**Scientific innovations from academia to public, private partnerships in agribusiness commercialization of Intellectual Property Asset.**

**G.W.Byarugaba-Bazirake (PhD), Dean, Faculty of Science, Kyambogo University/Director ABP Ltd: gwbbazirake@gmail.com,** **deansci@kyu.ac.ug****Tel:+256** **700393107**

**Key words: Incubator, agribusiness, scientific innovations, banana value chain**

Afribanana Products (ABP) is a company limited by guarantee that resulted from research in science, technology and innovations (STI) with Kyambogo University as its lead institution. It has been formed with support from Universities, Business and Research in Agricultural Innovations (UniBRAIN),which is an initiative of FARA, PanAAC, ASARECA, ANAFE, ICRISAT- ABI,CCARDESA, CORAF/WECAERD as partners at African Union level. ABP operates on the principle of public, private partnership (P-P-P) as a consortium business incubator based on University, Research institute and Private Sector collaboration. The ABP main proposition is to enable universities, business and agricultural research institutions to commercialize agricultural technologies and produce graduates with entrepreneurial and business skills through agribusiness incubator partnerships.

This Business Incubator on Banana Value Chain has so far successfully established: Biotechnological applications in; (a) primary fermentation of banana wine;(b) secondary fermentation of vinegar;(c) spoilage enzyme inactivation in fresh vacuum sealed *matooke*(FREVASEMA), d)bio-reactor biogas production and (e) TC banana(disease-free) seedlings.

**FREVASEMA is a Patented Product( an IP Asset).The patented product of fresh peeled bananas has a shelf –life of 6 months in deep-frozen conditions and is an export to United States of America with Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) Certificate of registration.** **The bananas are treated with food grade(European Union type) sodium metabisulphite at a pre-determined parts per million(ppm) to prevent browning and microbial contamination. The spoilage polyphenoloxydase(PPO)enzyme is inactivate using the same salt.**

Other ABP technologies in production which operate as enterprises include biodegradable shoppers’ bags, banana textiles and crafts, charcoal briquettes, biogas from food waste, enriched animal feeds formulations; dietetic menus and grasshopper (edible *nsenene*)formulated biscuits. Other potentially produced product results include banana juice, syrup as sugar, packaging edible insects using natural sterile banana fibre and affordable sanitary pads for rural school girls.

ABP has embarked on training of post-graduate students in Business Incubator Development and Management as well as supervision of interns and students on industrial attachment in science, technology and innovations and business entrepreneurship skills .Training farmers in post-harvest food handling and processing, including valuable use of food wastes in the banana value chain is an additional major achievement of Afribanana Products Limited.

ABP main clients are incubatees that basically include small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups who apply to Incubator Manager for support. So far in year 2014, 18 clients have been identified by ABP and get support in form of “hand-lifting and soft landing” those business angels rather than debentures would offer. ABP offers limited funding support, equipment and machinery for STI activities and ultimately will offer space facility and marketing services. Intellectual Property Rights(IPR) are observed and royalties are paid on non-exclusive licensing approach to patent and other IP asset holders. Further research in scientific innovations increases with more engagement of 2 PhD students’ recruitment and financial support established in the Business Incubator set up.