



UGANDA MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

Empowering you to excel

Management Business Incubation Centre (MBIC)

Newsletter



Issue 2

August 2026

Chief Institute Research and Innovation Center

Welcome to the August 2026 edition of our newsletter. For the Management Business Incubation Centre (MBIC), this quarter has been marked by significant strategic growth and a deepened commitment to fostering a vibrant innovation ecosystem in Uganda. MBIC has witnessed several milestones that underscore our role as a preferred hub for sustainable business growth;

MBIC is in the process of formalizing the ABCD Portal Strategic Partnership with the Makerere Innovation and Incubation Centre (MIIC) and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. This initiative focuses on the ABCD Portal i.e. a digital platform designed to provide evidence-based reporting on national value chains such as cotton and coffee.

MBIC formalized a partnership with the Stanbic Business Incubator to support women-led green enterprises and participated in a series of ecosystem strategic engagements to strengthen our collaboration.

Our Online Management Innovation Mentorship Series was successfully rebranded to focus on real-world problem-solving, featuring business cases from SMEs paired with expert mentors. Additionally, our quarterly Business Clinics continued to provide MSMEs with critical guidance on green economies, financial access, and brand building.



Looking ahead to the Financial Year 2026/2027, MBIC is at the heart of a transformative institutional shift. MBIC is being repositioned from a standalone facility into a Research-to-Practice Hub. Again, every innovation project we undertake will be tied to a national priority, with the goal of translating research into immediate policy action or enterprise. Key upcoming interventions include:

MBIC together with MIIC and Carnegie Mellon University will host Management Innovation Challenges to develop public sector innovation i.e. software tools and digital solutions for both public and private sector challenges.

The Certified Public Sector Innovation Practitioner (CPSIP) program aimed at creating a cadre of professionals specifically trained to solve public sector inefficiencies.

As UMI reasserts its position as Uganda's premier institution for policy research and knowledge translation, we are committed to building a collaborative, interdisciplinary ecosystem where students, staff, and practitioners co-create solutions for national transformation. Our focus remains on ensuring that research does not stay trapped in academia but is tested and grounded in the operational realities of government service delivery and private sector competitiveness.

Highlights & Updates

Business Clinic

The Management Business Incubation Centre (MBIC) at Uganda Management Institute organizes free business clinics quarterly. These business clinics are aimed at providing expert advice, support and guidance to entrepreneurs, startups and small businesses to help them overcome challenges, improve their operations and achieve their business objectives. The business clinics have been held under various themes; “Advancing Green Economy and Business for Sustainable Growth” held on 24th April 2025, “Accelerating MSME Competitiveness Through Compliance and Management Innovation” held on 28th August 2025, “Empowering MSMEs to access the right Finance and Markets for Sustainable Growth” held on 27th November 2025 and “Building Premium Brands” held on 26th March 2026.

These are held in partnership with different stakeholders who are key players in the MSME ecosystem like the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS), Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU), Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI), Housing Finance Bank, Prudential Uganda, I&M Bank and Uganda Free Zones and Export Promotions Authority (UFZEPA), ICEA Lion Insurance and Ministry of Trade, Industries and Cooperatives among others and they attract an average of 50 participants.



At one of the business clinics (I&M bank and Uganda free zones and export promotion Authority)

Online Management Innovation Mentorship Series



The Management Business Incubation Centre (MBIC) organizes Probono Online Management Innovation Mentorship Series on Wednesday from 7pm-8pm twice a month. These series are aimed at equipping entrepreneurs, managers, and professionals with practical skills and innovative strategies for addressing contemporary management challenges. Initially these sessions mainly focused on topics of interest in particular sectors however the concept was revised to focus on problem solving where an SME or MSME presents their business case and then a mentor in that line presents a solution; thus, the rebrand. Prior to the rebrand, the MBIC held three sessions on the following themes: “From Cash to Digital: Unlocking Growth with E-payments for SMEs” by Ms Sheila Grace Kemigisha – Digital Payments Manager dfcu Bank held on 9th April, 2025, “Prospects of Development Mineral Value Addition” by Mr Bikwasizehi Dickie – Research Scientist at Uganda Industrial Research Institute held on 21st May 2025 and “From survival to growth: Practical strategies to scale your business” by Dr Ignatius Odongo, a seasoned enterprise development and market systems specialist held on 20th May 2026.

The rebranded Sessions have been held on various topics including: “Leading Remote &

Hybrid Teams.” A business case presented by Mr Kyembe Karim of Tasty suggestions Bakery on 23rd July 2025. The mentor that delivered possible solutions was Assoc. Prof Wilberforce Turyasingura on 30th July 2025; “Digital Transformation and Innovation in Business.” A business case presented by Ms Leah Kanyi, Co-founder of Daftari, a Fintech Company on 13th August 2025. The mentor that delivered possible solutions was Ms Sheila Grace Kemigisha – Digital Payments Manager dfcu Bank on 10th September 2025; “Building and Managing your Intellectual Property Portfolio.” A business case presented by Ms Patience Mulayi – Director and Cofounder Curescape Pharm Ltd on 22nd October 2025. The mentor that delivered possible solutions and educated the participants on Intellectual Property protection was Ms Akello Dorah, a Founder and CEO of Talent for Wealth Initiative on 29th October 2025; “Building Adoption and Trust in Business.” A business case presented by Ms Susan Mugenyi, the founder of Funa Ride on 25th February 2026. The mentor that delivered possible solutions was Ms Yvonne Kembabazi, the administrative assistant for the UMI Management Business Incubation Centre on 11th March 2026.

Partnerships & Collaborations

Carnegie Melon University

Carnegie Melon University-Africa, through the mentorship of Dr Stanley Mukasa continues to support MBIC towards developing management solutions for government and private sector. Dr Stanley offers his expertise on how the MBIC can plan and conduct the first edition of the Management Innovation Challenge whose focus will entirely be on innovating management solutions for government and private sectors. The dates for this activity will be communicated.

UMI-MBIC Partners with Makerere Innovation and Incubation Centre (MIIC) and the Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development to advance Innovation

The Uganda Management Institute's Management Business Incubation Centre (UMI-MBIC) is pleased to announce its strategic partnership with the Makerere Innovation and Incubation Centre (MIIC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED) to support the implementation of the Area-Based Community Development (ABCD) Portal. This landmark initiative positions the ABCD Portal as a programme-first, portal-enabled, and strategic digital platform designed to strengthen evidence-based reporting on the different value chains i.e. cotton, coffee etc across Uganda.

As part of the initial phase of implementation the Makerere Innovation and Incubation Centre team conducted a series of Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) involving key stakeholders at UMI. These engagements





Inception meeting with the MIIC team regarding the ABCD Portal programme

provided valuable insights into institutional priorities, stakeholder expectations and opportunities for integrating innovation into programme delivery.

In addition, a comprehensive survey was undertaken to assess the current state of innovation within the UMI Management Business Incubation Centre. The assessment examined existing innovation practices, institutional capabilities, support systems and opportunities for strengthening the incubation ecosystem. The findings will inform the development of targeted interventions aimed at enhancing UMI-MBIC's capacity to nurture innovative enterprises and deliver greater impact.

Another significant milestone was the successful hosting of the ABCD Portal Co-Creation Activities at Uganda Management Institute. The participatory sessions brought together technical experts, institutional representatives and key stakeholders to collaboratively validate user requirements, refine platform functionality and ensure that the portal responds effectively to the needs of its intended users. The co-creation

approach reinforced the importance of inclusive design and stakeholder ownership in developing sustainable digital solutions.

Beyond the ABCD Portal, the partnership also encompasses a dedicated institutional support programme for the UMI Management Business Incubation Hub. This component aims to strengthen the Centre's innovation ecosystem by enhancing incubation services. The

collaboration is expected to position UMI-MBIC as a leading hub for management innovation, entrepreneurship, and management excellence while expanding opportunities for startups, innovators and public sector institutions.

During the co-creation engagements, partners reviewed progress made to date and agreed on key implementation priorities. Discussions focused on final validation of the platform, institutional readiness, stakeholder engagement and preparations for deployment. With these foundational activities successfully completed, preparations are now underway for the official rollout of the ABCD Portal marking an important milestone in advancing digital transformation and area-based development initiatives in Uganda.

UMI-MBIC remains committed to fostering collaborative partnerships that promote innovation, strengthen institutional capacity and contribute to sustainable national development. The UMI-MBIC looks forward to the next phase of this exciting partnership as the ABCD Portal moves from co-creation to implementation to support informed decision-making across different value chains across the country.

Startup Uganda

UMI-MBIC collaborates with Startup Uganda
As part of its commitment to building a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem, the Uganda Management Institute's Management Business Incubation Centre (UMI-MBIC) has strengthened its collaboration with Startup Uganda through a series of strategic engagements aimed at fostering mutual learning, partnership and ecosystem development.

In June 2026, Startup Uganda dedicated its engagement with ecosystem partners to a listening phase providing an opportunity to better understand the needs, priorities and aspirations of innovation hubs and entrepreneurship support organisations across the country. As part of this initiative, the Startup Uganda Secretariat visited UMI-MBIC to gain deeper insights into the Centre's programmes, strategic priorities and ongoing efforts to support entrepreneurs, innovators, and emerging enterprises.

The visit enabled both teams to explore areas of mutual interest and identify opportunities for collaboration in strengthening Uganda's startup ecosystem. Discussions focused on how the two partners can leverage their complementary strengths to enhance business incubation services, promote innovation-driven entrepreneurship, facilitate knowledge exchange and create greater opportunities for startups to access mentorship, networks, markets and investment readiness support.

The collaboration extended beyond the visit, with UMI-MBIC participating upon invitation, in



With startup Uganda secretariat lead during their visit to the UMI- MBIC

stakeholder engagements that contributed to the development of Startup Uganda's new strategic direction.

The discussions also highlighted the unique value that UMI-MBIC brings to the national innovation ecosystem through its expertise in management training, research, enterprise development and institutional capacity building. Both partners recognised the importance of aligning their efforts to deliver greater impact for startups and foster a more connected and resilient entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Looking ahead, UMI-MBIC and Startup Uganda are committed to translating these discussions into practical collaboration through joint initiatives that will strengthen support for innovators and entrepreneurs across Uganda.

Stanbic Business Incubator

The Uganda Management Institute's Management Business Incubation Centre (UMI-MBIC) formalized a strategic partnership with the Stanbic Business Incubator through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at strengthening green entrepreneurship and enterprise development. As an early outcome of this collaboration, Stanbic Business Incubator hired UMI facilities from May to July 2026 to deliver its Women in Green Business Enterprise Development Programme. The partnership reflects a shared commitment to supporting women-led green enterprises through capacity building, innovation and access to quality incubation services. It also demonstrates UMI-MBIC's growing role as a preferred hub for collaborative programmes that promote sustainable business growth and inclusive economic development.



Prof. Namara addressing participants of the Stanbic Business Incubator women in green business Development programme

Upcoming Events & Announcements

The MBIC will be organizing the first edition of the Management Innovation Challenge focusing on developing Management Solutions for government and private sector in August 2026.

Knowledge Sharing

"Management innovation is the most enduring source of competitive advantage." Gary Hamel

"Discipline today, builds the business you dream of tomorrow" Dr Ignatius Odongo

Acknowledgements

We extend our sincere gratitude to our partners namely, Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU), Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB), Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), Stanbic Business Incubator, Startup Uganda, Ministry of Trade Industries and Cooperatives (MTIC), ICEA Lion Insurance, Uganda Freezones and Export Promotion Authority, Makerere Innovation Incubation Centre, Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS), Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI), National Social Security Fund (NSSF), Carnegie Mellon University- Africa, for your continued support and partnership in supporting businesses to scale up. We appreciate the collaborative spirit and expertise that you provide on every engagement. We look forward to continued collaboration.



Authors

Professor Rose Namara
Professor Wilberforce Turyasingura
Owora Balam
Yvonne Kembabazi

Editor

Doreen Kajeru

Contacts

Uganda Management Institute
Plot 44-52 Jinja Road, Kampala, Uganda.
Tel: +256 312 721 700
Email: info@umi.ac.ug
Website: www.umi.ac.ug/mbic
Social Media: Facebook | Twitter/X | LinkedIn | YouTube