

Taking Professionalism to the Informal Sector

Dr. Joshua Mutambi

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Doctorate Study: Blekinge Institute of Technology, Sweden and Makerere University
2009 -2013,

Title of Doctorate research: 'Stimulating Industrial Development in Uganda through Open Innovation Business Incubators.'

Mutambi is the Ag. Commissioner, Industry and Technology Department; Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives. He is a bag of innovations targeting Uganda's burgeoning informal sector. Below are some of his highly impactful innovations designed for the informal sector:

One Village One Product (OVOP) Programme

In 2010, Dr. Mutambi initiated this programme which involves a village/region specializing in the production of a particular product for which it has comparative advantage. It aims at adding value to available raw materials, skills and human resource development. This programme was first piloted in Bushenyi District, Masaka and Serere districts but has since spread to many more districts including Mpigi, Kisoro, Kayunga, Kumi, Kamwenge, Bukomansimbi, Kalungu, Bududa, Kitgum, and Lira. This Programme



has been adopted in the National Development Plan, with an annual budget of 300m Uganda Shillings to roll it out countrywide.

Clustering Programme to nurture and incubate business in urban and rural areas of Uganda. It works on the concept of identifying individuals/companies dealing in a common and related activities/projects and equipping them with the requisite skills. The programme has successfully been implemented in Luweero District to support basketry, Jinja for bi-fuels and Katwe Metal Fabricators Cluster in Kampala.

“In Katwe, we had a number of juakalis (artisans), who needed assistance. They learn on the job. As a Ministry, we worked with Nakawa Vocational Training Institute, Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI), Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) and other organizations to equip them with basic skills of the trade and technical development. They were also allocated land along Salaama road and need more support in developing it. The Cluster has close to 3,500 members. A visit to Katwe reveals high levels of excitement as some of the beneficiaries eagerly show Dr. Mutambi the latest metal works they have collectively developed. In fact one of them, Moses Semulimi, tells Dr. Mutambi that he is now a Professional and would like to be registered with a professional organization.



Doctorate Research Area

Dr. Joshua Mutambi's research focused on stimulation and increase of innovation processes and industrialization in Uganda through business incubators. Small and Medium Enterprises (SME), being the engine of growth and industrialization worldwide, understanding and designing how they can be supported better and nurtured for growth was key for the research. Innovation performance measurement, managing business incubators and other support mechanisms to SMEs were addressed. An open innovation incubator management model to guide incubation system in Uganda and other developing countries was designed based on cluster initiatives and innovation systems approach.



Policy briefs

- OVOP policy brief disseminated to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives; and Hon. Members of Parliament.
- Role of Small and Medium sized enterprises in Economic Development: Contribution from Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives.
- The Status of Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators in Uganda, part of the African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (ASTII) program under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

Awards and Recognitions

- Certificate of Recognition awarded by Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives for contributing towards the development of the National Standards and Quality Policy on behalf of the Ministry and Government of Uganda, September 2012

- Certificate of Merit on performance by the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry in Recognition of the Good Service rendered to the Ministry as Principal Industrial Officer, Dec. 2008.

Membership to Professional Organizations and Advisory Boards

- Member of the Project Management Research Committee of China (PMRCC), and the International Project Management Association (IPMA)
- Member of TCI (The Competitiveness Institute), the Global Practitioners network for competitiveness, clusters and innovation.
- Registered Member of Microfinance Gateway for World Bank Certified Trainers (2010)-Platform for Consultancy and Networking
- Technical Adviser to the Leather Products and Manufacturing Association in respect to the COMESA and Leather Products Institute.
- Board Member: Uganda Business and Technical Examinations Board, under the Education and Sports Ministry.
- Member of the Steering Committee of the Innovation Systems and Clusters Programme, Makerere University
- Registered Corporate Member of the Uganda Institution of Professional Engineers-UIPE
- Former Member: Governing Council of Management Training and Advisory Centre, Nakawa.
- Chairman Governing Council of Uganda Technical College - Bushenyi.

