

INNOVATION FUND

Youth leading changes in resilient private extension and advisory services for job and wealth creation

Parent project: Strengthening agricultural knowledge and the innovation ecosystem for inclusive rural transformation and livelihoods in Eastern Africa (AIRTEA)

PROJECT COORDINATOR
 Youth Engagement in Agriculture Network (YEAN), Rwanda

PARTNERS
 Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB)
 University of Lay Adventists of Kigali (UNILAK), Rwanda

LOCATION
 Rwanda

PERIOD
 March 2022 – August 2024

EU FUNDING
 EUR 199,438.63

SECTOR
 Agriculture

KEYWORDS
 Extension, youth, incubation, capacity building, digital services, agribusiness, technology adoption

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CHALLENGE

Although agriculture is the main economic activity in Rwanda, the agriculture productivity is low due to poor farming technologies and low adoption of effective farming techniques. On another side, the youth between 15-35 years of age currently account for 55% of the continent's and 42.6% of Rwanda's labour force, but have limited access to job opportunities whilst the agricultural sector holds potential to create millions of jobs in Africa.



Co-creation session with young agripreneurs on youth-led agricultural models



Inside the Agribusiness Incubation and Innovation Hub (AIH) at UNILAK

JUSTIFICATION

The engagement of the youth in agriculture is one of the ways to ensure effective adoption of modern and sustainable agricultural technologies that will lead to improved profitability and employment opportunities along agricultural commodity value chains.



Inside the Agribusiness Incubation and Innovation Hub (AIH) at UNILAK

PERSPECTIVES

The project promotes customised and cost-effective youth-led agricultural service models, strengthens the capacity of the youth in specific value chain services and promotes private extension. The project will increase the level of skills for aspiring extension agents in response to the growing demand for tailored services from farming communities.





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METHOD

The project will engage the youth in technology transfer and adoption among farmers, and study the effects of youth-led models on the youth, farmers and other value chain actors, through:

- Establishing business incubation services and promoting youth-led extension models.
- Strengthening the capacity of the youth in specific value chain services.
- Facilitating access to resilient private extensions.

The collected and generated findings on the status of and ways to strengthen youth-led models will be used to inform the government on better ways of engaging and retaining the youth into activities that develop agricultural value chains and create jobs.



A youth-led coaching of farmers on maize farming with minimum tillage in Kayonza District

Led by a youth-led organisation, the project promotes youth-led private extension services in agriculture to address skills gaps and create decent employment opportunities.

INNOVATIVENESS



A youth-led coaching of farmers on onion postharvest handling in Musanze District

EXPECTED RESULTS

Impact

- Improved livelihood of youth and women working in the agricultural sector in seven districts of Rwanda (Musanze, Nyabihu, Rubavu, Gasabo, Kicukiro, Rwamagana and Kayonza).

Outcome

- Business partnerships between youth-led extension and advisory services and agricultural value chain actors established.
- Strengthened capacity of youth and women in providing private agricultural extension and advisory services.

Outputs

- Agribusiness enterprise and research incubation services established.
- Curated and customised knowledge products available to smallholder farmers.
- Youth-led private agricultural extension and advisory service model Identified and scaled up.
- Strengthened capacity of youth and women in providing private agricultural extension and advisory services.

AIRTEA

Strengthening Agricultural Knowledge & Innovation Ecosystem for Inclusive Rural Transformation & Livelihoods in Eastern Africa



AIRTEA is implemented by FARA in partnership with ASARECA and EAFF. AIRTEA fosters an inclusive research and innovation environment towards sustainable agrarian livelihoods and rural transformation, through: strengthening the production, processing and marketing capacities of youth and women in East Africa's multi-stakeholder value chain innovation platforms and women in East Africa's multi-stakeholder value chain innovation platforms and linking them to practical solutions within national, regional and global food systems; facilitating the transfer of technologies, knowledge and innovations, and their uptake through multi-stakeholder learning routes; and improving profitability and employment opportunities along agricultural commodity value chains by establishing national and regional Agricultural Business Learning Alliance (ABLA) platforms, business development services and mentorship.

AIRTEA supports 11 projects in Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda that focus on agricultural production, processing, marketing, agricultural digital application development, and extension (mainly aquaculture, dairy, and horticulture).

