



Bukavu Agribusiness Incubation Center (BAIC)

Project ID: RU/2018/RECAP/09

Partner organisations and institutions

-Mudekereza Olive, Etablissement Olive, Bukavu, DRC

-Fond de Promotion de l'Industrie

-Procredit Bank, Agence de Bukavu, DRC

-PME/start, Faculty of economy, UCB

-IKYA, IITA Kalambo, Bukavu, DRC

Fédération des Entreprises du Congo (FEC), Bureau de Bukavu, DRC

Project Duration : 24 Months

Start date : 01 March 2018

Total budget: USD 50,000

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Summary

Youth unemployment is a serious threat to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)'s socio-economic development. The actual scale of underemployment and unemployment among youth is estimated to be 70 percent. Considering the enormous DRC's agricultural potential, agribusiness is a promising alternate route to employment and should be promoted. This project aims at creating the Bukavu agribusiness incubation center (BAIC) at the Université Catholique de Bukavu (UCB), in South-Kivu province, DRC. It is offering a favorable environment for interaction, new initiative creation and mutual support. It will span two years, with a total cost of US\$ 50000 financed by RUFORUM. The center will enable the strengthening of the technical capabilities and managerial skills of students in the field of entrepreneurship, guide the students in the development and implementation of innovative agribusiness initiatives, and facilitate the linkage between student entrepreneurs and public and private sectors. It will, furthermore, promote a strong connection between students and financial providers. This will allow the establishment of 10 companies of minimum 5 students and therefore contribute to job creation and youth unemployment reduction while triggering socio-economic development.

The overall objective of this project is to contribute to unemployment reduction through youth entrepreneurship promotion.

Specifically the project aims to:

- transform the mindset and perceptions of the youth towards agribusiness
- equip youth with appropriate agribusiness skills, knowledge and information
- enhance access to affordable and youth friendly financial services for agribusiness
- propose appropriate ICT tools and applications that can be used to improve market access

Target groups

In this project we will be working with students, including finalist and graduates, from local universities and institutions. Specifically, students from Université Catholique de Bukavu (UCB), Université Evangélique de Bukavu (UEA) and Institut Supérieur de Développement Rural (ISDR) in the departments of crop production, animal science, rural development and rural economy, are targeted. Selected group of students together with all consumers of the agribusiness products or services which will be generated during and after the project constitute our final beneficiaries.

Results Areas

Result area 1: Students recruited and an overview and screening of existing opportunities for agribusiness innovation in the Bukavu area done.

Result area 2: Selected students empowered in entrepreneurship. Activities include: 1) training and coaching students by experts, 2) organizing conferences and/or workshops with private sector as well as guided visits and internships in innovative local enterprises or industries.

Result area 3: Ten student's projects funded and a partnership between funded groups and potential loans providers' namely private sector (eg. Procredit Bank) and government organizations (eg. Funds for Industry Promotion) facilitated.

Result area 4: Appropriate ICT tools and applications (telephone, radio, videos, internet, etc.) proposed to funded groups for market access improvement.



General Activities

- Recruiting students and introducing them to the existing opportunities for agribusiness innovation in the Bukavu area
- Building capacity of selected students in entrepreneurship
- Funding student's projects and linking funded groups with potential financial providers
- Identifying and proposing to funded groups appropriate ICT tools and applications to improve their market access

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Principal Investigator

Prof. Espoir Bisimwa Basengere
Faculty of Agronomy, Université
Catholique de Bukavu (UCB)
ebisimwa@yahoo.com
Telephone: +243997701265

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