

Speech by aBi Board Chairperson at the Launch of Alfasan Uganda Ltd Factory at Namanve Industrial Park on 1st November, 2018

1. Business Initiative (aBi) is proud to be associated with Alfasan Uganda Limited and we congratulate its Board & Management upon the launch of this veterinary medicine factory constructed with our financial support. This project like many others we have supported in the Dairy value chain among others, is geared towards Uganda's agricultural transformation efforts
2. Alfasan Uganda Ltd is a valued Investment Partner whose efforts in putting together this factory to locally produce veterinary medicine of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) standard will go a long way in addressing one of the long standing challenges in the Dairy subsector; medicines that do not work leading to heavy losses to farmers and economy
3. Alfasan Uganda became our IP in January 2017 and with the approved joint budget of UGX9.6 billion over 3 years, our partnership is envisioned to impact the dairy sub-sector through provision of quality and efficacious medicines, training of farmers in rational use of medicines, provision of training in Business Development Services and hands-on demonstration with the following objectives;
 - a) To scale up local production of veterinary medicines
 - b) To train and increase awareness on veterinary drug use in the market
 - c) Increase local product range manufacturing and offering
 - d) To facilitate collaboration with the public and private sector on sustainable livestock sector development.
4. This investment was conceived bearing in mind Uganda's livestock context and the anticipated trajectory of the sector based on a national, regional and global outlook. At a national level, Uganda's livestock sector is one of the fastest evolving economic sub-sectors. Livestock contributes over 30% of overall agricultural GDP. There is a growing positive trend in terms of demand for both processed and unprocessed livestock products that is correlated with increases in incomes
5. For the region, Uganda is a food basket. This presents enormous agribusiness potential and inevitably highlights gaps that require sustainable investment. Uganda's livestock is held back by high mortality and morbidity rates, poor animal nutrition, poor animal husbandry practices and low quality genetics all issues that this partnership is set to address through current and future joint funding of this factory activities. Therefore, this project will respond to these binding constraint, especially of high morbidity and mortality.
6. Recent media reports highlight increasing resistance of ticks to acaricides on the market. Alfasan Uganda Ltd will provide **high quality veterinary medicine** at affordable prices to livestock farmers. We anticipate that with improved livestock health, investments in quality animal feeds, quality genetics and livestock management will be stimulated. The overall desired outcome is that Uganda's national livestock herd expands in size and increases earnings for all actors.
7. aBi will continue to support such investments in the Dairy value chain to make Uganda the food basket it actually has the potential to become.