



# Agripreneurship Alliance

## Annual Report February 2018

Contributing to the development of sustainable agriculture and food eco-systems through the promotion of successful agripreneurs in Sub-Saharan Africa

### Background

The Agripreneurship Alliance was founded after two years of [research](#) following the Planting Seeds for the Future of Food conference (Switzerland, 2015) at which Dr. Nteranya Sanginga (IITA) introduced their Youth Agripreneur Programme (YAP). The YAP has inspired the development of the concept of 'Agripreneurship' which has led to the strategic interest of the African Union and the African Development Bank. Our research identified that amongst many of the blocks that stand in the way of young agripreneurs launching their agri-food business, a key area is the need to improve business curricula in the context of African agri-food within tertiary level training and university programmes.

To meet this need, the Agripreneurship Alliance was launched in August 2017 as a Swiss based non-profit Association. We are working with a range of partners in the business, academic and non-profit sectors across Europe and Africa to develop culturally appropriate and contextually accurate courses and resources, using cloud-based blended learning approaches, to support the growth of new agri-food businesses led by creative and dynamic young Africans.

### SIANI Swedish International Agriculture Network Initiative

We are very grateful to the Swedish International Agriculture Network Initiative ([SIANI](#)) for their support to the Agripreneurship Alliance.

SIANI is enabling us to facilitate an 'Expert Group' which in 2018 is piloting a blended-learning programme on entrepreneurship in Agri-Food across 5 institutions in East Africa and developing 3 digital business start-up guides which will be freely available on the cloud. The Expert Group includes representatives of Business, Academic & NGO sectors from across Europe and Africa and details of our project can be found at [SIANI](#).

### Entrepreneurship in Agri-Food

This Blended Learning programme is developed in collaboration with the [African Management Initiative](#) and the first 'Training of Trainers' course will be held in March 2018 in Nairobi. Egerton University (Kenya), Gulu University (Uganda), Laikipia University (Kenya), the IGAD Sheikh Technical Veterinary Training School (Somaliland) and IITA Kampala Youth Agripreneur Programme (Uganda) will be attending and subsequently rolling out the programme locally in their institutions. [Teach a Man to Fish](#) in Uganda is leading the development of the business start up guides which will cover the topics of Pig, Chicken (broiler) and Fish farming.

### Planting Seeds for the Future of Food II, July 2017

The Agripreneurship Alliance was invited to present a display at this conference and, with the support of the organisers, undertook several interviews which have been shared through our [website](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.



**Activities:** Members of the Agripreneurship Alliance have been active in promoting the work of the Association, developing partnerships and creating opportunities. Some of the highlights over the last months include:

#### *Visit to IITA November 2017*

Steven Carr visited the 'Youth in Agribusiness Office' at the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture, Ibadan, Nigeria on 4 – 9 November 2017. This proved an excellent opportunity to build relationships with the Youth in Agribusiness Office, to learn about the transformation of the Youth Agripreneur Programme into the ENABLE Youth Programme across Nigeria and discuss some of the opportunities for partnership in the future.

#### *Analysis of YPARD Youth Agripreneurs Programme*

Anne Roulin has completed the analysis of >400 applications to the YPARD Youth Agripreneur competition launched in 2016. This open-source material is a treasure trove of entrepreneurial activities and ideas and provides an evidence base for the development of tools and resources that can be used within the blended learning programme and platform. The analysis confirmed that one of the key blocks to the development and communication of business ideas is the absence of clear, structured business plans. It also provided the basis for the choice of subjects for the Business Start-Up guides (above).

#### *Participation in the Nordic Countries delegation to Uganda November 2017*

The Alliance participated in a delegation from the Nordic Countries at the invitation of the Ugandan Embassy. We are very grateful to the Ambassador for his generosity which provided, amidst a busy programme, the opportunity to speak with both the Prime Minister and the President of Uganda. As a direct result of this, the Agripreneurship Alliance has since met with the Ugandan Ambassador to the U.N. and Switzerland.

#### *3<sup>rd</sup> Global Food Security Conference, South Africa, December 2017*

The Alliance presented a poster at this conference.

#### *Application to become a partner of the UN 10-year Framework Programme on Sustainable Food Systems*

An application has been submitted for the Alliance to become a formal partner of this programme. Response in March 2018 .

#### *SIANI Annual General Meeting 24 January 2018*

The Alliance attended SIANI's AGM in Stockholm. The topic was 'Nutrition for everyone, everywhere' and provided the opportunity to meet with members of SIANI to discuss communications strategy for the pilot programme.

#### *Nairobi and Kampala 29 January – 2 February 2018*

Steven Carr visited East Africa to engage with various partners, further the work of the 'Expert Group' and build new networks. The partnerships with African Management Initiative (Blended Learning) and Teach a Man to Fish (Business start up guides) progress well as does planning for the Accelerate Lab in Uganda in August 2018. Meetings were also held with RUFORUM, IITA Kampala and leaders of the Empretec programmes in Kenya and Uganda.



The Agripreneurship Alliance is a membership organisation and welcomes new members and partners.

Please contact us at [info@agripreneur.org](mailto:info@agripreneur.org) and see [www.theagripreneur.org](http://www.theagripreneur.org)