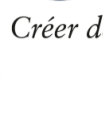




DRC AGRIBUSINESS INNOVATION CHALLENGE



IFC Société Financière Internationale
GRUPE DE LA BANQUE MONDIALE

Créer des marchés, créer des opportunités

IN NUMBERS

148 Applicants

10 Finalists Short-Listed

03 Winners Selected

In October 2023, in a joint effort, Intelcap and the IFC's Global Index Insurance Facility (GIIF), ran the DRC Agribusiness Innovation Challenge aimed to highlight and showcase dynamic innovators working to streamline the country's agribusiness ecosystem through scalable technological solutions from productivity, access to finance and climate resilience with the objective of strengthening the Congolese agri-industrial ecosystem and boosting the productivity and profitability of SMEs and small-scale farmers. Together, they identified 10 of the most promising agribusinesses who are looking to scale their innovative solutions that are driving agriculture resilience in DRC

THEMES

COLOR LEGEND



Agriculture Productivity



Market Access & Linkages



Climate Resilience/Insurance



Agro-processing/Post-harvest Solutions

SELECTED ENTERPRISES



Green Community Mind (GRECOM)

1st Place Winner
Location: Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo
Website: www.grecom-rdc.com



The Problem

There is a lack of structure and traceability in the beekeeping value chain. There is a drop in production due to poor beekeeping and agricultural practices, inaccessibility to apinaries and market information systems and low investment by stakeholders in the value chain.

Company Description

Nyuki Tech is a mobile application that serves as an interface between beekeepers and customers. It allows beekeepers to register, be identified and receive technical instructions. With it, they can remotely monitor their hives, control temperature, humidity, predators, and determine the ideal time for harvest. The app also provides information on market systems by region, while earning commissions on each sale facilitated.



Kivu Kuku Poultry Farm

2nd Place Winner
Location: Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo
Website: www.kivukuku.com



The Problem

Chicken farmers face difficulties such as dependence on imports of hatching eggs and day-old chicks, lack of access to conservative and sustainable energy and post harvest losses which limits their productivity and profitability

Company Description

Kivu Kuku operates a "chicken bank" model, entailing the local production of hatching eggs and chicks, the use of solar cold rooms to address the lack of conservative energy sources, as well as in the recycling of organic waste for biogas production to help reduce dependence on charcoal and mitigate deforestation, while promoting production and use of organic fertilizer



Bilanga Solutions

3rd Place Winner
Location: Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo
Website: www.bilanga.pro



The Problem

Many farmers find it difficult to sell their products outside their immediate region, which leads to the loss of many crops due to rot. On this, farmers are pushed to sell their products to intermediaries at derisory prices. The provision of market information regarding the pricing of products. Many farmers in the DRC lack training and information on best agricultural practices, which can lead to crop losses due to poor harvesting and storage techniques.

Company Description

Bilanga is a web and mobile platform allowing farmers and agricultural producers to access the market and decide where, when and how to sell their products to retailers. The farmer has the possibility to post advertisements online and receive SMS notifications each time his products are sold. Urban buyers and consumers can access the platform, view the price list and order local products without traveling.



MakChips

Finalist
Location: Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo
Website: www.mak-chips.com



The Problem

More than 85% of packages chips were imported in 2022, while only 15% were locally sourced. This is not in accordance with the norms. Monoculture and packaging in plastic are used on 30,000 hectares supported by the National REDD Fund.

Company Description

MakChips processes and markets fruits and vegetables into natural chips, from the permaculture stage to the processing of potatoes, taro, sweet potatoes and plantains. MAKCHIPS, which uses sustainable packaging, uses a multi-channel distribution strategy, through its team of mobile sales agents, a network of general and modern trade retailers, schools, universities and associations, and a soon-to-be-released direct-to-consumer mobile app, allowing households to order their products for home delivery.



KivuGreen Corporation

Finalist
Location: Goma Democratic Republic of Congo
Website: www.kivugreen.cd



The Problem

Farmers in DRC are clearing forests to increase production, which releases carbon and contributes to global warming. They are vulnerable to climate change and lack access to markets, leading to degraded products and reduced income.

Company Description

KivuGreen is a digital platform powered by artificial intelligence that connects small farmers in real time to agricultural information such as weather, market prices and advice for climate-resilient agriculture. Accessible via SMS, USSD, chatbot and even voice call for illiterate farmers, the platform also connects them to markets through cooperatives. The information is transmitted in local language and works with or without an internet connection.



MabeleAgric

Finalist
Location: Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo
Website: www.mabele-agric.com



The Problem

The chaos in the agri-food sector begins with expensive and unavailable inputs. Food deficit and seasonality cause high prices in DRC.

Company Description

MabeleAgric produces quality food with exceptional nutritional value at 30% less of the price. In order to eliminate price fluctuations, the main ingredients are produced locally, corn, and come from the recycling of organic waste, maggots. To ensure quality, ingredients are analyzed and meticulously rationed. To make small producers profitable, MabeleAgric offers systematic support, based on modern and sustainable production techniques and encompassing site prospecting, growth charts, feasibility studies and project execution.



Epices Du Kivu

Finalist
Location: Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo
Website: www.instagram.com/epicesdukivu



The Problem

In DRC there is a scarcity of local spices on the local market, long-term storage for spices.

Company Description

Epices Du Kivu is a spice brand that has built its reputation on competitive pricing and a commitment to sourcing 100% locally, which sets it apart from its competitors. They offer a variety of local spices in powder form, as well as unique sauce blends. Plus, their spices are available in powder and sauce form, with the added bonus of affordable \$1 options that set them apart from others on the market. Epices Du Kivu also offers a monthly subscription service aimed at hotels, restaurants and individuals.



Valorigo

Finalist
Location: Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo
Website: www.valorigo.com



The Problem

In the DRC, small farmers struggle to access stable markets and sell their products leading to post harvest losses. Small urban retailers struggle to obtain a reliable supply of agricultural products.

Company Description

PHATI is an e-commerce platform acting as an intermediary between local farmers and small-scale agricultural retailers in the DRC. PHATI charges farmers subscriptions allowing them to list their products on the PHATI platform. Conversely, small retailers use PHATI for free to find reliable, quality agricultural supply sources.



Synchros

Finalist
Location: Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo
Website: www.synchrostechnology.com/my-site



The Problem

Farmers in the DRC struggle with the effects of climate change which leads to a drop in yields, soil erosion, and the spread of harmful species, causing agricultural losses and food insecurity. This threatens the social and economic development of vulnerable communities.

Company Description

Synchros is a technology startup that uses drones to offer environmental solutions in various sectors sensitive to climate change in the DRC and Africa. By combining drone technology with artificial intelligence and data analytics, Synchros offers safer and more cost-effective tools to improve business and environmental decisions. In particular, Synchros helps farmers obtain crucial information on the health of their soils and crops.



Lokoba Agro Business

Finalist
Location: Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo



The Problem

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, small farmers and agricultural producers struggle to access stable markets and sell their products profitably. They are vulnerable to climate change and lack access to markets, leading to degraded products and reduced income. Additionally, there is a scarcity of terroir spices on the local market, and there is no long-term storage for spices. The food security crisis, scarcity of local agro-industrial processing units, and scarcity of raw materials (corn) are also major issues.

Company Description

Lokoba produces and sells high-quality cornmeal products to improve food security, create economic opportunities and promote better nutrition in communities. Food Bio is also used to make biscuits, donuts and crepes. Lokoba's vision is to manually remove impurities from food.