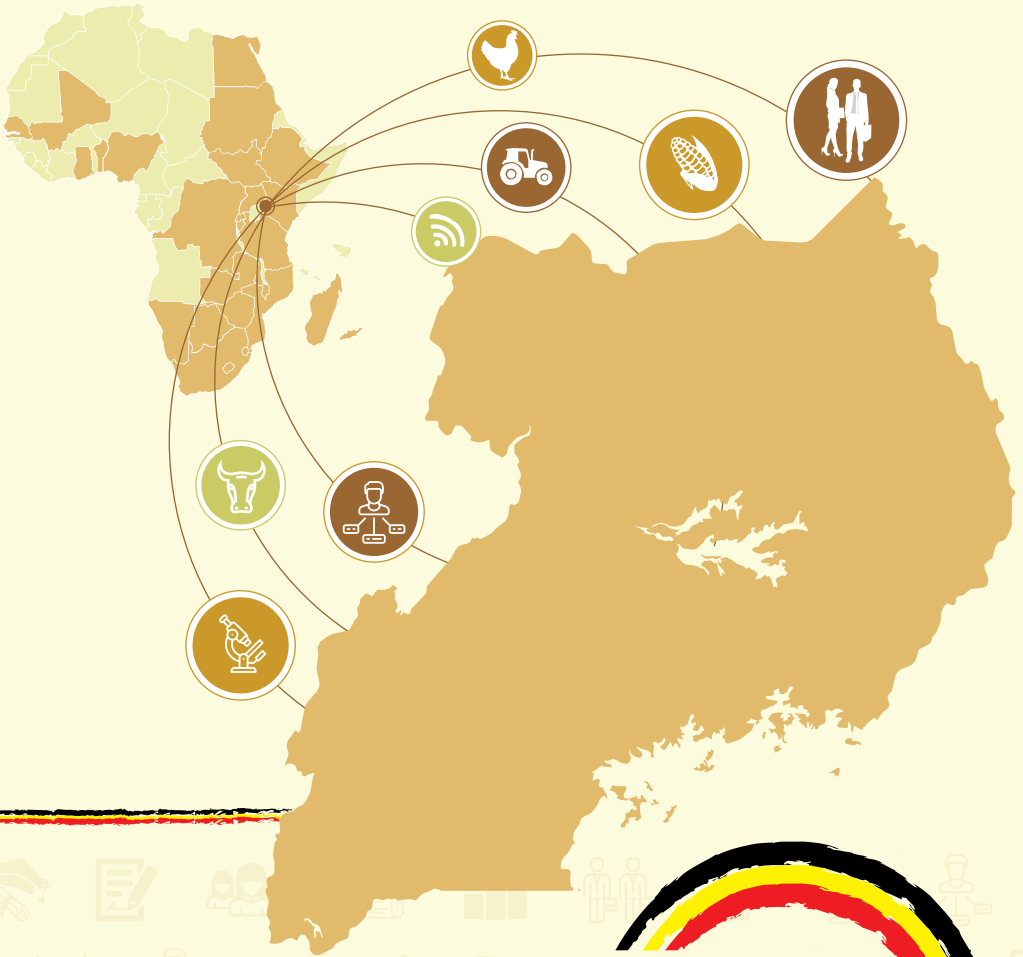


A Focus on Uganda



RUFORUM Top 20 African Young Entrepreneurs from Uganda **2016**



African Young Entrepreneurs

Brief on 20 Young Innovators and Entrepreneurs from Uganda in the Top 139 of the 756 Applicants

Introduction

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM, see www.ruforum.org) is a Network of 66 Universities in 26 African countries. RUFORUM was created by African Vice Chancellors with the vision for a vibrant agricultural sector linked to African universities that can produce high-performing graduates and high-quality research, responsive to the demands of Africa's farmers for innovations, and able to generate sustainable livelihoods and national economic development.

RUFORUM recognizes the need for greater youth participation in enterprise development and business incubation and through its member universities and partners has supported training and skills development in this respect. It has also supported start-ups through innovative financing mechanism of the revolving fund implemented in some member universities. RUFORUM believes in youth entrepreneurship as the game changer in ensuring greater youth participation and integration into the economic growth at national and regional levels and for youth employment.

During the Fifth Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Biennial Conference 17th - 21st October, 2016 in Cape Town, South Africa that focused on 'Linking Agricultural Universities with Private Sector, Governments and other Stakeholders in support of Agricultural Development in Africa', RUFORUM launched the African Young Entrepreneurs Competition Series, 2016.

This competition invited applications from young African innovators, entrepreneurs and incubatees (<40 years) with innovative business ideas, enterprises, and innovations.

The purpose was to provide the Young Entrepreneurs and Innovators a platform to be heard, exposed, and supported to increase their social capital, networking horizon and opportunity to showcase their ideas and innovations to potential venture capital financiers that would attend the conference.

While the focus of the competition was on innovations in agribusiness, other innovations, incubations, business enterprises and business concepts along ICTs, health, engineering, natural resources, meteorology, urbanization, green economy, and transport and communication, among others were eligible. Over a period of 2 months, a total of 756 applications from 38 African countries were received. The selection process involved the following stages:

- I. All 756 applications were screened for compliance to the set guidelines and application rules.
- II. A total of 663 applications were compliant. Each of these applications were evaluated by three independent reviewers (Round one).
- III. A shortlist of 139 (20.9%) applicants were selected for Round two evaluation. Each of these applications was once again evaluated by 3 independent evaluators.
- IV. A shortlist of 20 (13.6%) applicants were evaluated by a panel of six reviewers to select the final list (Round 3).

Owing to the competitiveness of the enterprises and innovations in Round 3, the panel made a decision to select 15 Young African Entrepreneurs instead of 10 that were originally planned. Among the 15 top winners were two young innovators and entrepreneurs from Uganda:

- (i) John Bosco Birenge (Empire Agricultural Services - EAS), and Stephen Tashobya (WEKEBERE).

The two young Entrepreneurs from Uganda had the opportunity to present their innovations at the main plenary session at the Biennial Conference before an audience of 850 participants that included: HE Dr. Nkosazana Zuma (Chairperson African Union Commission) and Development partners.

In this brief, a summary description of 20 Young Entrepreneurs and Innovators from Uganda that emerged among the Top 139 from the 756 submissions to the competition is profiled. A profile of the overall 15 winners from the 756 submissions is available at the following link <https://blog.ruforum.org/>

Empire Agricultural Services (EAS)

Led by John Bosco Birenge

Empire Agricultural Services (EAS) headed by John Bosco Birenge is an organic company founded in 2011, certified by CERES and operates as a marketing agent to provide smallholder farmers with an opportunity to meaningfully participate in the agriculture value chain and improve their household income. The company partners with farmers' cooperatives and empowers them to improve the quantity and quality of produce through increased access to markets, appropriate farming technology including technical advisory services on in-put supply, farming practices, harvest and post-harvest handling among others (<https://youtu.be/yE5xh7rWJD0>).

The EAS also provides: pre-finance, procurement, bulking, processing, and Exporting services. Currently, the company's core commodity is the Organic Certified Arabica coffee. Future products envisioned include premium vanilla and cocoa. In the 2016 season (April – June), EAS managed to export 19,200 kgs of 100 percent Organic Certified Coffee (Arabica) to the USA. The EAS also serves several local buyers along the coffee commodity value chain. The company has 14 staff including a management team of five professionals with experience in the agricultural sector including agribusiness and extension services. The company has invested an estimated US\$185,000 over the last five years.



WEKEBERE Company

Led by Tashobya Stephen

WEKEBERE Company (www.anatalsys.blogspot.com) headed by Tashobya Stephen was created in 2015 in Uganda. The company uses WEKEBERE, a hand-held fetal monitoring system that monitors conditions of unborn babies in real time (see, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYSvoTvJyh8>). The hand held fetal monitor is particularly useful in remote areas that hard to reach in terms of health service delivery.

The portable fetal monitor consists of a belt with sensors that the expectant mother wraps around the abdomen. The active sensors on belt send vital signals regarding the fetus to a microcontroller that transmits a color-coded result of the fetal status. This technology was developed as an effort to address the high rates of maternal mortality as well as infant deaths associated with complications during pregnancy especially in rural areas of Africa with poorly developed public and private health care systems.

The management team is made of four students coached by two academic mentors. The company plans to invest US\$15,000 to further develop the WEKEBERE fetal monitoring system and seek partnerships for commercialization.



Kaza Agro-Company

Led by Mohammed Ssemwanga, Robinah Kulabako, Swaib Semiyaga, Philip Nyenje, and F. Nakiguli

Kaza Agro Company is founded on a mission to develop sustainable postharvest drying solutions for scaling food value-addition, agro-processing and economic empowerment of farming communities in East Africa. Kaza Agro Limited is led by a team including: Mohammed Ssemwanga, Robinah Kulabako, Swaib Semiyaga, Philip Nyenje, and F. Nakiguli. In looking forward, Kaza Agro-company envisions to reduce food wastage and generate additional income through better drying of produce. Kaza Agro-Limited has developed a low cost 'Fast Agro-produce Hybrid Solar Dryer' hereafter called FAHSOD to solve the existing local food drying challenges of contamination, animal scavenging, high labor requirement and compromised quality of the dried produce. Fast Agro-produce Hybrid Solar Drying (FAHSOD) technolog.

FAHSOD is the first hybrid solar drying technology that uses a novel combination method of both direct and indirect solar heat transfers, in food drying process with a unique capacity of concentrating extra solar radiation to improve the produce drying rate and efficiency. FAHSOD will be at least 45% and 75% more efficient than the conventional fuel driven dryers and traditional OSD respectively. Agro-processors and commercial farmers are our primary beneficiaries. This is because they



are already involved in agro-processing, value-addition and marketing of mostly well packaged dried and/ or powdered horticultural produces like mushrooms, fruits and vegetables in the local supermarkets and beyond borders. Kaza Agro hopes to partner with the already established networks of value-chain actors namely; small food processing industries like Afrifoods, Maganjo etc., Seed companies e.g. Victoria seeds, local NGOs and government schemes (NAADS, NARO) to aid in mass adveting, marketing and distribution of the FAHSOD units across Uganda. The company requires an estimated US\$26,000 to commence operations.

Innovate Uganda

Led by Evelyn Namara, David Opio, Obwangamoi, Esther Anyimo, Mary Musimire, and Francis Muwanguzi.

Innovate (www.uginnovate.com) seeks to build technological innovations for social and humanitarian programs. Innovate believes that the use of simple digital solutions can go a long way in helping social programs achieve their goals. The company is led by a team of young and enterprising youth: Evelyn Namara, David Opio, Obwangamoi, Esther Anyimo, Mary Musimire, and Francis Muwanguzi. Innovate's mission is to build enterprise "software as a service" solutions that social programs especially those where there's less connectivity can benefit. Innovate flagship & pilot product is the electronic voucher system that is being implemented among smallholder farmers in Northern Karamoja through a partnership with MercyCorps Uganda.

Innovate is implementing the electronic voucher system for the USAID Growth, Health and Governance (GHG) program. Under the GHG program, MercyCorps distributed 60,750 voucher cards to smallholder farmers in Northern Karamoja meant for buying seed crops from agro-dealers. In earlier setups, farmers would receive paper based vouchers and agro-dealers would have to go through the process of redeeming vouchers and carefully writing down details of each redemption manually. With the electronic voucher system farmers are issued voucher cards that are generated through the Innovate system that are redeemable



at the agro-dealer point instantly. No delays, no pain points. The agro-dealers use a USSD menu to enter details of each voucher and capture relevant information about each farmer that is useful for program deliverables. Through the Innovate electronic voucher system, Innovate has been able to help programs reap the benefits of having real time data about their programs through our comprehensive management information system. The data collected can help programs make useful decisions about which areas of the program to focus on. Innovate also integrates mobile payments making it easy for agro-dealers to get paid instantly no matter what network they are on. Innovate hopes to partner with Commercial Banks and SACCOs that provide agricultural loans to farmers. Innovate technology has potential to address farmer access challenges at region level and we hope to expand to other countries such as Rwanda, DRC and Tanzania. We require an additional investment of \$40,000 to scale up our operations.

Mycotoxin Analysis Laboratory (MAL)

Led by Kigozi Julia and Yawe John

MAL is founded on the vision to be Africa's center of excellence providing safe agricultural produce authentic data. The Laboratory is led by Kigozi Julia and Yawe John. MAL is working on a mission to analyse and recommend safe agricultural produce for consumption, processing, trade and research with a goal to collect samples, test and rate them against the national and international regulatory standards with the aim of improving quality for agricultural produce for domestic and export trade. MAL seeks to provide business services on:

- (i) food commodities on the market and warehouse, and
- (ii) legumes, cereals, grains, animal feed supplements, and products from tubers on-farm.

MAL is at its initial stages of operationalisation as such the company has focused to strategically use a mobile device that can serve all customers effectively and efficiently irrespective of their locations. It will provide low cost, fast, accurate and easy-to-interpret results. The Lab is the first of the kind in the country if not in the region. Although there are enormous strategies laid by government and other stakeholders on reducing the cancer cases and meeting the small-holder farmers demands, the introduction of this kind of the Lab is a turning point. The lab will hasten the government's plan of elevating Uganda to middle-income status as agriculture is the backbone of the



nation. MAL's focus is on serving farmers, researchers, traders, processors, consumers, health institutions, schools, security institutions, Food safety regulatory bodies, and NGOs. We have plans of working closely with already existing associations like Kampala City Traders Association (KACITA), public institutions for example Uganda prisons, Makerere University, regulatory bodies like Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS), Research institutes and organisations like National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) among others. The company needs approximately \$15,000 to commence operations.

Sarmalina Beverages International Limited

Led by Kasule Denis, Nakimuli Victo, Achileo Juliet, Mugisha Deo, and Lutaaya Martin

Sarmalina beverages International limited, was registered in February, 2010 and produces 100% natural fruit Juices that are not only affordable but of high quality. The company is headed by a team of young and enterprising youth: Kasule Denis, Nakimuli Victo, Achileo Juliet, Mugisha Deo, and Lutaaya Martin. Sarmalina juices are healthy and offered at affordable prices for the different market segments including children, women and men in differentiated sizes and packaging to fit the varying customer requirements. Our company is focused at producing “Zero waste” hence we have developed a number of products from our waste like tasty cookies, local delicacy called Omunanansi, cleaning aids and Broba product that tenderizes meat to reduce the cooking time.

The business was started to fill the market gap of lack of local manufacturers who can use the plenty of the raw fruits and vegetables that our country produces that end up rotting on the street sides in the peak seasons. More to that, all of the juice products available on the Ugandan local market were previously imported from Asia. Sarmalina beverages was voted the most creative entrepreneur entity in Uganda for the year 2016. The business is innovative as all the inputs are locally sourced from the local farmers thereby increasing the viability of agricultural fruit value chain by providing a direct market to fruit farmers. Further,



business increases environmental sustainability by transforming all its waste into products thereby significantly reducing waste discharge to the environment. The company has recharged a stage of takeoff and requires US\$100,000 for expansion and automation.

The Poultry Studio

Led by Rebecca Pearl Tumwebaze

The Poultry Decision Enhancement Studio (PDES) is conceptualised as an appropriate system to enhance decision making among the farmers to address various management challenges in the poultry industry. The PDES is led by Rebecca Pearl Tumwebaze. The PDES' mission is to be a virtual facilitative environment where poultry farmers in East Africa can collaborate with their stakeholders and make decisions that matter. Its vision is to promote an economically and socially enabled group of poultry industry stakeholders who can contribute to economic development. The PDES is a mesh of five suites of different technology enablers aimed at supporting poultry farmers to make timely and effective decisions throughout their operations. PDES is based on the continuous interaction of the five inter-related processes of poultry farmers in relation to the three major perspectives of a decision enhancement studio (i.e. people, processes and technology).

The five processes which represent the suites are Planning, Purchasing, Rearing, Marketing and Collaboration. The Planning suite enhances poultry farmers' planning decisions using three key services: information, market exploration and budgeting. The purchasing suite enhances poultry farmers' decisions concerning when to purchase inputs, where to purchase inputs, how to get purchased inputs to the farm premises and how to manage purchased inputs once at the farm.



The rearing suite is concerned with the day to day process of monitoring of flock and facilitates poultry farm management including nutrition and health management as well as services of flock registration, record management and monitoring of key performance indicators that impact flock growth. The marketing suite is concerned with enhancing farmers' decisions relating to the sale of the outputs of poultry farms. It provides services of advertising and buyer access.

The collaboration suite enhances continuous collaboration among stakeholders of the poultry industry whose roles, skills and experience can be tapped during a farmers' decision making processes. The Business model of the PDES is based on the "Pay-for-service" approach which involves a minimal subscription fee from all members coupled with an agreeable commission fee for all sales made on the PDES. This business innovation requires at least US\$15,000 to full become operational.

Real Agricultural Solutions For Africa (RASA Ltd)

Led by Kaijage Josephat, Otai Tegu Marcel, Kyewalabye James, Akumu Mary, and Niwagira Breach.

RAS Ltd is a company founded on an innovative concept of providing an alternative value addition to coffee in Uganda and East Africa. It is led by dynamic youth: Kaijage Josephat, Otai Tegu Marcel, Kyewalabye James, Akumu Mary, and Niwagira Breach. The trend of value addition to coffee has for a long time been processing to the level of green bean mainly for export. RASA Ltd is focused at providing an alternative to this long held model by taking advantage of abundant coffee beans in Uganda to produce coffee based value added products like liqueurs, branded roasted coffees and coffee based juice. RASA Ltd's believes that through value addition, local consumption of coffee can be promoted and the sector more profitable to the small holder farmers, and also create jobs along the entire coffee value chain. RASA Ltd pioneer product was a coffee Liqueur branded "LEGEND".

This was the first coffee liqueur to be produced commercially from local indigenous coffee beans. RASA Ltd has since then ventured into other value added products like branded roasted coffees, candy and coffee based juice. These products are sold in Uganda currently using local distributors and we have so far secured agents in nine districts in Uganda. RASA Ltd is a market driven social enterprise. RASA has been working with NILE Coffee Farmers Association for two years in areas of skills development for small holder



farmers and providing direct market for coffee. RASA also has strategic partners like NUCAFE, CURAD to provide coffee processing facilities. It is thus a locally owned enterprise, using locally available raw materials, employing Ugandans and promoting agricultural development of the coffee value chain. RASA Ltd seeks to increase its operations with needed investment estimated at US\$30,000 over the next one year.

Fruiti-Cycle

Led by Ben Wokorach, Nelson Mandela, Richard Obonyo, Morris Opiyo, Kevin Akello Ojara, and Rachel Aitaru Olema

Fruiti-Cycle is an electric motorized tricycle (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LGLad3SV9Ww>) that uses solar power and manual peddling energy to generate electricity. This innovation is being championed by a team of illustrature and innovative youth: Ben Wokorach, Nelson Mandela, Richard Obonyo, Morris Opiyo, Kevin Akello Ojara, and Rachel Aitaru Olema. The Fruiti-Cycle delivers its benefits to the famers by allowing them to carry five times more produce (up to 300kg carrying capacity) every time unlike the current normal bicycles with 60kg carrying capacity.

The energy also allows a farmer to reach far markets in a radius of 100km without getting exhausted unlike the normal bicycles. Unlike other motor tricycles in the market, Fruiti-Cycle has a refrigerated storage unit which uses evaporative cooling system powered by solar to prolong the shelf-life of the produce during distribution and to reduce mechanical damages due to poor packaging.

The storage unit is also detachable to be used within the market by market vendors to preserve their produce up to five days, significantly reducing the total post-harvest losses from 50% to only 10%. The product is affordable (US\$1,000) and this cost can significantly be reduced with mass production if achieved.



Fruiti-Cycle has partnered with Uganda National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) as an implementation partner. Fruiti-Cycle is leveraging on their strong relationship with Uganda Famers Associations, Farmers community SACCO groups and market vendors association as our channel to reach the end users. Fruiti-Cycle requires US\$ 50,000 to pilot launch in the Uganda market.

CockFeeds

Led by Siya Aggrey, Sekitende Julius, Aporu Constatine, Faluku Nakulopa and Oscar Madong

CockFeeds is an innovation focused on developing and commercializing a cockroach-based chicken diet. This enterprise is being advanced by:

Siya Aggrey, Sekitende Julius, Aporu Constatine, Faluku Nakulopa and Oscar Madong as a team of social entrepreneur youth. CockFeeds enterprise focuses on mass production of the locally available poultry feed using cockroaches and processing them into a form edible to chickens. The existing protein feeds such as fishmeal derived from fish resources could be subjected to extinction since it's also consumed directly by humans as a source of protein. Cockroaches are rarely consumed by humans and are resistant to extreme climate conditions.

Currently, with a \$600 small grant, the first batch of cockroaches are being bred to provide a base for testing the performance of broiler chickens when fed with a cockroach derived protein diet other than other sources of protein.

This enterprise has the following contribution and strengths in poultry production industry:

- (i) cockroaches have a 65% crude protein and ash. These nutrients are ideal for chicken's growth;
- (ii) the increasing demand for fish meal by poultry farmers due to the increasing number of chicken reared has sky-



rocketed the prices for the fish meal; CockFeeds addresses this challenge as an alternative yet affordable protein source;

- (iii) cockroaches are proved to be less vulnerable to the climate change consequences than fish as such provides opportunity for sustainable protein supply; and
- (iv) mass production of the cockroaches requires a small land acreage thus shall suffice in the face of high land costs; this will be operationalised on intensive basis. To take this innovation from concept to operation, an investment of US\$20,000 is required.

Bounty Enterprises Limited

Led by Esther Karibwende, Cedrick Karibwende, Vivian Karibwende and Paul Muhoozi

Enter Bounty Enterprises led by Esther Karibwende, Cedrick Karibwende, Vivian Karibwende and Paul Muhoozi seeks to become East Africa's future leading food processing company. Driven by a strong urge to rectify the colossal mismatch between imported and locally produced processed foods, Enter Bounty Enterprises embarked on the food processing journey.

Working out of the Makerere University Food Technology and Business Incubation Center, the team has been able to come up with a number of high quality food products; food condiments (Tomato Ketchup, Barbeque Sauce, Chili Sauce and marinades) being the flagship line of products. Enter Bounty Enterprises envisions to be the leading food processing company in the East African region, with a proud legacy of consistently producing nutritious world class food products.

The mission is to provide Uganda and the entire East African region with high quality food products by leveraging on modern technology to ensure sustainable valuable chains across all our product lines. At Enter Bounty Enterprises, market/demand driven growth is highly cherished. A consumer based approach in product development and market entry enables Enter Bounty Enterprises to consistently come up with relevant products that fulfill unmet consumer



needs. Success has been proven with our food condiments line of products (primarily tomato ketchup), where the focus on restaurants and hotels has directly led to repeat purchases at retail stores. This enterprise requires US\$50,000 for scaling up its operations.

Energy Gumps

Led by Richard Sseruwagi, Fred Tuhairwe, Denis Sizoomu Waisswa, Gloria Tamale, Ronnie Ssejjuko, and Cabrine Agnes Nankanja.

Energy Gumps is a livestock parasite management innovation that seeks to implement an ectoparasite control service oriented business for livestock farmers in the Ugandan cattle corridor. This enterprise innovation is being championed by Richard Sseruwagi, Fred Tuhairwe, Denis Sizoomu Waisswa, Gloria Tamale, Ronnie Ssejjuko, and Cabrine Agnes Nankanja. This enterprise is based on business model that uses mobile spray races that can be rented out to farmers to spray their animals. The spray races would be powered by solar PV. The spray races would use less volumes of acaricide and water since the water would be recycled on usage.

This will be a cost effective ectoparasite control technique as well as resource efficiency can be enhanced. Energy Gumps strategy is to work with existing Cooperative Unions in Uganda such as the Uganda Meat Producers Cooperative Union (UMPCU) and Uganda Crane Creameries Cooperative Union (UCCCU) to pilot and increase uptake of our solution. This innovation requires an estimated US\$17,000 to commence operational capacity in rural areas of Uganda before scaling-up phase.



MUWOGO Uganda

Led by JSimon P. Waigumba, Loy Ayanga and Basil Mugonola

MUWOGO Uganda led by Simon P. Waigumba, Loy Ayanga and Basil Mugonola is a social enterprise that seeks to innovatively extend the shelf life of fresh cassava roots, in order to gain access to long distance markets, reduce on its post-harvest losses and overcome losses associated with poor delivery systems (see illustration picture) and increase incomes accruing to the value chain actors.

This idea has been piloted and proven to extend the shelf life of fresh cassava from 2 days to about 40 days on Ugandan cassava varieties. Cassava production and marketing has constantly been affected by Post-harvest Physiological Deterioration (PPD), which takes effect within two days after harvesting.

MUWOGO Uganda Ltd seeks to address this challenge through a raft of interventions:

- (i) pre-harvest planting in ridges,
- (ii) pre-harvest pruning,
- (iii) high relative humidity storage, and
- (iv) waxing. These interventions do not undermine the consumer preferences and desired quality traits at all.

This proposed intervention requires approximately US\$16,000 to initialize operations.



Seven Seasons Foods

Led by Isaac Asiimwe

Seven Seasons Foods (Seven Seasons herein) is a three-year old company that produces preservative-free and sugar-free banana juice. The business is led by Isaac Asiimwe a Food Science Graduate. Seven Seasons growth has been phenomenal realizing a growth from UGX500, 000 to the current UGX 180,000,000 turnover. The business operates with core social values that allow for economic and social growth within in the poor communities of Uganda.

Seven seasons preserves “Ugandan Heritage” by adding value to bananas and producing a drink that was traditionally consumed and enjoyed in the village households in Uganda. The overall aim of seven seasons is to reach the “mass” market both local and regional levels, thus allowing people to experience the “taste of Uganda.” Currently, seven seasons has one product in the market that is banana juice.

However with a vision to be globally recognized as ‘the’ company producing banana juice and banana-based products, Seasons will diverse the product range in due course. Seven seasons buys raw bananas (juice cultivar) from over 100 smallholder households in the poor communities of central Uganda. Seven Seasons is thereby contributing to enhancement of banana commodity value chain in Uganda. Seven Seasons seeks capitalization of US\$60,000 to support its effort to scale-up its operations and production lines.

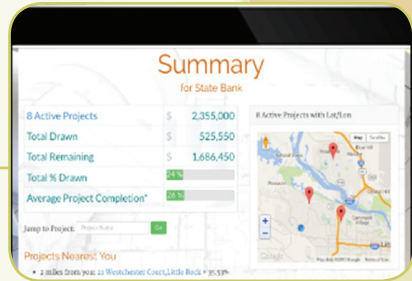


ICONIC Software Solutions (U) Ltd

Led by Mugabi Collins, Tukashaba Edson, Nuwasiima Christine and Albert Emurwon

KAFUNA is an easy to use and affordable Loan Management solution with a mobile version designed for community saving schemes and small SACCOs which cannot afford some of the existing and complex loan management solutions. This software solution handles all transactions from origination and servicing of loans, member registration and shares management, to management and loan collections. This innovation is spear headed by a team young brilliant youth: Mugabi Collins, Tukashaba Edson, Nuwasiima Christine and Albert Emurwon. The KAFUNA software addresses the gap created by high end and high cost Banking software solutions currently on the Ugandan market (e.g. Saving Plus, Loan Performer and Temenos T24) that are affordable to mainly the mainstream banking institutions.

Further the current software applications have a problem that their functionality and effectiveness is dependent on the availability of internet connection and are not customized to provide customized reminders and produce easy to understand financial reports. KAFUNA is purely customized for small and medium saving schemes and enterprises as well as individual entrepreneurs like money lenders. KUFUNA is a web-based end-to-end Loan Management platform that handles all transactions. It has a desktop version for officers/managers of the SACCO and



a mobile version, for members and customers of the SACCO. It allows managers of SACCOs to rapidly scale their businesses while simultaneously reducing overhead costs by using workflows and automation. At the SACCO's office, an administrator creates user accounts for all officers of the SACCO and members who use the mobile version.

The SACCO Administrator/Head is able to view loan applications, approve/reject loan requests, view staff expense requests, approve or reject requests, view financial reports, create reminders, among others.

The system automatically generates repayment schedules, recalculates interest rates and tracks non-payments, show notifications and reminders and generate customized messages to defaulters. Using their mobile phones, customers are able to check their account details, submit loan application requests, and check balances and notifications. This software application is targeting the over 6,500 SACCOs currently operating in Uganda. KAFUNA requires an estimated US\$9,000 capitalization to launch.

Horti-Grid Afrika

Led by Okello Robine, Alum Vicky, Otto Douglas, Ebong Richard, Okoch Pamela, Akello Jacky and Odongo Walter

Horti-Grid Afrika an initiative by young graduates (Okello Robine, Alum Vicky, Otto Douglas, Ebong Richard, Okoch Pamela, Akello Jacky and Odongo Walter) is a fruit production to processing and marketing fruit value chain innovation proposed targeting the rapidly expanding market yearning for high quality fresh juices. Integral to this value chain is the opportunity that other outgrowers will have to sell their passion fruits directly to Horti-Grid Afrika particularly a network of youth that will be trained in quality passion fruit production.

Horti-Grid Africak looks at making Uganda an export hub for fresh fruits to other in-region countries such as Southern Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi and Kenya in the meantime. These in-region countries have unsaturated market that has to be serviced. It is modeled that a well-designed and innovative system of out growers, through the Agro- youth investments (AYIN) project targeting school dropout with financial, entrepreneurship and agribusiness and life skills will provided a sustained base for fruit supply but also provide a dependable source of income and livelihood.

It will make them to appreciate the value of agriculture; our target is to make agriculture 'cool' to the youth at all stages of life.



Over a period of three years, Horti-Grid Afrika hopes to transform the lives of some 1,500 school dropout youth through fruit farming in northern Uganda. Horti-Grid Afrika is sourcing for US\$51,000 for capitalization to go into full scale operations.

Gulu Poultry Farm

Led by Sewagudde Vicent and Akurut Winifred

Gulu Poultry Farm is a social enterprise innovation by a team of young graduates (Sewagudde Vicent and Akurut Winifred) hoping to transform poultry farming in northern Uganda. The farm has the vision of becoming the largest producer of poultry products and the leading farm in training youths and farmers in poultry management in the northern Uganda sub-region ten years.

The farm is on a mission to provide high quality poultry products and knowledge in Northern sub-region so as to contribute directly to community transformation through empowering youths and farmers in northern Uganda with the best poultry management skills.

They will produce own poultry feeds ingredients like maize (which contributes about 70% of the total feed composition), soya bean and sun flower, it will have a poultry management training school where youth within the region can come and learn on how to rear poultry from day old to time of sale, mix feeds and take poultry farming as a business, it will have its own hatchery with parent stalk to provide a reliable source for day old chicks to the farm, farmers within the region and also the trainees who on graduating will each receive 100 day old



broilers, it will have a diversity of poultry ranging from broilers, layers to Kuroilers to be the lone place for knowledge within the Northern region to South Sudan and eastern DR. Congo. Gulu Poultry Farm requires US\$30,000 to commence operations.

Ageno Bakery

Led by Irene Lynette Akidi, Paul Rachkara and Winifred Ajok

Ageno (Trust) Bakery is a Youth-led and managed enterprise operating in Gulu Town, Northern Uganda. It is under the management and leadership of: Irene Lynette Akidi, Paul Rachkara and Winifred Ajok. It is founded on the vision to be a leading provider of Vitamin A enriched baked products.

Ageno Bakery seeks to develop a business that will ensure that its inputs especially the orange fleshed sweet potato (OFSP) flour will be sourced from the farmers whom the business has already worked with and also the use of a single variety of the OFSP that proves to have greater vitamin A. Making bakery products readily available and affordable to low-income households is key to the visioning of Ageno Bakery's growth.

The enterprise serves its customers with a diverse product mix comprising of the following: donuts, daddies and cookies. The future products are bread and cakes and other confectionaries will be at the heart of Ageno Bakery's innovation growth and expansion. Ageno Bakery runs a unique all-inclusive model that allows for direct material sourcing from smallholder farmers and marketing by youth groups and university academics. This enterprise is sprouting from a university project that has been supported by Gulu University through



its agribusiness innovation training model. A social enterprise innovation, Ageno Bakery is keen on giving back to the community sharing experiences and training and mentoring other youth willing and aspiring to acquire skills and have mini-bakery start-ups.

It is our belief that through these processes, youth unemployment can be dealt a resounding blow. Ageno Bakery requires USD\$15,000 to scale-up its operations.

E-Solutions

Led by Nicholas Munu with technical backstopping from Prof. Noble Banadda, Dr. Nicholas Kiggundu, and Prof. Jeffrey Seay

E-Solutions Limited has developed technology innovation to optimize conversion for maize waste/stover into marketable products through slow pyrolysis. E-Solutions is led by Nicholas Munu with technical backstopping from Prof. Noble Banadda, Dr. Nicholas Kiggundu, and Prof. Jeffrey Seay. E-Solutions Limited envisions maize farmers increasing their earnings by utilizing maize waste as part of commercial products. The mission of E-Solutions Limited is produce high quality vinegar, biochar, organic pesticides and biofuel from maize stover at profitable operational costs. Through this approach, E-Solutions hopes to enhance and diversify farmers' revenues in an environmentally friendly and sustainable ways.

E-Solutions has so far optimized the production of biochar, vinegar and organic pesticides from maize stover and are at the verge of running detail experiments to translate these innovations into commercial products. Preliminary trials on the production of biofuels blending with petrol for running internal combustion engines have also been undertaken.

E-Solutions is modeled around a social enterprise approach that allows it to avoid the bulk transportation costs yet leverage community benefits and support climate change mitigation. Through the social

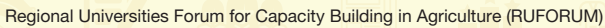


enterprise approach, farmers will be organized in groups that will be supported to grow maize on individual farms with technical backstopping from researchers and scientists. Farmers will then supply their maize stover to the pyrolysis plant for sale and from where it will be pyrolysed. The profits from the enterprise will in part support the community development processes and activities including farmer capacity development.

The products from the enterprise will be of benefit to small scale farmers both conventional and organic, food companies, chemical companies, and fuel companies. E-Solution has developed partnerships with Makerere University (Uganda) and University of Kentucky (United States) in the research process. E-Solutions requires approximately US\$30,000 to commence operations.

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