive programming. Her contributions helped craft practical, inclusive solutions for stakeholders seeking access to capital and sustainable markets.

11. Dr. Clesensio Tizikara (AAIN)

As a senior advisor with the African Agribusiness Incubators Network (AAIN), Dr. Tizikara provided expert guidance in agribusiness systems and incubation models. His strategic input bridged research, innovation, and investment readiness throughout the conference.

12. Fred Muhumuza (MUBS)

An economist and lecturer at Makerere University Business School (MUBS), Dr. Muhumuza offered critical macroeconomic perspectives that framed Uganda's agrifood investment landscape within broader development and fiscal policy contexts..

13. Dr. Willy Kagarura (Kabale University)

From Kabale University, Dr. Kagarura brought deep expertise in rural development and agricultural policy. His insights added regional depth and academic rigor to the conversations on transforming Uganda's agrifood systems..

14. Dr. Geoffrey Nuwagaba (MUK)

Dr. Nuwagaba, from Makerere University, contributed extensive knowledge on agricultural innovation and ecosystem development. His expertise supported the conference's focus on sustainable transformation of agrifood systems.

15. Richard Ekodeu

Richard's role in technical planning ensured coherence between stakeholder needs and the overall program design.

16. Julius Mukunda

Julius brought the voice of civil society and policy advocacy, contributing to a holistic dialogue on public-private partnerships.

17. Suzan Watkins

Suzan provided valuable support in integrating sustainability and environmental priorities throughout the investment conversations.

18. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime (AUC)

A distinguished leader at the African Union Commission, Rhoda Peace Tumusiime brings vast experience in regional agricultural development and policy harmonization. Her strategic vision strengthens continental efforts to advance sustainable agrifood systems.

11 WHAT'S NEXT?

1. **AAICE Tunisia – August 2025**
2. Incubator mapping country wide
3. Innovation scale-up
4. Regional learning events
5. Food and Nutrition Innovations and Entrepreneurship Management training

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Who We Are

The African Agribusiness Incubators Network (AAIN) is an Africa-led and Africa-owned network empowering agripreneurs across the continent through business incubation, acceleration, and enterprise support. Established in 2013 and transformed into a network in 2015, AAIN operates in all 55 AU member states, with regional offices in Ghana, Uganda, Zambia, and Nigeria.

We work with incubators, accelerators, universities, governments, private sector actors, and development partners to turn agriculture into a viable business, especially for youth and women.



Our Vision

To be Africa's leading catalyst for agribusiness incubation, innovation, and entrepreneurship for sustainable economic transformation.



Our Mission

To incubate and support agribusiness incubators and enterprise organizations that empower entrepreneurs to create jobs and build sustainable businesses.



Our Core Values

- Innovation – Driving forward-thinking and impactful solutions
- Accountability – Operating transparently and responsibly
- Integrity – Upholding the highest ethical standards



What We Offer

- Incubator Systems Development & SOP Toolkits
- Technology Commercialization & Market Access
- Business Development Support & Mentorship
- Accreditation & Due Diligence for incubators
- African Agribusiness Incubation Fund (AAIF)



Our Signature Models

- 4Cs Model (Co-create, Co-finance, Co-implement, Co-learn)
- Unibrain Model (Universities + Business + Research)
- SYOB & EDP for Youth Entrepreneurship
- Community Incubation Hubs
- Market-Driven Investment & Mentorship Matching

Impact Snapshot

4,894+	17M+	7M+	2M+
Incubators/ accelerators supported	Women-led SMEs reached	Youth-led enterprises incubated	Jobs created
390	12,000+	235+	28,000+
Universities engaged	Profiled mentors and experts	MOUs signed with key partners	SMEs profiled continent-wide

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