

2023 aBi Finance Impact



Shamba Shape Up Final Cut Done

aBi and Mediae team reviewing episode of 'Shamba Shape Up - Uganda,' in Jinja District. The broadcasting of this popular agricultural edutainment television show is scheduled to start on 7th March 2024 and run for over 3 month on Vision Group's Bukedde channels.

VALUE OF INVESTMENTS:



UGX247.5Bn

In 2022, up 39% from UGX178.2Bn in 2021.

OUTSTANDING AGRICULTURAL LOAN GUARANTEE PORTFOLIO:



UGX153.7Bn

In 2022, up 26% from UGX128Bn in 2021.

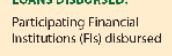
OUTSTANDING LINES OF CREDIT PORTFOLIO:



UGX187.2Bn

In 2022, up 53% from UGX122Bn in 2021.

NEW LINES OF CREDIT LOANS DISBURSED:



195.987

new loans (77% to women) valued at UGX187.2Bn in 2022, up 86% from 105,230 valued at UGX116.5Bn in 2021.

NEW AGRICULTURAL GUARANTEE LOANS



20,023 (28% to women), up 32% from 15,132 in 2021.

GREEN FINANCE FUND:



UGX124Bn

committed through the Green Finance Fund to offer green lines of credit.

aBi

MONTHLY

Newsletter

February
2024

aBi Finance Completes Green Financing National Awareness Creation Campaign

aBi Finance Wows at Sankalp Conference

The aBi Finance Team, under the leadership of the Chief Executive Officer, Mona Muguma Ssebuliba, took part in the Sankalp Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

It was running from February 27 to March 1. The conference served as a pivotal platform for discussing pressing issues concerning climate change and its profound impact on Uganda's agribusiness sector. Among the delegation were Ann Marie Mwaka, the head of Business Development at aBi Finance, Lawrence Mutumba, an Investment Manager and Joseph Kibuuka, the head of Fund Management , each contributing valuable insights and expertise to the discussions.

Together, they delved into the sobering realities facing Uganda, with the nation ranking highly vulnerable to climate change and grappling with limited adaptive capacity. With Uganda positioned 10th globally in vulnerability and 155th in adaptive capacity out of 182 countries, urgent action is imperative.

"The agriculture sector, vital to Uganda's economy, faces significant risks, with vulnerability and risk levels rated alarmingly



Ms Ssebuliba (Left) poses with the other 2024 trailblazers at the Sankalp Conference in Nairobi, Kenya

high. The potential costs of inaction loom large, with projections indicating annual expenses could soar into the billions within the next decade," said Mona at the investor round table conversation.

Key challenges identified by the aBi Finance Team included the lack of tailored financial products, limited awareness

among financial institutions and clients, and insufficient staff capacity to manage climate change adaptation loans. By addressing these issues head-on, the team aimed to increase their capitation to safeguard Uganda's agricultural future and foster resilience in the face of climate uncertainty.

NMG, aBi Plan Collaborations

In a bid to foster collaboration at the nexus of media, agriculture, and sustainability, Susan Nsibirwa the Managing Director of Nation Media Group recently convened with Mona Muguma Ssebuliba of aBi Finance. The meeting, held at aBi's premises, aimed to explore opportunities for joint endeavours in enhancing agricultural journalism and supporting initiatives geared towards sustainability.

During the discussion, both parties explored avenues for journalist capacity building within the agricultural sector. Emphasising the importance of robust journalism in driving awareness and understanding of agricultural issues, they also deliberated on strategies for empowering journalists with the requisite knowledge and skills to effectively report on agricultural developments, innovations and green financing.



Officials of Nation Media Group and aBi at the meeting held in the aBi Boardroom on February 14

Furthermore, the dialogue extended to the identification of potential areas for collaboration in supporting initiatives such as the Seeds of Gold Farm Clinics, which plays a pivotal role in promoting agricultural best practices and fostering sustainable farming techniques.

The meeting underscored the shared commitment of both Nation Media Group

and aBi to leverage their respective expertise and resources in advancing agricultural sustainability efforts.

As the discussion concluded, both parties expressed enthusiasm about the prospect of future collaborations and reaffirmed their dedication to promoting sustainable agriculture through robust media engagement and strategic partnerships.

First EUDR Stakeholder Meet Concluded

In a significant step towards addressing the potential impact of the European Union Deforestation Regulations (EUDR) on Uganda's coffee industry, aBi convened the first joint stakeholder meeting on the matter.

The meeting, held on February 14, 2024, brought together key officials and stakeholders from various sectors, including representatives from the Uganda Coffee Development Authority, TradeMark Africa, MasterCard Foundation and Cafe Africa, among others. The primary focus of the gathering was to initiate discussions on how the EUDR could affect Uganda's coffee sector and explore potential strategies to mitigate any adverse effects.

During the meeting, participants engaged in fruitful discussions on the implications of the EUDR and its potential ramifications for Uganda's coffee industry. They exchanged insights and perspectives on the regulatory requirements imposed by the EU and examined the implications for coffee producers, exporters, and other stakeholders along the value chain.

The discussions underscored the importance of proactive measures to ensure compliance with the EUDR while safeguarding the interests of Uganda's coffee industry. Participants highlighted the need



An official of UCDA addresses participants at Mestil Hotel. Inset is aBi's Nyabila sleeping at same meeting

for coordinated efforts and collaboration among stakeholders to address the regulatory challenges posed by the new EU legislation.

The meeting also provided an opportunity for stakeholders to voice their concerns, raise pertinent questions, and explore

possible solutions to mitigate the impact of the EUDR on Uganda's coffee sector.

Following the productive deliberations, aBi Development announced plans to convene a larger multistakeholder engagement later in the month.

aBi Visits Partners Across Uganda

aBi Development, a leading player in Uganda's agricultural sector, recently embarked on a series of exploratory tours to tap into the agricultural potential of Northern and Southwestern Uganda.

These strategic visits aimed to uncover opportunities for sustainable agriculture and agribusiness initiatives while fostering collaboration with local stakeholders.

Northern Uganda Expedition: Unveiling Opportunities for Transformation

Traversing the fertile lands of Northern Uganda, aBi's team embarked on a journey to envision the Northern Uganda Cluster. Engaging with key players in the agricultural landscape, the team explored cooperative unions, farming enterprises, and agricultural initiatives dedicated to sustainable practices.

Discussions at Technoserve revolved around mechanization to address the region's growing agricultural service demand, setting the tone for further engagements. Interactions with entities like West Acholi Cooperative Union and Hortifresh unveiled a tapestry of opportunities, emphasizing cooperative collaborations and innovative farming practices.

Insights from Syngenta, GADC, and MobbyPay shed light on the evolving agricultural development landscape, highlighting the need for agromachinery and financial support. The culmination of the expedition saw commitments from stakeholders like PostBank and Uganda Breweries Ltd to finance ventures and guarantee demand for agricultural commodities.

Immersing themselves in the vibrant culture of Northern Uganda, the team savored a traditional Bwola dance, symbolizing unity and community spirit. Energized and inspired, the expedition reaffirmed aBi's commitment to sustainable agriculture, with findings shaping the 2024/28 Business Plan.

Exploring Agricultural Enterprises in Southwestern Uganda

Meanwhile, aBi Development delved into the agricultural heartland of southwestern Uganda, led by CEO Moses Nyabila. The tour, conducted last week, provided insights into a diverse range of agricultural enterprises, fostering collaboration and



partnership opportunities.

Visits to Ankoole Coffee Producers Cooperative (ACPCU), Rwenjeru Mixed Farm, and TASS Women's Initiative offered unique perspectives on coffee production, mixed farming, and women's empowerment initiatives. Engaging with local stakeholders, the team explored market access, value addition, and sustainable practices.

These expeditions serve as a testament to aBi's commitment to unlocking Uganda's agricultural potential and driving positive change.

By fostering collaboration and sharing insights, aBi aims to catalyze sustainable agriculture and agribusiness initiatives, ensuring a brighter future for Uganda's agricultural sector.

aBi Finance Installs 1000 IECs

In a significant stride towards promoting and increasing the uptake of green finance products and services, aBi Finance kicked off the dissemination of Green Finance Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials in the first quarter of 2024.

This initiative aimed to equip financial institutions with essential resources and information to support eco-friendly agricultural ventures across Uganda.

The comprehensive range of IEC materials included wallboards, brochures, stickers, pull-up banners, and short videos, strategically designed to raise awareness and provide guidance on green agribusiness financing. With a focus on promoting environmentally sustainable practices within the agricultural sector, these resources aimed to empower financial institutions to make informed decisions and extend support to green initiatives.

The dissemination reached a remarkable milestone, with over 1,000 branches of 60 financial institutions across Central, Northern, Eastern, and Western Uganda receiving the Green Agribusiness Finance IEC materials. This extensive outreach underscored aBi Finance's commitment to fostering



Green Agribusiness Finance IECs being installed inside a banking hall.

sustainable development and promoting green financing solutions.

The initiative not only served to raise awareness but also fostered collaboration and partnership among stakeholders within the agricultural value chain. By equipping financial institutions with the knowledge and resources to support green agribusiness initiatives, aBi Finance aimed to catalyse positive change and drive

sustainable development across Uganda's agricultural landscape.

As the dissemination of these green finance IEC materials was done in partnership with UBA, UIBFS and AMFIU, through such collaborative efforts and strategic initiatives, aBi envisions a future where green financing is playing a pivotal role in driving holistic growth and resilience within the agricultural and financial sector.

aBi Trains Igara on Financial Re-engineering

aBi Finance recently conducted a training session at Igara-Buhweju SACCOs, aimed at bolstering their financial re-engineering and business continuity planning efforts.

The engagement with staff and board members delved into critical strategies to navigate challenges faced by the SACCOs, particularly amidst shifting dynamics in the tea sector.

During the training, it was revealed that a significant portion of Igara-Buhweju SACCOs' portfolio, estimated at over 85%, is concentrated among just two major clients.

These clients, primarily associated with a garbage shooting factory and Igara tea factory, respectively, constitute the backbone of the SACCOs' clientele. However, recent developments in the tea industry, including a drastic drop in tea prices from over 750 to 150 shillings per kilogram, have posed significant challenges.

With the decline in tea prices impacting the financial stability of their primary clients, Igara-Buhweju SACCOs are now



Participants pose for a group photo after the training held at Wesrec Hotel in Ishaka, Bushenyi district

facing the prospect of loan repayment difficulties. In response, they are exploring loan restructuring options to mitigate potential losses and sustain their operations amidst the turbulent market conditions.

The financial re-engineering training conducted by aBi aimed to provide the SACCOs with strategic direction and guidance in navigating these challenges.

By equipping them with essential skills and insights, aBi seeks to empower Igara-Buhweju SACCOs to chart a resilient path forward and safeguard their long-

term sustainability in the face of industry uncertainties.

The training underscores aBi's commitment to supporting the growth and resilience of agricultural cooperatives and financial institutions, ensuring their continued effectiveness in driving positive socio-economic impact within their communities.

Following the productive deliberations, aBi Development announced plans to convene a larger multistakeholder engagement later in the month.

Snaps



ABOVE: On February 7, 2023, aBi Development CEO met a delegation from DAI Global. They discussed matters of mutual interest and areas of possible future collaborations.



RIGHT: (L-R) Lawrence Mutumba, Investment Manager, Joseph Kibuuka, head of Fund Management, Ann Marie Mwaka, head of Business Development and Mona Muguma Ssebuliba, CEO, at the just concluded Sankalp Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

Inaugural Book Reads

On February 15, the aBi Book Club marked a significant milestone as it hosted its inaugural book talk session. The guest speaker for the event was Linda Nkwasibwe, the esteemed founder of Ubuntu Reads.

Founded approximately a year ago, the aBi Book Club has quickly become a cornerstone of intellectual engagement within the organisation, attracting the participation of around 30 enthusiastic staff members every Thursday morning. With a commitment to fostering a culture of reading and learning, the club has maintained an impressive reading rate of one book per month.

Participants had the opportunity to engage in insightful discussions on



themes, characters, and narratives woven within the fabric of different books. From thought-provoking analyses to personal anecdotes, the conversation flowed seamlessly, reflecting the diverse perspectives and interests of the participants. This initiative is aimed at building and mainstreaming a reading and learning culture at aBi.



February Birthdays, Celebrations

February brought forth a joyful celebration at aBi as the organization commemorated the birthdays of three esteemed individuals: Ann Marie Mwaka, Moses Nyabila, and Ivan Rujuta. Amidst the daily hustle and bustle, the occasion provided a moment of respite to recognise and honour these cherished members of the aBi family.

To mark the special occasion, aBi came together to share in the joy of birthdays, accompanied by the sweet indulgence of cake. The celebration served as a testament to the spirit of camaraderie and appreciation that permeates throughout the organisation. Arthur Oyako, Communications Officer also graduated with a Master of Digital Journalism from the Aga Khan University, Nairobi.

Vision Fund, aBi Join Hands to Help Refugees

In a bid to promote financial inclusion and economic empowerment among vulnerable refugee and host communities in Northern Uganda, aBi Finance has forged a strategic partnership with Vision Fund.

The collaborative initiative, launched on March 31, 2023, aims to expand access to financial services and uplift the socio-economic well-being of individuals and communities in Lamwo (Palabek) and Agago Districts.

With a total project cost of USh1.3Bn, aBi Finance and Vision Fund Uganda have pooled resources to drive impactful interventions in the target areas. aBi Finance's contribution stands at 72%, amounting to USh943Mn, while Vision Fund Uganda has committed 28%, equivalent to USh369Mn.

Key activities supported under the partnership include the establishment of two branches in Agago and Lamwo Districts, officially launched on 4th and 5th March 2024 respectively. These branches serve as vital hubs for delivering financial services and fostering community engagement.

Additionally, the initiative encompasses comprehensive financial education programs tailored for 720 refugee groups and Train-the-Trainer sessions aimed at building capacity within the community. Marketing, promotion, and sensitization, including the procurement of 12 motorcycles, further enhance outreach and accessibility to financial services in the target areas.

The project builds upon the success of a similar endeavor implemented by aBi

Finance and Vision Fund Uganda in Moyo and Yumbe from 2019 to 2021. Leveraging collaborative efforts from various partners, including those involved in mobilization and training of Village Savings and Loan Associations, the initiative aims to create a ripple effect of positive socio-economic change within the communities served.

By focusing on disadvantaged households, particularly women who constitute the majority of VSLA members, the project holds promise in alleviating poverty.

Through concerted efforts and innovative approaches, aBi Finance and Vision Fund Uganda are committed to driving meaningful impact and catalyzing positive transformation in Northern Uganda's refugee and host communities.

DEM Farm Transforms Poultry Waste

Dem Commercial Farmers Ltd and aBi Development are promoting sustainable agriculture and effective waste management in Mityana District.

This innovative initiative revolves around the conversion of poultry waste into organic fertiliser, offering a sustainable solution to two pressing issues facing the agricultural sector: waste management and soil fertility enhancement.

By harnessing the potential of poultry waste, Dem and aBi Development are not only addressing environmental concerns associated with waste disposal but also contributing to the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices.

The project holds immense promise for the agricultural sector, as it offers a sustainable alternative to conventional chemical fertilisers while addressing the



A compost shelter at DEM Farms used for converting poultry waste into manure

challenge of poultry waste management.

Through the conversion process, poultry waste is transformed into nutrient-rich organic fertiliser, which can be utilised to nourish crops and improve soil health. This not only reduces reliance on synthetic

fertilisers but also promotes soil fertility and enhances crop yields.

It is expected to not only benefit the local community in Mityana but also serve as a model for similar initiatives across the country.

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FEB



aBi Meets MoFPED over Coffee

A consultative meeting between aBi Development and the Private Sector Development Unit under the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to agree on compliancy strategies to the EU-Deforestation Regulations for Uganda's coffee exports to the Europe market.



aBi, Celebrates Valentines Day

On February 14, 2024, love was in the air at aBi as the People and Culture Office orchestrated a heartfelt celebration to commemorate Valentine's Day.

In a thoughtful gesture, all the women at aBi were greeted with a delightful surprise—a vibrant red rose and a pack of chocolates.

Embracing the spirit of love and appreciation, the People and Culture Office has made it a tradition to recognise Valentine's Day by showering the female staff members with assorted goodies.



This gesture not only spreads joy and warmth but also fosters a sense of camaraderie and appreciation among colleagues. The gesture served as a reminder of the value and importance of each individual within the aBi family, emphasising the spirit of inclusivity and unity that defines us.

Upcoming events

Uganda - EU Business Forum at Speke Resort Munyonyo
Mar 4-7, 2023

Signing of Royal Danish Embassy and aBi Development partnership agreement
Mar 6, 2024

The 9th Edition of the Green Finance Conference in Nigeria.
Mar 12-15, 2024

aBi Women's Day Fete
Mar 7, 2024

UPSIDE Closeout Events
May 2-329, 2024

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