Agribusiness Innovations for Inclusive Soybean and Honey Value Chain Development in Eastern Uganda

Summary
This project proposes a value chain development pathway for soy beans and honey in the Agribusiness Hub. The project will integrate innovations in food science and technology, product development, ICT and Agribusiness. Young entrepreneurs are to be developed at the Faculty of Agriculture and Animal Science and at the Technology and Business Innovations and Incubation Center (TBIIC) of Busitema University. The objectives of the two year project will be to establish an innovation hub in Eastern Uganda, train and mentor young entrepreneurs, develop and commercialize new products in the University Business Innovation and Incubation Center (TBIIC) in collaboration with the private sector, increase community capacity to respond to demand driven and economically viable production and integrate ICT in Agribusiness Development.

Specifically this project aims to:
1. establish an innovation hub for soybean and honey value chain in Eastern Uganda
2. train, mentor and develop the entrepreneurial skills of University students, youth and women in different communities of Eastern Uganda
3. add value to soybean and honey at the at the University in collaboration with the private sector
4. validate, improve and promote appropriate technologies and innovations for development of soybean and honey value chain in Eastern Uganda
5. identify capacity gaps and improve capacity of different value chain actors in the community and support services to respond to soybean and honey value chain challenges and opportunities
6. apply ICT in Agribusiness development to enhance marketing and market access for soybean and honey products

Target groups
The target group in this project are youth, students, private communities and the farming communities as well as those engaged in research. The methodology will put emphasis on participatory identification of constraints and development potential across value chain components.

Result Areas
There are four primary result areas in this project:

Result 1: Establishment of Agribusiness Center through providing an entrepreneurial environment and equipping the agribusiness center with relevant educational and mentorship resources

Result 2: Training and mentoring of young entrepreneurs. Activities include: conducting entrepreneurship trainings, incubation techniques trainings, holding learning platforms for sharing lessons and experiences sharing, coaching and mentoring

Result 3: Development and commercialization of products where branded products will be developed and marketed using the most efficient methods

Result 4: Increased community activities through stimulation of increased production of soya bean and honey
General Activities

- providing an entrepreneurial environment and equipping the agribusiness center with relevant educational and mentorship resources
- Conducting actual trainings and business mentorship
- Utilization of TBIC to mentor students to incubate their business ideas and concepts.
- Strengthening farmer groups, training farmer groups

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