



## **Regional Programme Energy Security and Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa**

# **Call for Applications**

## **Business Leadership for Youth in Agripreneurship in Central Africa**

**7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024, Kinshasa, DRC**

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### **Background and context**

Creating economic growth and opportunities for youth in agriculture is critically important in securing and strengthening the future of agriculture sector in Africa. This will play a critical role in addressing a range of challenges among them unemployment, poverty and inequality. This is important especially given the understanding that agriculture sector is currently the largest employer, accounting for about 43% of total employment in Africa, with huge future potentials to provide productive employment and entrepreneurial opportunities especially in the rural areas. The need to strengthen youth in agriculture is further necessitated by the growing un-employment, partly attributed to fast growing youth population in the region. The demographic trends indicate that 60% of the world's labor force growth between 2010 and 2050 will be in Africa – a continent whose 60% of the population is currently below 25 years old.

African youth have increasingly expressed interest in agricultural entrepreneurs in the recent years. However, their efforts to transform and scale their innovative ideas and start-ups into agripreneurships have been largely compromised by a range of challenges including limited capacities to mobilize and manage financing, inadequate infrastructure, limited market information and access, less effective regulatory and policy environment among other barriers. Also importantly, lack of clear, solid and viable business model; poor planning and execution of strategies lead to the failures of agripreneurships. Therefore, for youth in agripreneurships to effectively contribute to agriculture, addressing these challenges must be a priority. This will be important in enabling the agripreneurships to realize their full potentials in create effectively competitive agriculture value chains and contribute to economic development in their localities and countries. Targeted support will also be necessary to enable the youth to leverage technologies, build networks and connectivity to markets and sector players, and adapting to the contexts for their businesses to thrive.

Therefore, unlocking and accelerating agripreneurships into truly transformative stable and job creating business require concerted efforts to build business leadership in a manner that will not only enable them to maneuver the challenges but also to enable stability and scalability of their businesses. This activity is intended to provide practical and targeted training to selected young start-ups from Central African countries in a manner that helps them redefine their business models, establish effective implementation strategies while providing thought-leadership. It will also create a platform for enhancing understanding the policy environment and legal frameworks in the context of agricultural agripreneurships and the needed improvements to aligned with the aspirations on youth driven agripreneurships in the region.

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## Objectives

- i. To provide learning for strategic leadership for youth-led agripreneurships in Central Africa region.
- ii. To enhance understanding of existing policy environment and legal frameworks in the context of agricultural entrepreneurship and their role in enhancing an enabling environment for youth-led agripreneurships in the region.
- iii. To facilitate sharing of experiences, peer learning on innovative actions and networking among youth in agripreneurships in Central African region

## Eligibility

Eligible candidates must meet the following requirements:

- i. Be the founder/manager of an innovative agripreneurship based in any Central African countries
- ii. Sustainability and scalability of your business model can be demonstrated
- iii. Have at least basic knowledge of spoken and written English. Application can be submitted in English or French. The working languages will be English and French
- iv. Eligibility and availability to travel to Kinshasa, DRC between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024
- v. Not older than 35 years.

## How to apply

Interested individuals should submit the following documents:

1. Curriculum vitae, not more than **2 pages** of the agripreneurship leader;
2. Summary of the agripreneurship mentioning what it does and its value proposition (2-pages maximum)
3. Letter of motivation indicating why you would like to participate in the training

All documents must be submitted as **one PDF** to [erick.omollo@kas.de](mailto:erick.omollo@kas.de)

Deadline for applications: **22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024**. Only applications received by this deadline will be reviewed.

**Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e. V.**

Regional Programme Energy Security and Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa

<https://www.kas.de/en/web/climate-energy-africa>

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