



# ACCELERATE >>

HARNESSING **YOUTH & STUDENT**  
COLLABORATIVE **INNOVATION & EDUCATIONAL**  
EXCHANGE FOR **AGRIPRENEURSHIP** AS A  
DRIVER FOR **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**





## WHY WE CARE

Agriculture is in urgent need of intensification to be able to feed a growing world population. However, intensification has often shown to be at odds with sustainability due to an increased reliance on synthetic chemical farm inputs that lead to unsustainable use and degradation of ecosystems, which ultimately affects human and animal health.

The effects are possibly most strongly felt in Africa, which is grappling with both the largest rate of increase in human population on a continent and at the same time experiencing the largest yield gaps exacerbated by climate change.

The challenge is formidable: a harmonious agricultural transformation eyeing both the increased production and ecological and social sustainability. But so are the benefits: economic growth & poverty reduction across the board, employment opportunities for youth, women and the elderly, and sustainable exploitation to preserve and restore natural resources for generations to come.

How do we forge a change? The search for innovative solutions to sustainable intensification and transformation of agriculture through innovations and entrepreneurship is critical and requires speed, scale and concerted efforts from a range of stakeholders and actors; public and private.

Above all success will to a large extent depend on the human resource engaging in the sector and the ability for universities to churn out graduates who are innovative and capable of translating their education into business (agri-preneurship).





## KEY IN DRIVING INNOVATION & CHANGE IS YOUNG PEOPLE!

Young people readily adopt new ideas & technologies and drive innovation. Sadly though, worldwide, youth engagement in agriculture is low, which is reflected in the associations the word evokes: underdeveloped, backward, limited job opportunities, and generally considered 'uncool'. This negative connotation is amplified in African smallholder farming, which is economically barely sustainable, is poorly connected to markets, information and capital, and has concomitantly a low social status. Accelerate seeks to drive this innovation!

## WHAT IS ACCELERATE?



Accelerate is a global innovation lab providing platforms, resources and mentorship for youth and students to collaboratively hack solutions and innovations leveraging sustainable agripreneurship as a catalyst for sustainable development in Africa.

The platform harnesses the collaborative & innovative potential of young people as change agents and capable of building cutting-edge solutions to create their own jobs, inspire their peers, spearhead community transformation and drive the sustainable development agenda.

Accelerate focuses on four key areas that are relevant and attractive to young people;

- Sustainable urban food production & value chain development
- Community agro-ecotourism
- Student educational exchange programs
- Knowledge sharing through technological innovations



**EDUCATION**  
**RESEARCH**  
COLLABORATIVE  
INNOVATION  
**EDUCATIONAL**  
**EXCHANGES**

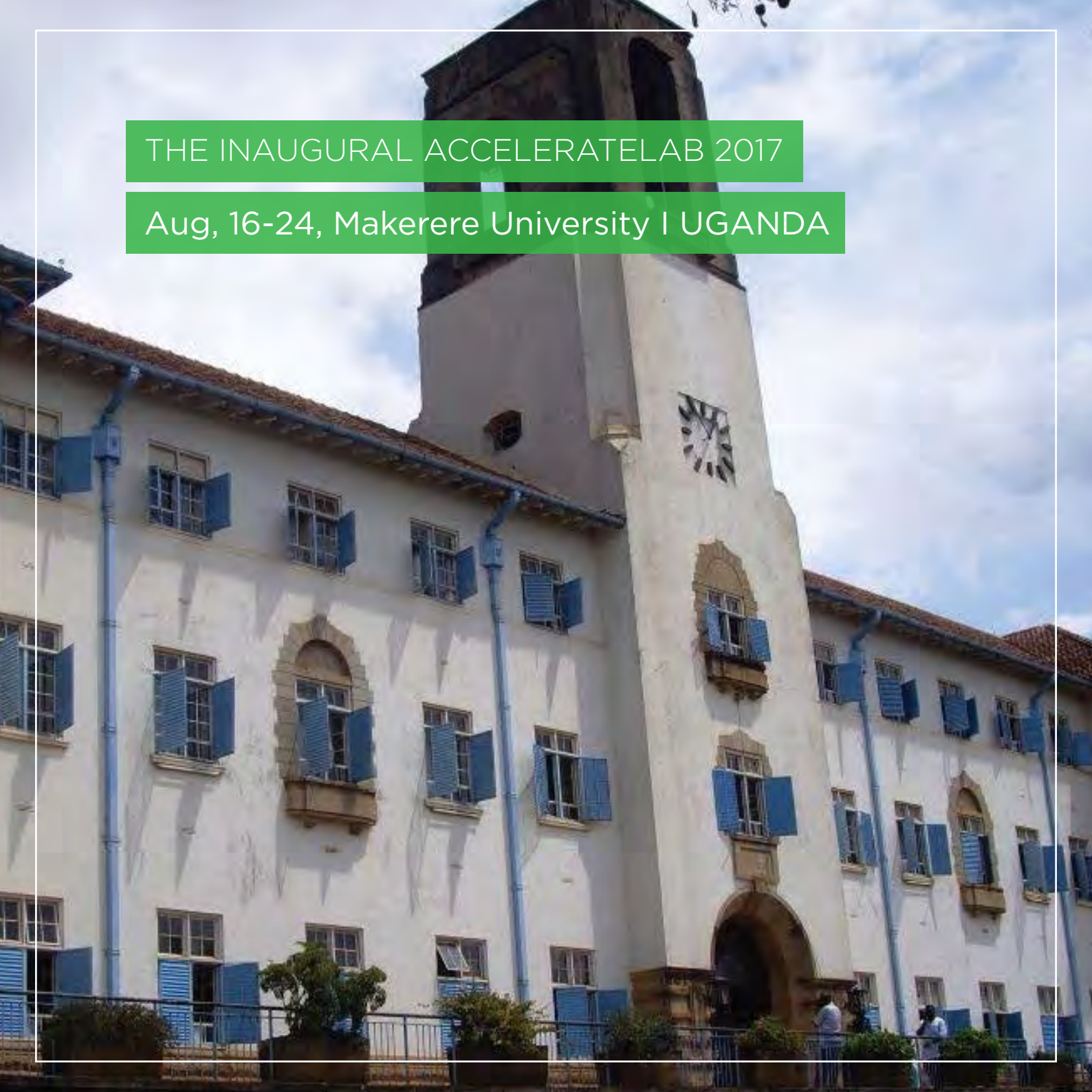


**AGRIPRENEURSHIP**

The inaugural 10-day long AccelerateLab2017 took place in Uganda and involved key stakeholder engagements, a workshop, a hackathon and 'learning journeys'. The Lab was organized to rally key stakeholders, put in place strategies for a Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP), resource mobilization (financial, expertise, materials and mentors) but most importantly bring the first batch of youth and students from different universities, institutions and agribusiness startups together to start on the journey of collaborative innovation, bring ideas into motion and get the work going.

THE INAUGURAL ACCELERATELAB 2017

Aug, 16-24, Makerere University | UGANDA



## OUR MODEL

Our model is of a knowledge, innovation, business and of young people driven agricultural revolution.

# THE WORKSHOP AUG 17

The inaugural lab brought together participants for a multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary workshop at Uganda's oldest and leading institution of higher learning and one of the leading universities in Africa – Makerere University.

The student exchange and workshop brought together efforts that focused on youth, education, innovation and sustainable agribusiness and served many goals directly and indirectly, including: food production in areas where it is critically needed, opportunities for youth in rural areas, increasing entrepreneurship and agribusiness opportunities in agriculture, equitable agribusinesses from the grassroots, a new generation of farmers who embrace knowledge-intensive and sustainable transformation, harness collaborative innovation as well as knowledge and technology transfer, increasing global perspectives in our farm management and agribusiness training programs.

The 'Accelerators' came from myriad backgrounds including local youth innovators and agripreneurs in Uganda, students and teachers from local, regional and international universities, civil society as well as seasoned mentors from the business development field, entrepreneurship, leadership and academia.

The workshop involved keynote addresses, expert panel discussions, plenary sessions and synthesis discussions.

The workshop proceedings aimed to put in place strategies to;

- Increase the attractiveness and interest in agricultural programs worldwide
- Provide a platform for interlinking courses between programs and bidirectional exchange between programs.
- Identify knowledge gaps in the formal educational and informal circuits (short courses, online resources) that are pivotal in agribusiness skill development.
- Permeate agricultural and agribusiness programs with a global and sustainability perspective.
- Facilitate platforms and harness the potential for collaborative innovation and blended learning.
- Build new and future agribusiness networks, harness mass collaboration and increase future equitable trade opportunities with emphasis on environmentally sustainable products and services along the value chain.

## Key Outcome from the Workshop

Key outcome from this inaugural workshop was the commitment from a diverse stakeholder network to champion the mandate and vision of Accelerate as a key platform for creating educational linkages with the private sector for agribusiness development.

# The hackathon

Aug 18, 2017, Makerere University

Hacking is collaborative problem solving. On the second day of accelerate, the young talented youth and students were tasked identify key challenges hindering agripreneurship development, ideate, prototype and come up with business models.

But first, they were taken through design thinking process, business modeling and user entered design by Brian Ndyaguma, a renowned expert facilitator in the fields in question.

The hackers were randomly grouped into six teams and each team was assigned a thematic area covering the entire agribusiness value chain. The thematic areas were;

- Sustainable Production
- Value Addition
- Market Development And Linkages
- Information And Knowledge Extension
- Educational Exchange
- Rural Innovations.





## Meet Featured innovators

Ambrose Kamy, Ramathan Nkutu, Fatuma Nabatanzi and Others.

Students, Makerere University

Innovation: Pesticide Residue Detector(Biosensor)

The organic food market is growing globally and reached \$81b in 2016. Local and regional organic food consumption is equally growing at an exponential rate. But a challenge still remains on how to ascertain that there are no pesticide and other chemical residues in food. Farmers need to be sure of the food quality they are sending to the market, exporters need to be sure that the organic food consignments they are exporting will pass the residue tests so buyers don't reject them, and healthy conscious consumers local and international need to be sure that they are paying a premium price for food that is indeed free of pesticide residues. But there has not been an easy way or device to do this.

Ambrose Kamy (Bsc. Agric) and Ramathan Nkutu (Bsc. Software Eng) both students at Makerere University, have developed a Pesticide Residue Detector (PRD) Biosensor that is quick, portable and useable onsite by anyone. It uses both light and current principles, where a prepared sample is illuminated, part of the light is absorbed by the solid in sample due enzyme-pesticide reaction and the rest is transmitted to form current. Due to a curvilinear relationship established between transmittance and current for the different pesticides through a series of experiments, the unknown concentration of the pesticide in the sample is displayed on the screen. It has also got a mobile app, where a buyer away from the test scene can obtain results of the test in real time by just

inserting a code provided by the testing personnel.

This kit will be affordable and easy to use by any ordinary person and it comes in handy for many youth urban and peri-urban organic food producers as they close in on the high value organic market that is growing. This comes as an alternative for organic certification, which is always cumbersome, bureaucratic and super expensive.

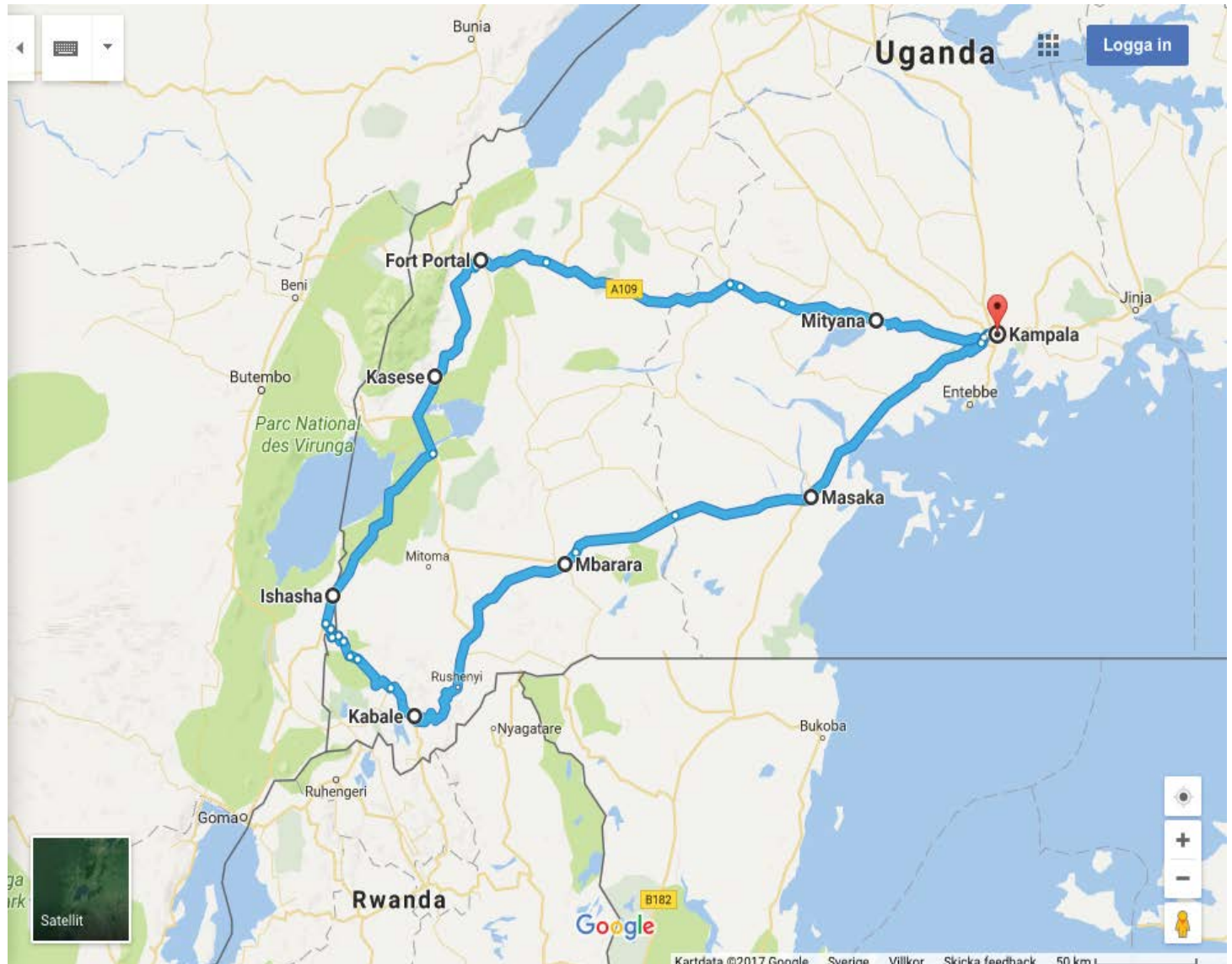


*Ambrose Kamy, Team Leader*

## The Learning Journeys: Aug 19- 23, 2017 Western Uganda

To further understand the gaps, the Accelerators had to interface with challenges, opportunities and successes alike by going on learning journeys through west and southwestern Uganda. Several sustainable agribusinesses and social enterprises would be visited and a lot of insights would be generated.

### The Route



*Some of the enterprises visited and engaged during the earning journeys;*

## Rural Community in Development (RUCID)

Located near the town of Mityana, the RUCID organic agriculture training college provides practical hands on skills to the students from across East Africa. Their model is that of training youth that are able to solve challenges along the agri-food value chain and become job creators rather than job seekers. RUCID's firm grip on ecological practices is enviable and the practices are applied on their sizable organic farm. Their sustainability philosophy is of a farm that is 'ecological, economically viable and beautiful'



## Bukonzo Organic Coffee Cooperative Union (BOCU):

Producing premium Arabica coffee on the ranges of Rwenzori Mountains in western Uganda, the Bukonzo coffee farmers have gone agroecological to adapt to and mitigate the effects on a changing climate. But their coffee is sold as green beans with no value added to the European and American buyers. This has led to what we have termed 'coffee flight' where most of the coffee value is realized by the buyers in the 'north' leaving the toiling farmers languishing on the farms.

Aware of this, accelerate seeks to empower BOCU to develop short coffee value chains where coffee can be roasted at the cooperative, packaged and supplied to local coffee houses as well as hotels and safari lodges in the tourist corridor. Plus, we have a commitment and already working to support ecological restoration and resilience initiatives through knowledge dissemination, practical training and tree planting on the ranges already supported by EOA.



## Change a Life Bwindi

Founded in 2015 by Tina, a young passionate lady, Change a Life Bwindi, a social community enterprise working with women and children in the Ruhija community around the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, is living example of the power that passionate young people have to cause change for social good. Bwindi is one of the homes of the majestic Mountain Gorillas.



The initiative has looked within for the solutions to the many challenges and through skills development; women are able to produce beautiful craft products, which they sell to the many tourists that come to track Gorillas.

Accelerate will henceforth be working to support Change A Life Bwindi through skills development in agroecological and sustainable enterprises including beekeeping, organic farming, community agro-ecotourism as well as product development and market linkages.



## Eco-tourism on Lake Bunyonyi

Boasting as the second deepest lake in Africa, Bunyonyi doubles as a magical archipelago comprised of 29 islands guarded by the terraced hills and overlooking the Virunga Mountains further southwest.

Because of this incredible beauty, a lot of tourism activities and businesses take place around and on the lake including lodging, restaurants and bars, swimming, boat rides, birding, among others.



The potential for sustainable eco tourism however is enormous. This would start with restoring the ecosystems of the degraded hills that would attract more tourists for guided nature walks and birding along the lake, develop product chains and souvenirs to tap into the tourist market, and equipping the youth around the lake with travel and hospitality management skills, all of which Accelerate is exploring the avenues for collaborative support.

## Kamatarisi Farm – Agrotourism on an Ankole Long-horned Cattle Ranch

Sustainable agribusinesses must harness the potential of indigenous knowledge and cultural heritage. As agricultural intensification continues to champion exotic breeds and hybrid practices, the famous and majestic Ankole long-horned cattle are every resilient to climate shocks and to pests and diseases but are being threatened and getting wiped by the introduction of exotic breeds. Yet they embody the mantle as custodians of culture and heritage but also of a sustainable livestock production system.

Visiting Kamatarisi Ranch in Biharwe, Mbarara, we were awed by these majestic cattle but also challenged by enormous the sociocultural and business opportunities surrounding the Ankole long-horned cattle. The ranch already makes money from tourism as a cultural tourist site on top of its core business – beef.



The potential of agroecotourism is enormous and Accelerate will be laying strategies for harnessing this enormous potential. There are many other farms not just livestock farms that can profit from agroecotourism and Accelerate will be championing similar initiatives focusing on young people by equipping them with knowledge and skills of ecological design, hospitality management, market linkages and communication.

## Kahwa2Go - Coffee-themed Restaurant

Kahwa2Go is a contemporary coffee-themed restaurant run by two young innovators and agripreneurs in Kampala. Located strategically at the Innovation Village block, the café blends perfectly in the community of young and serial innovators and serves as another success story of what young people can do if they are passionate and fully committed to an enterprise.

The Accelerators indeed frequented the café multiple times, not only to learn from the amazing story of these young agripreneurs, but also to enjoy the freshly made food and aromatic coffee and herbal teas.

The proprietors are now looking into backward linkages, to organize and train several young urban residents to practice urban farming, grow some of their foods especially vegetables in vertical gardens but also potentially earn good revenues from the sale of their produce to several restaurants in Kampala including Kahwa2Go.



*Brian (Right), the Kahwa2go proprietor explaining his business model to the accelerate team*

## The Innovation Village Kampala

The 'Village' as its commonly known is a breeding ground for innovators and entrepreneurs spanning from key sectors of development importance including Agribusiness, Green Enterprises, Fin-Tech, Edu-Tech among others. Again, the Innovation Village is a breeding ground for mentors whose successful startup stories and seasoned entrepreneurs inspire young and emerging entrepreneurs. Accelerate is already leveraging this platform and human expertise and particularly during Accelerate2017, several seasoned innovators were engaged during the workshop and hackathon to share their success stories and as mentors respectively. Accelerate will continue to build collaborations with spaces and platforms like the 'Village' to serve as incubation centers for our agripreneurship innovators and students to tap into tools, experts and resources for scaling.



## Key Outcomes from Accelerate Lab 2017

- Accelerate conveners and stakeholders committed to continue to organize innovation labs, workshops and stakeholder engagements in different locations;
- Following the hackathon, the idea to establish the 'Accelerate Seed Fund' would be born. The fund will seek to pool funds to support the initiative, provide startup tools, mentorship and resources to scale the brilliant youth and student ideas.
- Over 30 institutions have already been engaged under the Accelerate Network and more are joining. Accelerate is open for interested and relevant institutions to join the consortium. There are continued engagements to rally support and tap into resources and expertise of other key relevant stakeholders including government and international development agencies, knowledge institutions and business development partners.
- Already, over 300 innovators (students and out of school) are being incubated under Accelerate Lab. These young agripreneurs and innovators will be continually engaged and supported by a multi-disciplinary team of mentors to make sure the ideas grow into startups and profitable agribusinesses.
- Documentation of the exchange and engagements: a team of documentary makers were involved in recording using audio/video/photography the workshop, hackathon and the fieldtrip and have prepared a short video documentary and other content that will be used by all stakeholders to galvanize more support and collaborations.

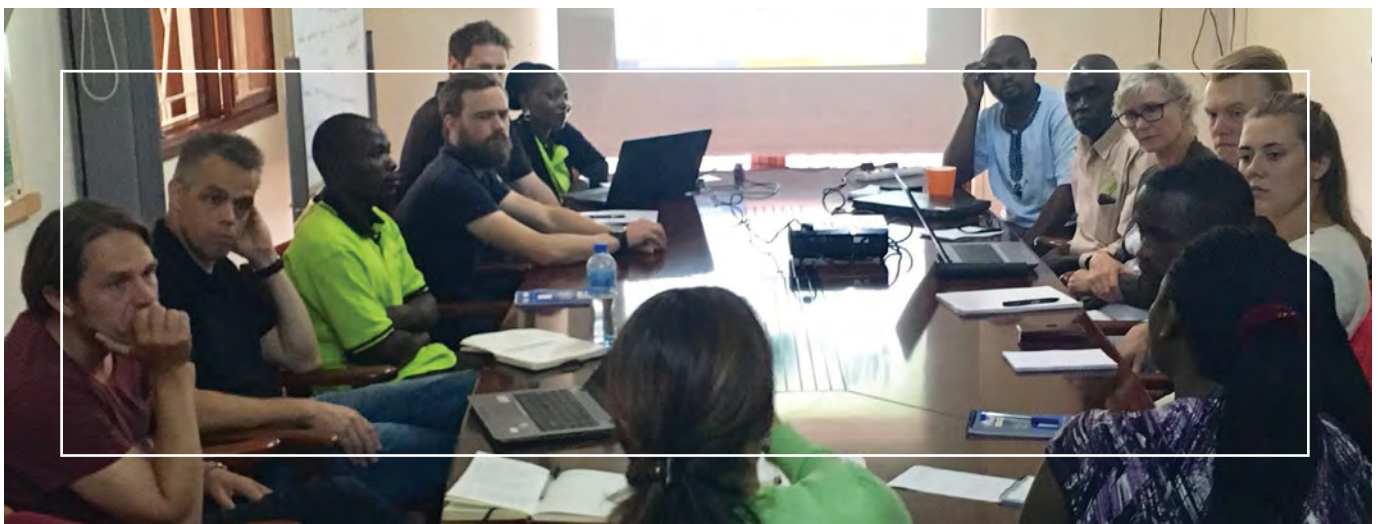


## Stakeholder Engagements Aug 16 & 24, 2017 Kampala, Uganda

Stakeholder engagement is at the heart of any collaborative initiative. The Accelerate Team had very fruitful strategic engagements with key and relevant institutions in Kampala.

These included among others; the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) whose Youth Agripreneurs Program is a force to reckon with, Makerere University which is the official host of the initiative in Africa, the Innovation Village Kampala – the biggest community of young innovators, the Open Sustainability Institute (OSI) with a rich pedigree of championing mass collaboration, the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) whose consortium of 66 universities across Africa is a fertile ground for coordinated student exchange programs, Uganda Martyrs University whose Center for Excellency in Agroecology is another force to reckon with, and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) whose Integrated Country Approach for decent rural youth employment strategy meets part of the mandate of Accelerate.

Several other engagements were made with several sustainable agriculture initiatives during the learning journeys in western Uganda as already indicated.



Meet some of the Institutions (both public and private) that are already engaged in the Accelerate initiative.



Established in 1922 as a humble technical school, Makerere University is one of the oldest and most prestigious Universities in Africa. The University's main mandate is research, training and community outreach. The University is an important player for research collaborations in Africa and is the official host of Accelerate in Africa. [www.mak.ac.ug](http://www.mak.ac.ug)



Swedish University of  
Agricultural Sciences

The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) focuses on research and education for sustainable development. SLU is the official host of Accelerate in Europe. [www.slu.se](http://www.slu.se)



SLU Global implements the strategy for global development and poverty alleviation SLU. As a University wide platform, it coordinates and supports the university's research and education aiming at developing the agricultural sector in low-income countries. Over the last year, SLU Global has developed and supported several initiatives and workshops on youth in agriculture. SLU Global is a key resource mobilization partner of the Accelerate Initiative. [www.slu.se/slu-global](http://www.slu.se/slu-global)



The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a consortium of 66 African universities operating within 26 countries spanning the African continent. RUFORUM works to foster innovative and responsive research; high performing and proactive graduates; a dynamic platform for university networking; advocacy for agricultural higher education; and university transformation for relevance'. [www.ruforum.org](http://www.ruforum.org)



Open Sustainability Institute (OSI) is an independent think tank that rallies the power of people to create balanced and shared prosperity while working in harmony with nature. OSI leverages the power of mass collaboration to make critical sustainability knowledge and data more democratized and harnesses the power of young innovative people as change agents. [www.opensustainability.org](http://www.opensustainability.org)



The Agripreneurship Alliance is a partnership drawn from around the world including businesses, universities and non-governmental who all have a shared vision of thriving communities organizations that are supported by successful youth-driven



The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is a non-profit institution that generates agricultural innovations to meet Africa's most pressing challenges of food security and natural resource degradation. Working with various partners across sub-Saharan Africa, IITA aims to improve livelihoods, enhance food and nutrition security, increase employment, and preserve natural resource integrity. [www.iita.org](http://www.iita.org)



Uganda Martyrs University is one of the champions of research and training in agroecology in Africa. The university just recently won a Center for Excellency in Agroecology that will support several masters and PhD programs.



**GULU UNIVERSITY**  
For Community Transformation

Gulu University is mandated to provide access to higher education, research and conduct quality professional training for the delivery of appropriate services directed towards community transformation and conservation of biodiversity. The University has, in collaboration with Egerton University (Kenya), established an agripreneurs program that focuses on equipping students with practical entrepreneurial skills. It would be intriguing to learn from their programs and see how we could create links between them. [www.gu.ac.ug](http://www.gu.ac.ug)



An important partner as they have an agribusiness management and agricultural economics program, which parallels LMP program at SLU. Egerton has entrepreneurship programs at university and regionally (including hands-on how to start a farming business) - strengthening universities capacity to enhance competitiveness of agribusiness in East and West Africa. [www.egerton.ac.ke](http://www.egerton.ac.ke)



The Intergovernmental Authority on Development ([www.igad.int](http://www.igad.int)), and particularly their IGAD Sheikh Technical Veterinary School (ISTVS) is a tertiary education institution located in Sheikh, Somaliland, was adopted by IGAD in July 2012 in line with its strategy to explore the viability of establishing a dedicated institutions working for improved resilience in the pastoral areas of the horn of Africa. [www.stvs-edu.org](http://www.stvs-edu.org)



BDC focuses on training, coaching and incubation services for entrepreneurs to start and grow successful businesses. Their flagship seminar, developing an entrepreneur in 10 weeks, [bdcuganda.com](http://bdcuganda.com)



The Innovation Village is a community of emerging and seasoned innovators in Kampala that are working to bring 'ideas to life' to solve greater social-economic and environmental challenges. There are various labs at the Village but very relevant to this collaboration are the Agribusiness and Climate Action Labs, which are very focused on incubating agribusiness and environmental solutions. Also very relevant is the FinTech Lab, which helps innovators to connect to seed fund, technology and business development. [www.innovationvillage.co.ug](http://www.innovationvillage.co.ug)



Makerere University Business School is the school of business and management of Makerere University, Uganda's leading and oldest university. Its business and entrepreneurship programs are some of the most revered in the entire region.  
[www.mubs.ac.ug](http://www.mubs.ac.ug)



ProInterns is the go to platform for internship opportunities in Uganda, whether you're a student or fresh graduate looking for new opportunities to kick start your career or an employer searching for an intern to boost your business effectively; ProInterns is the place to make that happen  
[www.pro-interns.com](http://www.pro-interns.com)



Kahwa2Go is a contemporary startup coffee themed restaurant run by two young innovators and agripreneurs in Kampala. Located strategically at the Innovation Village block, the café blends perfectly in the community of young and serial innovators and serves as another success story of what young people can do if they are passionate and fully committed to an enterprise.  
[kahwa2go.com](http://kahwa2go.com)



RUCID's primary aim is to work with smallholder farmers so that they can improve and sustain their agricultural production, household income, environmental protection, health issues, nutrition, and women in development.  
[www.rucid.org](http://www.rucid.org)



Teach a Man to Fish is particularly interested in business development through education. The organization aims at providing the relevant education that bridges the gap between school and work.

[www.teachamantofish.org.uk](http://www.teachamantofish.org.uk)



The National Organic Agriculture Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU) is an umbrella organization, which unites producers, processors, exporters, NGOs and other institutions, and organizations that are involved in the promotion and development of the organic sector in Uganda. The organization's main mandate is to build capacity and promote Training, Research, Extension and Education in organic agriculture in Uganda and to promote Local and Export Marketing of organic products from Uganda.  
[www.nogamu.org.ug](http://www.nogamu.org.ug)



The Consortium for enhancing University Responsiveness to Agribusiness Development (CURAD), is an agribusiness innovation incubator geared towards creation of jobs and boosting incomes within the agricultural sector in Uganda piloting with the coffee value chain.

[www.curadincubator.org](http://www.curadincubator.org)



Sida, the Swedish International Development Agency, recognizes the importance of the issue of youth and agriculture. In May 2017, Sida hosted a SIANI-SLU Global workshop on youth. The Swedish Embassy and the Uganda representative of Sida are significant players for discussion around future development and exploring funding possibilities.

[www.sida.se](http://www.sida.se)



FAO has worked in close collaboration with the Government of Uganda in the quest to eradicate hunger and improve nutrition of its population. Currently, the FAO in Uganda has a strategy for decent rural youth employment under the Integrated Country Approach (ICA) program and is working with youth farmer champions to drive more young people into agriculture.

[www.fao.org/uganda/en/](http://www.fao.org/uganda/en/)



**The MasterCard  
Foundation**

The MasterCard Foundation seeks a world where everyone can learn and prosper. Their mission is to advance education and financial inclusion to catalyze prosperity in developing countries. Through the MCF@RUFORUM project, the MasterCard Foundation supported the activities of Accelerate2017

[www.mastercardfdn.org](http://www.mastercardfdn.org)



The EOA-I is an initiative of the African Union Commission mandated to mainstream organic agriculture and agroecology into national policies in Sub Saharan Africa and promote sustainable agriculture practices. The initiative also champions and supports collaborative innovation for sustainability through its information and communication pillar implemented by Makerere University. EOA supported the activities of Accelerate2017.

[www.organic.ug](http://www.organic.ug)



## MEET SOME OF THE 2017 'ACCELERATORS'



Adipala Ekwamu

Professor and Executive Secretary at the  
Regional Universities Forum for Capacity  
Building in Agriculture  
(RUFORUM)



John Ddumba-Ssentamu

Professor of Economics and Former Vice  
Chancellor, Makerere University



Teun Dekker

Associate Professor at the Swedish University  
of Agricultural Sciences & Theme Leader;  
Efficiency in Farming Systems, SLU Global



Fred Kabi

Associate Professor, College of Agricultural &  
Environmental Sciences, Makerere University



Kostas Karantininis

Professor of Economics and Management at  
the Swedish University of Agricultural  
Sciences (SLU) and Assistant Theme Leaders:  
Efficiency in Farming Systems, SLU Global



Georg Carlsson

Associate Professor of Agricultural Sciences at  
the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences  
(SLU)



Christina Lunner Kolstrup

Associate Professor at Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)



Malin Planting

Communications Specialist at SLU



Samuel Nyanzi

Managing Director at Rural Community in Development (RUCID)



Michael Otti

Sustainable Design Specialist at the Open Sustainability Institute



Moses Osiru

Deputy Executive Secretary at the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)



Anthony Egeru, PhD

Manager of the MCF@RUFORUM project at Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)



Brian Ndyaguma

Business Modeling and Innovations Scaling  
Specialist & Entrepreneur



Moses Engwau

Executive Director, Business Development  
Center - Uganda



Julius Mwine

Professor, Uganda Martyrs University



Catherine Tindiwensi

Lecturer of Entrepreneurship & Management  
at Makerere University Business School



Ronald Muwambi

Procurement Specialist at United Nations



Victoria Sekitoleko

Former Ugandan Minister of Agriculture &  
Founding Chair of the Uganda Agribusiness  
Alliance





Sam Iga

Poet, Veterinary Assistant, Community Development, Entrepreneur



Rushongoka Wa-Mpiira

Managing Fellow at the Open Sustainability Institute



Fillipa Inga Elizabeth Jonson

Student of Farm Management at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences



Basil Mugonola

Head of Department of Agribusiness & Rural Development, Gulu University



Fred Wesonga

Principal, IGAD Sheik Technical Veterinary School - Somaliland



Sixten Lundqvist

Masters Student of Agroecology at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences & Associate Fellow at the Open Sustainability Institute



Vanessa Atim

Founder and CEO, ProInterns



Solomon Kitumba

Serial Innovator and Entrepreneur & Senior 'Villager' at the Innovation Village Kampala



Diana Kobumanzi

Design Specialist Dar Vida Interior & Administrative Assistant at Open Sustainability Institute



Gustav Weidman

Student of Farm Management at Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences



Chris Forsythe

Masters Student of Agroecology at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences



Hjalmar Tindberg

Student of Farm Management at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences



Emmanuel Chagara

Founder & CEO, Milima Technologies



Philip Asedri Dradrio

Programmes coordinator, The Open Sustainability Institute



Apollo Segawa

Managing Director, Consortium for Enhancing University Responsiveness to Agribusiness Development (CURAD)

## ACCELERATE IN 2018

A number of activities have already been proposed that will leverage the milestones of Accelerate so far and usher the initiative into full operation.

### Continued Incubation of students' agripreneurial projects

Accelerate's core mandate is to support students in developing actual agri-food projects at all stages of business development: From ideation, to feasibility studies, to prototyping, business plans, to development, financing, execution and scaling. Students are involved throughout the process, guided and coached by teachers and real-life entrepreneurs and mentors. Documentation and follow-up of Accelerate projects is key for the continuity of the initiative, and evaluation of the impact. Documentation and follow-up will also generate a unique database for future research on youth entrepreneurship. This will be unique because projects will be documented from conception to execution and followed to success and possibly failure thereafter. NO such inventory and database of projects exists to our knowledge. As this documentation accumulates, it will be very useful for the continuity as well as serving as a baseline for similar interventions in the future and data for the future assessment of the impact of Accelerate.

### Accelerate Workshops and labs

These will be teacher-student exchanges but also involving real life entrepreneurs and agribusiness managers and leaders. The purpose of these workshops is to create a common understanding of the concepts and approaches of youth entrepreneurship in the agri-food industry. Such workshops have already been organised successfully.

These workshops are necessary to maintain the momentum and the cohesion of the Accelerate team. It is also a great opportunity for laying down and organise future plans, and joint application writing.

### Notably;

- Accelerate will host a workshop in Sweden, in Spring 2018
- AccelerateLab 2018 in Kampala, Uganda that will be hosted around September.

Other associated conferences, workshops, or courses outside of the main Accelerate events will be engaged in including;

- A symposium on "youth in agribusiness for sustainable development" within the International Agricultural Economics Association (IAEA) tri-annual conference at Vancouver, Canada on July 28-August 2, 2018
- Global Challenges University Alliance (GCUA) Workshop on Youth in Agriculture Demo graphic Dividend: Youth, Agriculture and the role of University under SLU's GCUA in Zanzibar, Tanzania, in September/October 2018
- And other workshops and stakeholder engagements will possibly be hosted as plans unfold.

### **Learning Journeys in Africa and Sweden**

Students learn by experiencing real-life situations and problems. A preliminary such trip took place in Aug 2016 to IITA in Nigeria, and the recent learning journeys in Uganda during AccelerateLab2017. In the learning journeys, students (and other young entrepreneurs) from Africa will be guided to a field trip hosted by SLU students, SLU teachers and Swedish entrepreneurs. This will give the opportunity to African students to learn from Swedish agri-food, and explore potentials for North-South projects. The journeys will also give the SLU students the opportunity to explain and interpret Swedish Agri-food to their African counterparts, which is by itself a great learning exercise. Other learning journeys will take place in Uganda as part of AccelerateLab2018.

### **Education and e-Learning**

The principle of “Youth entrepreneurship in agribusiness for sustainable development” should be introduced in teaching at Universities in our network. For instance, courses such as ‘Value chains and networks in the bio-economy’, courses on entrepreneurship, rural development, as well as agro-ecology, and other courses and programs that need to be investigated. In collaboration with the education department of SLU and the rest of partner universities, Accelerate will provide an inventory of potential courses and programs that could incorporate youth entrepreneurship in agriculture into their teaching curricula.

Teachers and students who have participated in Accelerate activities could give guest lectures in these courses. The inventory of Accelerate projects will also be a great resource.

Furthermore, e-Learning lectures and courses will be developed, starting from existing courses,

in order to transfer knowledge between North-South with reciprocity, cross-border exchange and mutual understanding.

### **Educational Exchange**

Teacher and student exchange is at the heart of Accelerate activities. Through workshops, field trips and project involvement, as well as through programs, such as Linnaeus Palmer (LP) that can facilitate and finance such exchange. Currently, several SLU teachers together with their African counterparts are working on Linnaeus Palmer applications.

### **Resource Mobilization**

Coordination of application for funding research and education on youth and entrepreneurship in agri-food. With its established network and activities Accelerate is in a good position to overview and coordinate funding endeavours and consortia for international funding applications. There are ample opportunities that need to be coordinated and leveraged so that they have a better impact.

# WE ARE WORKING TOWARDS THE REALIZATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## CONTACT INFORMATION

### UGANDA

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Fred Kabi,

Associate Professor, College  
of Agricultural & Environmental  
Sciences, Makerere University  
P.O Box 7062, Kampala  
Tel: +256 772 657 155  
Email: fred.kabi@gmail.com

Rushongoka Wa-Mpiira,

Managing Fellow,  
Open Sustainability Institute  
Tel: +256 772 749 067  
Email: official@opensustainability.org

### SWEDEN

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Teun Dekker,

Assoc. Professor, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) & Theme Leader, Efficiency in Farming Systems, SLU - Global  
SE-230 53 Alnarp  
Sweden  
Tel. +4640415306  
Mobile +46737087920  
Email: Teun.Dekker@slu.se

Kostas Karantininis,

Professor, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)  
Assistant Theme Leader, Efficiency in Farming Systems, SLU-Global  
Email: karantininis.konstantinos@slu.se  
  
Also, Van Vliet Chair Professor  
University of Saskatchewan, Canada

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