

KIC YOUNG AGRIPRENEUR

Jan-Mar 2025

Quarterly Newsletter

KOSMOS
INNOVATION
CENTER

MAKING IN THE FUTURE, ONE ENTREPRENEUR AT A TIME



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE, ONE ENTREPRENEUR AT A TIME

Contents



2025 AgriTech Challenge Pro

Pg 4



KIC engages Business Leaders on Strategic Partnerships
Pg 5



Promoting food security and empowering women in agribusiness Pg 6



KIC partners with FDA to support Food Innovation Start-ups in Ghana Pg 7



KIC and its partners provide agripreneurship skills trainings for women Pg 8



Greenheart SE and KIC promote environmental sustainability through E2S Project launch Pg 9



KIC Fellowship hosts Homecoming Event
Pg 13



Spotlight on KIC Businesses Pgs 14-16

Message from Executive Director

Dear Staff, Partners, and Stakeholders,

I am thrilled to share some of the milestones and initiatives that have defined the first quarter for Kosmos Innovation Center (KIC). Our work continues to be guided by the mission to inspire, empower, and transform the lives of young people, including women in the agricultural and agribusiness sector.

In quarter one of 2025, we witnessed the ingenuity and determination of young entrepreneurs during the AgriTech Challenge Pro First Pitch. These inspiring young innovators showcased their bold ideas and solutions, reaffirming our belief in the power of youth-led innovation to transform agriculture in Ghana.

In March, we joined the world in celebrating International Women's Day, an opportunity to amplify our commitment to empowering women through entrepreneurship training and capacity building. Through our Women's Bootcamp initiatives, we continue to provide rural women with the skills, resources, and confidence to thrive as agribusiness entrepreneurs and leaders in their communities. These programs and other KIC programs are not just initiatives—they are movements toward building inclusive and sustainable growth in agriculture.

Another significant highlight of the quarter was our collaboration with the Canada-Ghana Chamber of Commerce and the Council for Commerce and Industry France Ghana during a CEO Breakfast Meeting. This gathering provided a platform to explore partnerships, opportunities for furthering our shared value on corporate responsibility and social impact, and exchange insights.

Finally, we are proud to spotlight some of the incredible businesses nurtured by KIC and their groundbreaking innovations. These success stories stand as a testament to the effectiveness of our programs and the resilience of the entrepreneurs we support. Across all our programmes, KIC has been able to support 47,864 young people in work.

I invite you to stay connected and engaged with KIC's journey. Together, we can continue to create opportunities, unlock potential, and shape a future of shared prosperity.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to our vision.



Benjamin Gyan-Kesse
Executive Director

2025 KIC AgriTech Challenge Pro: First Pitch sets the stage for Final Pitch showdown



The Kosmos Innovation Center (KIC) held the First Pitch of its 2025 AgriTech Challenge Pro from March 12th to 14th, 2025 ahead of the Final Pitch event. This significant milestone marks the initial stage of the competition as participating startups showcased their innovative business ideas aimed at transforming agriculture in Ghana and beyond.

The AgriTech Challenge Pro, a flagship program of KIC, is renowned for fostering entrepreneurial talent and driving innovation in agriculture. During this round, startups pitched their business models to a panel of judges, presenting compelling solutions that address critical challenges within the agricultural sector.

The 61 Start-ups ideas range from food innovation, nutrition and food security, climate technology, circular economies, climate action as well as agric technology to add value from production, post-harvest, processing, marketing, and distribution

The First Pitch served as a platform to evaluate the potential of these startups and their readiness to scale. Based on the judges' assessments, selected teams will advance to the final pitch in May 2025. 44 startups were chosen at the end of the First pitch to make it to the Final Pitch event.

The AgriTech Challenge Pro continues to solidify KIC's role in empowering youth entrepreneurs and catalyzing sustainable growth in the agribusiness sector. The stage is now set for the May finale, where innovation and dedication will be celebrated, and the most promising ideas will receive the support needed to flourish.

Speaking about KIC's commitment to youth empowerment, Benjamin Gyan- Kesse, Executive Director for KIC said: "At KIC, we are committed to transforming young entrepreneurs and their businesses by providing them with capacity building, mentorship and coaching. Every year, start-ups that are trained through the program continue to show innovative drive and resilience to provide solutions to improve the agricultural and agri-adjacent sectors".



KIC engages Business Leaders on Strategic Partnerships for Youth Development



The Kosmos Innovation Center (KIC) in collaboration with Canada-Ghana Chamber of Commerce (CanCham Ghana) and Chamber for Commerce and Industry, France Ghana (CCIFG) hosted a high-level stakeholder engagement meeting, bringing together business leaders to discuss shared value creation through youth entrepreneurship development in Ghana.

The event was organised under the theme: “Strategic Value and Impact Creation for Shared Prosperity and Growth,” and served as a platform for dialogue on how businesses can contribute to empowering Ghana’s youth through entrepreneurship and agribusiness initiatives. The meeting also highlighted KIC’s youth development programs as CSR initiatives that organisations can adapt, while at the same time also creating a unique talent pipeline for organizations seeking to drive innovation and sustainability.

In her opening remarks, H.E Myriam Montrat, Canadian High Commissioner to Ghana, emphasized the critical role of the private sector in shaping Ghana’s future. “The Canadian High Commission is committed to ensuring business growth for Ghanaian and Canadian companies through bilateral trade, as well as its efforts in youth education and development”. She also emphasized on the importance of organisation’s focusing on Corporate Social Responsibility and the impact of their operations on the environment and on society.

Mr. Jean-Noel Blanc, Head of Economic Department of the French Embassy in Accra, highlighted the role of the embassy in promoting bilateral trade as well as SME development. He mentioned that events such as these provide the opportunity to highlight the importance of business and CSR. “The French embassy recognizes the economic value of social initiatives that address critical challenges like youth integration and employment.



By finding innovative pathways to engage and empower young people, we address pressing socio-economic issues, not just in Ghana but globally,” he added.

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.

In his remarks, Benjamin Gyan-Kesse, Executive Director for KIC said: “by investing in the potential of the youth, we not only create shared prosperity but also build the resilience of our economy. KIC programs empower young people to identify opportunities within the agricultural sector and create business solutions through training and capacity building”.

The discussions focused on KIC’s impactful programs working together with its partners, which have nurtured over 59 thriving agribusinesses, provided skills training for more than 69,000 young people, and supported the development of sustainable food systems. The Center’s innovative approach to entrepreneurship and its alignment with corporate strategies were lauded as models for replication across industries.

Promoting food security and empowering women in agribusiness: Charity M.E Adupong's vision with Meannan Foods



As part of celebrations for International Women's Day, KIC highlighted the successes of trailblazing women who are shaping the future of agribusiness and food innovation in Ghana. One such inspiring woman is Charity Maame Ekua Adupong, the visionary behind Meannan Foods, an agri-MSME that joined the Kosmos Innovation Center (KIC) Business Booster program and is transforming the food industry.

A Passion for Food Innovation and Nutrition

Ms. Adupong's journey into agribusiness was fueled by her passion for food security, nutrition, and value-addition for agricultural raw materials. With a firm belief that locally sourced foods can be processed to meet global standards, she founded Meannan Foods to offer high-quality, nutritious, and convenient food products to the Ghanaian market and beyond.

Through innovation and sustainable practices, Meannan Foods has developed a range of food products that addresses key challenges in food preservation, affordability, and accessibility. Her business embodies the idea that food should not only be readily available but also nutritious and beneficial to consumers.

Driving Change Through KIC Support

As a KIC Booster Business, Meannan Foods has benefited from tailored business support, market linkages, and capacity-building programs designed to accelerate the growth of agribusiness startups. Charity's dedication to scaling her business and making an impact in the food industry has been amplified through the mentorship and resources provided by KIC.

Her ability to leverage these opportunities has propelled Meannan Foods to new heights, positioning the company as a key player in the agribusiness space. Under her leadership, the business continues to innovate, create job opportunities, and contribute to Ghana's agricultural value chain.

"Through innovation and sustainability, we are not just processing food; we are shaping the future of nutrition and economic empowerment in Ghana," she said.



KIC partners with FDA to support Food Innovation Start-ups in Ghana



Kosmos Innovation Center (KIC) has officially partnered with the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) Ghana to empower young entrepreneurs in the food innovation space. This partnership aims to bridge the gap between creative food products and regulatory requirements, ensuring that start-ups across the country meet the highest standards of safety and quality.

Under this collaboration, KIC and FDA Ghana will provide guidance, training, and mentorship to help start-ups navigate the FDA certification process more effectively. This support will enable young entrepreneurs to bring their innovative food products to market faster, enhancing their business growth and market competitiveness.

Speaking at the MOU signing ceremony held on 21st March 2025, Benjamin Gyan- Kesse, KIC Executive Director emphasized the importance of this partnership: "By supporting start-ups achieve FDA certification, we are ensuring that their products meet global standards, create access to new markets and opportunities while safeguarding the health and safety of consumers." "This partnership will also help to establish mentorship and advisory sessions that align food innovation with regulatory excellence," he added.

Dr. Delese Mimi Darko, CEO of the FDA, emphasized the Authority's dedication to supporting MSMEs in achieving product compliance to enhance food safety.

"As regulators with a difference, the FDA is not only focused on enforcement but also on empowering MSMEs to meet compliance standards and bring their products to market with ease. This commitment is embodied in our Progressive Licensing Scheme," she stated.

She further highlighted the role of the Industrial Support Directorate, a specialized directorate within the FDA, which provides targeted assistance to regulated industries, ensuring they receive the necessary guidance to navigate regulatory requirements successfully.

This partnership reflects KIC's ongoing commitment to fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable growth for young agripreneurs. It also highlights FDA Ghana's dedication to supporting local businesses while maintaining consumer safety and product excellence.

Through this joint effort, KIC and FDA Ghana are paving the way for a new era of food innovation in Ghana, where entrepreneurs are empowered to create and scale products that meet global standards.



KIC and its partners provide agripreneurship skills trainings for women



Across Ghana, KIC is empowering women in rural, and peri-urban communities through skills training, alternative livelihood capacity building, and access to finance initiatives under its Women's Bootcamp trainings.

Working in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation and Kosmos Energy, KIC is transforming lives, fostering inclusion, and driving sustainable growth for many women and women farmer groups in these communities. The Women's Bootcamp is designed to equip women with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to thrive within the agricultural sector. By providing training in business development, financial literacy, value addition, and climate-smart agriculture, the program empowers women to take charge of their entrepreneurial journeys.

Through targeted community engagements, KIC reaches women from diverse backgrounds, ensuring that no region is left behind. Whether in the Northern savannah or the coastal regions, the Bootcamp provides hands-on training and mentorship, helping women transition from subsistence farming to sustainable agribusiness ventures.

In February this year, a series of training and capacity-building programs were organized for women in Wa and Jirapa in the Upper West Region of Ghana. The women were trained in making soya kebabs, while others received training in soap making, shea butter processing, and pastry making.

Earlier last year, KIC extended similar training initiatives to the Northern, Eastern, Central, and Volta Regions of Ghana, empowering women with skills to enhance their economic opportunities. As part of the program, beneficiaries received essential equipment and tools to support their businesses, including gari processing machines, charcoal ovens, palm oil digester, corn mill, rice mill, catfish starter packs, okro processors, baking ovens, and pastry-making starter kits. In total 71 machines and equipment were distributed to support these women-led enterprises.

These interventions are equipping women with the necessary resources to improve productivity, create sustainable livelihoods, and contribute to local economic growth.

The trainings has empowered many young women in these communities to become gainfully employed and have additional livelihood to supplement their income from farming activities. A total of 12000 women have been trained.

"To accelerate action in women's agribusiness, we must go beyond empowerment to investment. At KIC, we are not just training women, we are creating a future where their businesses thrive, their voices are heard, and their impact is undeniable," Mercy Tuffour, Gender and Safeguarding Specialist at KIC said.

The success of the Kosmos Innovation Center (KIC) Women's Bootcamp is best reflected in the lives of its beneficiaries, women who have turned training into tangible opportunities for economic growth and self-reliance.

Meet Jamila Shido, a young unemployed woman who found hope and opportunity through the Women's Bootcamp in her community. After receiving training in pastry making, Jamila took a bold step to start her own business.

"The training from KIC and its partners has really empowered me. Today I bake, sell pastries and earn a stable income, to contribute to my household," she said.

Beyond pastry making, the Bootcamp also introduced women to various vocational and agribusiness opportunities. Emmanuella Annan, a student, joined the bead-making training and has successfully launched her own business while continuing her studies. Her entrepreneurial journey is a testament to the power of skills development in creating financial independence.

Together in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation and Kosmos Energy, we are building stronger, more equitable communities and a brighter future for all.



Greenheart SE and KIC promote environmental sustainability through E2S Project launch



As part of efforts to mitigate factors responsible for climate change, Greenheart SE, a biotechnology company, has out doored the Emission to Solution (E2S) Project aimed at addressing Scope 1 carbon emissions in agricultural processing facilities at a launch ceremony. The ceremony also saw the presentation of three efficient carbonizers to the Magazine Palm Kernel Processors Association at Ada Magazine in the Eastern Region.

The Emission to Solution innovative technology is designed to reduce pollution by 80%, mitigating harmful emissions from waste burning while creating sustainable, bio-based solutions. Biochar, the key output of this technology, offers multiple benefits, including improving soil health, raising soil pH, remediating polluted soils, sequestering carbon, and serving as a natural pest control agent. These characteristics make it a valuable resource for farmers, enhancing both productivity and environmental sustainability.

Green Heart SE is currently part of Kosmos Innovation Center's AgriTech Pro Challenge program, which provides training and capacity building for young agripreneurs and start-ups to scale up their operations. In an interview, Lead at Greenheart SE, Caleb Lumor, outlined the project's goals. "In the first year, the initiative aims to convert 3,000 tonnes of agricultural waste into 600 kilos of biochar and 75,000 litres of crop protection lotion while reducing 2,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions. The end goal is to eliminate 1 million tonnes of CO₂ from the atmosphere in the next 5 years," he said.

Receiving the carbonizers, Gifty Daglo, Leader of the Magazine Palm Kernel Processors Association promised on behalf of her team to make the most of the carbonizers in order to preserve the environment.

"The introduction of these carbonizers is a game-changer for our work as palm kernel processors. For years, we have sought ways to improve our operations while minimizing environmental harm, and today we have seen our wishes come true. We are grateful to GreenHeart SE and



Kosmos Innovation Center and its partners. We pledge our commitment to ensuring that our processing methods align with environmental best practices," she said.

Executive Director of the Kosmos Innovation Center, Benjamin Gyan-Kesse, emphasized the importance of carbon capture projects in addressing climate change: "The deployment of carbonizers marks a significant step forward in decarbonizing agribusiness operations and promoting sustainable practices. This initiative underscores KIC's dedication to driving innovation that ensures a more resilient and sustainable future for agribusiness in Ghana," he said.

"By integrating sustainable practices into the agricultural value chain, we are not only reducing environmental impact but also creating long-term economic opportunities for agripreneurs," he added.

The introduction of the Emission to Solution (E2S) Project and the deployment of carbonizers mark a pivotal moment in the drive toward sustainable agribusiness in Ghana. By supporting the transformation of agricultural waste into valuable resources while significantly reducing carbon emissions, Green Heart SE and the Kosmos Innovation Center are promoting eco-friendly innovation in the agribusiness sector.

KIC partners engage with selected incubated businesses

The Executive Director of Kosmos Innovation Center (KIC), Benjamin Gyan-Kesse, together with Tara Connor, Vice President, Global Social Investment, and Country Director for Sao Tome and Principe, Kosmos Energy and other key stakeholders, recently conducted a site visit to some KIC-incubated businesses in the Central Region of Ghana.

This visit was part of KIC's ongoing efforts to strengthen incubated businesses across the country providing engagement, evaluating progress, and discussing strategies to scale-up their ventures. Additionally, the visit aimed at identifying strategic interventions that would enhance business growth and long-term sustainability.

KIC's Incubation Program in the region is coordinated in partnership with the University of Cape-Coast, Design Thinking and Innovation Lab (D-Hub). The team was warmly welcomed to the D-Hub by Dr. Keren Arthur, Faculty Advisor and Director.

In addition, as part of ongoing engagement with KIC Businesses, Kamil Nabong, KIC Portfolio Manager also visited the operational sites for three incubated KIC businesses, Del-Soy, Jaasgrow and Agrocold, to evaluate their operational requirements and opportunities for scale-up and growth. The entrepreneurs expressed their appreciation for KIC's continued support and the stakeholders' keen interest in their success.

Speaking on behalf of the incubated businesses, Bridget Ama Eshun, Co-founder of Delsoy, expressed gratitude to KIC and its partners for their guidance and commitment to fostering entrepreneurship. She emphasized that with the right support, businesses within the KIC portfolio could achieve their outlined goals and scale operations effectively.

Giving an overview about the visit, Mr. Benjamin Gyan-Kesse, Executive Director for KIC reiterated KIC's dedication to supporting agribusiness entrepreneurs, stating: "The businesses within the KIC portfolio have demonstrated resilience and immense growth potential. Kosmos Innovation Center and its partners remain committed to fostering entrepreneurship and providing the necessary support to enable agribusinesses to thrive, contributing to economic growth and food security in Ghana."



NYU and Imperial College London students interact with KIC and KIC start-ups during a learning visit



On 25th and 28th March 2025, KIC hosted students from New York University (NYU) and Imperial College London, as part of an learning visit organised by Hilltop Global. Students were introduced to KIC's approach to entrepreneurship and youth empowerment. They also interacted with some KIC start-ups in the Incubation Program.

On 28th March, a mini-pitch Challenge event was organised at KIC where the teams from the two universities presented on various project ideas they had been working on to promote environmental and resource management. The pitch was organised in collaboration with a team from Juspong Group of companies who had previously presented case studies on different ongoing and potential project areas relevant to the company's operations. A team also made a presentation on the growth and acceleration prospects for KIC as an organisation, based on their research and interaction with KIC. At the end of the pitch, the students demonstrated a keen sense of research, business acumen and entrepreneurial approach to business management and problem solving.

Speaking about the impact of such initiatives, Philip Agbeko, CEO and Founder of Hilltop Global outlined the importance of experiential learning and exchange programs for students to experience opportunities within Africa and Ghana for that matter.

On his part, Benjamin Gyan- Kesse, Executive Director of Kosmos Innovation Center highlighted the importance of youth-led and youth-centred approaches to innovation as critical to identifying opportunities for social growth and economic development.



KIC's AgriTech Challenge Pro Pitch emphasizes Entrepreneurship beyond Pitches



Kosmos Innovation Center (KIC) has organised Business Validation Trips for the 44 startups currently competing in the 2025 KIC Agritech Pro Challenge. These field visits are a critical part of the competition, designed to provide mentorship to startups while also assessing the real-world implementation of their business ideas, and their viability for funding and scale.

After progressing to the Agritech Challenge Pro stage in November 2024, 52 startups received USD2,000 in traction funding to further develop their agribusiness concepts. After the first pitch event held this year, 44 start-ups were selected to progress to the next stage of the competition. The Business Validation Trips were organized to evaluate effectively how the startups used this support, checking on their progress, operational set-up, customer engagements, partnerships, and overall business readiness.

The validation visits were carried out across various regions, with the KIC team engaging directly with the founders, customers, and community stakeholders. “This process allows us to ensure that we are supporting startups that are not only promising on paper but are truly creating value in the real world,” said Ato Ulzen-Appiah, the Entrepreneurship Development Specialist at KIC. He also added that the validation trips are a unique opportunity to witness innovation, impact, and commitment at the grassroots.

From tech-enabled farming solutions to sustainable processing methods, each team showcased what they have been able to build with the traction funding, whether it was product development, customer acquisition, building minimum viable products (MVPs), or improving service delivery.



Speaking about the impact of the engagement, Kamil Nabong, Portfolio Manager at KIC said: “The Business Validation Trips serve as a vital checkpoint in the Agritech Pro Challenge, helping KIC better understand the challenges the startups face, while also celebrating their creativity and resilience, and assessing their progression towards the next phase of the competition.”

As the Agritech Pro Challenge moves into its Final phase, the insights gained during these visits will play a key role in shaping the support provided to the most promising ventures, ensuring that KIC continues to invest in solutions that are grounded in reality and capable of scaling impact across Ghana’s agricultural value chain.

The Grand Finale for the KIC Pro challenge is scheduled for the Month of May in Kumasi.



KIC Fellowship hosts Homecoming Event to ignite Innovation in Ghana's agribusiness ecosystem



In March 2025, the KIC Fellowship Community organised a Homecoming Event in Kumasi, bringing together 123 Fellows from across Ghana. The gathering, which welcomed past and present participants of KIC programs, served as a dynamic platform for networking, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas to drive innovation within the country's agribusiness sector.

The event showcased the Fellowship Community's dedication to nurturing young entrepreneurs and professionals who are passionate about transforming Ghana's agribusiness landscape. It featured a series of engaging sessions tailored to empower attendees with the knowledge and connections needed to advance their ventures. Highlights include Panel Discussions on Insights from industry leaders and successful alumni on navigating emerging opportunities in agribusiness. There were also Interactive Breakout Groups for Focused discussions on business development, investment readiness, and AgriTech innovation.

During the event, there was also a Networking Mixer, creating Opportunities for Fellows to foster collaboration and mentorship, strengthening their collective impact.

The Homecoming Event created a vibrant atmosphere where ideas flourished, connections deepened, and a renewed sense of purpose emerged among participants. By rekindling the spirit of community, the gathering became a springboard for innovative partnerships and ambitious plans aimed at scaling agribusiness ventures across the nation.

As the Fellowship Community looks to the future, plans are underway to institutionalize this event, making it an annual fixture for strategic reflection, peer support, and shared learning. The Homecoming promises to be a cornerstone of the KIC Fellowship's mission to inspire transformative impact within Ghana's agribusiness ecosystem.



Weaving the Thread of Science in the Fabric of Agriculture: A Spotlight on Naa Ayeley, a young KIC Entrepreneur



By harnessing the power of the sun, her innovation reduces spoilage, ensures food security, and creates employment opportunities for young people in the agribusiness space. Her work stands as a testament to the limitless possibilities that science and technology offer in shaping the future of agriculture.

In partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, KIC is committed to providing empowerment to young people through entrepreneurship and innovation within the agricultural sector.



In a world where agriculture and technology are becoming increasingly intertwined, Naa Ayeley is leading the charge with innovative solutions that transform post-harvest practices. As a co-founder of Sunify Solardry Technology, a KIC-funded agribusiness startup, she is redefining sustainable food preservation through cutting-edge mobile solar drying technology.

Naa Ayeley started her journey, when she joined the KIC AgriTech Challenge Classic program in 2023. In 2024, her team won at the AgriTech Challenge Pro Final Pitch event, and joined the KIC Incubation program the same year. Through her experience at the KIC program, she founded a start-up with her colleagues to provide solar technology solutions for post-harvest storage.

With a deep understanding of post-harvest challenges, Naa Ayeley and her team are tackling food waste, improving grain quality, and empowering smallholder farmers with affordable and accessible drying solutions. “I was a science student in Senior High School (2016 to 2019) and offered midwifery at the Tertiary level which has all shaped my analytical mindset, but I can boldly say that my experience at Kosmos Innovation Center is what has broadened my perspective on agribusiness and entrepreneurship,” she said.



Aretha Forson, a KIC start-up promoting sustainability in haircare industry



A Bright Future Ahead

Aretha's vision extends beyond just providing haircare products; it aims to inspire self-care and confidence among individuals, particularly women. With its emphasis on sustainability and high-quality formulations, the brand is set to leave a lasting mark on the haircare industry.

Kosmos Innovation Center remains committed to empowering young entrepreneurs like Aretha Forson, ensuring that businesses can thrive while contributing to a more sustainable future.

Aretha Forson company is one of the winners of the 2024 KIC AgriTech Challenge Pro. Working in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, KIC is empowering many young people to become entrepreneurs while providing employment opportunities within the agricultural and agri-adjacent sectors.

Kosmos Innovation Center (KIC) continues to drive innovation and sustainability by supporting ground-breaking businesses, and one such success story is Aretha Wear It Out. The plant-based haircare brand is making a significant impact in the beauty industry by catering to individuals with textured hair using natural, eco-friendly ingredients.

Plant-Based Solutions for Haircare

One of the company's brands, Aretha Wear It Out specializes in haircare solutions derived from nuts, seed oils, and natural herbs to address common hair health challenges. With a product line of six sustainably produced items, the brand focuses on nourishing and strengthening textured hair while maintaining a commitment to sustainability.

Speaking about the brand's mission, Co-founder Aretha Forson stated, "Aretha is redefining haircare for textured hair with plant-based solutions, sustainably crafted to preserve hair health and empower women. With the support of Kosmos Innovation Center, we are growing a future rooted in sustainability and self-care."

Commitment to Sustainability

Sustainability remains a key pillar of Aretha's operations. The company prioritizes eco-friendly packaging and ensures that its production processes align with environmental consciousness. By integrating sustainability into its core values, Aretha is helping customers make responsible choices while maintaining healthy hair.



Velho Carbons drives sustainable water management



As the world marked World Water Day on March 22, Kosmos Innovation Center (KIC) highlight the remarkable work of Velho Carbons Ltd., a KIC-supported business that is redefining sustainable water purification for agriculture in Ghana. Through KIC's partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, many young entrepreneurs like Velho Carbon receive training and capacity building in entrepreneurship within the agricultural and agri-adjacent sectors.

Innovative Water Purification for Sustainable Farming

Water quality plays a crucial role in sustainable agriculture, impacting soil health, crop productivity, and overall food security. Many farmers in Ghana face the challenge of accessing clean water for irrigation due to industrial runoff, chemical residues, and microbial contamination. These pollutants degrade soil fertility, reduce yields, and threaten long-term agricultural sustainability.

Velho Carbons Ltd. is addressing this pressing issue through innovative and eco-friendly filtration solutions. By repurposing organic waste—primarily coconut husks—into high-quality activated carbon, the company provides natural and cost-effective filtration systems that remove impurities, contaminants, and toxins from water sources. This initiative is not only improving irrigation water quality but also promoting healthier crops and sustainable farming practices.

A Circular Economy Approach

Beyond filtration, Velho Carbons Ltd. embraces the principles of the circular economy, ensuring that agricultural waste is transformed into valuable resources. By converting coconut husks into activated carbon, the company is reducing waste while contributing to environmental conservation and climate resilience. Their technology mitigates the impact of waterborne pollutants on ecosystems, reinforcing the urgent need for sustainable water management in agriculture.

Empowering Farmers and Communities

“At Velho Carbons Ltd., the mission is clear: to empower farmers, agribusinesses, and communities with access to clean water for irrigation, ensuring food security and environmental preservation.” Dr. Erastus Mak-Mensah, Co-Founder of Velho Carbons Ltd.

Through their groundbreaking work, they are driving awareness of responsible water use while equipping the agricultural sector with the tools needed to thrive in the face of climate change.



Picture Gallery from 2025 AgriTech Challenge Pro First Pitch

