



Environmental Alert Agri-business and Incubation Centre, Kyevunze , Kikoma Parish, Katikamu Sub county, Luweero District.

1.0 Introduction

Environmental Alert acquired 10 acres of land in **Kyevunze**, near **Wobulenzi** in **Luweero district**. EA is to carry ground breaking activities that will lead to the establishment of the Agri-business and incubation center. Further information about Environmental Alert is available in **Box 1**.

2.0 Background

Ugandan Universities and other institutions of higher learning are not sufficiently geared to meet the needs of the private sector. Graduates often cannot find gainful employment, while many small businesses lack staff with the education and skills needed to drive innovation. But also there are endless opportunities for graduates to start their own businesses through agribusiness incubation. Every year 480,000 graduates enter the job market but only about 60,000 find jobs. The theoretical knowledge imparted and lack of practical entrepreneurial and business skills remain key limiting factors. Essentially, the relationship between the demands of the private sector and what universities teach is too weak. The lack of sufficient innovative graduate agripreneurs is attributed to the very restricted contact between university faculty and businesses that results in a misfit between the type of graduates that the universities are producing and the industry's requirements.

Therefore, during the 30 years anniversary celebrations at Kyevunze in Luwero District, Environmental Alert will do ground breaking ceremony for establishment of an agribusiness and incubation centre to equip graduates with practical entrepreneurial and business skills. At this centre, Graduates will undergo a 12 months practical training by managing and running the enterprises at the incubation center as businesses and thereafter, they will graduate and will be expected to upscale the businesses. This will be done through strategic partnerships with Universities and colleges among others. In this respect, Environmental Alert has already signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Bukalasa Agricultural College to persue shared interest and goals in this respect.

3.0 Overall objectives

The Environmental Alert Agri-business and Incubation Centre at Kyevunze overall targets at enhancing the intellectual life and professional development of graduate students and the surrounding communities through practical Agri-entrepreneurship skills development in Uganda. Furthermore, the center will also support capacity building for students so that when they graduate, they have the skills to empower and transform their communities.

Besides it provides an opportunity for demonstration best practices and innovations in sustainable agriculture and sound natural resources management. For instance, the center already has about 4 acres of eucalyptus plantation that is well managed. Hence, this one of the practical ways through which Environmental Alert offsets its carbon foot prints during implementation of her programs, there contributing to climate change mitigation.

Overall the best practices depicted through enterprise demos will training and awareness points for the graduates, neighboring community, young peoples and the public at large so that they can emulate similar practices and knowledge on their farms and in the landscapes.

4.0 Specific Objectives

Table 1 presents the specific objectives of the incubation center with respective key strategies to achieve the specific objectives.

Table 1: Specific Objectives of the incubation center

Specific Objectives	Suggested key strategies
A) To support skills enhancement for graduate students by equipping them with practical, technical, entrepreneurial and business skills.	i) Facilitate placement of Bukalasa Agricultural College students at the Environmental Alert Agri-business incubation centre as per the agreed implementation plan for a period of 12 months. This will entail equipping students and graduates with practical entrepreneurial and business skills for application in management of agreed and selected enterprises at the centre for which proceeds would be shared between Environmental Alert and the students as appropriate after offsetting the administrative and management costs; ii) Encourage mutually beneficial educational/skills enhancement activities involving scholars, teachers, educational administrators, and other specialists to lecture, teach, conduct research, and develop cooperative programs.
B) To facilitate promotion of research and innovations development in Agri-entrepreneurship at the centre.	i) Provide expert and technical advice on the application of specific technologies to meet the expectations and demands of graduate students as well as employing companies; ii) Support advancing of capacity building for technical experts to effectively facilitate the development of mutually beneficial programs at the EA established Agribusiness Centre; iii) Development and implementation of joint research programs/projects to address emerging issues and challenges in the agricultural sector
C) To support evidence based policy lobbying at the local and national level.	i) Support joint documentation and up scaling of success stories and best practices at the centre to the local communities; ii) Support profiling of critical and yet neglected issues or technologies in the agriculture sector in Uganda to boost lobbying efforts at local and national level; iii) Conducting targeted policy dialogues for influencing decision making, policy formulation and implementation.
D) To enhance knowledge and skills (of the near community, graduates, students, young people & general public) about sustainable agriculture and natural resources enterprise development and management	i) Advance targeted onsite training and awareness; ii) Collaboration with strategic partners

5.0 Outputs

- a) At least 100 out of 120 un-employed graduates having created new direct jobs through support from the incubator annually.
- b) 100 university graduates having established own businesses with support from the incubators.
- c) New practical skills in practical agribusiness management created for 120 agripreneurs annually.
- d) At least 20,000 people annually benefit from centre by enhancing their knowledge and skills for management of sustainable agriculture and natural resources enterprises.

6.0 Expected outcomes

- a) Agripreneurs with requisite practical skills and knowledge, thus are more employable and or can create employment opportunities;
- b) Reduction in poverty;
- c) Increased incomes.

7.0 An appeal

Environmental Alert therefore appeals to friends, well-wishers, partners and like-minded stakeholders for support through collaboration so that this dream is achieved. Such support can be actualized by pursuing strategic partnerships. Therefore, Environmental Alert is open for any further discussion and interaction to advance this initiative.



Photo 1: Environmental Alert Staff during a field visit at 10 acres of land in **Kyevunze**, near **Wobulenzi** in **Luweero District**. Photo by Environmental Alert.



Photo 2: Sweet potato garden on the 10 acres of land in **Kyevunze**, near **Wobulenzi** in **Luweero District**. Photo by Environmental Alert.

Box 1. About Environmental Alert

Environmental Alert was founded in **1988 and this year (2018) marks 30 years** of contribution to improved livelihoods and development in Uganda through several interventions in sustainable agriculture, environment and natural resources management. Environmental Alert is officially registered with the NGO Board as a Ugandan non-governmental organization, incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. Environmental Alert is governed by an independent Board that is responsible for providing strategic oversight of the organization including ensuring its integrity as a voluntary service organization.

Environmental Alert is a **1st prize winner of the Energy globe award for environmental sustainability-2005 under the category, earth.**

Environmental Alert is a member of the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** and a **Member of the IUCN National Committee for Uganda.**

Environmental Alert envisions, *'Resilient and dignified communities, managing their environment and natural resources sustainably.'*

Environmental Alert's mission is to, *'Contribute to improved livelihoods of vulnerable communities by enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainable natural resources management'*

Program and institutional Components:

1. Environment and Natural resources management;
2. Food security and Nutrition;
3. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene;
4. Finance and Administration;
5. Resource mobilization and Investment.

Scale of Implementation:

Environmental Alert operates in selected districts for generation of evidence to inform policy engagements on agriculture, environment and natural resources at National and International levels. Currently Environmental Alert's operations are in 40 districts across the country. Environmental Alert undertakes area wide targeted awareness on selected issues in agriculture, environment and natural resources engagements.

Environmental Alert is a Secretariat for following networks:

- a) The Network for Civil Society Organizations in Environment & Natural Resources Sector (ENR-CSO Network) - <http://enr-cso.org/>;
- b) Uganda Forestry Working Group - <http://ufwg.entalert.org/>;
- c) The Standards Development Group (for promotion of Sustainable Forest Management in Uganda); and
- d) Promoting Local Innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resources management (PROLINNOVA-Uganda Network) - <http://www.prolinnova.net/uganda>.
- e) Renewable Energy Civil Society Organizations (RECSOs) Network.

Further information about **Environmental Alert** is available at: <http://entalert.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/EA-profile-Updated.pdf>

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