

VAI Completes Yunus Social Business Accelerator Programme

Given the potential of our macro-nutrient fortified products, Value Addition Institute was one of the companies selected under the Yunus Social Business Accelerator 2015, Uganda Chapter. Through a national competition 15 companies were selected among which VAI. VAI pitched its products produced under the macro-nutrient fortification project that is largely funded by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO).

Yunus Social Business (YSB), builds upon the success of social business in Bangladesh, where social businesses have worked scale. Founded in 2011 to replicate this model globally through local country teams, YSB accelerates and finances social businesses, enabling local entrepreneurs to solve social problems in a financially self-sustainable way. <http://www.yunusfb.co.ug/>

The YSB business accelerator is an intensive experience during which selected entrepreneurs receive expert coaching, mentoring, exposure to investors and potentially, financing for their businesses.

The Yunus Uganda Social Business Accelerator is the Second in Africa, and the first in Sub Saharan Africa within the YSB network. Social Business Entrepreneurs with the most promising and compelling social businesses were selected for the program that lasted 10 weeks and is completely free. During this time, we were taken through a rigorous program with 5 dimensions, designed to help scale up social business and become exemplary game-changers in the society. Some specific benefits:

- Social business scale-up mentoring and coaching
- Training in critical social business scale-up skills
- Joining a network of 100 worldwide social businesses
- Opportunities for business financing



Prof. Mohammad Yunus, the Nobel laureate, right, at our stall during one of the YSB events in Kampala Uganda, left is Francis Tucungwirwe, Managing Director Value Addition Institute (VAI)



Prof. Mohammad Yunus, the Nobel laureate, in a group Photo with representatives of Uganda's 2015 selected accelerates. Francis Tucungwirwe, Managing Director VAI is standing behind Yunus on the left.