

**IBANDA**

By Stephen Nuwagira

Rowland Abaho tends to her tomatoes as if her life depends on them. The tenderness and care she gives the plants shows her passion for the job.

No wonder the former banker has started making a mark in agripreneurship and innovation in the southwestern region.

Abaho's journey started with targeted training in banana micro-propagation at IBO Mixed Farm in Bwizibwera, Mbarara over two years ago.

"I was not happy with the bank job and wanted to do something that could impact the community," she said.

The agriculture graduate started a small venture after the training, producing banana plantlets using the new skills.

"I was lucky that I got a customer who paid me cash upfront before I supplied the plantlets, which played a big role in pushing me forward. I was making more money from the project compared to my salary at the bank.

So, I decided to throw in the towel and concentrate on the enterprise," says Abaho, of Jayraws Innovation Farm in Rwenkuba, Nyamarebe sub-county in Ibanda north county.

Today, the firm is one of the big producers of plantlets using the banana micro-propagation technology. The enterprise, which specialises in *gonja* (plantain), has the capacity to produce over 10,000 plantlets per year.

A plantlet of *gonja* (plantain) costs sh5,000 compared to about sh3,000 for other banana varieties.

Abaho's foundation started with training at IBO Mixed Farm, thanks to Skilling in Agripreneurship for Increased Youth Employment (SAY) project, which is funded by the Netherlands. The four-year project is implemented by AVSI

# Skills development promoting innovation among youth in Ibanda

PHOTO BY STEPHEN NUWAGIRA



**Abaho shows one of the plantlets. She emerged winner of Agribusiness Challenge fund in western Uganda**

Foundation.

The project supports the skilling of youth in Ibanda and other districts in various agro-enterprises, such as banana production, dairy farming, meat processing, poultry, piggery and coffee brewing (barista).

**EMPOWERING YOUTH**

According to Robinah Tumwebaze, the Ibanda deputy chief administrative officer, helping to skill the youth, especially the poor and "out-of-school young people"

contributes to the socio-economic development of the individuals and the communities.

She revealed that the project has benefited vocational institutions, such as Ibanda Farm Institute to offer quality training and improve the quality of skills training.

Other youth were skilled at Kagiira Skills Development Centre in Ishongororo, Ibanda north county, to link up with markets and create employment.

For instance, the organisation has developed facilities at Ibanda Farm School, including an animal

shed, poultry house, and a modern piggery. It also supports climate-friendly initiatives at the school.

"This has enabled the institute to train youth in hands-on vocational skills in order to start their own businesses and employ other youth," Tumwebaze said.

Kagiira trains in vocations, such as horticulture, poultry and dairy management. It also equips trainees with agri-value addition skills, including making tomato sauce, sausages, meatballs, pineapple jam, mushroom

**BENEFICIARIES SPEAK OUT**



**EVELYNE AKANKUNDA, A FORMER TRAINEE AT KAGIIRA:**

I trained in meat processing and got a DIT certificate. I am already using the skills gained during the eight weeks of training to start a snacks-making venture.



**ZUBAIR KASIRYE, A MEAT PROCESSOR IN ISHONGORORO TOWN:**

I employ two other youth and expanded the business, I also provide catering services.

powder, dry mushrooms and barista.

The students operate these units as their own businesses, which has helped to sharpen their entrepreneurship skills. When the trainees complete their courses, they are assessed by the Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT) and AVSI Foundation helps them with startup kits to implement their business ideas.

**SUPPORTING GOVT**

Tumwebaze lauded SAY, saying it supports Government policies that seek to empower young people.

"The Government is focusing on supporting the youth in organised groups, but this approach by Kagiira enables individuals to run their own enterprises. Such youth will find it easy to benefit from Government programmes, such as the Parish Development Model, since they are already skilled and active in the community," he noted.

Nearly 300 youth have been trained at Kagiira over the past two years and those who started viable businesses have been supported with startup booster kits to grow their businesses.

**ABAHO WINS**

SAY project beneficiary Abaho has already shown a lot of promise, emerging as the western region winner for the Agribusiness Challenge fund 2022 where he also won sh10m to expand her business.

**IMPACT**

Abaho employs and trains 30 youths during the rainy seasons. The venture also provides extension services and placements for farmers that want skilled personnel.

She has also expanded into pasture growing and provision of planting materials, especially for napier grass and brachiaria species.

"I sell 300 bags of pakchong napier variety each season and about 100 bags of other species, which boost my income," Abaho says.

She gets 150 bunches from her banana plantation per month.

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**KABALE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
P.O BOX 144, KABALE

**BID INVITATION NOTICE**

Kabale municipal council invites sealed bids from eligible bidders under open bidding for

- Provision of consultancy services to design detailed physical development plan covering Kirigime Ward, Mwanjari Ward and Karubanda Ward
- Supply of computer laptops

Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the open national bidding procedures contained in the Local Governments (public procurement and disposal of public assets) Regulations 2006 and it is open to all eligible bidders Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the open national bidding procedures contained in the (Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets) Regulations and it is open to all eligible bidders

**NOTE**

- Interested bidders may obtain further Information from Kabale Municipal council Procurement and Disposal unit and inspect the bidding documents from 9:00 am to 5:00 P.M during working hours from Monday to Friday.
- A complete set of bidding in English may be purchased by bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Uganda shillings 100,000/= . . .
- The method of payment will be through bank on General Fund Account No 9030005619520 Stanbic Bank, Kabale

Branch and obtain a general receipt which shall be attached to the bidding document.

- The document shall personally be delivered and no liability shall be accepted for loss or late delivery
- The bids shall be submitted in properly sealed envelopes and addressed to the Secretary Kabale Municipal council Contracts committee and clearly marked "Tender For ....."
- The closing date for bid submission shall be **8<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 11:00 A.m.** Late bids will be rejected.
- All bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or representatives who choose to attend on **8<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 11: 30 A.M in the Council Hall.** Kabale Municipal Council is not bound to accept any bid.

**The planned procurement schedule (subject to changes) is as follows**

| Activity  | Date  |
|---|---|
| Publish bid notice  | 21 <sup>st</sup> August 2023                      |
| Bid closing   | 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2023                    |
| Evaluation process  | 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2023                   |
| Display and communication of best evaluated bidder notice | 12 <sup>th</sup> Sept -25 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2023 |
| Communication of Contract award                           | 26 <sup>th</sup> September 2023                   |

**ACCOUNTING OFFICER**