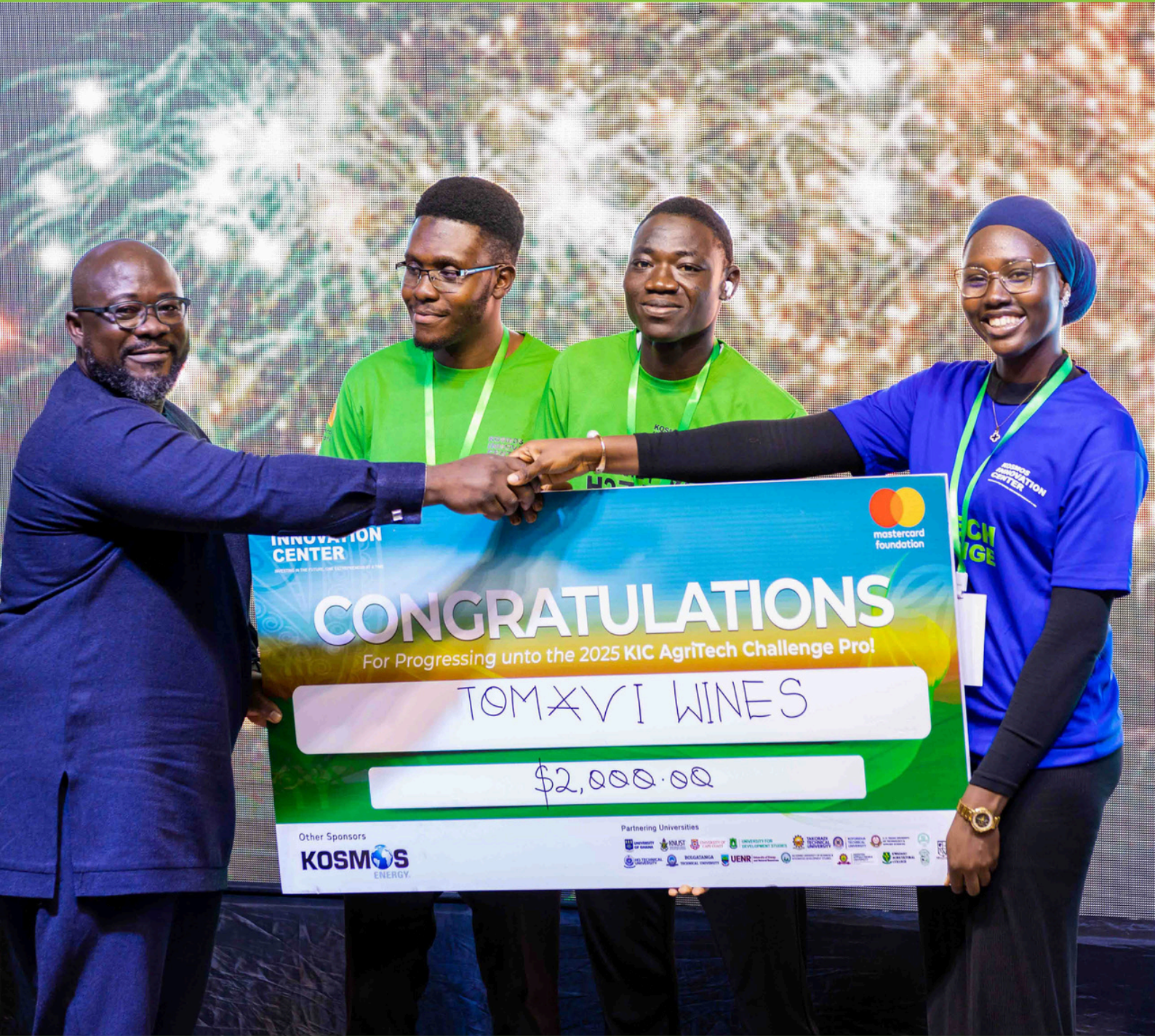


KIC YOUNG AGRIPRENEUR

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

Oct-Dec 2024

Quarterly Newsletter



**INVESTING IN THE FUTURE,
ONE ENTREPRENEUR AT A TIME**

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Message from Executive Director

Dear Partners and Stakeholders,

As we close the year, we are delighted to share with you the highlights from an eventful fourth quarter. At the Kosmos Innovation Center (KIC), our commitment to empowering young people and supporting agri-startups continues to foster employment creation and deliver sustainable solutions for the agricultural sector.

This quarter, we celebrated significant milestones:

We proudly welcomed 38 teams from the AgriTech Challenge Classic Final Pitch and 24 startups from external pools into the 2025 AgriTech Challenge Pro, set to begin in January. The Classic showcased innovative solutions from young entrepreneurs, focusing on value addition, technology, and mechanization to transform agricultural production. Together with key stakeholders in the education sector, we recognized outstanding schools and students nationwide at the School Farm Awards. This program is fostering a mindset shift among the youth, sparking awareness about opportunities within agriculture and building the next generation of agripreneurs.

KIC-supported startups continued to thrive, expanding their operations and delivering sustainable solutions that positively impact their communities.

In alignment with the International Day of Rural Women, we reaffirmed our commitment to empowering women in rural communities through entrepreneurship training, alternative livelihood programs, and access to finance initiatives.

KIC partnered with AmCham Ghana to engage the business community on Corporate Social Responsibility and ESG frameworks, emphasizing youth development as a pathway to achieving meaningful impact.

Our collaboration with AMAATI and University for Development Studies is creating opportunities for young people in Fonio production, combining agronomic training with employment generation in local communities, as part of implementation of the Young Farmer Business Academy (YFBA)

As we reflect on this quarter's achievements, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff, partners, and stakeholders. Your unwavering support fuels our shared vision of capacity building and empowerment for young people.

We invite you to enjoy this issue and celebrate the strides made towards transforming agriculture into a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable sector



Benjamin Gyan-Kesse
Executive Director

38 Start-ups win at AgriTech Challenge Classic



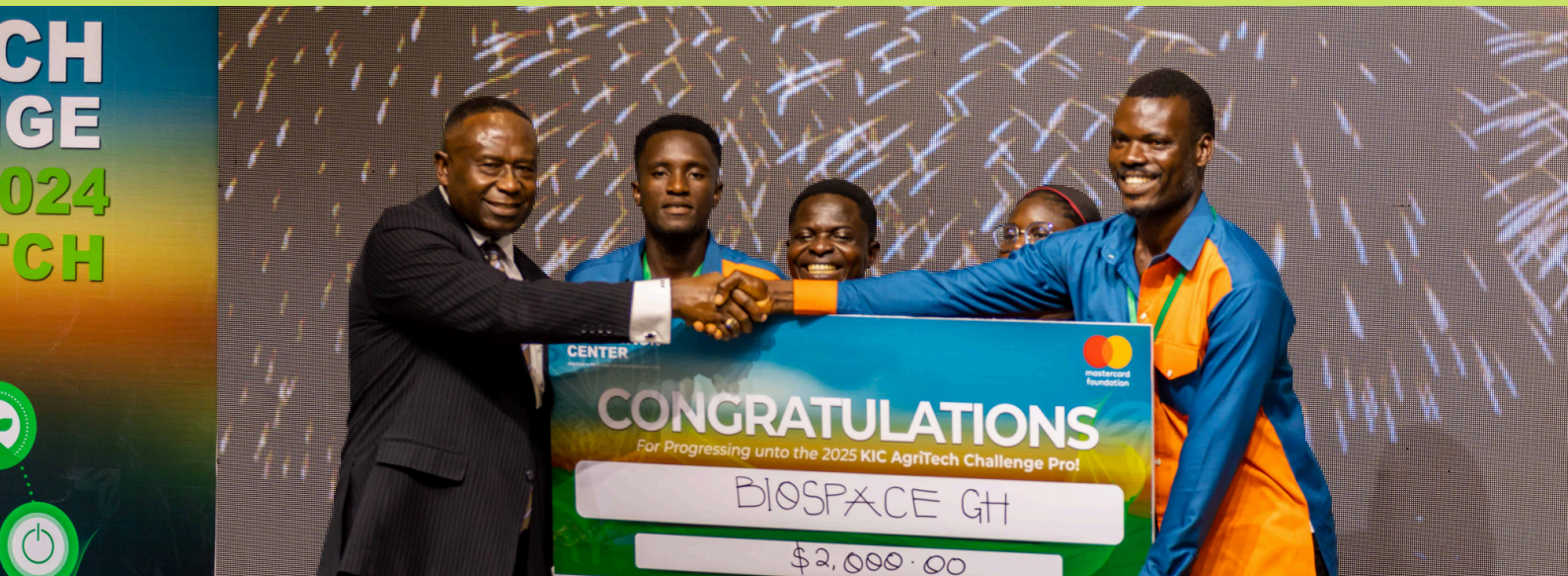
Takoradi Technical University (TTU), Ho Technical University (HTU), Koforidua Technical University (KTU), SD Dombo University of Business & Integrated Development Studies (UBIDS), and University of Energy and Natural Resource (UENR), Kwadaso Agricultural College (KAC), Ejura Agricultural College and Mechanisation Center (EACMC), Ohawu Agricultural College (OAC), Damongo Agricultural College (DAC), CKT University of Technology and Applied Sciences (CKT-UTAS), Akenten Appiah-Menka University of Skills Training and Entrepreneurial Development (AAMSTED). Speaking at the event, Executive Director for the Kosmos Innovation Center, Benjamin Gyan-Kesse, re-iterated the commitment of the center to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in Ghana's agricultural sector through initiatives such as AgriTech Challenge program.

“At KIC we remain committed to supporting youth with a passion for agriculture and agribusiness. AgriTech innovations are vital to providing green solutions focused on climate action and sustainable food systems, and we support young people to bring their business ideas to reality,” he said.

The winners of the competition will progress into the AgriTech Challenge Pro which is a 5 month training program, where the teams will receive further training and mentoring to develop their business solutions and become investor ready. Each of the teams in the AgriTech Pro will also receive USD2000 to develop their Most Viable Product (MVP). At the end of the pro, teams will be selected to receive further funding for business growth.



AgriTech Challenge Classic Winners Progressing unto the Pro



The 38 AgriTech Challenge Classic winners joined an additional 22 start-up teams that are joining the AgriTech Challenge Pro program from the external recruitment process. The start ups include: AGE Engineering and Trading; Citra Bloom Pest Care; Danny Machinery; EcoBroma Ghana; Golden Cycle; Green Hair Innovation; Green Tech EnviroGroup; Growth Line Farm-Tech; Helicimush; Leaflux Textiles; Marthos Aqua Feed; MelDak Agro; Milkyway; Millbles; Mushplus Agri-Foods; Nature's Novelties; Order Siaw Manufacturing; PestiTech; Regal Jnelp Innovations; Soy Foods; Tomafresh; WeediFert and Zenags Organics.

The winners from the 2024 KIC AgriTech Challenge Classic program are: Tomavi Wines (UDS); Earth-Allies (UENR); Eco-Power Solutions (BTU); EverFresh Agro (UENR); HydroGo Innovations (UDS); WaxFarm (UDS); GardPath Technologies (UDS); ProPeel (KNUST); Azucarvia (UDS); and GreeNovate Solutions (TTU).

Other winners also include Cogam Stainless Charcoal (KAC); PureLube (UDS); AgriEase (UENR); AgroStars (HTU); SolarTech Incubators (DAC); FDM Green Innovations (UCC); Peli Natural Glow (TTU); Bana Up (KNUST); CassaClean Solution (AAMUSTED); and Solar Smoke Pro (UG).

Teams Puregrain Agro (UENR); Flameforge (UDS); Phoenicis Foods (UDS); EcoFert (HTU); Soyko Agro Foods (UCC); Besia Beauty (UENR); Biowax Ghana (UCC); Eggstraordinary Foods (KAC); Earthchar Innovation (DAC); and Peanut Brittle (UCC) also were selected to be part of the next phase of the competition.

The following teams also progressed unto the 2025 AgriTech Challenge Pro: EcoLeap (CKT-UTAS); Bigfoot (KTU); Velho Carbons (KTU); Nutri Nut (UDS); LeatherNova (UDS); BioSpace GH (EACMC); GrainGuard (OAC); and MMTS NutriFoods (SDD-UBIDS).



2024 School Farm Awards Competition



The 2024 edition of the School Farm Awards Ceremony, organized by Kosmos Innovation Center (KIC) in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, was held at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology on November 8, 2024.

The event which sought to celebrate the dedication and innovation of junior high and senior high school students nationwide in the field of sustainable agriculture, brought together relevant stakeholders in education and agriculture, as well as representatives from the Mastercard Foundation. Present at the event were Mr. Joe Mensah, KIC Board Chair; Nana Akyena Kwagyan Nuama V, Chief of Essuwin in the Ashanti Region, who is also the Director of New Ventures at Kosmos Energy Ghana and was the Chairperson for the event; Mrs. Olivia Serwa Opare, National Director, STEM Directorate, Ghana Education Service; Prof. Dadson Awunyo-Vitor, Provost College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, KNUST; Mr. Gottfried Odamtten-Sowah, Head of Entrepreneurship, Mastercard Foundation; Prof. James Osei Mensah, Vice President of Ghana Society of Agribusiness Scientists (GSAS), Associate Professor of Agribusiness Management, Department of Economics, KNUST; Ms. Boatemaa Quansah, Crops Officer, MOFA, Ashanti Region, among others.

2024 edition of the School Farm Awards Ceremony, organized by Kosmos Innovation Center (KIC) in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation.

The School Farm Competition, started as an initiative of Blue Skies Foundation, to create awareness about agriculture among young people and create a pipeline of talent within the agricultural sector.

Also, the program supports Technology and ICT education when winning schools are awarded ICT equipment for their school ICT Centres. The program started with 3 regions in the south of Ghana. In 2022, through KIC's partnership with Mastercard Foundation, KIC partnered with Blue Skies to scale up the programme and to reach more schools nationwide. Two years down the line, the 2024 edition witnessed more than 500 schools taking part in the competition.

Delivering the welcome address, Executive Director of KIC, Benjamin Gyan-Kesse reiterated KIC's commitment to transforming Ghana's agricultural landscape by fostering innovation and entrepreneurship among the youth.

"The School Farm Competition exemplifies our commitment to nurturing talent and fostering a resilient agricultural economy, by training students on school farm projects and providing them with the necessary resources and mentorship. We are training a new generation of youth who will ensure the future of sustainable agriculture in Ghana," he said.

Commenting further, Mr. Gyan-Kesse expressed appreciation to Mastercard Foundation saying, "We are also grateful to the Mastercard Foundation for its continued commitment to empowering young people providing them opportunities for work-readiness and skills training, for fulfilling jobs."

In his remarks, Mr. Joe Mensah, encouraged students to see the opportunities to in promotion of sustainable agriculture, which also contributes to national development.

Delivering the Keynote Address, Prof. James Osei Mensah, Vice President of Ghana Society of Agribusiness Scientists (GSAS), Associate Professor of Agribusiness Management, Department of Economics, KNUST, highlighted the importance of helping young people identify viable opportunities in agriculture and agribusinesses by highlighting the agricultural production as well as marketing and the economic aspect of agricultural activity, through program such as the School Farm Competition.

2024 School Farm Awards Competition



In her remarks, Mrs. Olivia Serwa Opare, National Director, STEM Directorate, GES emphasized the importance of STEM Education and commended the program for focusing on key aspects of collaborative and empirical learning, as well as presentation skills that are vital for Teaching and Learning in STEM Education. Taking his turn, Alistair Djimatey, Public Affairs Manager for Blue Skies Company highlighted the importance of agricultural education and food security, and the opportunities that young people could consider for future careers in agribusiness and agriculture.

“Agricultural education is the cornerstone of food security and sustainable development. By exploring diverse opportunities within agribusiness and agriculture, young people can become the innovators and leaders who drive our agricultural sector forward. At Blue Skies, we are committed to supporting and inspiring the next generation to pursue these vital careers, ensuring a resilient and prosperous future for all,” he said.

In recognition of her exceptional contribution and support for STEM education and agricultural innovation, Madam Olivia Serwa Opare, National Director, STEM Directorate, GES received a citation in her honour. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Directorate, GES was also recognised.

The School Farm Competition is not only in recognition of the relentless enterprising hard work and dedication of students who participated in this year’s program, but also underscores the vital importance of agriculture in shaping the leaders and innovators of tomorrow.

Below is the full list of winners

- Most Entrepreneurial School went to Okanta Presbyterian School
- Most Committed School: Goriyiri R/C JHS
- Most Innovative School: Bepong Senior High School
- Most Committed Project on Soil And Environmental Protection: Topp Basic School
- Discovery Of The Year: Sawla School
- Special Young Leadership Award: Salman Basiratu Pagnaa [Tamale Girls SHS]
- Best Female Student JHS: Ewurama Mireku [Anyinem Girls School]
- Best Male Student JHS: Mensah Zakaria [Poponya Fantem Basic School]
- Best Female Student SHS: Isabela Amartey [Methodist Girls SHS]
- Best Male Student SHS: Joshua Borkatsey [Sogakope SHS]
- Best Teacher JHS: Priscilla Awuku [Eyiakrom BA Basic School]
- Best Teacher Shs: Abubakari Abdulai [Vitting SHS]
- Ashanti School For Deaf, Savelugu School For the Deaf and Garden City Special School received awards for Most Inclusive Schools
- The Lemuel Mantey Agric Leadership Award: Nashiru Abugri [Peki SHTS]

- The Ruth Smith Adjei Award: Alice Karikari [Head of Agriculture Department: of Yaa Asantewaa Girls School]
- The Dr. Anthony Pile Special Recognition Award: Mesharck Okunnor [Okanta Presbyterian School]
- Best Junior High School Award:
 - Goriyiri R/C(3rd Runner Up)
 - Badu Nyamebeyere MA Basic School (2nd Runner Up)
 - Greater Heights International School (1st Runner up)
 - Nana Joe Mensah Award for Winner for Overall Best Junior High School went to Okanta Presbyterian Basic School (Overall winner)
- Overall Best SHS Award:
 - St. John’s Grammar (3rd Runner Up)
 - Peki Senior High Technical School (2nd Runner up)
 - St. Joseph’s Technical Institute (1st Runner Up)
 - Nana Joe Mensah Award for Overall Best SHS was awarded to Tamale Girls SHS.

YARP Foods launches production facility



In a significant stride towards advancing agribusiness innovation and boosting local food processing capacity, YARP Foods, one of the winners of the KIC 2024 AgriTech Challenge Pro, has officially launched its new cassava flour production facility in Ghana on 6th November, 2024.

The production facility, located in Akumsa Dumase, in the Bono East Region of Ghana, represents a milestone for the budding agribusiness, which has been at the forefront of transforming Ghana's cassava value chain. With a production capacity of 1 tonner per day, the facility is set to gradually meet growing demand in both local and international markets.

Speaking at the launch event Andy Donsah Yeboah, Co-Founder/CEO of YARP Foods, expressed gratitude for the journey so far. "This milestone reflects our commitment to leveraging innovation to create sustainable solutions within the agricultural sector. Cassava, a staple crop in Ghana, has enormous untapped potential, and we aim to redefine its value by producing high-quality cassava flour that caters to the food and industrial sectors," he said.

From Idea to Impact

YARP Foods' journey began in the 2024 AgriTech Challenge Pro, a flagship program by Kosmos Innovation Center (KIC) designed to empower entrepreneurs in the agriculture sector with the tools and skills to turn their innovative ideas into impactful businesses. The program is being implemented in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation. Winning the challenge provided the team with funding, mentorship, and technical support, paving the way for the realization of their ambitious goals.

"KIC is incredibly proud of what YARP Foods has achieved," said Benjamin Gyna-Kesse, Executive Director of KIC. "Their success is a testament to the transformative power of entrepreneurship and the potential of young agribusiness leaders to drive sustainable growth and employment opportunities in Ghana's agriculture sector."

Transforming the Cassava Value Chain

Cassava, a key staple in Ghana, is often underutilized despite its versatility and potential economic benefits.

YARP Foods is bridging this gap by producing gluten-free cassava flour for use in baking, confectionery, and industrial applications. The facility will also provide a reliable market for local cassava farmers, enhancing their livelihoods and promoting inclusive growth across the value chain.

"We source directly from smallholder farmers, ensuring their livelihoods," said Andy "Our goal is not only to create a profitable business but also to make a meaningful impact on the lives of farmers and the broader community." We are also creating employment opportunities for other young people within the community who work within the production facility.

YARP Foods also runs an out-grower scheme where they support farmers with farming inputs. They also organise free training program dubbed "Dwakese3" (translated from Akan as big market) in pastry making for young people within and outside the community to boost employment and livelihood.

Driving Ghana's Food Processing Industry Forward

YARP Foods' new facility is poised to contribute to Ghana's broader food processing agenda, reducing reliance on imported raw materials and promoting local production. The company is also exploring export opportunities, which could position Ghana as a key player in the global cassava flour market.

As YARP Foods continues to grow, its success serves as an inspiration for other entrepreneurs in Ghana's agriculture sector. By combining innovation, sustainability, and community impact, the company is charting a path for a thriving agribusiness ecosystem in the country.



YARP Food Trains women in bakery through Dwakese Program



At the heart of YARP Foods' mission lies a commitment to sustainable business and community empowerment. A pioneering start-up supported by Kosmos Innovation Center, YARP Foods is transforming the food industry with its innovative cassava flour, a locally sourced alternative to wheat flour. While providing high-quality raw materials to various industries, YARP Foods is also driving social impact through its flagship initiative, the Dwakese Program.

“Dwakese,” meaning “big market” in Akan, reflects the company’s vision of creating expansive opportunities for young people. This free pastry training program brings together enthusiastic young men and women from local communities and beyond, equipping them with practical skills in pastry making. Participants not only learn the art of baking using cassava flour but also gain the confidence and expertise to launch their own small businesses in the thriving pastry industry.

Through Dwakese, YARP Foods has transformed lives, empowering many to secure sustainable livelihoods. By blending innovation with social responsibility, the company is building a future where communities thrive alongside their business growth.

For YARP Foods, the journey is about more than flour—it’s about fostering opportunities and turning dreams into reality.



Young Agripreneur Forum driving youth agripreneurship initiatives

The Young Agripreneur Forum (YAF) is redefining how young people engage with agriculture in Ghana. A student-led initiative, YAF provides tertiary students with a platform to exchange ideas, explore opportunities, and actively participate in agricultural activities. At the heart of YAF's mission is the drive to empower the next generation of agripreneurs through practical learning and entrepreneurial initiatives.

Showcasing Innovation at Regional MOFA event

YAF showcased an impressive array of processed foods and agricultural produce, from the students industry and ingenuity. The group's participation drew significant attention from attendees, including policymakers, agricultural experts, and fellow farmers.

Volunteer Day: Hands-On Learning for Youth

In line with its mission to foster hands-on agricultural experiences, YAF-KAC organized a Volunteer Day that brought together 75 young people. Participants engaged in a variety of activities, including transplanting, irrigation setup, and organic pesticide application. This event not only equipped participants with valuable skills but also highlighted the importance of teamwork and sustainability in agriculture.

YAF Week Celebrations at Ejura

At Ejura Agricultural College and Mechanisation Centre, YAF hosted its annual YAF Week. At Ejura Agricultural College and Mechanisation Centre, YAF hosted its annual YAF Week Celebrations from November 23–24, 2024.



Held under the theme “Youth Empowerment: Sowing Seeds of Innovation,” the event featured a vibrant float, an insightful Entrepreneurship Talk, and a Farm-to-Table Cooking Competition. These activities celebrated youth innovation and underscored the potential for entrepreneurship within the agricultural sector.

Farm Visit at UDS

YAF's reach extended to the University for Development Studies (UDS), where members organized a farm visit focused on rabbit farming. Young volunteers gained hands-on experience in animal husbandry, learning essential skills for managing rabbit health and establishing a sustainable agribusiness.

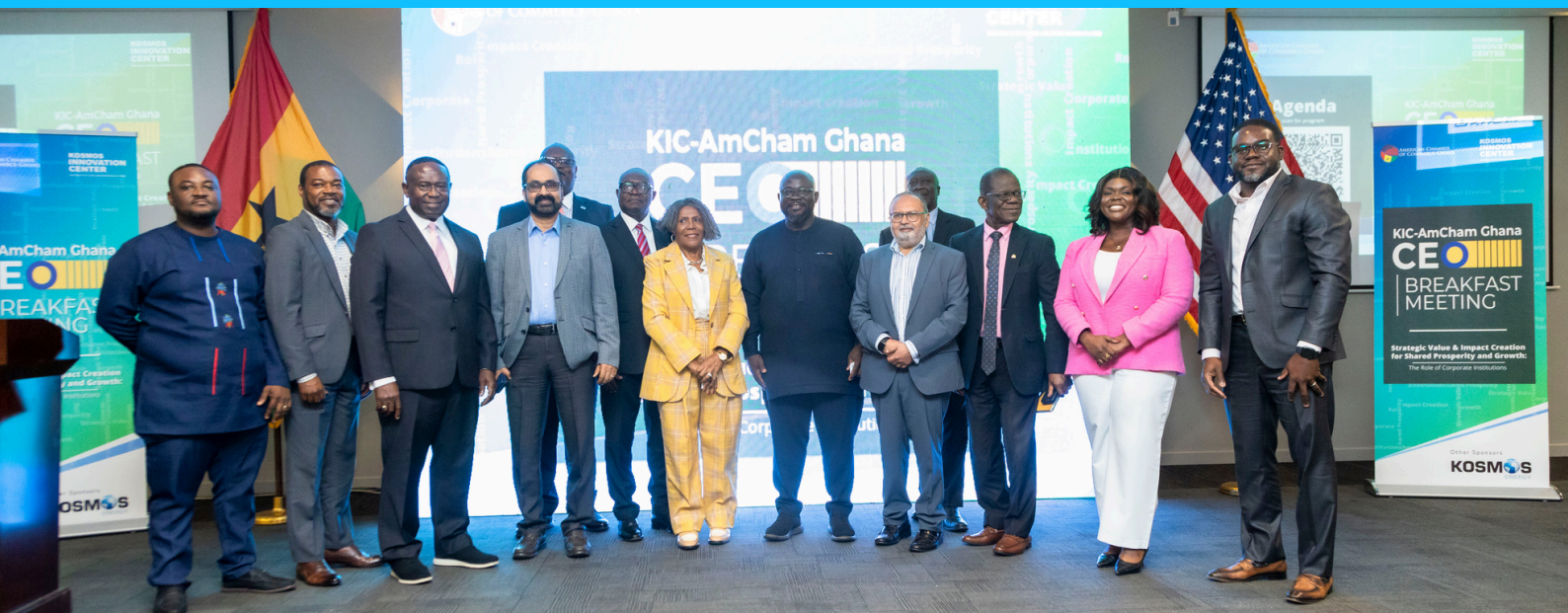
Transforming Mindsets, Creating Opportunities

Supported by Kosmos Innovation Center (KIC), YAF is helping to reshape perceptions about agriculture among Ghana's youth. By introducing students to innovative farming practices and entrepreneurial ventures, YAF is unlocking the vast potential of agriculture as a viable and rewarding career path.

Through impactful events and collaborations, YAF continues to inspire young people to see agriculture not just as a profession but as a platform for innovation, sustainability, and economic growth. This student-driven movement is planting the seeds for a brighter, more innovative agricultural future in Ghana.



KIC and Am-Cham Ghana engage Business Leaders on Youth Entrepreneurship in Ghana



Kosmos Innovation Center (KIC), in collaboration with the American Chamber of Commerce, Ghana (Am-Cham Ghana) hosted a high-level CEO Breakfast Meeting, bringing together key business leaders to discuss strategic value creation, shared prosperity, and growth, through youth development and entrepreneurship. The event served as an opportunity for the private sector to engage in shaping the next generation of business leaders in the agriculture and technology sectors. Themed "Strategic Value and Impact Creation for Shared Prosperity and Growth: The role of Corporate Institutions," the meeting focused on how the private sector can leverage KIC's youth development initiatives to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, and long-term economic growth. During the discussions, KIC highlighted its unique approach to supporting youth-led businesses and startups through training, mentorship, and incubation programs.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Joe Mensah, Board Chair of KIC emphasized the organization's long-standing commitment to entrepreneurship as a force for positive social and economic transformation. "At KIC, we believe that youth-led innovation is crucial for solving some of Ghana's most pressing challenges, particularly in the agricultural sector. By investing in young entrepreneurs, businesses can create lasting value while ensuring shared prosperity," he said.

For his opening address, Mr. Bethel Yeboah, Corporate Affairs Director for Cocoa Cola West Africa, and Treasurer, Board of Directors for American Chamber of Commerce- Ghana highlighted the important role of the chamber in business development, emphasizing the importance of public-private partnerships in fostering entrepreneurship and sustainable development.

"Through collaborations like this, KIC and Am-Cham Ghana believe that private sector organizations can play a pivotal role in creating opportunities for youth, enhancing innovation, and driving growth in sectors like agriculture and technology, he said.

Providing perspectives on strategic value creation, Prof. Daniel Ofori, Professor of Management, University of Ghana Business School, presented on Corporate Responsibility, Shared Value and the role of organisations in promoting corporate strategy aligned to environmental, social and governance indicators. He highlighted the importance of youth development in building organizational strategies.

Participants were introduced to KIC's flagship programs, including the AgriTech Challenge, which provides a platform for young innovators to develop sustainable business solutions for the agriculture sector. Through this initiative, KIC has successfully supported over 64 youth-founded businesses, many of which are actively contributing to economic development and job creation in Ghana.

"At Kosmos Innovation Center, we aim to build a talent pipeline that can meet the evolving needs of the business community, while also creating entrepreneurs within the agricultural sector. Our programs provide training and capacity building that empower young people to identify opportunities within the agricultural sector and create business solutions," said Mr. Benjamin Gyan- Kesse, the Executive Director of KIC.

Empowering Ghana's rural women



Every year on October 15, the International Day of Rural Women is observed to honour the vital role that rural women play in advancing agriculture, rural development, and the fight against poverty. "Rural Women Sustaining Nature for Our Collective Future: Building climate resilience, conserving biodiversity, and caring for land towards gender equality and empowerment of women and girls" is the theme for this important day in 2024. In addition to highlighting the necessity of gender equality, this theme highlights the significance of rural women as important players in advancing environmental sustainability and climate resilience.

In Ghana, the contribution of women to agriculture cannot be underestimated. According to the Ghana Statistical Service, six in every 10 (58.4%) females aged 15 years and older were employed in the agricultural sector in the rural areas; more than twice the national average of three in every 10 (28.8%).

Recognizing the significant role of women in the development of agriculture, the Kosmos Innovation Centre in collaboration with the Mastercard Foundation continues to invest in building the capacity of women in the agricultural space. Livelihood and skills training have been conducted in the Oti, Ahafo, Volta, Eastern, Central, Upper East and Upper West regions of Ghana. Through this initiative, more than 4,065 women have been trained.

Earlier in the year, working in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Leverage Microfinance Company, KIC launched a capacity-building initiative to empower young women at the community level through comprehensive training, financial assistance, and essential input provision.

The initiative specifically targets young women smallholder farmers across three districts and nineteen communities in the Nabdum, Tempene, and Garu districts within the Upper East region.

Through this program, KIC has provided valuable training sessions in rice parboiling, shea butter processing, soy processing, and coated groundnut production.

In addition to these value-added skills, participants received training in good agricultural practices for rice, soy, and maize cultivation, effective animal husbandry, and the formation of farmer-based organizations (FBOs) and cooperatives.

Following the training sessions, Leverage Microfinance Ltd conducted thorough needs assessments for these women. Based on these assessments, tailored financial support was provided to help them implement the skills and knowledge acquired from the training.

This initiative has had a profound impact on young women smallholder farmers, helping them sustain and improve their agricultural activities while also providing alternative livelihood skills. The program has not only increased incomes but also fostered economic empowerment, paving the way for a more prosperous future for these women and their communities.

Through the collaborative efforts of KIC, the Department of Agriculture, and Leverage Microfinance Company, this capacity-building initiative stands as a testament to the power of targeted support and training in transforming lives and fostering sustainable development in rural communities

Re-iterating KIC's commitment to the development of women in agriculture, Mercy Tuffour, Gender and Safeguarding Specialist at KIC said:

"At KIC, we are committed to fostering an environment where these women can thrive, innovate, and lead the way towards a more equitable and resilient future. Through our initiatives, we aim to equip women with the necessary tools, knowledge, and confidence to innovate and lead in the agricultural sector. Empowering rural women is not just about providing skills and financial support; it's about unlocking their potential to transform their communities and drive sustainable agricultural development."

McHan Cosmetics Launches McHan Green Partnerships to Empower Farmers and Drive Sustainability



On December 4, 2024, McHan Cosmetics Ltd, an innovative agribusiness startup, unveiled its flagship initiative, the McHan Green Partnerships, at a stakeholder and community engagement ceremony. Held under the theme, “Farmers in Focus: Building Partnerships,” the initiative underscores the company’s commitment to sustainability and empowering farmers within its supply chain. The event was attended by chiefs, as well as representatives from the Ghana Cocoa Board, Ministry of Food and Agriculture and agricultural input companies.

McHan Cosmetics has gained recognition for its groundbreaking work in recycling cocoa pod husks into value-added products such as cocoa potash and cosmetics. With the launch of the McHan Green Partnerships, the company is taking its mission a step further by creating opportunities for farmers to earn additional income through the sale of cocoa pod husks. The company was formed when its co-founders joined the KIC AgriTech Challenge Classic program and progressed unto the AgriTech Pro. They received funding of USD 35,000 as one of the winners at the end of the Pro competition and are currently part of KIC’s incubated businesses.

Farmers participating in the initiative will also receive training on the quality standards required for sourcing raw materials, ensuring the production of premium cosmetic products.

During the launch event, Hannah Appiah, CEO and co-Founder of McHan Cosmetics, shared the company’s journey towards sustainable innovation. “Our mission has always been to find value in what others see as waste while creating opportunities for those who make our industry possible—our farmers,” she stated. She emphasized that the McHan Green Partnerships represent a strategic collaboration to build stronger ties with farmers and enhance the cocoa value chain.



The McHan Green Partnerships aim to foster a mutually beneficial relationship between McHan Cosmetics and farmers. By integrating farmers into its supply chain as key stakeholders, the startup is not only sourcing high-quality raw materials but also promoting economic empowerment in cocoa-growing communities.

Through initiatives like the McHan Green Partnerships, McHan Cosmetics is positioning itself at the forefront of sustainable agribusiness. By merging innovation with environmental consciousness, the company is proving that sustainability and profitability can go hand in hand.

The launch marks the beginning of a transformative journey for McHan Cosmetics and its farmer partners, setting the stage for a more sustainable and inclusive future in the cocoa industry.



Young Farmer Business Academy promoting youth employment through fonio production



The Young Farmer Business Academy, a flagship initiative of the Kosmos Innovation Center (KIC), is making waves in youth empowerment and sustainable agriculture. In collaboration with the University for Development Studies (UDS) and agricultural company AMAATI, the program trains young people in Fonio farming, equipping them with the skills to generate income and drive economic transformation in their communities.

Under the program, participants from 36 communities received comprehensive training on the cultivation of Fonio, a resilient and nutrient-rich grain with growing demand in local and international markets. The training focused on agronomic practices, seed and ploughing services, threshing services and market access.

The initiative began with an extensive community sensitization campaign, drawing interest from over 3,000 young people across the participating communities. This grassroots approach ensured inclusivity and created awareness of the opportunities Fonio farming offers as a sustainable income source.

After the training, participants were provided with Fonio seeds to kickstart their farming journeys. This vital step not only reduced the barriers to entry but also empowered young farmers to apply their newly acquired skills immediately.

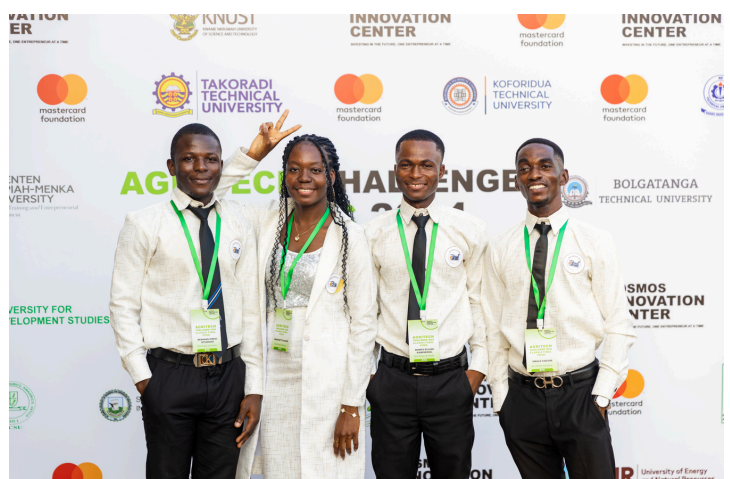
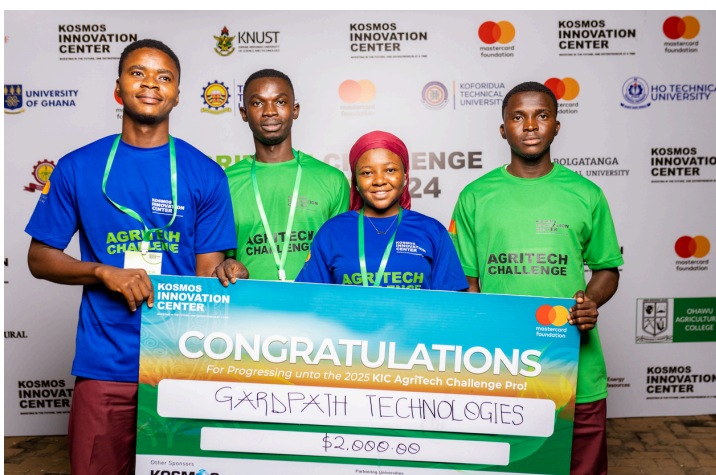
By partnering with UDS and AMAATI, KIC has leveraged expertise and resources to create a program that addresses the full value chain of Fonio production, from cultivation to market access. This integrated approach ensures that participants are not only equipped with knowledge but also positioned for long-term success in agriculture.

Fuseini Sadick is one of the young smallholder farming at Takpili who has taken advantage of the support of Fonio production from Amaati Company. Through fonio farming, he has been able to provide for his family.

By investing in young farmers, KIC is planting the seeds for a brighter, more resilient future for Ghana's agricultural sector. With initiatives like this, the Young Farmer Business Academy continues to demonstrate the transformative power of collaboration, education, and innovation in unlocking opportunities for the next generation of agripreneurs.



Picture Gallery AgriTech Challenge Classic Final Pitch event



Picture Gallery from School Farm Awards

