

NIEA Business Network

ONBOARDING CRITERIA - JUNE 2025

About the Initiative

The NIEA Business Network connects credible, impact-driven enterprises to the support they need to scale. We target businesses with strong growth potential that may be overlooked by traditional capital platforms, especially those that are women-led, youth-led, or aligned with key sustainability sectors.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Legal Status & Track Record

- Must be a registered business or cooperative in Uganda or the wider East African region
- Must have a minimum of 2 years of operational history

2. Revenue Threshold

- Annual turnover between UGX 100 million and UGX 800 million (approximately \$26,000 to \$210,000 USD)
- Must demonstrate ongoing commercial activity and a path to scalability or profitability

3. Sector Relevance

- Priority is given to enterprises operating in or enabling impact within the following sectors:
 - Agribusiness and agricultural value chains
 - Renewable energy and energy access
 - Climate-resilient infrastructure and green technologies
 - Digital or technology-enabled solutions that support sustainability or inclusion
 - Waste management and circular economy models
 - Mobility, logistics, or supply chain services linked to the above sectors

Note: Businesses outside these core sectors may be considered if their operations clearly support or intersect with impact areas such as rural livelihoods, sustainability, or inclusive access to essential services.

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4. **Founding Profile**

- Businesses that are women-led, youth-led, or explicitly impact-driven are strongly encouraged to apply
- The founder or leadership team must be actively involved in strategic operations

5. **Growth Ambition**

- A clearly articulated interest in raising investment, expanding operations, or entering new markets
- Willingness to engage in technical assistance, mentorship, and ecosystem-building activities provided by the network

6. **Ethical and Compliance Standards**

- Businesses must not be engaged in extractives, arms, tobacco, gambling, or any activity in conflict with NIEA's values on sustainability, gender equity, and social impact
- Must be willing to participate in basic due diligence and provide verifiable documentation when requested