



REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL LITERACY FORUM AT SUA “SECURING TOMORROW: EMPOWER YOUTH FOR FINANCIAL GROWTH AND FREEDOM.

Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA)

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Financial Literacy Forum, themed “Securing Tomorrow: Empower Youth for Financial Growth and Freedom”, was successfully held on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA). This crucial event was organized by the United Nations Chapter - SUA (UNC-SUA) in collaboration with Vertexes International Security (VIS), and brought together students and financial stakeholders to deliberate on practical ways to promote financial literacy among youth. The opening of the event was presided over by Mr. Novath, Chairperson of UNC-SUA, who set the tone with a motivating welcome and outlined the agenda. He emphasized the importance of empowering students with the right knowledge and tools for long-term financial success.

1.1 Background

The forum was born out of a pressing need to address the gap in financial knowledge among university students. It aimed to equip participants with actionable skills on personal budgeting, saving, entrepreneurship, and investment. The collaborative effort between institutions, private sector stakeholders, and student bodies demonstrated a collective commitment to nurturing responsible, financially savvy young leaders.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE EVENT

The main objectives were:

- To increase awareness of financial management among youth.
- To encourage savings culture and responsible investment habits.
- To link students with reliable platforms and institutions for financial growth.

The event also aimed to inspire young people to take charge of their future through strategic financial planning.

2.1 Organizers and Partners.

The event was spearheaded by UNC-SUA with major support from VIS – Vertexes International Security, Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), Save Youth’s Dream Foundation (SYDF). Other key partners included various youth financial experts and entrepreneurs who facilitated sessions.

3. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Opening Remarks – Mr. Novath (Chairperson, UNC-SUA):

Mr. Novath welcomed participants with inspiring energy, setting the tone for a dynamic day ahead. He emphasized the urgency of equipping youth with financial knowledge, especially university students who are about to transition into independent adult lives. He outlined the agenda, encouraged active participation, and stressed that the event was not only for listening but also for engaging, asking, and learning.

He also thanked all the partners and sponsors, including VIS, TIC, SUA, and SYDF, for making the forum possible. His message focused on collective responsibility—students, institutions, and organizations must work together to create a financially literate generation capable of transforming Tanzania’s economic future.

After his opening remarks, he officially opened the floor for the guest speakers to present their topics, through which they would share fresh insights with the students drawn from the Financial Literacy Education event they had organized. The topics and their respective speakers were as follows:

Mastering Financial and Business Management for Future Entrepreneurs:

Ms. Rebecca delivered a compelling and detailed presentation on financial literacy, breaking it into four pillars: Income, Spending, Saving, and Investing. She emphasized how these concepts work together to build a foundation for financial stability. Her insights on Personal Financial Planning were particularly enlightening—she described it as a roadmap for managing money wisely and achieving life goals.

In her second segment, she walked participants through the Stages of Financial Planning: from writing down goals, analyzing current financial status, to making future projections. She also explained the advantages of planning, including achieving financial independence, managing stress, and preparing for unexpected events. Her interactive approach, including real-life case scenarios, helped students relate the content to their own lives and ambitions.

Youth Empowerment Through Financial Education (SYDF):

Representing SYDF, Ms. Yasintah provided a powerful session on the role of community organizations in financial empowerment. She detailed how SYDF uses youth clubs and mentorship programs to drive awareness on budgeting, saving, and investing. Her examples from youth-led savings groups in different regions of Tanzania inspired many.

She encouraged students to take advantage of SYDF's investment-focused youth clubs, explaining how they serve as safe spaces for students to practice financial discipline. She also mentioned SYDF's plans to expand these clubs into more universities and vocational centers, ensuring more youth can access financial literacy education at a practical level.

Introduction to the Stock Market:

Mr. Nganya brought technical knowledge into the room, breaking down what shares are, how the stock market functions, and why it's important for youth to get involved early. He explained the different types of stocks, including blue-chip and growth stocks, and how students could start small by using apps that facilitate investing in legitimate markets.

In his second part, he warned students about investment scams and unregulated platforms. He urged students to research before investing, use government-approved agencies, and build a risk-aware mindset. His session opened the eyes of many students who were unaware that they could participate in the stock market even with minimal capital.

4. PANEL DISSCUSSION:

“Securing Your Financial Future: Why Mutual Funds and Shares Are Ideal for Long-term Goals”

The panel session brought together industry professionals, government representatives, and youth influencers. The discussion, moderated by a UNC-SUA member, started with Ms. Latifa from TIC, who gave an in-depth overview of how Tanzania Investment Centre supports youth in starting small businesses, registering investments, and accessing government-backed programs. She answered questions on capital challenges and

regulatory procedures, reassuring students that TIC is ready to support innovative youth-led ventures.

Mr. Atus, a youth influencer and entrepreneur, shared his personal journey of saving from odd jobs during university and gradually investing in real estate. His story resonated with many, particularly when he emphasized discipline and delayed gratification. Students asked him how to stay motivated when income is low; he advised them to start with strict budgeting and join financial accountability groups.

Mr. Ahmed, a financial consultant, tackled the concept of Mutual Funds. He explained how they allow collective investment from many individuals into professionally managed portfolios, which is safer and more accessible for young or first-time investors. He clarified common myths, such as the belief that one must be wealthy to invest. Students posed several questions about how to evaluate a fund's performance and how to begin with low risk. Mr. Ahmed advised using licensed brokers and emphasized that youth can and should start investing in small amounts.

The panel was highly interactive, with students asking practical questions about registration processes, identifying fraud, and choosing between different investment paths. Panelists were applauded for their honesty, experience-based advice, and encouragement to the next generation.

5. REMARKS FROM UNC-SUA (Patron – Dr. Lyimo)

Dr. Lyimo appreciated the initiative taken by UNC-SUA in organizing the forum and praised the speakers for addressing critical areas affecting youth development. He stated that financial literacy is not just about money—it's about building future leaders who can manage resources wisely and contribute to national growth.

He further encouraged the students not to end their learning with the event but to carry forward the knowledge gained. He asked the organizing committee to consider follow-up activities like workshops and mentorship programs to reinforce lessons shared during the forum. His remarks reflected his long-standing commitment to youth empowerment and education.

6. REMARK FROM GUEST OF HONOUR– Madam Rose (Eastern Zone Manager, TIC)

Madam Rose gave a warm and encouraging closing speech. She emphasized that Tanzania’s economic future is in the hands of its youth. Her remarks highlighted the important role of TIC in providing platforms, information, and tools for young people to start and grow their investments.

She challenged students to go beyond theory—to act, apply, and explore the opportunities offered by TIC and similar institutions. She concluded by inviting student leaders to engage more deeply with TIC programs and make use of the open-door policy at the center’s regional offices.

7. AWARD PRESENTATIONS

As a gesture of appreciation, symbolic gifts and certificates of recognition were awarded to key speakers and organizers. These included customized plaques, certificates, and branded souvenirs. The awards served both to recognize effort and to motivate continued collaboration between stakeholders and student bodies.

8. PARTICIPANT AND ATTENDANCE

The forum attracted over 400 participants, primarily university students from SUA, Mzumbe University, and Jordan University College. The presence of government institutions, youth organizations, and academic leaders created a well-rounded audience that reflected broad interest in the topic of financial literacy.

9. SUCCESS HIGHLIGHTS

The event was successful in many ways. First, it mobilized a large number of students from across three institutions, signaling that financial literacy is a subject of great interest. Second, it provided practical, relevant knowledge that students can immediately implement in their daily lives. The format was dynamic, combining lectures, real-life stories, and open discussion—ensuring all learning styles were accommodated

Moreover, the forum managed to spark new partnerships among organizations like SYDF, TIC, and university clubs, which is vital for sustaining momentum beyond the event. Students left not only informed but also inspired, with new networks, tools, and ideas to shape their financial journeys.

10. CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

The major challenge faced was time limitation. Although all speakers were impactful, many of them had to rush through their content due to a packed agenda. This limited deeper exploration of some valuable topics such as risk management and entrepreneurship models.

11. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special thanks go to UNC-SUA for organizing and hosting this impactful event. Gratitude also goes to Save Youth's Dream Foundation (SYDF) for partnering and contributing skilled facilitators. Appreciation is extended to all guest speakers, panelists, student leaders, and participants who made the event meaningful and successful.