

UniBRAIN's Scorecard : April 2015

Name of consortium	Location	Value chain	Achievements to-date
Afri Banana Products (ABP) limited	Uganda	Banana	12 technologies commercialized, 284 interns, 52 incubates, 2282 jobs created, market linkages for 20 SMEs, working with 5 universities and 3 research institutes, working with 5680 farmers
Sorghum Value Chain Development Consortium (SVDC)	Kenya	Sorghum	7 technologies commercialized, 26 interns, 29 incubates, 2282 jobs created, market linkages for 36 SMEs, working with 6 universities and 2 research institutes, working with 3664 farmers
Consortium for enhancing University Responsiveness to Agribusiness Development (CURAD)	Uganda	Coffee	11 technologies commercialized, 44 incubates, 141 interns, 1758 jobs created, market linkages for 10 SMEs, working with 5 universities and 2 research institutes, working with 4220 farmers
Agribusiness Incubation Trust (AgBIT)	Zambia	Horticulture	7 technologies commercialized, 259 interns, 32 incubates, 1537 jobs created, market linkages for 32 SMEs, working with 4 universities and 3 research institutes; working with 4560 farmers
Creating Competitive Livestock Based Entrepreneurs in Agribusiness (CCLEAR)	Ghana	Livestock	6 technologies commercialized, 28 interns, 75 incubates, 845 jobs created, market linkages for 65 SMEs, working with 9 universities, 5 agriculture institutes and 1 research institutes; working with 2457 farmers
West African Agribusiness resource incubator (WAARI)	Mali	Non-timber forestry products	6 technologies commercialized, 23 interns, 42 incubates, 1356 jobs created, market linkages for 10 SMEs, working with 3 universities and 2 research institutes; working with 3545 farmers
	Uganda	Banana, Maize	Host country MoU signed with NARL (Host Institute), business plans prepared, Food processing equipment identified, staff appointed
	Cameroon	Cassava	Host country MoU signed, Business Plans prepared, food processing equipment purchase process started
	Ghana	Livestock	Host country MoU signing process initiated, host institute identified, business plan preparation in progress
	Mali	Forestry products	Government of India delegation to visit and study
	Angola	Tomato	Host country MoU signing process initiated, Host institute identified, business plan preparation in progress

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Key Stakeholders



Universities, Business & Research in Agricultural Innovation (UniBRAIN)

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) is an apex organization bringing together all the major stakeholders in agricultural research and development in Africa. It works in fostering capacities of Africa's agricultural science and innovation community. Established in 2001, FARA encompasses African and non-African stakeholders, who are committed to enable African agricultural development and contribute in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), especially MDG1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) and MDG7 (ensure environmental stability).

In 2014 FARA repositioned herself to:

- Ensure the matching of human and institutional capacities with resource requirements
- Sustain CAADP momentum, and the Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa (S3A) and;
- Promote agribusiness incubation in the continent. UniBRAIN is one of the key priority programme for delivery on CAADP agenda.

What is UniBRAIN ?

UniBRAIN is an initiative for advancing agribusiness incubation and improved agribusiness education in Africa funded by the Government of Denmark.

The initiative is led by FARA, assisted by six partner institutions: ANAFE, PanAAC, ABI-ICRISAT, ASARECA, CCARDESA and CORAF/WECARD.

Together the seven partners service six agribusiness incubator consortia, each consisting of business, research and university institutions. Each partner has a defined role in facilitating various aspects of the Consortia's incubators and their clients.

The six pilot Consortia located in five countries (Kenya, Ghana, Mali, Uganda and Zambia) deal in various value chains namely coffee, banana, sorghum, non-timber forest products, cereals, fruits and vegetables.

Objectives of UniBRAIN

The main objective of UniBRAIN is to create jobs and increase incomes through sustainable agribusiness development. UniBRAIN is achieving this by creating mutually beneficial partnerships between universities, research and the private agribusiness sector to create profitable agribusiness while improving agribusiness education to produce readily employable graduate entrepreneurs. Three outputs envisaged from this collaborative effort are:

- 1) Commercialization of agribusiness innovations supported and promoted
- 2) Agribusiness graduates with the potential to become efficient entrepreneurs produced by tertiary educational institutions; and
- 3) UniBRAIN's innovative outputs, experiences and practices shared and up-scaled

Scaling-up UniBRAIN efforts and needed support :

As a result of the progress achieved, there has been increased demand to expand the UniBRAIN model beyond the pilot phase to cover the entire continent for greater impact. The African Union has bought into the program and pledged support to raise funds for up-scaling.

A five year US\$ 196million programme is proposed under the title African Agribusiness Incubation for import substitution (AAIS) has been developed to roll out creation of new incubators and support competitive SMEs in agribusiness.

Discussions are underway for support by DANIDA and other development partners including Indian Government under Africa India Summit.

A number of Universities, research organizations, private sector, and governments have expressed interest to Partner with FARA UniBRAIN in agribusiness value chain development using UniBRAIN Model.

AGRA is currently working with UniBRAIN to pilot seed business incubation using the UniBRAIN model in Ghana, Ethiopia, Senegal, Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania. Other countries will be added from 2015 onwards.

By targeting the agribusiness sector, UniBRAIN is engaging the agricultural sector which employs over 65% of the labor force in the countries targeted.

Further, UniBRAIN is targeting the development of informal SMEs into organized business. SMEs are known to absorb more labor than the larger more capitalized industrial sector.

This will enhance efforts for import substitution, job creation, wealth creation and agriculture transformation agenda in Africa.

UniBRAIN poised to reach every corner of Africa

Experiencing great success and spiraling demand from other non-beneficiary African countries, UniBRAIN has initiated steps to scale up its activities to reach all countries in the continent. The government of India has established five Food Processing Business Incubation Centres (FPBICs) in partnership with FARA UniBRAIN, addressing different value chains under the India-Africa Forum Summit II.

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Discussions are on-going with African development Bank and other development partners for support to up-scale the program. A number of universities, research organizations, private sector and government have expressed interest to partner with FARA-UniBRAIN in agribusiness value chain development and replicate the UniBRAIN model.

Taking technologies to entrepreneur's desk

The Quest of African entrepreneurs for new technologies has been addressed greatly by UniBRAIN and technology oriented entrepreneurs have more chance of success in their ventures. UniBRAIN has ventured into identifying various agro technologies in Africa and Asia through its partner organization to commercialize them through the incubates of AIICs.

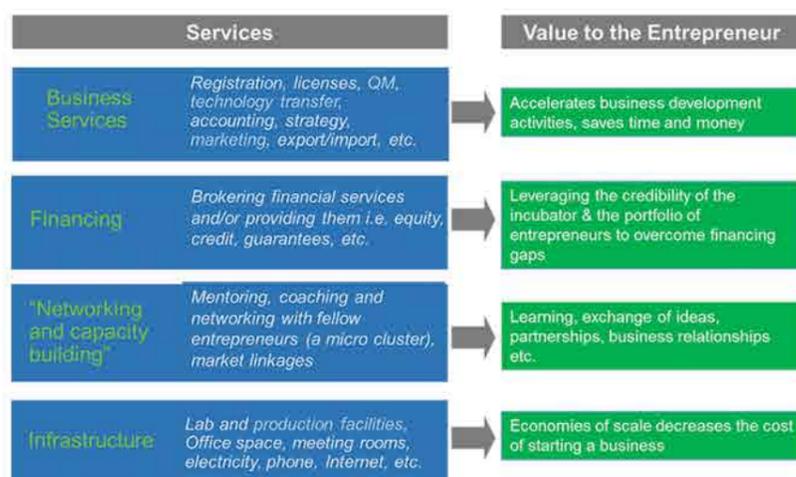
UniBRAIN has also created a database of agro technologies for African entrepreneurs and is in the process of releasing a compendium of African Agro technologies during the year 2015.



UniBRAIN's unique synergies of interactions between the partners



UniBRAIN's services



To provide a great leap to Africa seed industry through agribusiness incubation, UniBRAIN has started working with AGRA to pilot seed business incubators in Ghana, Ethiopia, Senegal, Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania and other countries are set to be added to the pool.

UniBRAIN is engaged in creating jobs in the agriculture sector which employs over 65% of the continent's labor force and opening doors for new agribusiness avenues. Benefits from the ventures promoted have started trickling down to the bottom of the pyramid and benefitted thousands of households. This great momentum provided by UniBRAIN is creating a healthy agribusiness environment in five countries and may be replicated in the rest of Africa which could definitely reduce Africa's dependence on agro imports through creation of new agro enterprises.