

**PARTNERSHIP**  
By Chariton Namuwoza

## Agribusiness transforming northern Uganda

**T**here is sufficient evidence to suggest that Agribusiness Development can enable an agrarian economy realise economic transformation since it permits access to quality inputs for production and productivity, facilitates value addition or processing, delivers employment opportunities, generates demand for farmers' produce and offers income to small holder farmers.

aBi's investments in northern Uganda have been channeled through implementing partners including; small and large off takers, farmers organisations, government and NGOs.

One of the off takers that has benefited from aBi's support is Delight (U) Ltd. Delight is a private company registered in 1996 to conduct the business of producing fresh juice for the domestic market.

Aware of the need to provide agricultural skills and increase incomes of the previously Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nwoya district, aBi Trust entered into a partnership with Delight in 2015, aimed at establishing nurseries to improve access, availability and distribution of clean mango seedlings preferred for juice making.

This project would also enable 1,000 beneficiary farmers to establish good mango gardens. The successful operation of the mango nursery in the first six months of the project led to a three-year contract with Naads for the distribution of 2,000,000 seedlings per year to supply farmers in Northern Uganda.

Fulfilling the Naads contract would however not be possible without irrigation and expansion of the aBi-supported mango nurseries. In 2016 aBi Trust supported Delight to set up an efficient irrigation system, to supply nursery sheds, hardening areas, and fertigation tanks for supplying liquid fertilisers into sprinklers.

This project also involves the training of over 1,000 farmers on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), gender, and supporting establishment of Village Savings & Loans Associations. To date, Delight has successfully distributed seedlings, worth Shs2,696,711,757, under the Naads contract. About 1,702 acres of mango gardens have already been established and are under the management of out growers. The company has created employment opportunities for the IDPs, guaranteed a market for the mangoes and is working with other off takers to ensure that all the surplus produce is bought.

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