
**Celebrating and Supporting Innovation: The UDB I-Growth Accelerator Program**

Uganda Development Bank Limited (UDB), in partnership with the Eldorado-Africa Network (EAN) Innovation Labs (EANIL), launched the inaugural UDB I-Growth Accelerator Program in November 2017 focusing on supporting the commercialization of local start-ups and stimulating a culture of innovation in Uganda. The program is in tandem with UDB’s mandate of fostering socio-economic development through intervention in priority sectors of the economy.

The Program, held under the theme ‘Towards a Smart and Sustainable Agricultural and Manufacturing Sector,’ is designed to support local start-ups and early-stage enterprises through multi-sectoral collaboration, transformative interventions in the form of incubation and acceleration solutions that seek to build a pipeline of projects that are innovative, impactful, and scalable.

In order to maintain productive soil quality as well as supply adequate and nutritious food for the population, Ugandans usually rely on arable use of chemicals and other forms of pesticides, some of which are hazardous to the environment and human life.

In response, Guide Lavee Farm produces Organipak, on organic terriler paper from peat, giganto, and human waste earthworms. The Farm also integrates other low-cost agricultural approaches, and uses technologies that improve foodstock (and food stock quality). Organipak, organ-organic, and red bakets to control harmful organisms. The Farm is also conducting tests for weed control on organic weed control solution.

The project has been in existence for 2 years and has the capacity to produce 500 liters of Organipak per week. Their intention is to form new ties with producers to increase production and traditional farming practices.

**TOP WINNER**

**FIRST RUNNER-UP**

**SECOND WINNER**

**Other Finalists**

**Bank at House Factor R-change**

This project is focused on rethinking the packaging of agricultural produce in one of the major challenges in the agricultural sector. They therefore came up with their project that is solution that uses bio bags to keep produce fresh. The product is moisture resistant, light and can be disposed of.

**EcoSmart Pads**

This project has been in existence for 8 years. The project started in order to address the need for not only sanitary but also environmental friendly paper product.

**Kodos**

This project was founded by two undergraduate students who considered the problem of plastic bags that help farmers in rural areas gain knowledge and access to appropriate markets.

**Orbatts**

This project has been in existence for 8 years. The project started in order to address the need for not only sanitary but also environmental friendly paper product.

**Orbatts**

This project has been in existence for 8 years. The project started in order to address the need for not only sanitary but also environmental friendly paper product.

**Sparky Dryer**

This project was founded by two undergraduate students who considered the problem of plastic bags that help farmers in rural areas gain knowledge and access to appropriate markets.

**UDB INSPIRING DEVELOPMENT**

The Bank has been able to identify, select, and support innovators and entrepreneurs with projects that have the potential to contribute to the improvement of local economies and livelihoods. This is achieved through partnerships with local enterprises and sectors, which facilitate the development and commercialization of innovative solutions. The Bank’s initiatives are geared towards supporting businesses that align with its mandate of fostering socio-economic development through interventions in priority sectors of the economy.

The Bank offers a comprehensive suite of financial products and services that are tailored to meet the needs of its clients. These include loans, grants, and other forms of financial assistance that are designed to support businesses at various stages of their development. The Bank also provides advisory services and technical assistance to help clients overcome challenges and realize their growth potential.

The Bank’s approach is to support innovation and entrepreneurship by identifying and investing in projects that have the potential to make a meaningful impact on the local economy. This includes projects that promote sustainable development, support the growth of local businesses, and contribute to the improvement of the lives of the people.

The Bank’s initiatives reflect its commitment to supporting innovation and entrepreneurship as a means of fostering economic growth and development. Through its financial products and services, the Bank is able to contribute to the improvement of local economies and livelihoods, and support the growth of businesses that align with its mandate of fostering socio-economic development through interventions in priority sectors of the economy.

**Closing Remarks**

The UDB I-Growth Accelerator Program has successfully identified and supported innovators and entrepreneurs with projects that have the potential to make a meaningful impact on the local economy. Through its financial products and services, the Bank is able to contribute to the improvement of local economies and livelihoods and support the growth of businesses that align with its mandate of fostering socio-economic development through interventions in priority sectors of the economy.

The Bank looks forward to continuing its efforts to support innovation and entrepreneurship in order to foster economic growth and development.