

EXPLORE CLIMATE-ADAPTIVE TECH AT ABI EXPO SPACE

By Herbert Musoke

Aidah Mulungwa is one of the farmers benefiting from Hatchers Ltd's work to increase market access and productivity in the poultry value chain using efficient and environmentally friendly inputs in central and eastern Uganda.

"I was approached by Mercy Mugweri from Hatchers Ltd, who introduced us to rearing black soldier flies. We were trained in how to rear them, feed them to poultry and sell them to other farmers," she says.

Mugweri, a monitoring and evaluation officer at the Mbalala Mukono branch, explains that the company received a grant from aBi Development to support the project, which focuses on improving farmers' productivity.

"After the training, we monitor the farmers, guide them and support their access to markets through our partnership with Namawojjolo market, which links them to buyers," she says.

Through linkages between farmers, input suppliers, financiers and off-takers, aBi helps farmers access markets, services and business opportunities, Moses Nyabila, the aBi

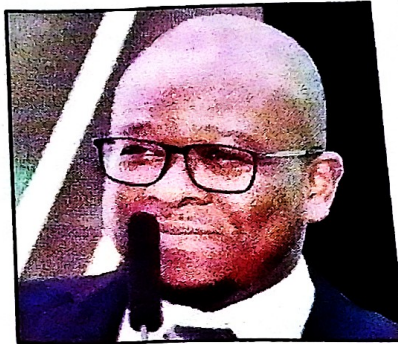


Development chief executive, says.

The Harvest Money Expo is organised by Vision Group in partnership with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Its sponsors include Engineering Solutions, Tunga Nutrition, Pearl Bank, Uganda Development Corporation, aBi Development and Heifer International.

The expo themed, *Farming as a Business: Growth, Sustainability and Co-operation*, will take place from February 27 to March 1 at Kololo Independence Grounds in Kampala. Entrance is sh10,000 while training sessions cost an additional sh10,000 daily.

Arthur Oyako, the advocacy and communication officer at aBi Development, says the expo offers practical solutions to farming challenges, access to experts and opportunities for partnerships that



aBi Development CEO Nyabila

improve productivity, incomes and resilience in a changing climate.

Nyabila says aBi Development is partnering with Vision Group because the expo provides a high-visibility platform that aligns with aBi's goals of scaling climate-smart agriculture and driving inclusive agribusiness growth. aBi Development will host the Danish Village at the expo. This is a dedicated space where farmers and stakeholders will interact directly with climate-smart technologies, solutions and partners.

"The aBi space, including the Danish Village, will showcase solutions

in irrigation, aquaculture, inputs, logistics, finance and alternatives to unsustainable practices, especially around wetlands and climate adaptation," Oyako says.

Don Wanyama, the Vision Group CEO, says that visitors should expect many game-changing technologies at the Danish pavilion from where farmers and agribusinesses can learn and also tap into business opportunities.

ABOUT ABI DEVELOPMENT

aBi Development is a Ugandan not-for-profit organisation that works to transform the agribusiness sector into a competitive, inclusive and climate-resilient system.

It aims at increasing productivity, creating jobs, promoting the sustainable use of natural resources and improving livelihoods, particularly for smallholder farmers, women and young people.

aBi Development works in climate-smart agriculture, inclusive finance, market systems development and policy advocacy in partnership with the Government, the private sector and development partners such as the European Union and the Royal Danish Embassy.

ABI EMPOWERS FARMERS

During the rainy season, the farms of Rwenjeru United Traders in Mbarara city overflowed with stormwater, followed by a seven-month-long dry spell.

The situation changed in 2020 through support from the aBi Green Challenge competition.

"The organisation helped us dig boreholes and construct two tanks with a capacity of 100,000 litres each. Our biggest challenge of water shortage is now solved," he says.

The farm had one similar tank and the extra capacity now serves over 300 households with clean, safe water for domestic use and livestock. Funding from aBi also enabled the digging of an underground well with a capacity of 9,000 litres per hour. Community water committees manage connections and monitor pipelines. Water is free for home and agricultural use.