

Foresight and Innovation Workshop
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Trondheim



Bioscience Park

By Nyonga Rugumayo Amundsen

Outline of presentation

- *Introduction - general*
- *The Bioscience park – location and more*
- *Concluding remarks*

Introduction

- *Nyonga Rugumayo Amundsen - first African woman to get a Masters degree in Biotechnology at a Norwegian University*
- *Managing Director of Global Consultancy and member of several scientific associations*
- *First African woman to sit on a board in the over 160-year history of the Norwegian Polytechnic Society*
- *Has lived in 6 different countries and worked in 10 countries so far*
- *Passionate about science and how science and technology can contribute to addressing global challenges*
- *Initiator of Bioscience park in Uganda*

Introduction



Introduction

- *Location: Uganda, Kabarole district*
- *Uganda - quick facts*
- *Is located in East Africa; has a population of 30 million people*
- *Republic and Yoweri Museveni is the current president - multiparty system*
- *Capital is Kampala and English is the official language*
-

Introduction

- *Area: 236 040 km*
- *21% of country covered by water; equator across the country*
- *Two rainy seasons; average temperature 26 degrees*
- *Economy – mainly free market with a growth rate of 5% per annum. Agriculture accounts for 60% of GDP*

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- Location: Fort Portal, Kabarole district in Western Uganda – named after British
- Tea and coffee-growing district in Uganda
- Population of 45 000 inhabitants
- Primary tourist zone in Uganda with 6 national parks; third highest mountain in Africa – Rwenzori mountains or “Mountains of the Moon”
- Mountains of the Moon University

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- Fort Portal was founded in 1893 as a garrison for Sir Gerald Portal and functioned as the administrative center for the British colonial powers
- In 1975, Fort Portal was established as an Municipality
- Fort Portal is the capital of The Kingdom of Tooro which has been in existence since 1830.
- It located in the district of Kaborale, 316 km from Kampala (the capital city) via Mubende
- Very good road network to the area

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- 7 hotels
- Golf course – the oldest in Africa
- 3 hospitals
- 3 commercial banks
- 21 primary schools, 6 secondary schools, two universities and seven vocational colleges
- Botanical gardens

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Why the need?

- Bioscience park is lacking in the region
- Capacity building and university education is mainly focused in the urban areas and not the rural areas of the country
- Agro-pharmaceutical and wellness sector is still in its infancy in Uganda and Africa as most products are imported, costly and issues of counterfeit drugs
- Challenges related to health (e.g. endemic malaria), achieving health MDGs climate change, unemployment and growing energy needs

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- Proposed Partners - from academia, institutions, private sector and community:
- Mountains of the Moon University, Uganda
- Fort Portal Municipality, Uganda
- Tooro Botanical Gardens, Uganda
- Bioforsk
- Solarroof and Phoenix Planning Design and partners
- NTNU
- Infrastructure architects and property management in Uganda
- University of Vienna, Department of Microbiology and Nutrition, Austria
- Other private individuals and institutions in Europe, USA and India

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- Mountains of the Moon University
- Mountains of the Moon University (MMU) is a not-for-profit Community University whose ownership is expressed through the various representative communities which include the Districts, Municipalities, Religious communities and the Business Communities of the Rwenzori Region.
- No person or external organization profits from the University and any surpluses generated by university activities will be reinvested within the university or re-directed for the benefit of the community. The university is unique in Uganda as it was conceived and founded by leaders in the local community in western Uganda.
- The legal status is a Company Limited by Guarantee, the directors of which are the university founders, under the Chairmanship of Hon. Justice S. T. Manyindo

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- The Tooro Botanical Gardens
- Founded in 2001 as a centre for conservation, education and recreation.
- Main purpose is to preserve the indigenous species of plants in the Albertine Rift Valley Region of Africa by creating a conservation site at the Botanical Gardens, and using it as a facility to inform the public about the importance of protecting the natural environment. Working hand in hand with the community. Schoolchildren are being educated about the beauty of nature and their natural environment, and the importance of preserving it
- Farmers can learn how to grow crops organically, and how to use their land in a sustainable way. Moreover they can purchase fruits and vegetables seeds to produce greater variety.
- Tooro Botanical Gardens aims to be self sustainable by selling seedlings, fresh fruits and vegetables and some handicrafts from our shop.

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Key points

- Mutual learning,
- competence building,
- Technology transfer
- Job creation
- Partnerships for change

Concluding remarks

- Where do we go from here?
- Partnerships
- Funding/investments

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