

Concept Note

Youth and Women Greenovations Project Workshop AfriLabs Annual Gathering Event

Lusaka -Zambia, 27 October 2022

Objective: To improve knowledge and common understanding on youth and women innovation and entrepreneurship opportunities and needs in the green sectors on the African continent. It further aims to capture ecosystem insights on various aspects related to the promotion of green innovation and entrepreneurship on the continent.

Intended outcomes:

- Improved understanding of the green innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem landscape and market for African youth and women
- The development of suitable and appropriate measures and actions fostering the promotion of youth and women entrepreneurship on the continent.

Background:

Africa is recording some of the fastest growing economies with a tremendous youth dividend potential. It is forecasted that more than half of the continent population will be under the age of 25 by 2050, and that there is a tremendous economic potential for the continent if subsequent investments are made on human capital. In addition, it has been identified that a gender gap exists in entrepreneurship ventures on the continent which should be addressed to unlock women entrepreneurship potential and make a huge contribution to the continent's growth and prosperity. Youth and women private sector development can therefore be enhanced by expanding the portfolio of bankable, concept-proofed green business models that are investor ready.

About the YW-GE project:

The Empowering African Youth and Women Green Entrepreneurs (Youth & Women Greenovations) project seeks to contribute to the green economic transformation of the African continent building on its youth dividend, and the tremendous youth entrepreneurship potential for wealth and job opportunities creation. The project focus on green sectors which are sectors associated to the green economy striving to the establishment of a more inclusive economy addressing human wellbeing and social justice in harmony with the ecological environment.

The project aims to strengthen the ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship with appropriated measures and structures through the setup of a framework composed of actors and stakeholders of the green innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in Africa to support the identification, ideation, development of solutions and start-ups attracting and absorbing large capital with a focus on women and youth in the green sectors of renewable energy, waste management, water management, smart agriculture and climate actions.

In acknowledgement of the important role of the actors in the Tech and Innovation hub within the innovation ecosystem in supporting African youths to develop new entrepreneurship ventures and the different challenges they face in the provision of this support to youth in different contexts across the continent, the project will provide an opportunity to share views and understand the needs of the different stakeholders active in the green sectors with particular focus on impacts on youth and women. Moreover, in its operational plan, the project seeks to identify actors who could champion the implementation of reference incubators in the different green sectors, and lead the activities of the green innovation and entrepreneurship stakeholders Alliance to be set up; to improve, adapt and replicate the project outcomes in different locations in the continent.

Therefore, it is key to interact with key stakeholders of the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem on the continent to get valuable insights from the ground on the different thematic aspects addressed by the project. The AfriLabs Annual Gathering, as a flagship event of AfriLabs, provides a unique opportunity to learn and share knowledge, network with different tech hubs within the AfriLabs network and other stakeholders of the African technology and innovation ecosystem such as corporates, development agencies, academia, and investors, provides an excellent opportunity to collect relevant primary data for the achievement of the project outcomes.

Outputs:

Different reports will be drafted building on the different inputs from the workshop, and contribute to fostering the promotion of the green innovation and entrepreneurship on the continent.

Date:

The workshop will take place the **27 of October** in Lusaka, **14:05 – 16:05**.

PROGRAMME

Timing	Session	Moderator
27. Oct 22		
10 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction and Presentation of the YW-GE project • Definition of Green innovation and Entrepreneurship and the five sector of interest/scope 	Moderator
30 min	<p>Green Sector Market Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your assessment of the green sector market in Africa? • Does the market offer entrepreneurship opportunities for youth? For Women? • What are existing types of programmes/accelerators funding green innovation project? 	Moderator
30 min	<p>Tech Hubs and Start-ups needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are Tech Hubs needs to effectively support start-ups in the green sector? • What are the start-ups needs to be successful in the green sectors? Are there any specific to women entrepreneurs? 	Moderator

Timing	Session	Moderator
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the knowledge and skills required/needed in the different green sectors? Are there any specific to women? • To what extent do entrepreneurs possess these knowledge/skills? 	
30 min	<p>Green innovation enabling environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What institutional challenges are you experiencing / have you identified in the frame of your activities? Are there any specific to women entrepreneurs? • What is your assessment of the role of women in the green innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems? • What would you recommend for a more effective and conducive environment for the green sector? 	Moderator
10 min	<p>Collaboration opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would you like to be involved further in the project? Specify the role you would like to play: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joining the Alliance - Reviewer of the project outputs - Course syllabus development - Mentorship - Other 	Moderator
10 min	Conclusion and next steps	