

Strengthen ATVET institutions to offer agribusiness trainings for growth and jobs



Agri-Business Facility for Africa (ABF)

Breitenwirksame Förderung von Investitionen ländlicher KKMU in Afrika

The opportunity

Enhancing entrepreneurship skills and agribusiness management is crucial for Africa's agriculture, economic transformation, and sustainable growth. One of the most critical limitations in this regard is capacity of African institutions to provide Agricultural Technical Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) for high-quality workforce and entrepreneurs especially the youth and women. Therefore, ABF aims under its output 2 to support selected ATVET institutions to upgrade their capacities in the training of students and young professionals as multipliers of proven approaches.

A competitive selection of institutions across Africa has been accomplished with a fully structured survey and a jury constituted by experts from North, West, Central, East and Southern Africa. From 85 recommended and invited ATVET institutions, 24 participated in the expression of interest. The results below indicate important opportunities to improve the coverage and depth of agribusiness topics by ATVET institutions: 40 to 60% of the participating institutions indicated to implement trainings on economics, entrepreneurship, producer organizations and value chains. Less than 20% indicated to offer trainings on digital approaches for agricultural extension.

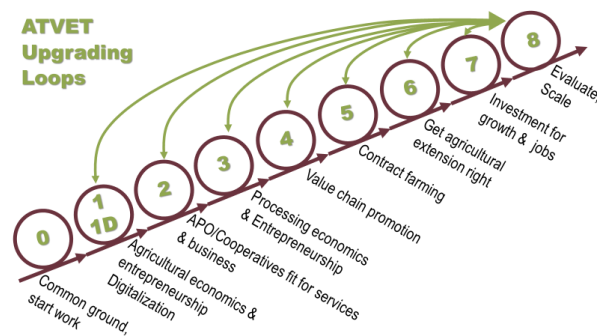


After a structured assessment and scoring according to predefined criteria, 14 institutions have been interviewed by the international jury resulting in the final selection based on their capacities, motivation, cooperation, and determination for improvement and innovation.

<i>Centre Songhai, Benin</i>	<i>Bako Agricultural College Ethiopia</i>
<i>ENAFEA Matourkou, Burkina Faso</i>	<i>LAS, Kenya</i>
<i>ISSAEER, Cameroon</i>	<i>MS TCDC, Tanzania</i>
<i>ANADER, Cote d'Ivoire</i>	<i>IABC, Uganda</i>

The approach

The upgrading strategy has been developed with the selected partners and covers the topics below.



To materialize each upgrading loop, we follow these steps:

- ➔ Survey for ATVET teachers/trainers' skills assessment;
- ➔ Preparation of training content and methods with African experts;
- ➔ Online upgrading of teachers and simulation among teachers to foster their capacities to train learners;
- ➔ Roll-out to students subscribed and external professionals;
- ➔ Biweekly management meetings of partners to exchange on progress and decide on adjustment.

Material support is provided through small grants focusing on IT equipment among others according to the needs of partners.

Results

COVID-19 restrictions have hampered onsite advisory services since inception of ABF. Digitally supported formats and channels have been harnessed extensively. This enhanced continuous direct exchange among partners, group dynamics, and implicit benchmarking cutting across 8 institutions and countries. So far, over 150 teachers participated in 10 online upgrading thematic trainings (loops 1 to 5 in English and French) delivered to strengthen thematic, methodological, and didactic knowledge and skills in general. Andragogy methods for adult online training lead the way in these loops.



So far about 4,300 learners (34% women) including subscribed students and external professionals have been trained in different agribusiness trainings provided by their teachers. The majority focused on the topics of agricultural entrepreneurship and economics.



Way forward

Recent field trips to the respective countries permitted to initiate national and regional linkages for professional networks and platforms for mutual learning.

Supported ATVET partners will also play a key role in the upscaling and networking. Hybrid format trainings and online networking involving other 80 ATVET institutions on demand

basis will be implemented with ABF backstopping and advisory.

ATVET teachers and learners will use the new e-learning platform Agribusiness e-Academy developed by ABF and hosted at atingi.org. It offers self-paced learning for ATVET professionals, students and entrepreneurs and value chain professionals to foster their knowledge and skills on agronomy, entrepreneurship and economics needed for successful agribusiness.



Success factors of ABF advisory

- Relevant training content addressing our needs
- Network among all anglophone, francophone partners
- Participatory trainings including all trainers, teachers
- Openness, commitment, and trust from the beginning
- Testing new and innovative tools and instruments
- TIME! invested in building partnerships step-by-step

Outcomes and impacts

- Implementation despite lockdown
- Many experts included --> easier to bring them all together
- Networking across many countries without travelling
- Overhaul of training material in line with new trends
- Learning and becoming better by doing
- Cost-efficient trainings

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