

STANDARDS BULLETIN



AUGUST 2017



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The Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Hon. Amelia Kyambadde at a press conference to launch the Codex meeting.

UGANDA SET TO HOST 20TH CODEX COMMITTEE ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Uganda is set to host the 20th session of the Codex Committee on fresh fruits and vegetables at Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala. The Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives Hon. Amelia Kyambadde together with the Minister of Health Dr. Ruth Aceng and UNBS Ag. Executive Director, Mrs Patricia Bageine Ejala made the announcement on 29th August at the Uganda Media Centre in Kampala.

Speaking at the press briefing, Hon. Kyambadde asserted that the meeting will provide an opportunity to showcase the unique fruits and vegetables that Ugandan farmers produce as well as open up potential new markets for Ugandan producers.

The Minister of Health, Dr. Ruth Aceng thanked the Government of Mexico and Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) for the opportunity given to Uganda to host the Codex meeting.

As the custodian of national standards, the Uganda

National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) is coordinating the meeting preparations that will attract over 200 delegates from Spain, Portugal, Cyprus, India, among others, to Kampala to discuss standards for fresh fruits and vegetables including garlic, aubergines (egg plants), kiwi and fresh dates.

Uganda is a member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), an international food standards body formed by the FAO and WHO. The CAC provides a platform for members to negotiate on various aspects of food safety and quality including food hygiene, limits for food additives, residues of pesticides and veterinary drugs, and prevention of chemical and microbiological contamination. Fresh fruits and vegetables are part of the agricultural chain which contributes about 26% of Uganda's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The meeting will run from 2nd-6th October 2017 is jointly organized by the governments of Uganda and Mexico.



UNBS embarks on school outreach to promote standards

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UNBS, Rotary Club partner plant trees

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UNBS VISITS AGRO PROCESSING MACHINERY MANUFACTURERS IN KATWE

Uganda is an agro-based economy and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), particularly those in agro processing, are an integral part of the country's economic development.

It is against this background that the UNBS Deputy Executive Director in Charge of Standards, Ms. Patricia Bageine Ejalu visited producers of agro processing machinery in Katwe, Kampala to assess the challenges they face in complying with standards.

The majority of the businesses visited are Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) involved in producing machinery used in processing of groundnuts, coffee, and maize, among others.

The producers identified lack of control of the source for raw materials, negative attitudes to standardization, low enforcement of standards, lack of awareness, high production costs and information gaps as some of the factors affecting them.

Ms. Ejalu encouraged the producers to work hand in hand with UNBS in developing standards against which their products will be produced and eventually assessed for certification.

"We are in the process of pushing the Buy Uganda Build Uganda (BUBU) mandate and therefore locally manufactured goods which have complied with standards stand a better



UNBS Ag. Executive Director meets with artisans of Agro-processing equipment.

chance of surviving in the market as opposed to imports", Ms. Ejalu emphasized.

Standardization of products will help the indigenous agro-processing manufacturers to enhance their local and global competitiveness by minimizing product defects thus

building consumer confidence. It will also provide means through which the consumers are informed of the quality of products on market and hence put pressure on the processors and regulators to ensure that there are quality products on the market.

OUR SALES HAVE GROWN SINCE UNBS CERTIFICATION

Makan Foods Uganda Limited is a food processing company that produces Lester's chili and tomato sauces. The company worked with Uganda Industrial Research institute (UIRI) in developing its products and later the company acquired standards and Certification from UNBS. Below are excerpts from an interview with the Director Lester Lutara.

The standards helped to ensure that all material used are safe, the processes are secure and that the methods of handling food, packaging are well within the minimum standards. The standards provided us with a basis which we used to see where our products were lacking and where we could make improvements to ensure we put quality products on the market and also protects both the consumer and manufacturers from poor quality products and competition from uncertified companies.

It took us between 3-6 months to get our certification. This is a relatively short time from the time of application as UNBS had visited our premises prior to submitting our application and had done an audit to advise on the systems and physical alterations and facilities we needed to have in place.

UNBS also encouraged us to take our various products for constant testing to ensure consistency in quality. Certification has helped to give us the certainty that our products are safe and our consumers are in no way put in harm's way consuming them. It has also helped build consumer confidence while expanding our market since we can now sell our products on the regional market without restrictions. Our sales, markets and product awareness have grown tremendously and we have also been able to create employment for more people along the whole value chain.



Director of Makan Foods Uganda Limited, Lester Lutara, with UNBS Certificate.



UNBS Manager Imports Inspection makes a presentation at the Trade Facilitation Symposium in China.

UNBS MEETS IMPORTERS AT TRADE FACILITATION SYMPOSIUM IN CHINA

The Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) participated in a two-day Trade Facilitation Symposium, between 28th and 29th August, 2017, organized by the Uganda Consulate in Guangzhou, China to address challenges faced by importers of products from China.

The Symposium was also attended by officials from Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, UNBS, URA, representatives from Uganda missions in Dar-es-salaam, Mombasa and Beijing.

Some of the challenges addressed at the symposium included certification processes of exports particularly the Pre-export Verification of Conformity (PVoC), the relationship between UNBS and other trade facilitation agencies such as the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), clearing agents.

China is a major contributor to Uganda's economic growth with imports from China amounting to about USD 889 million in 2016, according to Uganda Bureau of Statis-

tics (UBoS).

At the symposium, UNBS highlighted its role in trade facilitation. Mr. Andrew Othieno, UNBS Manager, Imports Inspection emphasized that PVoC is mandatory for goods that have are covered by the compulsory standards. He said goods such as raw materials which are imported for the manufacturing process and not for sale, diplomatic cargo, personal effects for returnees, among others are exempted from PVoC.

He said goods that arrive at the Port of entry without a Certificate of Conformity (CoC) will be subject to penalty of a 15% of CIF Value, cash bond and are subject to destination inspection.

PVoC-designated inspection such as SGS, Intertek and Bureau Veritas were also present to interact with traders and gave them firsthand information regarding the process of acquiring a CoC within the shortest time possible.

UNBS INTERACTS WITH SMALL SCALE PRODUCERS AT THE USSIA EXPO

The annual Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) Expo 2017 was held in partnership with the Association of Microfinance Institutions of Uganda (AMFIU) at the UMA showground Lugogo, bringing together the microfinance and SME sectors. The theme for the expo was: "Enhancing wealth creation: Buy Uganda Build Uganda" through access to financial services. The expo ran from 10th to 13th August 2017 at UMA conference hall and UMA gardens Lugogo, Kampala.

A team of officials from the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) was at the expo to sensitize consumers about UNBS services including standardization, product certification, imports inspection, and metrology.

The expo brought together small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) ranging from wine distillers to honey packers, agro processors to shoe makers; government, bank and non-bank financial institutions and other SME sector players.

The Expo also included business clinics that trained SMEs in access to finance, markets, sourcing for investments and other financial products. The UNBS Deputy Executive Director in charge of Standards, Ms Patricia Bageine Ejalu visited different stalls to interact with SMEs and encourage them to embrace UNBS certification programme.

The Expo also provided an opportunity for UNBS to get feedback from members of the public and consumers on service delivery as well as develop business relationships with new clients.



Students of Mengo SS at a school assembly where they were addressed by the UNBS SPRO

UNBS EMBARKS ON SCHOOL OUTREACH TO PROMOTE STANDARDS

Informed consumers make better product decisions. Given the complexity of issues related to standards and certification to students, the UNBS embarked on a school outreach programmes to increase awareness about standards and raise a generation that appreciates certified quality products.

The Senior Public Relations Officer, Kamusiime Barbara visited various schools in Kampala, including Mengo Senior Secondary school, Cipriano

secondary school, Lakeside College Luzira and Kings College Buddo, to sensitize about the value of standards and quality products.

She advised them on what to look out for as they buy and consume products such as the S and Q mark and services and explained the risks involved in consuming uncertified products. Ms. Kamusiime highlighted the importance of standards and certified products in ensuring consumer health and safety.

UNBS regularly conducts consumer awareness campaigns for the different stakeholder groups to raise awareness about standards and certification of products as a way of facilitating trade, promoting fair trade, and ensuring consumer protection. The campaigns also to provide consumers with the necessary information they need in making purchase decisions and also to carry out customer satisfaction surveys.



UNBS staff Team with members of Rotary Club of Namugongo at UNBS Head Offices.

UNBS, ROTARY CLUB PARTNER **PLANT** **TREES**

In line with its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), UNBS staff in partnership with the Rotary Club of Namugongo planted about sixty trees at UNBS headquarters in Bweyogerere.

As part of the Rotary initiative of conserving the environment in the 'Mission Green' campaign, Rotary International together with Uganda National Bureau of Standards planted 60 trees.

Speaking at the tree planting exercise, the Ag. Executive Director, Ms. Patricia Bageine Ejalu thanked Rotary Club of Namugongo for choosing to work with UNBS and urged UNBS staff to

take good care of the trees.

Mission Green in an initiative by Rotary expects to plant about 5million trees across the country in the next 5 years to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change such as prolonged drought as well as global warming.

In 2015, the UNBS launched ISO14001:2015 Environmental Management Systems Certification, a process driven approach to controlling aspects of businesses that have significant impacts on the environment, managing and controlling the associated risks.



UNBS Netball in action against Kitintale Club.

UNBS completed a stunning netball game with a thumping victory with 19: 16 over Kitintale Club at the Kitintale playground. They overcame a shaky start in the first half with 6:9 to relentlessly bolt to glory in front of Kitintale club in the second half with a 13:7 win. The win was secured by goal Scorer Winnie Onziru who has been scouted by Uganda cranes. Congratulations team!

Regional ISO training meeting in Kampala, 4th - 8th September, 2017 at the Sheraton Hotel, Kampala

CODEX Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables conference slated for 2nd-6th October 2017 at Imperial Royale Hotel

Uganda Manufacturers Association (UMA) International Trade Fair, 3rd -10th October, 2017

World Standards Day 14th October 2017



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