



AAIN DIGEST



African Agribusiness Incubators Network

Official newsletter of the African Agribusiness Incubators Network

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Editorial

The African Agribusiness Incubators Network brings you the latest edition of the AAIN Digest Newsletter.

This product is your spotlight on the news, events and updates in the spheres of the AAIN Secretariat, the Incubator of Incubators Centre of Excellence.

As a team, we appreciate your collaboration along the way that is contributing to the creation of jobs and wealth in Africa and promotion of agribusiness incubation models as a tested means of strengthening businesses and building resilient enterprises.

Every step taken with you is a step towards a better business environment.

See back page for your window to joining AAIN as an individual, youth group, incubator or institution and reach out to us for your seat at the 2017 Dakar Conference.

We also welcome you to follow our social media brand @AAINOnline on all platforms.

Thank you for walking with us.

Solomon Kalema Musisi

AAIN Communications and Public Relations Manager



Welcome to the Incubator of Incubators Center of Excellence (IICE) the AAIN Secretariat.

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Dr Alex Ariho, AAIN Chief Executive Officer



Message from the CEO

As a part of an entity that believes in the power of information as a tool for transforming agribusiness today, I am pleased to welcome you all to this edition of the AAIN Digest.

I also extend my sincere appreciation to the AAIN Board of Governors and all who support the member incubators in delivering on their mandate in Africa as a contribution to the targets of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the Agenda 2063 and global themes in agribusiness.

Together with you, AAIN continues to relentlessly pursue the goals of the 2016-2021 African Agribusiness Incubation Programme (AAIP) which is embedded in our [four core investment areas](#).

I take this opportunity to thank the over 800 delegates who participated in the second Pan African Agribusiness Conference in Accra, Ghana from the 4th to the 6th of October.

Thanks to your commitment, we held a better conference than the first and held the [first Annual African Youth in Agribusiness Day on the 5th of October](#) which signifies our commitment to youth empowerment through incubation.

We look forward to your continued support and welcome you to join us in among a series of events, the 3rd conference in Dakar, Senegal come October 2017.

Thank you for partnering with AAIN.

Alex Ariho (PhD)



One of the youth who participated in the side events of the second annual conference in Accra Ghana this year.

“African youth today are increasingly interested in agribusiness. However the SMEs that are started in Africa have 90 percent risk of failure in their infant stage. Agribusiness incubation makes it possible for them to not only achieve sustainability but to also engage with mentors and access technologies. We are making this easier with the establishment of the Incubators, Technology Supermarkets, the Small Scale Incubator Hubs and mentors.”

-Perspective embraced by among others,

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New Heights from the 2nd Annual Conference

From the fourth to the sixth of October 2016, Accra Ghana was the hub of agribusiness activity, hosting over 800 delegates for the second Conference organized by AAIN and committed partners from Africa and beyond.

The highly-acclaimed event was officially opened at the Accra International Conference Centre by a delegate panel of :

Ghana Minister for Food & Agriculture Hon. Mohammed-Munira Limuna (Alhaji)

Her Excellency Rhoda Peace Tumusiime the African Union Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Economy

Prof Henry Bwisa the AAIN Board Chairperson

Dr Alex Ariho the AAIN CEO

Dr Yemi Akimbamijo the Executive Director of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)

and HE Tove Degnbol the Ambassador of Denmark.



The African Union Commission renewed its commitment to agribusiness incubation through an MoU signed with AAIN at the second Pan African Agribusiness Conference in Accra Ghana on 5th October.

One of a series of additions to the conference was the declaration of 5th October as the African Youth in Agribusiness Day.

This day according to [Prof Henry Bwisa](#) is a timely intervention for Africa given that the continent now hosts the youngest population, as compared to other continents.

“We have over 200 million youth (between 15 and 24) out of about 1.2 billion people. This day is only one of a series of means to make agribusiness, particularly incubation, more attractive for the youth in Africa,” he says.

On the day, over 100 youth signed the [5th October Youth Declaration](#) on agribusiness incubation.

The AU Commission was represented by [HE Rhoda Peace Tumusiime](#) the Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Economy in the signing of an MoU with AAIN for the continued collaboration in enhancing agribusiness incubation. See [conference feature](#)



Left: Dr Alex Ariho, AAIN the AAIN CEO (5th from right) with the AU’s HE Rhoda Peace Tumusiime (6th from right) with leaders of youth groups that were launched at the inaugural 5th October African Youth in Agribusiness Day. Right: Ghanaian cultural dance exhibited by a dance troupe at the conference.



Some of the day one delegates. AAIN believes in the commitment of the people. You made the 2016 conference worthwhile.



HE Rhoda Peace Tumusiime (center) AAIN honorary award recipient for supporting agribusiness incubation in Africa.



Awarding outstanding youth in innovations.



Left: Sandrine Mutezinka (2nd from right) was selected as best incubatee. Right: A participant at the CTA drone training.



Save 4th to 6th October 2017 for the 3rd Pan African Agribusiness Conference in Dakar, Senegal



The reading of the historical 5th October Accra Declaration of the Youth on Agribusiness Incubation. This was done on the first ever African Youth in Agribusiness Day in Accra, Ghana.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE NEWS

AAIN, ASSI MoU introduces 4.5 million entrepreneurs in Ghana to agribusiness incubation



AAIN entered into a historical MoU with the 4.5 million member Association of Small Scale Industries in Ghana (ASSI) that was represented by the President Momeen Saeed.

The signing highlighted AAIN's inclusion of small scale industries which absorb an estimated 80 percent of the working population in Africa.

Lukman Abdul Rahim the Executive Director of the National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI) was also in attendance . See [ain-assi-press-release](#)

AAIN, AGRA on track to rejuvenate seed business in Africa through EcoSIB



The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, [AGRA](#) through the Scaling Seed and Technologies Partnership (SSTP) program, established the Entrepreneurship for Commercial Seed Incubation Business ([ECoSIB](#)) with AAIN as a seed business Incubator.

Being the first of its kind in Africa. ECoSIB has since grown into a one-stop-centre for seed entrepreneurs through mentoring and hand-holding services, competency-based training for SMEs, establishment of seed information hubs and private sector led small to medium scale seed processing centres.

The incubator was represented at the [AGRA EGS Dialogue](#) co-organised with [USAID](#) and continues to focus on continued increase of availability and accessibility of superior quality seed to smallholder farmers. [Read more](#)



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Click map to view the capital Dakar in 4 minutes.



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Youth and women engagement

Africa Lead-supported AYNAT to launch value chain agribusiness incubator



The African Youth Network for Agricultural Transformation (AYNAT), a vibrant continental youth group supported by the [Africa Lead Programme](#) of USAID is set to launch an agribusiness incubator in collaboration with AAIN.

The team is focusing on SME growth along selected value chains starting with the fruits and vegetables.

In 2009, the U.S. Government's Feed the Future initiative was born of the belief that global hunger is solvable; that initiative is now helping support and advance African-led agricultural transformation.

From 2010–2013, Africa Lead trained more than 1,800 food security leaders, conducted instructive assessments of many of the continent's agriculture institutions, and curated hundreds of short courses from 192 colleges and institutions into a single database, among other achievements.

Africa Lead is currently nurturing forward-thinking entrepreneurs in Africa as champions. [Read more](#)

Involving the women and youth in Africa in job and wealth creation initiatives



Left: The FAO's Stephanie Gallatova at the second Pan African Agribusiness Conference in Accra in October. **Right:** Gallatova (3rd from left in back row) on official visit to the AAIN Secretariat with staff and youth entrepreneurs from across Africa. The FAO shares in the vision of youth empowerment.

With a spotlight on gender mainstreaming in agribusiness a team from the AAIN Secretariat held two sessions with eight young CEOs of eight youth-led companies from Ghana, Nigeria and Kenya at [Guzakuza](#), a member incubator of AAIN.

Nana Adjoa who is the initiator of the Guzakuza incubator referred to the role of the young women as timely given their attachment to the incubator and partners.

Gallatova, hinted on the fact that the engagement of more women and youth in agribusiness, through incubation will indeed take Africa further.

"It is indeed inspirational to see young people taking their own initiative to set up businesses especially for young women and youth. There are incredible opportunities in the agribusiness sector particularly in Africa that you have embraced," she noted. [Read more](#)

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Technology and innovation commercialisation

AAIN, UNCST sign MoU for technology supermarkets to foster technology commercialization



Dr Peter Ndemere the Executive Secretary of the [Uganda National Council for Science and Technology](#) (2nd from left in photo) signed an MoU on behalf of the Council with Dr Alex Ariho the AAIN CEO (3rd from left) with the main aim of setting up regional technology supermarkets.

This landmark partnership comes within the year where AAIN is running the campaign of "Turning science into business" and is in line with one of AAIN's core investment areas which is commercialisation of technology and innovations.



Dr Ndemere highlighted the fact that this step reflects the UNCST's goal of developing and implementing ways of incorporating science and technology in the development process.

Renown industrial Engineer Prof Charles Kwesiga (in photo on the left, 4th from left) who is the Executive Director of the [Uganda Industrial Research Institute \(UIRI\)](#) hosted incubator managers from across Africa at UIRI during a training in September and also pointed out incubation as the lead means technologies for agribusiness development. [Read more](#)

A new dawn for African agro-technologies and mechanization with the Africa Business Group



To further strengthen the adoption and dissemination of technologies in an effective way, AAIN partners, the Africa Business Group developed the Global African Agribusiness Accelerator Platform (GAAAP).

The Platform will be launched from Tuesday 13th to Wednesday 14th December with an inaugural session Workshop on Technology and Mechanization Adoption in Lusaka, Zambia. [Read more](#)



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More continental and global synergies for progress

AfDB Africa Day spotlight shines on youth empowerment with Boost Africa launch



The Africa Day sessions which were held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire have put as core discussion, a spotlight on how to tackle youth unemployment in Africa through promotion of entrepreneurship.

This was the main hint in four opening speeches by AfDB President Dr Akinwumi Adesina, Werner Hoyer the President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), Stefano Manservigi the Director General for International Co-operation and Development at the European Commission and H.E Daniel Kablan Duncan the Prime Minister of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.



According to Dr Alex Ariho the AAIN CEO who was at the sessions the focus on the youth is a "must do" for Africa.

"The African Development Bank and European Investment Bank are set to further position Africa as a major partner and contender in youth development through promoting the required entrepreneurship. This is a major component of the incubation model and therefore we have a shared vision for the continent," he says.

Read more about the [Boost Africa Programme](#) that was launched on the day.

AAIN is also one of the implementing partners of the AfDB's instrumental [ENABLE Youth Programme](#) and [the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation](#) (TAAT). [Read more](#)

Building Africa's first agribusiness media incubator. A timely youth-led venture with CTA training



The team, which offered social media coverage during the second Pan African Agribusiness in Accra, Ghana from the fourth to the sixth of October is also a beneficiary of training from experts from the [Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation \(CTA\)](#), a joint international institution of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States and the European Union (EU).

Going forward, the representatives presented a team that is spearheading the formulation of an incubator for media in agribusiness communications, the first of its kind and an innovation that will be supported by AAIN.

The youth hinted on the exposure they have gained from AAIN as a factor that has inspired them to develop an incubator that will grow the benefit from modern platforms for communications. [Read more](#)



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AAIN Regional Office for East and Central Africa up to the task, transforming the region



On the 29th of November, the AAIN CEO Dr Alex Ariho and the Board Chairperson Prof Henry Bwisa visited one of AAIN's regional offices.

The office for East and Central Africa, which is made up of a dynamic team of AAIN staff presented their progress which highlighted deep rooted focus on incubation in the region.

According to Prof Henry Bwisa, this kind of focus in the region is what will take the implementation of the incubation model to greater outreach and benefit.

The region is run with the Directorship of Mary Njeri Thiong'o.

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AAIN members treated to a business meeting with investors at the AAIN Secretariat



AAIN members were treated to a meeting that was centred on the discussions about members' views of AAIN investment going forward into 2017, among them the African Agribusiness Incubation Fund (AAIF) and the consolidated efforts to set up Small Scale Incubator Hubs.

The members were joined by AAIN staff for a session that explored value chain opportunities, financial management techniques and members' overview of the services available from AAIN and the incubation ecosystem. [Read more](#)

Secretariat completes post-graduate agribusiness course with ELS and University of Ghana



AAIN staff completed a Post-Graduate Course in Agribusiness Management and Value Chain Analysis led by Prof Peter Wyer from the Entrepreneurial School of London (centre in photo).

The course which was co-hosted by the University of Ghana.

Regional and liaison offices of AAIN are set to benefit from the same as part of the continued building of capacity for AAIN to best address the needs of the incubation ecosystem.

It is our belief that continued capacity building at all levels ensures responsiveness to the dynamic needs of the education ecosystem.

[Read more](#)



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AfDB, AAIN, FAO and AUC experts explore more constraints and solutions in agribusiness incubation



Group photo from the FAO session of the second AAIN Conference in Accra, Ghana October 2016.



Above: HE Rhoda Peace Tumusiime with the AAIN Board and AfDB representative during her visit to the AAIN Secretariat, the Incubator of Incubators Centre of Excellence located in Accra, Ghana.

To revisit the involvement of the private sector in offering solutions within the agribusiness environment, especially for the youth and women, AAIN shared the platform with the continental and global umbrellas, the African Union through the [Department of Agriculture and Rural Economy \(AUC-DREA\)](#) the [and the African Development Bank](#).

In addition to building capacity of mentors across Africa, the strong partnerships have explored the gaps as well as solutions for African agribusiness [Read more](#)

Lease financing workshop with Innovare Advisors, a global finance giant



AAIN held a business-focus workshop on lease financing with finance partners Innovare Advisors, a global leader in agricultural financing that was represented by Mary Jane Potter.

The workshop was attended by a paid-up members of AAIN at the Secretariat and was guided by the theme **“Enhanced financing for next-level agribusiness.”**

This is line with AAIN’s financing component, the African Agribusiness Incubation Fund (AAIF). [Read more](#)

The Year has been successful and the success is owed to the commitment, of you our individual and institutional partners, members, incubators, mentors and incubatees.

We stand with you in 2017 and among a series of engagements, save 4th to 6th October 2017 for the 3rd Pan African Agribusiness Conference in Dakar, Senegal.

Lets further turn science into business together for creation of the future we want to see.



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THE AAIN CORE INVESTMENT AREAS

Going forward, AAIN continues to work with our partners in fostering entrepreneurship as well as the creation of jobs and wealth in Africa through agribusiness incubation by focusing on these four core investment areas

- * The African Agribusiness Incubation Fund (AAIF)
- * Youth and women engagement in trade and investment
- * Technology and innovation commercialisation
- * Agribusiness education and entrepreneurship

JOIN AAIN AND ENJOY A WIDE RANGE OF EXCLUSIVE SERVICES.

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