



Environmental Alert: **Agri-Business Incubation Centre**

EA-ABIC: “A CENTRE TO PROMOTE *SUSTAINABILITY* AND
ENABLE *LIVELIHOODS* FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN IN UGANDA”

For more than 30 years [Environmental Alert \(EA\)](#) has been working to improve livelihoods in Uganda through several interventions in sustainable agriculture, environment and natural resources management. Currently EA's operations are in 20 districts across Uganda. EA undertakes structured service delivery mobilizing communities and facilitating development of their skills and approaches that generate experiences, lessons and facts which inform EA's issue-based advocacy agenda at the community, local, national and international levels. In its advocacy work, EA employs the human rights-based approach

Environmental Alert is the secretariat of the following nationwide networks:

- **PROLINNOVA** - [Promoting Local Innovation](#)
- **UFWG** - [Uganda Forestry Working Group](#)
- **RECISO** - [Renewable Energy Civil Society Network](#)
- **ENR-CSO** - [Environment and Natural Resources Civil Society Organizations](#)

to citizen empowerment by raising public awareness about policies, rights, roles and obligations, laws and regulations and best practices in expression of community rights. At the National level, EA has considerable experience in policy advocacy in the environment and agriculture sector. EA directly influences Ministry of Water and Environment's policies and programmes through its strategic membership in the two top policy making organs of the Ministry (The Environment and Natural Resources Sub-sector WG and the Water and Environment Sector WG).

Former and current development partners include:

- Care International
- Water Aid
- WWF
- FAO
- UNDP-Uganda
- GIZ- Uganda



The main challenge that young people face in Uganda is **unemployment**. Even after attending tertiary education the youth can't find a job. A recent study published by African Development Bank puts youth unemployment as high as 83%. This is predicted to become an immense pressure on Uganda's resources in the future, "if the youth aren't brought on board in the years to come, there will be serious problems". Therefore, with such large numbers, and taking into consideration that the biggest employer in Uganda is agriculture, Environmental Alert is establishing an Agrobusiness Incubation Centre (ABIC) about 50 kilometers north of Kampala.

As a well-established environmental NGO Environmental Alert has been fighting for decades to manage natural resources sustainably and has therefore chosen **Agro-ecology** as the guiding principle for all activities at the Centre. Agro-ecology has proven to be effective not only in mitigating the impact agriculture has in regards to the **climate crisis** but also in equipping small-scale farmers with the right tools to adapt to a changing climate.



“The main objective of ABIC is therefore to enhance the economic success of young Ugandans (with special focus on women) as well as smallholder farmers from surrounding communities through practical Agro-ecological entrepreneurship skills development.”

Once the Centre is established, 50 young graduates “aspiring “Agri-entrepreneurs will undergo months-long training at the center every year and up to 10,000 people from surrounding communities will be reached through agro-ecology demonstration sites, youth camps, etc. To ensure the most effective support for the trainees during their time at the Centre Environmental Alert has partnered with the Bukalasa Agricultural College. Even after the participants graduate, Environmental Alert through its networks like PROLINNOVA will support formation of agricultural cooperatives/agri-businesses to provide ready market for her graduates’ produce. The land for the Centre is property of Environmental Alert and currently preparations both on site as well as structural/strategic in nature are on its way. Nonetheless, the establishment of the Centre is still in its early stages **and currently Environmental Alert is looking for new strategic partners** as well as the additional resources to establish the necessary infrastructure (demonstration sites, housing for students, etc.).

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Business Development and Resource Mobilization

