

Project Name: ENABLE-TAAT Project**Organization(s):** IITA Youth Agripreneurs**Dates of Implementation:** 2018 (ongoing)**Countries:** Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Tanzania, Cameroon and Nigeria.**Partners:** CIP, ILRI, ICRISAT, AATF, WorldFish, AfricaRice, CIAT, FARA etc.**Website:** <https://youthagripreneurs.org/enable-taat/>**Project Description:**

ENABLE-TAAT project is an agribusiness incubation project aiming at improving livelihood for youth and women by increasing youth employment and production of nutritious food.

This project ensures that unemployed graduates from diverse academic background are recruited and trained on entrepreneurship, marketing, value addition of the nine highlighted commodity value chain at IITA's youth in agribusiness incubation centers. The nine commodity value chains include cassava, rice, wheat, maize, orange fleshed sweet potato, sorghum and millet, small livestock, iron fortified beans, and aquaculture. Project participants are encouraged to develop bankable business plans for funding by financing organizations. These enterprises are mentored and monitored in line of expansion, challenges encountered as well as lessons learned.

The ENABLE-TAAT project is a three-year project funded by the African Development Bank but has the potential of being financed for continuation through phase 2 of this project. The project will also leverage on public-private partnership to get resources for training and financing the agribusiness start-up enterprises of the trained youth.

Target Population: Young graduates between 18-35 years from diverse background (agricultural or non-agricultural backgrounds). ENABLE-TAAT recruits from the following groups:

- **Female.** ENABLE-TAAT promotes equal representation in agriculture and supports women to explore their potentials especially in value addition in this male dominated field.
- **Rural youth.** ENABLE-TAAT introduces agribusiness to rural youth for them to embrace agriculture as a full-time job so as to reduce rural-urban migration.
- **Unemployed.** Unemployed youth are given priority to reduce the search of white-collar jobs rather training and providing them with platforms that make them job creators and employers of labor in the agricultural space.

Results to-Date and/or Target Results:

ENABLE-TAAT project is currently being implemented in 7 countries and has registered about 3,412 aspiring youths in Agribusiness of which, 2,358 youth have been trained across the value chains of Cassava, Maize, Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato (OFSP), Poultry and Aquaculture as well as business plan development and management skills. Fifty-six Agribusiness plans have received approval and 31 independent youth-led agribusiness start-up enterprises were established with each creating direct jobs for 3-5 persons leading to the employment of 238 youth. The target of this project is to operate in 19 countries and register 5,000 youth. The project has reached 74,654 direct and indirect beneficiaries.

Interesting Features & Innovations:

- Featuring an incubation approach that changes perceptions about agriculture especially for the target group with non-agricultural background
- Pushing for the establishment of an agricultural park which promotes agricultural development in rural areas.
- Innovating in commodity value chains.
- Planning to scale up through leveraging on public-private partnership.