

Success story: Anthony Ssenyonga

Agro-input dealer in Uganda helps farmers to embrace bioprotection



Published on The CABI BioProtection Portal, May 2025

Image: Anthony Ssenyonga by Emmanuel Edupet, Media Factory Uganda for CABI

Overview

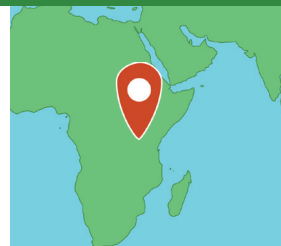
Who

Anthony Ssenyonga is a trained agro-dealer and plant doctor



Where

Zirobwe Town Council, Uganda



Highlights

- Anthony Ssenyonga transitioned from being a small-scale input seller to a certified plant doctor and business owner.
- After receiving CABI training, and learning about the CABI BioProtection Portal, he formalized his business and began promoting bioprotection solutions.
- Farmers who used his diagnostic services and advice saw significant improvements in yield and quality.
- Many farmers have shifted from high-risk pesticides to biopesticides, supported by use of the CABI BioProtection Portal.

Agro-input dealer in Uganda helps farmers to embrace bioprotection

Anthony Ssenyonga is a trained agro-input dealer and plant doctor based in Zirobwe Town Council, Uganda. Before undergoing CABI training he was a small-scale vegetable producer and operated a modest agro-input shop. Since then, he has gone on to change his business trajectory and influenced the farming practices of his community.



Anthony inspecting a product label in his agro-input store. Copyright: Emmanuel Edupet, Media Factory Uganda for CABI

The challenges local farmers faced

Before receiving training, Anthony was “just selling inputs” without a structured plan. Crop loss was common for local farmers due to pest infestations. For example, [Tuta absoluta](#) and [fall armyworm](#) were widespread, often cutting yields by over 50%.



Anthony and a farmer in a watermelon field. Credit: Anthony Ssenyonga

Anthony's solution

Anthony credits CABI's [PlantwisePlus training](#) and the [CABI BioProtection Portal](#) with completely transforming his approach:

“After the training, I decided to revamp my small business into a well-established and managed business enterprise. I also went ahead to apply for certification from the [Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries](#) (MAAIF) to get the consent of the regulator to be a certified agro-input dealer.”

Through his business, Divine Mercy Agro Connect SMC-LTD, he began offering free crop pest diagnostics, safe pesticide use training, and tailored pest control advice. Bioprotection played a central role in this transition. Anthony explains:

“Farmers have started migrating from high-risk pesticides to low-risk pesticides and biopesticides such as Azadirachtin [which is neem-based], [as well as the] use of pheromone traps. I have slowly shifted them from using high risk [products] using the CABI BioProtection Portal as a reference.”

In addition to adopting more environmentally friendly pest management methods as a result of Anthony's efforts, farmers are also implementing safer practices—such as using personal protective equipment—to reduce risks to human health.

Increased crop yields

Anthony's science-based advice has helped many farmers dramatically improve yields. For example: "Mr. Kyambade who ventures into tomato production used to register 30% losses due to Tuta absoluta... the farm can now harvest 95% from his farm."

In addition,

"Mr Pascal Imarach... used to yield 10 bags (1 ton)/acre due to the fall armyworm attack but now he harvests 30 bags (3 ton)/acre due to the scientific recommendations I interested him with."

Some farmers have even started exporting produce, thanks to improved crop quality. Anthony's shop is now seen not just as a supply point, but as a trusted consultation hub.



Anthony inspecting a cabbage field. Copyright: Anthony Ssenyonga

Providing real-world value

Anthony Ssenyonga's transformation from an informal input seller to a certified plant doctor and bioprotection advocate shows the real-world value of agricultural training and digital tools. With the help of resources like the CABI BioProtection Portal, he has enhanced his business and helped local farmers choose safer and more sustainable crop protection.

"The plant doctor training has played a crucial role in helping me capture farmers' attention... Presently, this recognition continues to attract customers and enhance the credibility of my business."

His efforts have had a ripple effect throughout the community, resulting in a growing number of trained youths, the creation of a farmer support group on WhatsApp, and increased use of alternatives to chemical pesticides. Anthony's story is a telling example of how someone can drive real transformation in local agriculture.

Resources

Learn more about [CABI's PlantwisePlus](#) programme and its impact on farmers across the world.

Use the CABI BioProtection [Portal's search function](#) to find bioprotection products that are available in your country.

About the CABI BioProtection Portal

The CABI BioProtection Portal is the largest, free global resource for biological pest management. The Portal's mission is to raise awareness and encourage the adoption of bioprotection among growers and advisors. It offers a comprehensive, searchable directory of nationally registered biocontrol and biopesticide crop protection products, along with detailed guidance to help agricultural advisors and growers source and effectively incorporate these sustainable natural products into integrated pest management programmes.