

## AGRIBUSINESS AND AGROPROCESSING INCUBATION OPPORTUNITY AT Consortium for enhancing University Responsiveness to agribusiness Development (CURAD): CALL FOR INCUBATEES APPLICATIONS

1. The Consortium for enhancing University Responsiveness to agribusiness Development (CURAD) is a public-private partnership initiative promoted by Makerere University, the National Union of Coffee Agribusinesses and Farm Enterprises (NUCAFE), National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) and NIRAS international. CURAD is an agribusiness incubator supported by DANIDA and executed by FARA's Unibrain facility. The vision of CURAD is 'to be the leading hatchery for young agribusiness entrepreneurs creating wealth and jobs in East Africa.' CURAD offers the following key services; Business plan development, Food product brand development and certification, improved crop and tree seedling Agri-imputs value chains, Coffee processing value chain(with plant access), and Prototyping new and improved food products and general food processing Business Incubation.

2. The aim of the business incubation services is to nurture and strengthen the competiveness, development and growth of Agri-business entrepreneurs. The services offered under business incubation include; production facilities (including premises and equipment), work stations, technical support and product development among other services. These services enable the firms to build their, products, production capacity, product quality, marketing and packaging capacity thereby facilitating their market access and increasing their market.

3. CURAD has in place a revolving fund to help in availing the services as indicated in (2) and this fund helps to support incubatee's to develop their agri-businesses to sustainable levels while paying back to CURAD to sustain its activities in a mutually beneficial arrangement.

4. The Consortium for enhancing University Responsiveness to agribusiness Development (CURAD) hereby invites expressions of interest for potential incubatees in the coffee value chain and general food processing to apply for business incubation at CURAD incubation center, plants. The plants are located at the Makerere University Agricultural Research Institute Kabanyolo at the address indicated below. The target applicants are both new and established graduates, small scale firms and the general public interested in agribusiness.

5. The successful applicant will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Consortium for enhancing University Responsiveness to agribusiness Development (CURAD) for a period of not exceeding two (2) years, after which the firm will be expected to competitively establish themselves.

6. The following factors will be considered when evaluating the proposal/business plan therefore

your submission should deal with each item;

- The idea or enterprise is viable and home grown, and that it is in a business that uses local content and locally available agriculture raw materials.
- The enterprise has good prospects to engage in regional and global markets, mainly through export of its products/services.
- The enterprise has the prospects and capacity to expand and therefore can be a source of employment or can help spawn other businesses.
- The timeline for enterprise's 'residence' in the incubator can be reasonably predetermined.
- The corporate details and other legal matters pertaining to the formation and articulation of are corporate entity for the businesses already in operation are in place.
- There is evidence of a need for significant use of technology, specifically in a way that the enterprise can contribute to agribusiness development.
- The project subscribes to national priorities such as value addition, poverty reduction and wealth creation.
- The enterprise has a viable value proposition that can be funded
- Applicant from Makerere University especially from the college of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences students, staff and graduates are particularly welcome to apply.
- Applicants with proposals in the coffee value chain are also particularly welcome

The Terms of Reference (TOR) and application forms can be accessed at either the CURAD website (**www.curadincubator.org**) or hand picked from the CURAD office at the address indicated below at no charge.

7. Interested Incubatee's should submit their applications forms including a Covering letter, CVs of directors (if available), and the firm's registration details(if an existing business) to the address below, not later than 15 January 2014.

8. Applications forms are available at the the CURAD office at Kabanyolo Agriculture research center (MUARIK), NUCAFE offices on Plot 35, Jinja road, Coffee House, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Suite 2.7 and Makerere University College of agriculture and environmental sciences at school of agricultural sciences Deans office. And the CURAD website <u>www.curadincubator.org</u>.

Filled applications and any supporting documents may be returned to the same physical addresses or mailed to: <u>asegawa@curadincubator.org</u> or posted to the address below.

9. A non-refundable application fee of Uganda shillings one hundred thousand (100,000/=) for ongoing SME's and farmers groups and fifty thousand Uganda shilling 50,000 for student startups and ideas is payable upon submission of the application form. This will be converted into membership for all approved applications for incubation. Mark all applications "Incubation at CURAD"

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