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AGcelerate Lab 2019

SCALING from IDEAS to large-scale AGRIBUSINESSES
Real-world outcomes for young entrepreneurs in agri-food

August 12th- 17th, 2019, Makerere University, Uganda

AGcelerate is multi-stakeholder partnership initiative to co-create Africa's food systems through research, training and innovation and accelerating sustainable agribusinesses by linking academic trajectory to practice.

In August 2017 the first AGcelerate Lab was held in August 2017 with over 150 participants mainly students from universities and young agripreneurs. From the outset, AGcelerate was aimed to create a forum where students and their mentors from the global North and South could interact to energise students regarding the opportunities for entrepreneurial activity within the agri-food sector.

The second workshop in August 2018 clearly showed that a broader eco-system would be required to leverage the wider academic and research knowledge to forge truly innovative and sustainable youth-led agribusinesses through collaboration and development of marketable products along the agri-food value-chain.

The 2019 AGcelerate Lab will continue the tradition and will be held at Makerere University. The lab is built around *Scaling from ideas to large-scale agribusinesses - to generate real-world outcomes for young entrepreneurs within agri-food*. The lab

will attract over 150 participants, over 100 of which will be students from Ugandan Universities and a group of Swedish students. The other participants will be from NGOs, Farmers, Women's and International Organisations, from the private sector and the government. These participants will be coming from Uganda, Kenya, Somaliland, Sweden and Switzerland.

Collaborative Innovation Lab and workshop August 15th-16th, 2019, Makerere University

After a welcome address from a Senior Official of Makerere University, the workshop will be framed around three Case Studies. Firstly, an aspiring agripreneur at the idea phase, secondly, an agripreneur who has a small-scale agribusiness ready for significant expansion and thirdly, a successful agripreneur with a substantial business will present their stories and the students will work in small groups.

The aim is to immerse the students in real-world learning. The lessons will be brought to life through these cases, which will put them in the shoes of these agripreneurs who are at different stages of their business. They will hear first-hand the challenges they faced, and wrestle with the same issues. Apart from the Case Studies there will be a motivational presentation by a successful agripreneur and CEO of Young Farmers Federation of Uganda on *Agriculture is a Goldmine*. There will also be presentations by students from the north and south participating in an Erasmus+ exchange. In addition, the opportunity will be given to 10 aspiring agripreneurs to pitch their business ideas to the workshop participants, and a 1000 USD prize will be awarded to the best idea.

Boot Camp at RUCID and farm visits August 12th-14th 2019

Prior to the workshop there will be a 2-day bootcamp at the RUCID Organic Agriculture Training College in Mityana, Central Uganda, that is generating a wealth of interesting innovations using indigenous knowledge and sustainable agricultural techniques. The aim of the boot camp is to generate business ideas from these innovations. Visits will also be arranged to large-scale commercial farms, urban farms and retail outlets including organic markets before and after the collaborative lab.

Expected outputs and outcomes

- **Knowledge and innovation:** New thinking, new paradigm to learning, transformation, vocational training, smart knowledge intensification, linking education trajectory to agribusiness practice, youth with business mindset, return on investment
- **Business development:** Growth + impact, business ideas created, market penetration, competitiveness, specialization and exchange, business ideas with in-built growth strategy
- **Job Creation** Creating opportunities, wealth creation, employment, knowledge of local and global opportunities, efficiency
- **New partnerships and outreach:** Strategic relationships, Establish multi-stakeholder partnerships, coordinated efforts, networking, joint ventures, cooperation, synergies, global linkages from grassroots, learning alliances
- **Advocacy:** Engagement with government, mainstreaming, acceleration in new policies to stimulate agri-business, strategy

Beyond AGcelerate Lab 2019

The aim is to further develop AGcelerate into an even more vibrant multi-stakeholder partnership and collaborative ecosystem for innovation and co-creation to enable Ugandan youth to build sustainable agribusinesses informed by evidence-driven research with a global perspective. This eco-system will provide a support network for the young agripreneur in their journey to building a successful agribusiness.

AGcelerate is a unique model that can be implemented in other African countries and other continents. Through this project in Uganda, the research learnings and the experience will be captured and shared through presentations in conferences and publications. Frequently organisations are doing very good work but in isolation, and with time-limited projects, whereas collaborative eco-systems such as AGcelerate can greatly increase impact and long-standing sustainability.

For more information, contact AGcelerate2019 coordinator:
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