doroob
by enpact
supported by drosos (...)

Development incubator program
for socially-driven youth in Egypt

Agriculture Track

Challenges and criteria
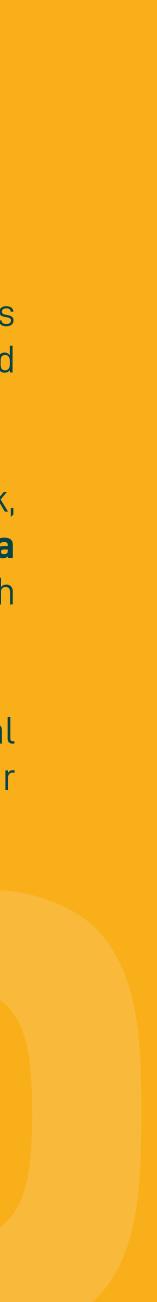
Program Description

doroob is an integrated support program for empowering future entrepreneurs to develop practical life skills and create social impact. It aims to identify students and recent graduates with innovative ideas that tackle challenges in four economically and socially crucial sectors and support them in building their impact-driven businesses.

Each track of the program will focus on one of the following sectors: Creative industries, agri-business, tourism, and healthcare. For each track, 24 - 40 teams will be selected to pitch their ideas in an **on-ground idea competition**, through which 6 - 8 teams will be selected to join **a three-month pre-incubator** to validate their solutions and create the proof of concept (PoC). Up to four teams will then be selected through a pitch competition to advance **to a six-month incubator**, the final stage of the program.

The program provides tailored training, dedicated mentoring, network development opportunities, access to workspaces, access to external expertise and technical resources, and direct financial support for each member of the incubator teams, so that they are able to dedicate their time, energy and resources to turning their ideas into viable solutions.

This track of the program will focus on the Agriculture industry.

The program has been developed by the non-profit organization enpact and is implemented with the support of the DROSOS FOUNDATION.

Target group

This track of the program targets teams of university students and recent graduates who have innovative, socially driven ideas that can advance Egypt's Agriculture sector by tackling four main challenges:

Lack of data and knowledge sharing, supply chain management, agriculture waste management and access to finance and marketing options.

In this application round teams and individuals are encouraged to fill out the application form:

- If you are applying as a team, only the team lead should fill out the application form.
- If you are applying individually, please fill in the same form and

  consider building your team if you make it to the second

  phase of the program.

To take a look at the application for check this link: <u>Click here</u>

Challenge A:

Lack of data and knowledge sharing

Background information:

Inaccurate information sources lead to inefficiencies in farming practices and resource allocation, while the scarcity of personalized recommendations limits farmers' ability to optimize yields and adapt to changing conditions—the presence of data silos and fragmented knowledge sharing further compound these issues.

Problem statement:

Develop a solution to address the significant need for credible and customizable data that fosters knowledge sharing between the agriculture/agri-tech sector stakeholders.

Suggested areas of innovation:

Centralized Data Platform: Develop a centralized digital platform accessible and user friendly to all stakeholders, especially farmers, offering credible customizable data, allowing users to access relevant information based on their needs, such as crop types, regions, or farming practices.

Localized Knowledge Hubs: Establish localized knowledge exchange/sharing hubs in key agricultural regions to be centres for gathering region-specific data, best practices, and localized insights.

Mobile-Based Solutions: Use mobile technology to create user-friendly applications, to offer real-time data, weather forecasts, market trends, and personalized recommendations for farmers, enabling them to make informed decisions.

Capacity Building Programs: Conduct training programs and workshops to enhance digital literacy and data utilization skills among farmers and agri-tech professionals, to utilize available data and technology tools effectively.

Customized Advisory Services: Offer personalized advisory services based on collected data. Utilize AI-driven analytics to provide tailored recommendations for crop management, irrigation schedules, pest control, and optimal resource utilization.

Technology Adoption: Provide incentives for farmers adopting technology-driven solutions, to encourage the uptake of digital tools that rely on credible data for improved agricultural practices.

Supply chain management

Background information:

In Egypt, like in many countries, certain crops face significant losses during distribution due to various reasons such as inadequate infrastructure, improper handling, storage facilities, and logistical challenges. The persistent challenges of supply chain management inefficiencies pose a substantial threat to Egypt's agricultural sector.

Problem statement:

A comprehensive solution is needed to improve supply chain efficiency, reduce losses, and ensure safe and timely crop delivery.

Suggested areas of innovation:

Infrastructure Upgrades: Offer improvements in infrastructure, including transportation networks, cold storage facilities etc. to ensure smooth and efficient movement of crops from farms to markets, minimizing losses due to delays or improper handling.

Technology Integration: Implement technology solutions like IoT, sensors and tracking systems to monitor the condition of crops during transportation, to help identify and mitigate potential issues, assuring the quality and freshness of products upon arrival.

Cold Chain Logistics: Develop solutions to enhance the cold chain logistics system specifically designed for perishable crops; include refrigerated trucks, warehouses, and packaging techniques to maintain optimal temperatures throughout the process.

Market Diversification: Explore opportunities to diversify markets and distribution channels, reducing dependency on a single route or market, to mitigate risks resulting from disruptions in a specific supply chain channel.

Challenge C:

Agriculture waste management

Background information:

Waste management is a pressing concern in Egypt's agriculture sector, as edible products and organic and non-biodegradable materials make up a significant portion of this waste. Effective management, recycling, and utilization of this waste are critical for minimizing its environmental impact. Addressing this challenge is essential to foster a more environmentally responsible and economically viable agriculture sector in Egypt.

Problem statement:

Explore innovative solutions to manage the agricultural waste produced during farming, harvesting, and shipping, either waste collection, recycling, or utilization strategies.

Suggested areas of innovation:

Bioconversion Technologies: Develop technologies that convert agricultural waste, including crop residues, into biofuels, biochar, or biogas to be sold as eco-friendly fuel alternatives or soil enhancers.

Organic Fertilizer/Compost Production: Process agricultural waste into high-quality organic fertilizers and market them to farmers/Farm owners as sustainable alternatives to chemical fertilizers.

Waste-to-Product Innovations: Transform agricultural waste to value-added products, like; packaging materials, paper, or construction materials.

Bioplastics and Biodegradable Materials: Use agricultural wastes to produce bioplastics or biodegradable materials to be used in the food industry and other sectors.

Waste Management "Collection and Recycling": Develop an application/platform to connect waste collectors and farms, to streamline waste collections logistics, and manage recycle process efficiency.

Challenge D:

Access to finance and marketing options

Background information:

Farmers and growers encounter significant financial burdens as they independently finance the entire cultivation process, covering costs such as seeds, fertilizers, staff, and equipment, with limited financial safety nets or guarantees. The scarcity of accessible loans exacerbates these challenges. By adopting effective marketing strategies, traditional farmers in Egypt can increase their sales and create sustainable and resilient businesses that cater to evolving consumer demands.

Problem statement:

Challenging financing and traditional marketing strategies place an enormous burden on agricultural stakeholders, who must independently bear the full cost of cultivation while facing considerable financial risks.

Suggested areas of innovation:

Monitoring systems for banks' loans: Explore options for monitoring systems to encourage banks to offer agricultural loans.

Microfinance Platforms: Create platforms or apps to offer micro-loans tailored for smallholder farmers and to streamline loan applications, and provide accessible financing options for farming needs.

Agri-Fintech Solutions: Develop fintech solutions to integrate digital payment systems with agricultural activities, including payment platforms for farm produce and financial record-keeping services.

Community-Based Financing Models: Build community financing models where farmers gather resources to create funds for agricultural activities that can provide mutual financial support and risk-sharing among farmers.

Online Marketing Platforms: Develop online space to connect farmers directly with consumers or businesses, enabling farmers to market their produce, expand their customer base, and gain better product prices. In addition to providing some guidance with marketing strategies, pricing trends, and other insights.

The following criteria must be fulfilled for the application to be considered:

Criteria

A. Participant

- Participant is a senior student or a fresh graduate (3-2 years of work experience).

- The Participant is over 18 years of age.

- The Participant shows potential dedication for the upcoming 9 months.

- Participant is able to showcase his/her/their idea

- Participant's application is well-crafted, and all the required documents are submitted.

- Participant should be an Egyptian/has valid Egyptian residency.

- Participants from underserved groups such as women, people with disabilities, refugees, or people in remote (in reference to the capital) or rural locations in Egypt are encouraged to apply.

B. Target Region

The program is designed for young entrepreneurs from **all over Egypt.**

- Idea competitions will take place in a physical format and will be held in Cairo.
- The physical support services, such as workstations and makerspaces, will be availed in Cairo only.
- Training sessions and networking events happening throughout the program will take place online and in a hybrid format.

C. Idea

- Team's idea meets the posted challenge directly or indirectly.
- Team's idea is innovative/ has an innovative approach that tackles tech, social, and/or ecological to create an impact.
- Team's idea has the potential for growing and scaling up (scalability).
- The idea should be premature for an early-stage startup (the solution should not be implemented by an already existing startup)

D. EVALUATION MATRIX

- The Idea fits the announced challenges.
- The idea has an innovative approach (tech, social, and/or ecological) to create economic, social, and/or environmental impact. (%25).
- The idea has high potential to grow & scale up. (%10)
- The participant appears motivated to participate actively in the program.
- The participant would benefit from the project's components (%25)
- The participant possesses the right skills and knowledge to take the idea further (%25).
- The application is well-crafted, conveys an attitude of commitment, and documents are complete (%15).
- In the selection of participants, additional consideration will be given to encourage diversity and inclusion (+%10).
  - The participant belongs to a minority group, including women, people with disabilities or people in underserved communities.
  - This criterion is optional. By fulfilling this criterion, the application receives a bonus consideration to facilitate marginalized groups' representation.

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If you have any questions regarding your application, please reach out to us via email at shc@enpact.org.

Please note that this is the only official channel of communication to receive timely application support.