

# GAIA

GENDER IN AGRIBUSINESS  
INVESTMENTS FOR AFRICA

POWERED  
BY **AWARD**  
African Women in Agricultural  
Research and Development



## Gender in Agribusiness Investments for Africa (GAIA) AgTech Innovation Boot Camp

Accra, Ghana

April 2017



## A game-changer: Investing in innovative agricultural research solutions for the future of Africa

### Gender in Agribusiness Investments for Africa

Agricultural technologies (AgTech) can exacerbate already existing gender inequality in African agriculture. Gender in Agribusiness Investments for Africa (GAIA) aims to deploy these technologies thoughtfully so that they have the potential to bridge the gender gap across various value chains.

AWARD has launched GAIA with a goal of increasing agribusiness investments in technological and business model innovations that help close the gender gap in African agriculture, with a particular focus on innovations by African women scientists.

GAIA will create and manage an “AgTech solutions market place” that ensures visibility, commercialization and scaling up of agricultural research innovations that lead to more inclusive growth of Africa’s agricultural sector.

GAIA will move these AgTech innovations from labs, to farms, to markets.

### GAIA's Value Proposition

- Scaling up AgTech innovations that help bridge the gender gap in Africa’s agriculture. A variety of players across the agribusiness sector recognize that the gender gap in African agriculture represents an untapped opportunity. GAIA meets industry needs by spotlighting and supporting a rare pipeline of pre-qualified gender responsive agribusinesses; businesses that purposefully seek to level the playing field for a diversity of men and women across agricultural value chains.
- Gender lens to agribusiness investments. By targeting and engaging the key agribusiness sector investors, GAIA builds basic awareness on how to deploy a gender lens to enhance the social impact of agribusiness investments.
- Need for gender diversity among those who receive agribusiness funding. GAIA pays particular attention to female agribusiness entrepreneurs and facilitates connections to increase the funding and support available to women agribusinesses.
- A ready pipeline of bankable and scalable AgTech innovations to maintain a competitive edge. From its roots in the agricultural research sector, GAIA offers a database of pre-qualified AgTech business ideas ready for commercialization providing entrepreneurs and investors an opportunity to diversify their pipelines.
- Enhancing return on investment by taking innovations beyond proof of concept. Agricultural research is expensive and GAIA ensures that researchers maximize their return on investment by connecting them to entrepreneurs, investors, and agribusiness industry players ready to scale up research outputs.

## 2017 North and West Africa AgTech Innovation Challenge Entrepreneurs

**Name of Representative:** Jacob Obot

**Name of Company:** Moriah Agro Hub

**Country:** Nigeria

Using solar powered cold rooms and kiln dryers, Moriah Agro Hub helps farmers reduce postharvest losses. They also sell excess energy generated to other off-grid consumers including churches and health clinics.

**Name of Representative:** Mercy Emenike

**Name of Company:** AACE Foods Processing and Distribution Limited

**Country:** Nigeria

AACE Foods helps smallholder farmers reduce postharvest losses by collecting vegetables, fruits, cereals, legumes, and herbs from smallholder farmers, training them in hygienic drying and cleaning methods and processing the dried preserved foods for world wide consumption.

**Name of Representative:** Ugochukwu Stephen Ugwudi

**Name of Company:** S. U Production Company

**Country:** Nigeria

S. U Production closes yield gaps in cassava by producing animal feed from locally available cassava peel waste.

**Name of Representative:** Nwachinemere Emeka Obewe

**Name of Company:** Kitovu Technology Company

**Country:** Nigeria

Kitovu is a web and mobile based decentralized fertilizer and seedling warehousing system that matches the right inputs to different farm locations owned by smallholder farmers in distant pocket locations so as to lower the cost of cultivation while ensuring increased yields. Using the mobile app, farmers' data including their location and soil data, are collected and synchronized to the web portal such that farm locations can be accurately matched to the right fertilizers, agro-chemicals, and seedlings.

**Name of Representative:** Emmanuel Yaovi Hunnuor Bobobee

**Name of Company:** Agrotech Engineering Limited

**Country:** Ghana

Agrotech Engineering manufactures mechanical cassava harvesters that are tractor mounted to increase productivity over existing manual harvesting.



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**Name of Representative:** Oluwaseun Sangoleye

**Name of Company:** Baby Grubz Nigeria

**Country:** Nigeria

Baby Grubz produces low-cost complementary meals made from locally sourced iron and protein rich ingredients that help reduce malnutrition in underweight children. Baby Grubz also trains Nigerian mothers to enlighten and educate them on cost-effective nutrition for their children using readily available local food crops and how best to combine them for maximum nutrient absorption.

**Name of representative:** Aroge Temitope

**Name of company:** Arog Bio Allied Agro Services Limited

**Country:** Nigeria

Arog Bio reduces postharvest losses by processing cassava into durable dried chips on the farms. This is achieved by using a simple, portable cassava chipping machine with reflective tarpaulin as a sheet for sun drying.

**Name of representative:** Donald Tchaou

**Name of Company:** Tic Agro Business Center

**Country:** Benin

Tic Agro is an award-winning enterprise that develops tools that facilitate the training of small-scale farmers. The enterprise uses creative ways to train farmers, including the screening of educative videos and card games on caravans in rural areas.

**Name of Representative:** Nnaemeka Ikegwuonu

**Name of Company:** ColdHubs

**Country:** Nigeria

ColdHubs aims to reduce postharvest losses by providing solar-powered walk-in cold rooms designed for installation in off-grid markets to store and preserve perishable foods and extend their shelf life.

**Name of representative:** Job Adeleke Oyebisi

**Name of company:** Freshmarte Global Limited

**Country:** Nigeria

Freshmarte improves agri-market efficiencies using a mobile platform with integrated SMS services. The mobile platform helps smallholder farmers, both local and multinational, find and secure outsourced production contracts from food and beverage manufacturers.



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**Name of representative:** Oluwayimika Angel Adelaja

**Name of company:** Fresh Direct Nigeria

**Country:** Nigeria

Fresh Direct strengthens the entire value chain for premium produce by bringing production closer to markets in order to increase year-round yields and thus reducing loss through technology in an eco-friendly way using container farms that are able to grow directly in urban areas.

**Name of representative:** William T. Lanier

**Name of company:** NeverIdle Farms (Ghana)

**Countries served:** Ghana and expanding across sub-Saharan Africa

NeverIdle reduces postharvest losses by providing mobile metal storage units that facilitate harvesting, aggregation, drying platforms, monitoring, storing, and processing control points.

**Name of representative:** Agboton Martin Segbegnon

**Name of company:** Benin Agribusiness Incubation Hub-SARL (BAIH-SARL)

**Country:** Benin

BAIH-SARL improves agri-market efficiencies by improving the shelf life of soy milk to meet the existing demand in Benin.

**Name of representative:** Chia Valentine Yapi Gnaore

**Name of company:** Centre International de Recherche-Développement sur l'Élevage (CIRDES)

**Country:** Burkina Faso

CIRDES improves livelihood through its Pest Management Strategy (PMS). The PMS includes the production of traps and targets for pests and a technique to produce sterile males insects that are environmental friendly.

**Name of representative:** Ebenezer Aikins

**Name of company:** Center for Women Agriculture Program Incorporated (CWAP)

**Country:** Liberia

CWAP is community-based, self-help women's organization that trains youth on smallholder farming and links them to potential markets.



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**Name of representative:** Dr. Emmanuel K. Adu

**Name of company:** CCLEAR Agribusiness Consort

**Country:** Ghana

CCLEAR closes yield gaps in crop and livestock value chains by leveraging environmental friendly technologies, including Indigenous Microorganisms (IMOs), that enhance the productivity of pigs and subsequently improve the livelihood of livestock farmers.

**Name of representative:** Gabriel Kodjo Itoka

**Name of company:** Icarus International, Inc.

**Countries served:** Liberia (Monrovia) and USA (Washington, DC)

Icarus uses solar coldbox cold chain systems that are available to businesses, farmer groups, and agricultural cooperatives to reduce postharvest losses. Also using unencumbered properties, Icarus constructs solar powered sanitary and phytosanitary bulk storage facilities that offer filtered ice and water that draw moisture from the air.

**Name of representative:** Sipasi Olalekan Ayodele

**Name of company:** L'Afrika Integrated Farms

**Country of Operations:** Nigeria

L'Afrika leverages well-designed research that facilitates the replacing of synthetic amino acids in poultry feed with herbal alternatives. This results in improved feed intake of the birds and an increased size of the egg hatched, thereby resulting in better feeds conversion ratio yield gaps in crop and livestock value chains.

**Name of representative:** Oluwaseun Ruth Ishola

**Name of company:** Federal Institute of Industrial Research Oshodi (FIIR-O)

**Country:** Nigeria

FIIR-O upgrades and improves agri-market efficiencies for indigenous rice-based food by producing technology to develop instant rice-masa flour and soya-bean enriched rice-masa flour. This increases the demand, production, and supply of locally grown rice.

**Name of representative:** Godwith Francis Udoh

**Name of company:** Godwith's Farm Nig

**Country:** Nigeria

Godwith's Farms reduces postharvest losses in the cassava value chain by introducing ZillaMills, a mobile cassava processing unit.



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**Name of representative:** Dr. Amos Obi

**Name of company:** Mini Global Hetavad Skills Networks

**Country:** Nigeria

Mini Global Hevatad formulates floating fish feeds from locally available organic wastes improving fishery ventures among locals in Nigeria.

**Name:** Ola Olawuyi

**Name of company:** Topstep

**Country of Operations:** Nigeria

Topstep improves agri-processing practices by developing a solar powered milling system for cereal products.

**Name of representative:** Ene Isosie Unoogwu

**Name of company:** FarmBiz Enterprises

**Country:** Nigeria

FarmBiz reduces postharvest losses by manufacturing solar-powered off-grid, cold-chain logistics solutions for the postharvest management of perishable agricultural produce, ensuring freshness from farm gates along the supply chain to the end user.

**Name of representative:** Awin Peter

**Name of company:** CowTribe

**Country:** Ghana

CowTribe closes yield gaps in livestock value chains by manufacturing chicken brooders that allow smallholder farmers to rear poultry in the most efficient and profitable manner. These chicken brooders are manufactured using scrap metals and discarded wood waste sourced locally and fitted with solar systems allowing any regular farmer to keep up 50-60 chicks in an efficient low-cost intensive system.

**Name of representative:** Oluwatoyin Otitoju

**Name of company:** GIZ Competitive African Rice Initiative (CARI)

**Countries served:** Nigeria, Ghana, Burkina Faso

CARI aims to improve the livelihoods of African smallholder rice farmers by increasing the efficiency and quality of rice production and processing by using a "false bottom" technology for rice parboiling vessels, a perforated metal plate with uniform holes that increases the nutritional value of the rice. The improved method is more efficient as it requires fewer resources such as firewood, water, and processing time.



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**Name of representative:** Olayinka Olaosebikan

**Name of company:** Nafarm Foods

**Countries served:** Nigeria

Nafarm Foods reduces postharvest losses by processing tomatoes into locally made, easily accessible and affordable tomato sauce and powder.

## 2017 North and West Africa AgTech Innovation Challenge Partners





**African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) is working towards inclusive, agriculture-driven prosperity for the African continent by strengthening the production and dissemination of more gender responsive agricultural research and innovation. We invest in African scientists, research institutions, and agribusinesses so that they can deliver agricultural innovations that better respond to the needs and priorities of a diversity of women and men across Africa's agricultural value chains.**

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**For more information, visit [www.awardfellowships.org](http://www.awardfellowships.org).**

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