

KIC NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL EDITION 2022 AGRITECH CHALLENGE CLASSIC

KOSMOS INNOVATION CENTER
INVESTING IN THE FUTURE, ONE ENTREPRENEUR AT A TIME



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Message from KIC Executive Director

KIC is happy to be part of Ghana's transformational agenda within the agricultural value chain investing in the entrepreneurial journey of young tertiary students and graduates towards job creation opportunities and globally competitive brand creation. By introducing young people to disruptive solutions, technology, innovative thinking and business creativity, KIC and its partners are supporting Ghana's agricultural landscape and interrelated ecosystems through our flagship programme, the KIC AgriTech Challenge Classic. Several young Ghanaians have received training, mentorship and guidance from seasoned experts. Through their own team efforts and market outreaches, they have also developed and nurtured ideas for value-addition of agricultural commodities, as well as other processes from production to trade within the agricultural landscape.

Since its inception in 2016, the KIC AgriTech Challenge Classic programme has grown and seen the flourishing of over 360 businesses. It is with great pride I announce that we have entered the pinnacle of the pitch stage of the 2022 AgriTech Challenge Classic. This is after 5 to 6 months of intensive training and exposure to business creativity, market research and demand dynamics across the five regions in selected institutions across the country, namely the University of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, University for Development Studies, University of Cape Coast as well as the University of Business and Integrated Development Studies. The agricultural value chain in Ghana has many prospects. Today, we are happy to select 15 winning ideas from the 50 pitching teams to make it to the next stage of business support at the AgriTech Challenge Pro level where they will receive seed funding to grow their business.

At KIC, we believe in the potential and power of young people to be changemakers and active drivers of their development. Over the years, we have seen improvement in the quality of the ideation process, tailor made to suit relevant and pertinent needs within the agricultural value chain, from production, distribution, market and consumption. More than 100,000 farmers have been impacted by Agri-Tech and agribusinesses supported by the KIC program.

This event and the entire journey for this year has been possible because of KIC's multi-year partnership with the Mastercard Foundation and Kosmos Energy to train the next generation of young leaders and agripreneurs. Through the KIC and the Mastercard Foundation partnership, the AgriTech Challenge Classic expects to train about 4,880 young people across the partner universities in the next four years.

Other critical aspects of the partnership include AgriTech Challenge Pro, KIC Incubation, Business Booster, Women's Bootcamp and the Blue Skies Foundation School Farm Competition.

We strongly believe Agriculture has the potential to increase Ghana's GDP rate and reduce unemployment drastically when innovation is applied in the venture.

I want to congratulate all the young people here for coming this far. I implore you to join the KIC fellowship and continue pursuing your entrepreneurial ambition.



Benjamin Gyan-Kesse, KIC Executive Director

Message from KIC Board Chairman

KIC was birthed from Kosmos Energy, and after 4 years of working we were fortunate enough to have the Mastercard Foundation join with us to really provide support to expand this programme to several universities. We are also grateful to the universities, and to the Faculty Advisers who prepared the students throughout the coaching and market research phases. We also acknowledge several other partners including the National Service Secretariat, who are providing the opportunity for young people to do their National Service with KIC and KIC supported business. This is an immense help in terms of expansion of the programme and getting us where we want to be.

The Ideation Team or Panel of Judges for this year's competition has been phenomenal and have always been present, offering knowledge, advice and feedback. To all the 50 teams, you are all winners. At the Olympics, there is Gold, Silver and Bronze, and sometimes the difference between these categories is very minimal.

Wherever you find yourselves in the picking order after the pitch, I really implore you to continue to feel that you are a winner, because you should have been competitive in your life to get to where you are today, and what you have demonstrated throughout this journey on the AgriTech Challenge tells us what you can achieve.

I urge you to really nurture the teams you have. There is no "I" in the word teams, and any team that works out together invariably becomes successful.

If there are differences, try to find ways to resolve them, so that you can continue that journey to accomplishing great dreams, for the greatest accomplishment begins with a dream, so don't lose track of your dreams. I wish you all the best, congratulations!



Joe Mensah, KIC Board Chairman

Our Partners

About The Mastercard Foundation

The Mastercard Foundation works with visionary organizations to enable young people in Africa and in Indigenous communities in Canada to access dignified and fulfilling work. It is one of the largest, private foundations in the world with a mission to advance learning and promote financial inclusion to create an inclusive and equitable world. The Foundation was created by Mastercard in 2006, as an independent organization with its own Board of Directors and management.

Young Africa Works

Young Africa Works is the Mastercard Foundation's strategy to enable 30 million young Africans, 70 percent of whom will be young women, to access dignified and fulfilling work. Africa will be home to the world's largest workforce, with 375 million young people entering the job market by 2030. With the right skills, these young people will contribute to Africa's global competitiveness and improve their lives and those of their communities. The Mastercard Foundation will implement Young Africa Works in 10 African countries in collaboration with governments, private sector, entrepreneurs, educators, and young people. The first phase of countries identified by the Mastercard Foundation are Rwanda, Kenya, Ghana, Senegal, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Nigeria.

Young Africa Works in Ghana

The vision of Young Africa Works in Ghana is that by 2030, the country will be a continental demonstration of young people, especially women, harnessing opportunities to shape the future of work and to create an inclusive economy with enhanced resilience for the most vulnerable.

To achieve this vision, The Foundation's Young Africa Works strategy in Ghana will focus on deepening efforts and investment in the Agriculture and Agriculture-Adjacent Sector, using a value chain and market systems development approach to unlock the full potential of the sector, and create additional work opportunities for young Ghanaian women and men.

About KIC-MCF Partnership

Kosmos Innovation Center (KIC) and the Mastercard Foundation partnership is a multi-year partnership geared towards training the next generation of young leaders, and entrepreneurs in Ghana's agriculture sector.

Dubbed Initiative for Youth in Agricultural Transformation (I.Y.A.T), the program will scale KIC's proven transformational model and initiatives such as the AgriTech Challenge, Business Booster, and Business Incubation across the 16 regions of Ghana. This will enable young entrepreneurs in the agriculture and agriculture-adjacent sectors to benefit from capacity building, access to finance, and business scaling opportunities – creating work opportunities for 163,000 young Ghanaian women and men in the process.

The four-year, \$16 million program is aligned to the Mastercard Foundation's Young Africa Works' vision and work in Ghana, which seeks to deepen efforts in the agriculture and agriculture-adjacent sectors using a value chain market systems development approach, to create access to dignified and fulfilling work opportunities within the sector for young Ghanaians. The program also aligns with KIC's goal of nurturing the next generation of leaders, entrepreneurs, start-ups, and small businesses, to build a healthier and more diverse economy that is fueled by local talent and innovation.

For more information on the Foundation, please visit: www.mastercardfdn.org



About Kosmos Energy Ghana

Kosmos Energy is a leading deepwater exploration and production company focused on meeting the world's growing demand for energy. We have diversified production, a world-class gas development, and value creation opportunities from exploration in the proven basins where we operate.

As a responsible company, we are working to supply the energy the world needs today, find, and develop cleaner energy to advance the energy transition, and be a force for good in our host countries.



About Cargill Ghana

Cargill has been sourcing cocoa from Ghana for over 40 years and in 2008 opened its state-of-the-art cocoa processing facility in Tema, where it produces Cocoa Powder and butter. Today the company has around 550 permanent and temporal employees processing cocoa products to service food and confectionary customers locally and around the world. In 2016 Cargill added a licensed buying company (LBC) to its Ghanaian footprint. The LBC operations offering employment to 320 permanent and temporal staff brings innovative ways to trade with our farmers placing emphasis on our sustainability and traceability efforts.

About Cargill

Cargill's 155,000 employees across 70 countries work relentlessly to achieve our purpose of nourishing the world in a safe, responsible and sustainable way. Every day, we connect farmers with markets, customers with ingredients, and people and animals with the food they need to thrive. We combine 157 years of experience with new technologies and insights to serve as a trusted partner for food, agriculture, financial and industrial customers in more than 125 countries. Side-by-side, we are building a stronger, sustainable future for agriculture. For more information, visit www.Cargill.com and our News Center.



KIC AgriTech Challenge Classic 2022 Pitch Practice in Pictures



Team GAFOS working together to achieve more



Team KubeHub practising for the Final Pitch event



KIC AgriTech team going over their pitch deck prior to the Final Pitch event



KIC AgriTech teams getting ready for the Final Pitch event



Team Witdeen demonstrating how their eco-friendly technology works



Teamwork makes the dream work. KIC AgriTech team putting their pitch deck together



KIC Agribusiness Specialist, Frederick Odame Phillips helping to fine-tune the ideas of the AgriTech teams

KIC AgriTech Challenge Classic 2022 Winners' Profile

Out of the 50 teams, the following 15 teams made it to the next phase, the KIC AgriTech Challenge Pro.



AgroCold Ghana is providing an Internet of Things (ripening detector), solar-powered cold storage facility to increase shelf-life, marketability and reduce post-harvest losses in the fruits and vegetables value chain in Ghana.



Agyenkwah constructs smokeless fish smoking oven using biogas as fuel.



Alpha Weeder intends to develop a mechanized cutting and weeding tool.



AquaMet has developed a technological system that enables fish farmers to efficiently monitor and manage their water quality to reduce high fish mortalities and increase yield.



BES Veggie is working to reduce moisture content of vegetables to 0% by producing, processing and packaging of powdered vegetables with essential element fortification to prolong vegetable shelf life and improve health.



BioCul provides storage facility for agricultural produce to reduce post harvest losses.



DirtyGold produces an affordable and an enhanced biosolid fertilizer by harnessing all available organic materials and take them through biodigestion processes using cultured microbes and maggots to break complex nutrient down quickly for easy uptake by plant.



Duckweeds Aduanepa - Duckweeds (Lemna Minor) is recognized and used as an alternative protein source for poultry, ruminants, and fish. Duckweeds contain 30-40% protein, 4-7% fat, 10-18% fiber and essential micro and macro minerals per dry weight which when processed into feed, will help reduce the level of importation of Soybean and Fishmeal, and increase local capacity in the Agrifood Industry.



GreenGrow will help farmers achieve higher yield by producing a locally made cost-effective organic product that will (dually) serve as both fertilizer and pesticide through the use of organic waste.



Empire Foods provides a complete automated environment that would enable all-year round snail production and the use of hygienic processing to provide ready-to-eat snails and other by-products from snail production.



KIGO provides groundnut uprooting machines to reduce the labour-intensive effort in groundnut production, at an affordable cost.



KoduTech is turning banana and plantain waste materials into safe, cheap and ecofriendly sanitary pads.



Witdeen is developing an eco-friendly technology capable of reducing both quality and quantity losses of climatic fruits and vegetables. This new technology would prolong the shelf-life of mangoes, tomatoes, and watermelons for at least 91 days.



Vabe is into the production and packing of natural sweetener for diabetics from coconut palm sap.



PlantAide has developed a mobile application with voice functionality that enable farmers to detect and identify crop diseases, suggest the appropriate agrochemical for use and as well provide advisory service for farmers.



Congratulations to the Winning Teams of the KIC AgriTech Challenge Classic

KIC AgriTech Challenge Classic 2022 Finalists' Profile

These are the other teams who competed at the Penultimate Pitch.



AgricoRest has created an automated irrigation system that provides all year-round water supply for efficient and effective crop production, and better yield.



EdiFresh's business idea involves building a modern cold storage facility to serve as a wholesale for retailers, market women and large supermarkets.



GAFOS Access Farms Limited has created a strong platform that links farmers and thresher operators. On this platform, farmers are able to request, schedule, and make payment for threshing services.



Geo-tech Consult is using GIS and Remote Sensing to predict nutrient level in Soil.



OrgaFert is making an environmentally friendly organic fertilizer from crop residues which will help farmers increase production and also help to achieve zero hunger.



SEIT has created a web-based agricultural platform for people who want to engage in agriculture but are constrained by difficulty in accessing arable lands, time and the skills needed to engage in agriculture production, and start a farm virtually without necessarily being on a farm.



SlimeLife Solutions produces quality and affordable snail slime for cosmetics and pharmaceutical companies across Africa.



Vegg flow provides consultancy to customers and grows organic vegetables safe for consumption.



AgrePro extracts oil from the African locust bean as an alternative to spices.



AgriEstate provides intermediary services, and facilitates the processes for landowners and already/potential agriculturists to access land.



EverGreen Soiless Farms is into soilless farming (hydroponics). Soil-less farming is basically a farming method whereby plants can be grown without the use and presence of soil.



Farm Crystals provides cold storage facilities for vegetable traders (i.e. market women) tomatoes, pepper and onion farmers at major production centres, thereby connecting farmers to a ready market.



FONAgrip controls weeds by the use of a natural solution. This solution uses botanicals with allelochemical properties which does not only enhance soil fertility, a necessary requirement for increasing crops yield levels; but also promotes human health, ensures ecosystem well-being and environment.



Ghee Essentials - Ghee is a skin care product that is extracted from milk. It is rich in omega fatty acids and antioxidants, which help to neutralize free radicals and and nourish the skin. It also contains vitamine E for skin tightening.



King Tractor aims to develop a low-cost, multipurpose, mini tractor dubbed "King Tractor" which would be adapted from the traditional tricycle. The final product is a four-wheel multipurpose tractor with a 30-horsepower engine capacity (Chafang engine).



Suntun Tiaha aims to develop an electric/solar dryer that will enable farmers, traders and processors to dry their agric products consistently in a very hygienic environment.



VEGdoc Company intends to provide hygienic, accessible and well-balanced ready-to-eat vegetables in the market.



AquaTech transforms waste pond water into an organic fertilizer sold at the cheapest cost, as well as provides clean recycled water for the fish pond owners.



Fish Clinic processes dry fish at a faster duration under more hygienic environmental condition using a solar processor.



Future Farms Feeds is producing quality and affordable black soldier fly larvae and water spinach as a source of protein for feed.



KubeHub has developed an improved growing substrate using coconut husk to boost crop yield and amend problematic soil, since soils are vulnerable to heavy metals toxicity such as Lead(Pb), Mercury(Hg) etc.



Bawnan Feeds is into the production of affordable baobab cakes for animals.



Food D'Afrique is into the production of fruit products such as fruit chips, puree among others.



Mariverge Cooling Services will provide a walk in pay-as-you-store solar powered cold rooms for the storage of fruits and vegetables to improve shelf life.



MicBriq Company Ltd. has an innovative idea that will help solve environmental problems such as CO2 emission, global warming, bush fire, deforestation, and so on by preserving the ecology and the forest reserves.



Native Organics is into the supply of fresh, quality, traceable and hygienic readily processed vegetables.



Qualipro provides efficient processing and supply of highly refined, hygienic and pure groundnut oil using a complete modernized processing machine.



TiZaHaNa is into the production and packaging of highly nutritious ready-to-go baobab products.



CoopHouse uses design thinking methodology to design, build and supply poultry housing structures for all levels of the bird life cycle with special attention to ensure low cost of building, judicious space management, durability, habitability, energy conservation, biosecurity and movability.



Qualifeed Ghana provides animals having health issues with special care and treatment, and feeding them the right materials to bring them back to good health and high production.



Skydroners Digital will employ the use of agricultural spraying drones for spraying pesticides, weedicides and liquid fertilizers for small and medium crop farmers across Ghana.



Solis (Sei) provides farmers with solar powered auto irrigation equipment with constant supply of power and the right amount of water to irrigate their farms irrespective of the location.



Stercus is into improving tomato production and processing in Africa through the inclusion of organic waste utilization in the production cycle to bring out a zero waste disposal system and reduce post-harvest losses. Stercus house ensures reduction in chemical usage through the application of more vermicompost and less of artificial chemicals.



The Coconut Team produces coco peat (washed and treated) locally, in large quantities at competitive prices.



VeggieTech operates aquaponic farms and equips partner farmers with the technology and assistance to supply markets with 8x more organic vegetables per acre than is achievable in the open field.

KIC AgriTech Challenge Classic 2022 Penultimate Pitch in Pictures



Team Native Organics pitches their business idea to the Ideation Team / Panel of Judges at the Penultimate Pitch



KIC AgriTech teams cheering up their colleagues as they pitch in turns



KIC Ideation Team member, Ekow Mensah gives feedback to the AgriTech teams during their pitches



Team Agro Empire presenting their business idea



AgriTech teams listen attentively as they wait to pitch their business idea in turns

KIC AgriTech Challenge Classic 2022 Final Pitch in Pictures



From left, Ato Brown, KIC Board member and Benjamin Gyan-Kesse, KIC Executive Director listening attentively to some of the unique and innovative business ideas of the AgriTech teams



Team Biocul takes feedback from the Ideation Team / Panel of Judges at the Final Pitch event



Gottfried Odamtten-Sowah, Program Lead, Agribusiness at the Mastercard Foundation gives opening remarks



Team EverGreen Soilless Farm pitches to the Ideation Team members / Panel of Judges



Team King Tractor demonstrates their product during their pitch



Team Alpha Weeder receives their award from Gottfried Odamtten-Sowah, Program Lead, Agribusiness at the Mastercard Foundation as they proceed into the KIC AgriTech Challenge Pro



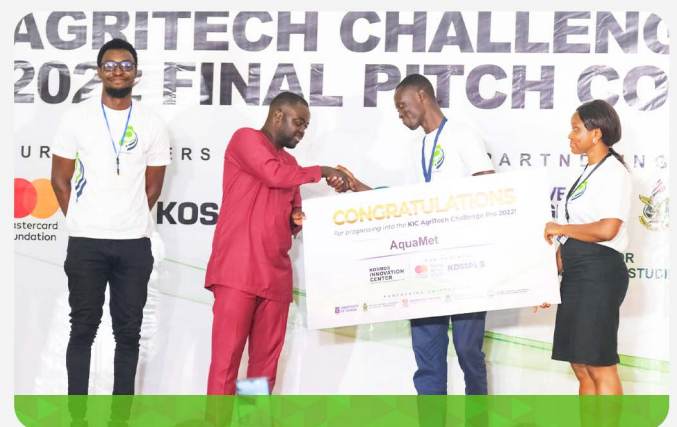
Team PlantAide presenting at the AgriTech Challenge Final Pitch event



Team Kodutech receives their award from Dr. Mavis Akuffobe-Essilfie, Senior Research Scientist, STEPRI-CSIR, as they progress to the next phase of the competition



Team GreenGrow pitches to the Ideation Team members / Panel of Judges



Team AquaMet receives their award from Emmanuel Amprofi, CEO of Trotror Tractor Limited.



Benjamin Gyan-Kesse joining in the celebration of the excited teams progressing into the KIC AgriTech Challenge Pro



Team Vabe receives their award from Ato Brown, KIC Board member as they proceed into the KIC AgriTech Challenge Pro



Team Duckweeds Aduanepa receives their award from Gottfried Odamtten-Sowah, Program Lead, Agribusiness at the Mastercard Foundation as they proceed into the KIC AgriTech Challenge Pro

About KIC Programs

AgriTech Challenge Classic

The AgriTech Challenge Classic is a 7-month annual training program aimed at developing the interest and building the mindset of students and young graduates to ultimately drive systemic change in Ghana's agriculture sector.

AgriTech Challenge Pro

The KIC AgriTech Challenge Pro is an accelerator program aiming to support young entrepreneurs to launch and grow commercially viable, scalable solutions to key problems in the agricultural sector. The program aims to drive technology and innovation as a catalyst to enhancing productivity, improving yields, and creating more jobs within Ghana's agricultural sector.

KIC Incubation

It is a multi-year business incubation program aimed at preparing businesses for growth, scale, and investor readiness. The incubation program provides specialized coaching and mentorship, networking, physical infrastructure, access to technical expertise and a continuous learning environment for businesses with high growth potential selected from the AgriTech Challenge Pro.

Business Booster

It is growth and acceleration program targeted at Ghanaian-owned Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). This program component seeks to strengthen and spur the growth of existing MSMEs in agriculture and agriculture adjacent sectors in Ghana that have demonstrated potential and are ready to scale.

Women's Entrepreneurship Bootcamp

Prior to the AgriTech Challenge, KIC organizes a 3-day womens' bootcamp to inspire, teach and expose aspiring female entrepreneurs to the opportunities in Ghana's agribusiness value-chain and create a pipeline for women participants for the challenge. It focuses on specific business skills ranging from leadership and organizational management to business model canvasses. Industry experts, trainers and mentors join to share their knowledge.

School Farm Competition

The School Farm Competition, which was initiated by one of our partners, Blue Skies Foundation, is an agricultural school challenge project that aims to increase the desire of young people (students) in both Junior and Senior High Schools through learning experiences, by providing the schools with inputs (seed and basic farm tools) to cultivate their own crops on designated school farms and consider agriculture as an income generating venture in their life journey whiles improving Ghana's food security.

KIC Fellowship

The KIC Fellowship is a formal alumni network that ensures all beneficiaries, especially those who do not receive seed funding to grow their businesses have other pathways and opportunities available to them. All activities of the KIC fellowship are facilitated by KIC and led by volunteer members. Beyond the competition, KIC continues to support fellows on their entrepreneurial journeys and encourages sharing of success stories to inspire other fellows.

OUR PARTNERS



Young
Africa
Works



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