



Bawaye (left) and Nakimuli, the co-founders of Success Tribe, employ 70 people



One of the tomato vendors in Busega Market who benefits from Success Tribe

HOW YOUTH ARE BENEFITING FROM TAGDEV PROGRAMME

By Simon Okitela

Agriculture has long been the backbone of Uganda's economy, employing 65% of the working population. Among this number, young

people make up a staggering 63%, most of whom reside in rural areas where farming is both a cultural heritage and a primary livelihood.

However, for many youths, especially those engaged

in unpaid family labour or subsistence farming, agriculture has not offered a viable path to prosperity. Only a fraction is involved in meaningful employment across the broader agricultural

value chain.

Tangible results have been yielded from partnerships between programmes such as the Transforming African Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa's Growth and Development (TAGDev), an initiative of Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) and the Mastercard Foundation.

More young people are engaging in agriculture, using skills in entrepreneurship, technology and digital tools to transform traditional farming into a dynamic engine for innovation and job creation.

ABOUT TAGDEV

Launched in 2016, the TAGDev programme was designed to transform African agricultural universities into centres of innovation and development. Over the course of eight years, TAGDev has supported 567 students from disadvantaged and post-conflict communities across Africa.

Many of these graduates have gone on to launch enterprises that are not only commercially viable but also socially transformative in creating jobs for others.

Their continued use of manual processing methods has reduced efficiency and consistency, and the limited space at their facility restricts production capacity.

EMARU'S STORY

In Luwero district, another young entrepreneur, Anthony Emaru, is reshaping Uganda's agribusiness landscape.

With a master's degree in horticulture from Egerton University, Emaru co-founded 4 Pillar Networks, a platform that connects over 3,500 smallholder farmers across East and Central Africa to agricultural training, markets and digital resources.

Emaru also manages Unplugged Vision Farm, an 83-acre enterprise that cultivates avocados, kale, coriander, tomatoes and more. The farm currently employs 21 young people and serves as a training ground for best practices in agronomy, agribusiness and sustainable farming.

Emaru also extends support to 15 neighbouring farmers, offering access to quality seeds, training and agro-inputs, thereby strengthening community ties and building a network of empowered growers.

However, his commitment goes beyond the farm. He has signed a memorandum of understanding with a private medical company to provide subsidised healthcare for his staff, covering 50% of their medical bills, a gesture that reinforces his belief in inclusive growth and employee well-being.

Emaru's impact, like that of Bawaye and Nakimuli, is rooted in a system that identified and nurtured their potential.

70 people along the tomato value chain and supports over 35 families.

Bawaye's journey began at Makerere University, where she pursued a bachelor's degree in bioprocessing engineering.

Her academic background, combined with the hands-on training received through the TAGDev programme, ignited her passion for agribusiness. Alongside Nakimuli, she applied her knowledge in food science, microbial stability and preservation to develop safe, shelf-stable products tailored to Uganda's tastes and market demands.

CHALLENGES

Despite the remarkable progress, challenges persist. Their products are yet to receive certification from the Uganda National Bureau of Standards, limiting their access to formal retail markets.

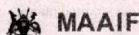
ESTABLISHING A BUSINESS

Through the skills gained from the TAGDev programme, two young women are tackling the post-harvest losses by rewriting the narrative of food waste and opportunity at Busega Market.

Jackline Bawaye and Esther Nakimuli, co-founders of Success Tribe, an app unlocking the potential of tomatoes, were struck by the vast quantity of up to 3.2 tonnes of tomatoes lost each day due to poor handling and lack of proper storage. Instead of walking away, they saw a business opportunity.

Using locally sourced tomatoes, they began producing a line of value-added products, including tomato sauce, chilli paste, jam, ketchup and barbecue sauce. Their small operation quickly evolved into a model of circular agriculture tailored towards reducing post-harvest losses, creating marketable products and supporting smallholder farmers, while creating jobs.

Today, Success Tribe employs



JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Government of Uganda (GoU) has received a loan from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) towards financing a ten-year National Oil Seeds Project (NOSP). The Project is being implemented in six area-based hubs: West Nile (Arua), Northern (Gulu), Mid Northern (Lira), Karamoja, Eastern (Mbale) and Mid-Western (Hoima).

Applications are therefore, invited from suitably qualified and experienced Ugandans to apply for the positions of Driver existing in the National Oil Seeds Project Coordination Unit.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Job Title: Project Driver
Organisation: Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
Reports to: Office Administrator/ Hub Coordinator
Funding Source: National Oil Seeds Project (NOSP)
Duty Station: Gulu, Arua, Lira, Mbale (indicate preference)
Contract Duration: One-year contract, renewable based on satisfactory performance against agreed targets and deliverables.

Responsibilities

- Drive the project vehicles with strict adherence to local traffic laws and in accordance to project rules and regulations pertaining to vehicles.
- Transport project staff and materials in the regions of project operation.
- Maintain the vehicle in a satisfactory condition, including weekly cleaning of the interior and exterior and periodic (quarterly) cleaning of the motor and chassis.
- Ensure that the tires are in good working conditions at all time, and that spare tire is in good condition.
- Ensure that vehicle usage log is updated on a daily basis and submitted on a monthly basis.
- Ensure that fuel consumption report is submitted as required.
- Ensure regular maintenance of the vehicle, and that oils (water, oil, fuel, washer liquid, etc.) levels are at required levels.
- Report any apparent malfunction to the supervisor.

- Report any damage or accident to the supervisor immediately.
- Ensure that the vehicle is safely parked and locked when not in use.
- Carry out project errands as required

Minimum Required Education & Experience

- Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE) with atleast a pass in English.
- 5 years of experience in driving a project vehicle, preferably for donor project/Car Insurance Certificate of competence issued by the Chief Mechanical Engineer
- Valid driver's license in good standing
- Defensive driving certificate will be a plus
- Core Competencies
 - Knowledge of driving rules and regulations and skills in minor vehicle repairs.
 - Knowledge of radio, email, telephone and other applications.
 - Trustworthy, high sense of responsibility, alertness; physical fitness on duty, emotional stability, neat and courteous.
 - Good knowledge of the Project activity areas and the current conditions of roads and highways.
 - Ability to deal patiently and tactfully with people of different national and cultural backgrounds/temperaments.
 - Flexibility to fit into often changing priorities
 - Ability to fluently communicate in English both verbally and written. Knowledge of the local language is also required.

All candidates should send their written applications with copies of identification documents, academic credentials, references, and certified Curriculum Vitae (CV), indicating contact details of 3 (three) referees addressed to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, P.O. Box 102 Entebbe, Uganda or hand delivered to the Ministry Security Registry located at Plot No.14 Lugard Road, Entebbe. Deadline is 25th of August, 2025.

NR: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted

