|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Candidate Name:** | MUHUMUZA JOSHUA |
| **University:** | MAKERERE UNIVERSITY |
| **Programme:** | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SOFTWARE ENGINEERING |
| **Year** | 4 |
| **Email address** | [josh.jesusreigns@gmail.com](mailto:josh.jesusreigns@gmail.com) |
| **Phone Number** | +256759581882 |
| **Thematic Area** | Agriculture |
| **Problem to be solved** | Agricultural project support broker |

**Problem**

The agricultural sector is the backbone of Uganda’s industrial activity, employment, household incomes and food security contributing to 30% of GDP [1]employing up to 72% of all Uganda’s working population[2] with a contribution to over 70% of Uganda’s export earnings and the raw material provision for predominantly agro-based industries [3].. This has led to a poverty reduction of 79% of the national poverty observed between 2006 and 2013 [3]. However, only 32% of the households that engage in agriculture are rich [4]

The predominant lack of adequate finances has led to challenges which include: lack of high quality packaging capabilities, the lack of storage facilities and poor marketing strategies among others[2]. Finance inadequacy is due to high interest rates [5] and non-conducive conditions for accessing small scale farming loans which are short [6]. Despite these challenges faced, Uganda's agricultural potential still comes as part of the top-most potential sectors for funding in Africa mainly attributed to the natural resources and ready market. It is however still challenging for investors to find potential farming projects for funding because of the lack of a common platform, which is aggravated by the physical and language barriers.

**Who is affected by the challenge and how do they suffer**

The challenge affects the farmers who have the skills to perform agriculture but lack the finances to run projects and investors who want to fund projects but are uncertain of the farmers to connect to in order to have a successful project.

**Solution**

A common platform that provides the following services is a viable solution. Investor connection to farmers through enabling investors create agricultural projects , connect to the ideal farmers with corresponding project necessities, help funders assess the projects and also monitor the project progress.

Capital Appraisal through enabling different people interested in running agricultural projects yet without adequate resources team up and raise capital to run projects. Market and advisory services for its users’ products and processes involved in their projects

**Approach**

Web technologies will be used to develop the web platform for remote access to users with internet, mobile technologies will be used to implement the mobile application that will support users with smart phones and internet access and USSD technologies for use by the users with neither internet nor smart phones.

**How the affected people might need to change their behavior**

The farmers and investors will be educated and trained on how to use any of the three versions of the platform. This will require them to adopt their agriculture business through phones and computers

**Impact on Uganda’s economy**

* It will reduce unemployment in Uganda through providing jobs to farmers that register their services with the platform
* Attract more investors to the agricultural industry since good project management and quality assurance is provided by the platform
* Attract more Ugandans into farming due to the increased sources of finance hence increasing revenue
* Economic development through team work that supports most Ugandans with inadequate finances combine resources to run a project successfully

**References**

[1] Deloitte, “Uganda Economic Outlook 2016 The Story Behind the Numbers,” pp. 1–11, 2016.

[2] U.S. Embassies, “Uganda - Agriculture | export.gov,” 2017. [Online]. Available: https://www.export.gov/article?id=Uganda-Agriculture. [Accessed: 28-Feb-2018].

[3] The world bank, “Agriculture: A Driver of Growth and Poverty Reduction,” 2016. [Online]. Available: http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/uganda/publication/uganda-poverty-assessment-agriculture-a-driver-of-growth-and-poverty-reduction. [Accessed: 28-Feb-2018].

[4] Uganda Bureau of Statistics, “National Population and Housing Census 2014,” *Uganda Bur. Stat. 2016, Natl. Popul. Hous. Census 2014 – Main Rep. , Kampala, Uganda*, pp. 1–209, 2014.

[5] U.S. Embassies, “Uganda - Market Challenges | export.gov.” [Online]. Available: https://www.export.gov/article?id=Uganda-Market-Challenges. [Accessed: 28-Feb-2018].

[6] U. N. F. F. (Unffe) Charles Ogang, President, “Challenges of Agricultural Financing: the Case of Uganda.” [Online]. Available: http://www.wfo-oma.org/women-in-agriculture/case-studies/challenges-of-agricultural-financing-the-case-of-uganda.html. [Accessed: 28-Feb-2018].