Gender in Agribusiness Investments for Africa (GAIA)

AgTech Innovation Boot Camp

Lusaka, Zambia

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 inequalities 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 the 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.
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 agripreneurship funding. GAIA pays particular attention to female agribusiness entrepreneurs and facilitates connections to increase the funding and support available to women agripreneurs.

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.

GAIA’s Value Proposition
Name of Representative: Flavien Kouatcha  
Name of Company: Save Our Agriculture  
Countries served: Cameroon and Senegal  
Save our Agriculture reduces postharvest losses by using mobile-controlled food production units.

Name of Representative: Lishuko Bob Ndatoya  
Name of Company: Kenzam Solutions Limited  
Country: Zambia  
Efarm Africa is an e-commerce platform that helps farmers market their farm products globally.

Name of Representative: Narcisse Mbunzama  
Name of Company: Mobile Agribiz  
Country: Democratic Republic of Congo  
Mobile Agribiz is a web and mobile application that helps farmers get necessary information on the most efficient ways of farming based on their land profiles.

Name of Representative: Gilbert Mwale  
Name of Company: E-Msika Services Limited  
Country: Zambia  
E-Msika is an e-commerce platform that reduces agri-market inefficiencies by providing a wider market for farmers’ produce.

Name of Representative: Tendai Mugovi  
Name of Company: SorghumWorld  
Country: Zimbabwe  
SorghumWorld reduces postharvest losses by producing cooking gel from sorghum.
Name of Representative: Bongajum Lesley Ndzi
Name of Company: Bonga Juice Bars
Country: Cameroon
Bonga Juice Bars reduce postharvest losses by using locally sourced fruits, vegetables, and dairy to make juice and smoothies.

Name of Representative: Dysmus Kisilu
Name of Company: Solar Freeze
Countries served: Congo and Kenya
Solar Freeze reduces postharvest losses by using solar-powered cold room units to increase the shelf life of produce.

Name of Representative: Franz Ntoko
Name of Company: MetroCredit
Country: Cameroon
MetroCredit provides financing and insurance services to farmers and agribusiness owners.

Name of Representative: Pontsho Moletsane
Name of Company: Yellow Beast
Country: South Africa
Yellow Beast improves agri-market efficiencies by automating irrigation.

Name of Representative: Clever Mukove
Name of Company: Knowledge Transfer Africa
Country: Zimbabwe
Knowledge Transfer Africa is a web and mobile knowledge sharing platform for agricultural information.
Name of Representative: Epaphrate Nghombombong
Name of Company: eFarm.cm
Country: Cameroon

eFarm.cm is a web and mobile e-commerce platform for agricultural produce.

Name of Representative: Mercy Manyuchi
Name of Company: Harare Institute of Technology (HIT Enviro)
Country: Zimbabwe

HIT Enviro closes yield gaps in agriculture by producing easily available and affordable biofertilizer granules through vermicomposting.

Name of Representative: Hastings Mkandawire
Name of Company: Turbines Development Enterprise
Country: Malawi

Turbines Development helps smallscale farmers in off-grid communities access electrification systems for use in irrigation, storage, and processing.

Name of Representative: Murendeni Mafumo
Name of Company: Kusini Water
Country: South Africa

Kusini Water reduces postharvest losses by using macadamia nuts to make mobile still water production units.

Name of Representative: Menzi Mahlobo
Name of Company: Systemdex
Country: South Africa

Systemdex simulates ocean conditions in fish farms; thereby helping inland smallholder fish farmers engage in ocean fish farming.
Name of Representative: Kuziva Chatukuta
Name of Company: Mixed Ability Chicken ‘n’ Egg Farm
Country: Zimbabwe
Mixed Ability reduces postharvest losses by using solar driers to improve the shelf life of pre-processed chicken meat.

Name of Representative: Joseph Manzvera
Name of Company: SmartConnect
Country: Zimbabwe
SmartConnect reduces market inefficiencies by linking smallholder farmers to desired markets through a mobile application.

Name of Representative: Félicité Ahitantsoa
Name of Company: Tilapia de L’est
Country: Madagascar
Tilapia de L’est closes yield gaps in livestock value chains by providing technical assistance and facilitating access to good quality inputs to smallscale farmers in cooperatives.

Name of Representative: Pilirani Khoza
Name of Company: Bunda Female Students Organisation (BUFESO)
Country: Malawi
BUFESO established youth agribusiness cooperatives that empower youth and women in agribusiness.

Name of Representative: Herbert Mudzamba
Name of Company: Hakaiy Logistics t/a OneAcre Zimbabwe
Country: Zimbabwe
Hakaiy Logistics closes the gender gap in agriculture education by using role models to develop specialised female farmers who can aid the uptake of climate-smart agriculture.
Name of Representative: Barbara Banda  
Name of Company: National Association of Business Women (NABW)  
Country: Malawi  
NABW provides alternative financing tools for increased access to agricultural inputs in legume value chain actors in Malawi.

Name of Representative: Cuthbert Catsvanga  
Name of Company: Africa Fruits  
Country: Zimbabwe  
Africa Fruits closes yield gaps in crop value chains by providing a market for locally available and otherwise wasted fruits.

Name of Representative: Emídio Matlombe  
Name of Company: SeTe Agrária  
Country: Mozambique  
SeTe Agrária helps smallholder farmers reduce postharvest losses by establishing fruit processing centers near them.

Name of Representative: Judith Sikayi  
Name of Company: Impact Africa Trust  
Country: Zimbabwe  
Impact Africa Trust uses an e-commerce platform focussed on goat meat to reduce livestock market inefficiencies in Zimbabwe.

Name of Representative: Meyanga Ayong  
Name of Company: Cacao + Ayos  
Country: Cameroon  
Cacao + Ayos reduces postharvest losses by using solar-powered dryers to increase the shelf life of harvested cocoa.
Name of Representative: Samuel Domingos
Name of Company: Agromaco Dairy
Country: Mozambique

Agromaco Dairy reduces postharvest losses by helping rural farmers produce sterilized milk.
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.