



**Global Agri-Business Incubation
Network's**

e-Newsletter

Issue 14

Key Promoters of the GABI e-Newsletter



New Business Incubator Launched To Support Livestock Entrepreneurs

Creating Competitive Livestock Entrepreneurs In Agribusiness (CCLEAR) Incubator held its official launch ceremony on 25 February 2015, and is an initiative of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), supported by Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), under the Universities, Business and Research in Agricultural Innovation (UniBRAIN) programme. The launch ceremony was attended by Hon Afotey Agbo, Greater Accra Regional Minister of Ghana, and dignitaries from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), FARA, UniBRAIN partners, the Skills Development Fund (SDF), and other organizations in the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

CCLEAR is part of FARA's UniBRAIN programme, which supports a network of agribusiness incubators across Africa. In his speech, Dr Yemi Akinbamijo, Executive Director, FARA, noted how incubators serve as a vehicle for commercializing agricultural innovations. "CCLEAR is an excellent example of how business incubators can bring together academics, researchers, and business professionals to leverage agricultural research for greater development." He said.

The Director General of CSIR, Dr Victor Kwame Agyeman, echoed this sentiment, stating that, "Fortunately, we now have a new public-private partnership model through CCLEAR that will serve as a bridge between the research laboratory and the homes of each Ghanaian family through the development and dissemination of breakthrough technologies." Sethlina Aryee and Chukwu Emeka, interns with CCLEAR, said "We are set to becoming job creators instead of job seekers, thanks to CCLEAR."

The event included a graduation ceremony for 13 entrepreneurs who were part of CCLEAR's first cohort of supported agribusinesses. These entrepreneurs received training, mentorship, financial support, and access to laboratory services, technology, and markets according to the needs of their business. The success of CCLEAR's approach is evidenced by the fact that six of its entrepreneurs received awards during the 2014 National Farmers Day Celebrations. "I will not hesitate to prompt my colleagues in the livestock business of the innovative opportunities at CCLEAR." Grace Okai stated, when she was named "National Best Pig Farmer".

The official launch began with a demonstration and official commissioning of CCLEAR's Indigenous microorganism (IMO) facility, which was introduced as a new technology to Ghana's pig farmers. CCLEAR Agribusiness Incubator was founded by a consortium of public private partners, who were featured in an exhibition during the launch event. These partners include the CSIR – Animal Research Institute, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, University of Ghana, Humbeg Farms (private agribusiness), and Heifer International (an NGO). The exhibition also included entrepreneurs and agribusinesses supported by CCLEAR and featured their unique meat products.



Mr Nana Afari, Board Chairman, CCLEAR welcomes the guests to the inauguration



Dr Emmanuel K Adu, CEO of CCLEAR delivers a special address to the august audience



Mr James Aucha delivers his goodwill message



Mr Alex Ariho, facility coordinator-UniBRAIN plants a sapling to mark the start of the construction of CCLEAR Agribusiness centre



*With content inputs from Gordon Chan, Consultant – CCLEAR
Image credits: Charles Abovella, MICS coordinator – CCLEAR*



The dignitaries cut the official launch ribbon

Featured in the fourth estate

The launch of **CCLEAR** business incubator was widely covered by the press. One such article can be read [here](#)

AgBIT - Quality Goat Products & Services - Supporting Rural Livelihoods. Read [here](#).



The Agribusiness Incubation Trust (AgbiT) to empower 100 SMEs

The Agribusiness Incubation Trust (AgbiT) is targeting to empower 100 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in agricultural business, access to markets and finance by the end of 2015.

AgbiT Limited is Zambia's pioneer agribusiness incubator, focused on accelerating innovation and the growth of scalable agribusiness start-ups and SMEs in the sector.

In a press response on Monday, AgbiT supply chain manager Habeenzu Mukwemba said AgbiT is focusing its attention on scaling up the transfer of practical knowledge and skills to SME.

"We are aiming to support at least 100 SMEs by providing them with skills, agribusiness training, technology transfer and helping them to access financing and formal markets," he said.

Meanwhile, Mr Mukwemba said the company will soon come up with an agri-park which will accelerate innovation and growth of business training to providing key mentorship and client-tailored support to high-potential entrepreneurs and farmer cluster enterprises.

"The Agri Park will be equipped with green house, irrigation systems, a modern fruit and vegetable pack house and supported by the development of farmer clusters," he said.

The Agri-park facility will enable the SMEs to earn incomes during the period of the training while saving a portion of the incomes as the seed funds to enable them access financing to set up modern facilities at their own farmsteads.

Mr Mukwemba said the park will catalyse formal marketing linkages, increase access to equipment and farm inputs for smallholder farmers and strengthen the supply chain and encourage private sector investment.

The article can be read online [here](#)

With inputs from Brian Mwanamambo, CEO – AgBIT and Charles Aboyella, MICS coordinator - CCLEAR

Agri-Biz Idol Camp held at National Festival for Value-Added Products, Uganda

A Value added products exhibition was carried out at the Agribusiness and Market Development Centre, Lukojjo, Mukono from March 4-9 March, 2015. It was organized mainly by the AgriBusiness Incubation Alliance of Uganda (ABIAU) and was meant to bring together all entities involved in value addition along the different Agricultural Value chains.

The exhibition was fairly well attended with exhibitors selling a fair amount of their products. There were 13 exhibitors that included Consortium for Enhancing University Responsiveness to Agribusiness Development CURAD, HarvestPlus, Afri-Banana Products (ABP) among others. Under the CURAD umbrella was over three incubates namely Real Agricultural Solutions for Africa (RASA) that exhibited Coffee liquor, Sarmalina Beverages (Juice) and D-Mart for Hibiscus.

As part of the activities, an agri-innovation idea competition called the Agri-Biz Idol Camp for graduates was held on 8 March 2015. The idea was to encourage youth to come up with good agri-business ideas that could later be supported by any of the incubators. A panel comprising of three judges, headed by Mr. Kimani Muturi, the Managing Director of ABP was constituted and students were given opportunity to present their business ideas. The three business ideas which were adjudged as winners were for Tunusiime Paul David (Hibiscus Juice), Harna Tucci (Fruit Juice from Sunsap) and Nsubuga Tonny (Yogurt making- cultured with millet).

The main objective of the camp was to attract youth especially students into entrepreneurship. Apart from the prizes, the youth were exposed to different value added products that were being exhibited by the different SMEs that attended the event. Additionally they were given ideas and practical information on how to add value to their products.

The exhibition was closed by the guest of honor, the State Minister of Youth Mr. Ronald Kibuule who called on youth to engage in agribusiness as a way to fight unemployment. He was happy with the work ABP and CURAD are doing, especially in regard to value addition. He also promised to help all the exhibitors in obtaining the quality certification mark from Uganda National Bureau of Standards.



Youth participate actively in the Agri-Biz Idol Camp (above)



The State Minister of Youth, Mr Ronald Kibuul, looks at products on display at the fair.



Winners being rewarded by the guest of honour, Mr Ronald Kibuule, State Minister for Water, Resources

Training program held for Cassava value chain incubator in Cameroon, features in the media.

Click to watch a video clip featured in the local news channel of Cameroon.



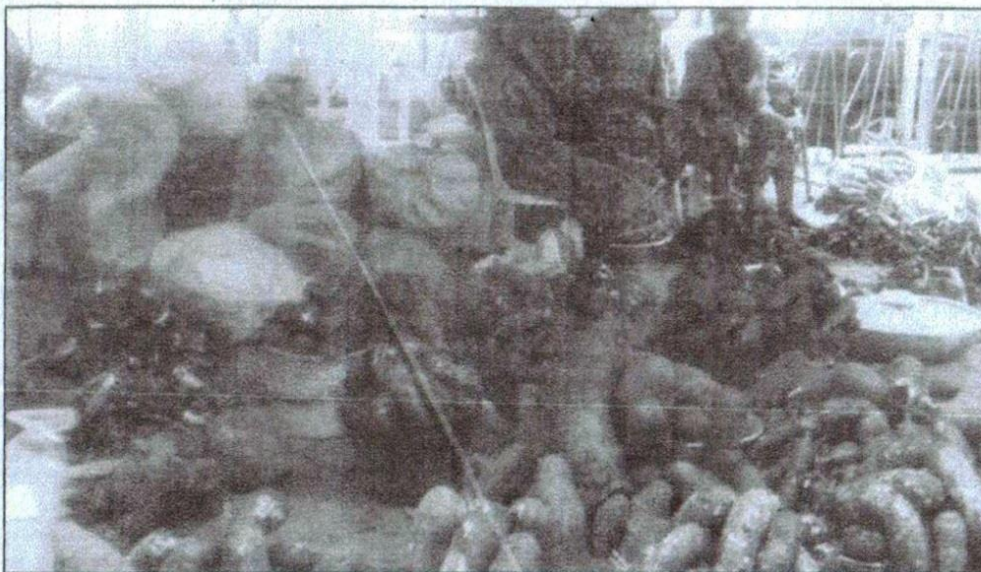
Dr Saikat Datta Mazumdar and S. Aravazhi of AIP-ICRISAT visited a Food Processing Business Incubation Centre (FPBIC), in Cameroon along with other experts from the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Crafts (CCIMC), during March 1-7, 2015.

This incubator is unique for processing of Cassava based products and incubates rural entrepreneurs on primary processing. The staff of the incubator was trained on “CCIMA-CIP Incubator Management and Technology Standardisation: Basics of Business Incubation”. They were also trained on food safety, quality management and information on Cassava value chain.

This was held as part of the project of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Govt. of India, and the India – Africa Forum Summit-II.

Over 1,000 Tonnes Of Cassava Processed

Some 20 workers are updating their skills in order to boost second generation agriculture.



Processing these food crops demands more financing.

With the creation of the Pilot Incubation Centre (CIP), Bonaberi, Douala, in 2010, food processing has improved significantly, with cassava and other food crops like nodules and flour. Aligned to this are 20 incubator workers whose skills are being updated to enhance the country's food self-sufficiency and also create job opportunities. With two experts from the India-based

International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, ICRISAT, the skills enhancing session from March 3-6, 2015, christened “Incubator management and technology standardisation,” by the Cameroon Chamber of Commerce in Douala, is intended to help improve agriculture, especially the processing of cassava chips, cassava semolina (akwakwa), nodules and flour. As concerns cassava, 1,040 metric

tonnes have been processed since 2010, with 15 tonnes of cassava fibre (peelings) produced as butane gas.

The focus of the skill-enhancing session is on quality management systems and general principles of food hygiene. Tefack Yves, CIP Chief, said participants will also learn product development and quality control with focus on cassava-based value added products, agribusiness incubation, hazards analysis and critical control point system and guidelines for application, as well as basics of business incubation. The priority is to ensure food self-sufficiency in households and the entire nation,

as well as ensure agricultural transformation in the country. In this light, Cameroon has significant assets and varied potentials such as arable land, agro-ecological diversity and abundant rainfall. Their development is the focus of second-generation agriculture, the foundations of which were laid by President Paul Biya at the Ebolowa Agropastoral Show in January 2011.

Christopher JATOR

Agribusiness incubation transforming lives of many in Africa

A Success Story - The Excel Hort Incubator, Uganda

Irish Potatoes are a traditional crop for farmers in the Kigezi region of Western Uganda, on which they depend for both food security and income. Most farmers in the region, however, still employ traditional farming methods with resulting low yields and quality.

Over the years, their situation has been made worse by changes in climate and soil structure which has had a negative impact on the production of potatoes. This, along with the increasing population in the area has created pressure on natural resources including land, natural forests, and wetlands. Arable land has drastically reduced due to the population pressure. Related to that, the small plots of land available are continuously cultivated and this has reduced soil fertility.

However, many have taken notice of the situation and decided to take action. Excel Hort Consult (EHC) is one such development partners that have been able to foster agricultural transformation within Kigezi Region. The mode of transformation has been through agribusiness incubation. The incubatees and SMEs are supported to start, run and manage their business along the selected value chains. The farmer groups and small business of individuals are supported in areas of institutional strengthening, seed production and multiplication, marketing, value addition and policy reforms on potato production.

Bimunyu Benedicto aged 26 years, is one of the incubatees, who has been able to change his life with EHC's help. Benedicto, a father of two children, lives in Murubaya village in Kabale District. He is married to Tumuhimbise Rose. Benedicto is a primary school dropout and like other graduate incubatees, has been engaged in Irish Potato production after he left school. Before entering EHCs programme, the crop produced at his farm wasn't very encouraging. The trainings conducted by EHC, helped this farmer increase productivity to over seven times.

Now Benedicto employs a variety of skills he learned through the programme, including seed selection, fertilizer application, spacing and spraying. Having understood the technologies and their impact on production, Benedicto was able to hire an acre of land where he was able to plant 8 bags of potato seed.

With the potato management knowledge, Benedicto was able to harvest 60 bags of potatoes. He was able to sort and grade them and sold to the Rwandan traders 40 bags each costing UGX 100,000 per bag and managed to get UGX 4,000,000 in return. With this increased income from sales, Benedicto was able to buy a plot in the local trading center which promises to bring him better returns in the future too. He currently employs 5 seasonal workers and 1 full time staff.

"I am grateful to EHC for having transformed me from being a subsistence and small scale farmer to a commercial farmer and am optimistic that this transformation is not only applying to my own family but to other farmer group members and the general community as well," says Benedicto.

*Benedicto and his family at their farm.
He wants his children to be entrepreneurs of the next
generation.*



With inputs from Pall Ingi Kvaran, Program Director - Excel Hort Consult Ltd

News & Opportunities

US Agency for International Development (USAID) - Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems

USAID calls for proposals from an eligible US college or university to lead a Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems. Feed the Future Innovation Labs are long-term, multi-disciplinary efforts in applied research and capacity-building to address food insecurity and malnutrition in developing countries. This Livestock Systems Innovation Lab RFA is designed to identify its successor and to launch a new Feed the Future Innovation Lab focused on livestock systems research.

Deadline: 27 May 2015 - [Click for more details >>](#)

Agri-Tech Catalyst- Helping to commercialize UK agricultural innovation

The Agri-Tech Catalyst has been set up by Innovate UK, DFID and BBSRC with £70M investment to help make the UK a world leader in agricultural technology, innovation and sustainability. The Agri-Tech Catalyst supports businesses and academia in developing innovative solutions to challenges in the agri-tech sector.

Deadline: Industrial research -1 April 2014 | Early and Late stage: 17 June 2015 - [Click for more details >>](#)

International Science, Technology, and Innovation Center for South-South Cooperation (ISTIC)- Innovations in Science and Technology in Developing Countries

TWAS and the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation (ISTIC) are collaborating on a project aimed at identifying, rewarding and disseminating best practices in the innovative use of science and technology in the development of new products, processes or services that have had impacts on economic development in the South.

Deadline: 01 April 2015 - [Click for more details >>](#)

Australian Government-Australia Awards Scholarships for Asia-Pacific Region 2016

Australia Awards Scholarships are long term development awards administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. They aim to contribute to the long term development needs of Australia's partner countries in line with bilateral and regional agreements. They provide opportunities for people from developing countries, particularly those countries located in the Indo-Pacific region, to undertake full time undergraduate or postgraduate study at participating Australian universities and Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institutions. The study and research opportunities provided by Australia Awards Scholarships develop skills and knowledge of individuals to drive change and contribute to the development outcomes of their own country.

Deadline: 30 April 2015 - [Click for more details >>](#)

Your attention please!

Call for papers: 11th International Food Data Conference National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad, India from 3-5 November, 2015

The food composition community provides the world with food composition tables that are critically essential for research on nutrition and allied subjects. The International Food Data Conference (IFDC) is the official INFOODS conference held every two years at different locations around the world since 1993 with the last one being held in Granada, Spain in September 2013.

All abstracts must be submitted through the conference website only.

Papers due: 01 May 2015 - [Click for more details >>](#)

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