



Youth business incubation hub at Bishop Stuart University for Innovative and diversified employment opportunities for young graduates

Summary

This project contributes to the efforts of global development interventions to achieve the goals for sustainable development through promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all. In this way, effort is geared towards ending poverty in all its forms everywhere, as spelt out in the SDGs. The project also addresses the concern of African Union (AU)/New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) of creating an environment that is conducive to young people's employment and development. With young people finding productive employment in agriculture, the project will contribute to the aspirations of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) to boost agricultural productivity and food security on the continent. In Uganda, the project is in line with the second National Development Plan (NDPII) that puts emphasis on skills development for young people leaving formal education including tertiary institutions.

The overall objective of this project is to establish a youth business incubation hub that will enhance the development of entrepreneurial skills for innovative employment opportunities of young graduates.

Specifically, the project has the following objectives;

- (i) to build capacity of young graduates in smart business skills and enterprise management,
- (ii) to establish partnership with private and public sectors, and other stakeholders for the purpose of mentoring young graduates,
- (iii) to nurture innovative enterprises and ensure their potential to succeed in an open and competitive market environment,
- (iv) to facilitate linkages between the innovative enterprises and potential markets, service providers and relevant market information.

Target groups

The project targets university students across all departments and faculties. Students are encouraged to propose business ideas that can be supported by the incubation hub. The business proposals are selected based on innovativeness, potential for commercialization, financial aspects, originality, and expression of passion to drive the business idea to fruition, among others. Support of the business ideas includes technical training for product development, business training, and mentorship for enterprise development. When the business ideas are supported in the hub, the young entrepreneurs are expected to graduate out of the university with a functioning business after it 'hatches' out of the Hub. Ultimately, the young graduates will find employment for themselves when they have their own businesses, and will be able to employ others who will become indirect beneficiaries of the project. The business community will also benefit indirectly when they employ the graduates with employable skills from the incubator.

Expected Output by 2020

- 100 students trained with smart business skills and enterprise management,
- 50 students receive business mentorship,
- At least 10 innovative enterprises hatch out of the Hub,
- At least 10 students register and operate their own businesses
- At least 2 private sector and 2 public sector partnerships established,
- 2 service providers providing business development services to students' businesses, and at least 5 market linkages created.

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**Project Coordinator
Bishop Stuart University (BSU)**

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**Partners
Excel Hort Consult Agribusiness Incubator Ltd. (EHCAI), Mbarara, Uganda**

Pharm-Bio Technology and Traditional Medicine Centre (PHARMBIOTRAC)

Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), Mbarara, Uganda

Project Duration: 24 months

Total budget: US\$ 50,000





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General Activities

- Sensitization and selection of students (incubates)
- Selection of innovative business ideas
- Smart business training
- Mentorship and enterprise development program for the incubatees
- Identification of relevant stakeholders and partners to support the business ideas and/or the university to establish the hub
- Facilitation of Stakeholder engagement
- Business 2 Business engagements