

Buganda, Stanbic partner on agricultural hubs

By Luke Kagiri

This week, Buganda kingdom, in partnership with Stanbic Bank Uganda, officially unveiled 'Ssemaduuka', a one-stop agricultural business centre at the Mayors' Gardens in Mubende municipality.

The first agro supermarket has been set up in Buwekula county as part of a broader plan to establish similar centres across all counties in the kingdom.

The initiative, implemented through the Buganda Cultural and Development Foundation, is designed to link farmer savings and credit co-operative societies (SACCOS) to structured financing, genuine farm inputs, aggregation centres, digital payment systems and export markets.

"We want to enhance the production and productivity of produce from the kingdom so that the farmers can meaningfully benefit,"

Waggwa Nsibirwa (left) addressing officials from Stanbic Bank and Buganda kingdom during the launch the Ssemaduuka in Mubende this week

Robert Waggwa Nsibirwa, the second deputy premier (Katikikiro) and minister of finance, investments, planning and economic development in the Buganda kingdom, said during the launch. He described Ssemaduuka as a transformative step towards strengthening household incomes and modernising agriculture.

"Wealth will not find you in your house; it finds you

in the garden. Agriculture is the backbone of our people's prosperity, and through initiatives like this, we are not just establishing a structure here in Buwekula, but we are planting a future where every household is self-reliant," Nsibirwa said.

He added that the kingdom plans to open a modern agro supermarket in each of its counties, setting up five annually in partnership with

Stanbic Bank. Buwekula county was selected as the starting point because the majority of residents are engaged in farming.

Nsibirwa said farmers face challenges including limited access to affordable financing, lack of water for production and declining soil fertility. The new centres, he said, are intended to address these gaps by providing genuine inputs, technical support and improved

market access.

Tunde Thorpe, the head of business and commercial banking at Stanbic Bank, said: "Ssemaduuka allows us to finance the entire value chain from inputs to export. It strengthens SACCOS' governance, improves farmer productivity, formalises payments, and expands access to markets. This is ecosystem banking designed to deliver measurable impact."

