

Africa Rural Connect introduces the Original Runner-up for the Second Chance Ideas Contest

Washington, D.C. February 15, 2013- It is with great pleasure that Africa Rural Connect (ARC) a program of the National Peace Corps Association introduces Lawrence Rokani the Original Runner-up for the Second Chance Ideas Contest. Lawrence's project "Supporting Women farmers and entrepreneurs in Adjumani District in Northern Uganda" is designed to establish a reliable source of high quality seeds; the project inspired, Mr. Anyonah the Remix Runner-up for the Second Chance Ideas Contest and lead to a win for them both.

"I am a dedicated community worker, researcher, hard working and result oriented person. I would love to see change in the lives of the rural poor through Agriculture, which provides them with income. I am currently, being sponsored by the Regional University Forum for capacity building in Agriculture to study Masters in Agricultural Economics at Makerere University.

"I want to be a change agent in a community. I believe that extreme poverty suffered by many in rural areas can be eradicated. The knowledge gaps of the farmers, especially women who do most of the farming activities, and the entrepreneur's needs to be solved. I believe solving this knowledge gap is possible by actively working with them closely, sharing knowledge and mentoring them in entrepreneurial skills.

"I started using the ARC website because I wanted the exchange of knowledge with farming communities, especially those from Sub-Saharan Africa, because they face similar problems to have interactive networks with producers and processors. The relationships and engagement can help in transforming the agricultural sector, technology, and in finding financial support. I use the ARC website at least twice a month. I get to read ideas and look for success stories, as well as, to find funding opportunities. I haven't made any connections through the ARC website.

"I have been working closely with the Makwisi youth farmers, the Amatara farmer group, and other individual farmers from the surrounding communities. All contributed much in developing the project idea and will all be beneficiary of the project.

"This project is about multiplying foundation, certified and quality declared seed (QDS,) and establish effective seed production program. It will advocate and promote commercial farming of the selected enterprise by empowering Makwisi youth and entrepreneurs in opening up medium scale and large scale farms. The availability of improved seed quality will promote agribusiness among women farmers and entrepreneurs through Makwisi youth in Adjumani district.

"The original project is designed to have in place well established structure that supports seed multiplication and commercial farming of the selected enterprise among women farmers and entrepreneurs for competitive

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Collaborate with others to turn your best idea into a practical, creative, sustainable plan with real world impact. Don't Delay!

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Featured Person



Pascal

Pascal Katana is a multi-lingual Kenyan who works as a student engineer. Recognized

as Young Innovator of the Year in Kenya for inventing a fish caller system and a mobile voting program in Kenya, Pascal currently has another innovative idea on Africa Rural Connect called [A Bicycle Mobile Phone Charger for a Green Energy and Rural Development in Africa](#) which aims to solve the current energy crisis in most rural parts of Africa as well as encourage environmental conservation. The idea has not only received tons of online feedback through comments and endorsements since its creation, but also sits right now in eighth place on ARC's [contest leaderboard](#). [Read more and see some other incredible ideas.](#)

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Agribusiness. The remix looks at empowering women farmers and entrepreneurs; while the original project centers on the need to bridge knowledge gap, and provide a marketing and financial assistance avenues for farmers. I think both are good ideas and based on that, look at solving pressing problems of improved seeds that has long been and continues to be a burden to farmers and knowledge gap as well as access to market.

(For others interested in my project) "This project is economically viable. If the lack of improved seeds is to be solved among the rural poor this project really needs to be supported. The project needs to be implemented while putting the needs of farmers' center stage and working closely with them; so that they own it instead of teaching them what they will not put in practice."

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