17- African beauty

Cephas Nshimyumuremyi always had big dreams. But as a science teacher in rural Rwanda, he was struggling to make ends meet. With just $10 in his pocket, he decided to use his knowledge to open a business : creating a new line of organic cosmetics called Uburanga or beauty in English.

**Cephas Nshimyumuremyi** : we make sure that the product we are producing is for Africa especially, and they are natural.The other products, they have chemicals, some chemicals and these chemicals can destroy, for example, the skin. The plants, including aloe vera and capuccine, are grown in ***?***garden. They are dried, crushed and mixed with oil and water to make soap, antibacterial jellies and shampoos with one bar of soap selling for 50 cents and a bottle of lotion at $. The beauty range is an affordable alternative, and Mary Mukamuhigwa is a big fan.

**Mary Mukamuhigwa**: I started using Uburanga products because I suffered from terrible acne and it used to make me feel uncomfortable. In 2012, Cephas Nshimyumuremyi gave me a soap to use as a trial and everybody used to laugh because the soap is black and had a strange shape but has cleared the spots on my face. After that I started using the lotion from his range of products which are also used on my daughter who had white patches on her scalp. I used the Uberanga castor oil to treat the white patches. Since starting in 2012, Uburanga has grown into a thriving business worth $40,000 with 20 employees and around 50,000 distributors across Rwanda. Nshimyumuremyi  also exports to Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Cephas Nshimyumuremyi plans to expand the Uburanga line of six to include toothpaste and hair products. And his ambition doesn't end there. He hopes to one day become a global cosmetics giant.