



Empowering Kenyan youth through Agrienterprise Incubation for Improved Livelihoods and Economic Development (AGLEAD)

Project coordinator
Egerton University

Project ID: RU/2018/RECAP/03

Partners
Kenya Commercial Bank

Farming Systems-Kenya

Project Duration: 48 months

Start Date: 2018

Total budget: USD 50,000

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Summary

The African continent is known for a growing youth population. This has led to a high youth unemployment rate. To compound this problem, many African countries have an education system that is theoretical based with graduates even those from universities being churned out for employment instead of creating jobs for self employment as well as employment of others. To address this challenge, global and local strategic initiatives have been initiated including the Sustainable Development Goals, Africa Agenda 2030 and the African Development Banks' Feed Africa strategy. Moreover, The International Institute for Tropical Agriculture has established the Youth Agripreneur Programme and from this the African Development Bank has initiated the ENABLE Youth programme. Developing youth agribusinesses to enhance development of small scale and medium enterprises (SMEs) that are critical in employment creation is in line with African leaders' vision of a socially inclusive and sustainably development of Africa as given in Agenda 2063 of the African Union, the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA) 2024 as well as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP).

These programmes aim to encourage and support young graduates across the continent to become entrepreneurs in agriculture and agribusiness, an activity that is increasingly being referred to as 'Agripreneurship.' They focus on providing support, skills, knowledge and access to funds that enable the creation of viable businesses within the food system that can drive economic growth, create employment and nourish the people of Africa.

The agribusiness incubation hub at Egerton University seeks to encourage growth of sustainable commercially viable agribusinesses by supporting the development of well-structured agribusiness projects, and providing commercial loans and other financial products/services, market access, capacity development, risk management, and networking. The overall objective of the proposed incubator is to contribute to job creation and provide for enhanced economic health of the country through agrienterprise incubation. The specific objectives are:

- i. Stimulate establishment and growth of agrienterprises by agricultural science university students
- ii. Improve agripreneurship skills among agricultural science students
- iii. Enhance collaboration between the university and the private sector

Target Groups

The target groups in this project are Students whose entrepreneurial capacity will be enhanced and facilitate them to start agrienterprises. The action will provide the university with funds for incubation facilities as well as building collaborations and enhancing university-industry linkages through joint implementation of the project's activities. Employers will benefit through getting graduate employees with the requisite skills. Through this action, it is expected that the graduates will help farmers to transform from subsistence agriculture and commercialize their farms.

Result area

The following results are envisioned from the project:

- i. Agrienterprise incubator established and functional
- ii. Agripreneurship skills among agricultural science students improved through training on entrepreneurship skills as well as starting and running an agrienterprise
- iii. University-industry linkages enhanced through agribusiness clinics as well as mentorship program



Activities

In order to achieve the results, the project will undertake the following activities:

- i. Establish the agrienterprise incubator
- ii. Capacity building of agricultural science students in agripreneurship
- iii. Upscaling the agrienterprise Fund Scheme
- iv. Conduct agribusiness clinics

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