Accelerating ICT Innovations and Entrepreneurship in Agriculture by Youth

What roles for supporting institutions?

Workshop – Salle Flamboyant - **30 March, 02:30 – 04:00**

The Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation, ACP-EU (CTA), through its youth and ICT Program (ARDYIS), will organise a 90-minute workshop on "youth ICT innovations and entrepreneurship in agricultural value chains", on the occasion of the YALESI Summit (Dakar, Senegal, 29 to 31 March 2016).

Overview:

An increasing number of young innovators and entrepreneurs in developing countries now develop ICT for agriculture solutions to support the agricultural value chains in their respective countries, and to provide employment and livelihood opportunities for themselves and other young people. Examples include the mFarm application in Kenya (linking farmers and buyers of agriculture products); Mobis in Uganda (facilitating management of agriculture finance), Daral in Senegal (facilitating management of livestock), mlouma in Senegal (assisting producers to market agriculture products, etc.), CropGuard in Barbados (for pest management). In Uganda, Mobis is helping agricultural cooperatives and more than 60,000 farmers to access and manage finance, while studies have illustrated that with mFarm, lives of thousands of farmers have improved. New capacities and jobs have been created through these ventures.

However, young people still face several challenges such as insufficient capacity in e-agriculture entrepreneurship, non-existent or weak linkages with investors, weak knowledge of the agriculture sector, etc. Some of the challenges and opportunities have been discussed in a recent report published by AGRA, in collaboration with institutions such as CTA ("Youth in Agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa", Chapter 5 focusing on ICT and Youth in Agriculture http://bit.ly/youth-ict-agri-report). CTA has also been supporting a number of initiatives relating to these issues such as the AgriHack Talent program http://hackathon.ict4ag.org.

Objective:

The session will explore how to effectively support youth innovations and entrepreneurship in developing countries in the area of ICT for Agriculture. More specifically, it will focus on discussing roles key institutions including governments, business institutions, tech hubs, and agriculture development organisations can play in that regard.

Structure:

The session will be very interactive and will be organised as described below.

1. e-Agriculture youth innovator/entrepreneur case study; **David Opio Obwangamoi, CEO of Ensibuuko** – 10 minutes
2. Overview of roles for supporting institutions: **Sheilah Birgen, Lead, mLab Eastern Africa** - 10 minutes
3. Creation of 4 – 5 groups along the main possible roles identified 3 minutes
4. Groups discussions on roles for supporting organizations – 45 minutes.
5. Feedback on summary of discussions from groups – 10 minutes
6. Conclusion and closing – 2 minutes

Facilitation: **Ken Lohento, ICT for agriculture Program Coordinator, CTA**

Outcomes will be disseminated widely for the benefit of all interested institutions. CTA will also take conclusions into account to tailor its activities to respond to specific challenges of the young innovators and entrepreneurs.

NB: At the end of this session, a draw will be held and winners will receive hard copies of the publication "*Innovate for Agriculture: Young ICT Entrepreneurs Overcoming Challenges and Transforming Agriculture* that CTA will launch at the Summit.

More information:

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