EBAFOSA established to mobilize and foment mutual partnerships targeting to upscale known solutions to sustainable Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EBA) driven agriculture & clean energy as the foundational sectors & bridge gaps at policy & operational level towards establishing sustainable agriculture led clean energy powered industrialization. Ensuring any socio-economic priorities in the continent - ensuring food security, creating income & job opportunities, expanding macro-economies - are achieved simultaneously with offsetting carbon & enhancing resiliencies to ensure achievement of country climate objectives under the Paris Agreement.

They get to network & build partnerships for expanded market opportunities across the continent, through the EBAFOSA compliance standard. They build partnerships to source supplies efficiently - technologies, inputs, advisory, etc. They build partnerships for affordable financing to capitalize their enterprises for market opportunities.

For example, in Makurdi County of Benue, which is the first county to legislate a climate change fund for climate finance; EBAFOSA Benue is facilitating mutual partnerships between the County Government & private sector actors including agro-entrepreneurs to ensure this fund is partly used to de-risk private sector lending along the sustainable agriculture led clean energy powered agro-value addition chain. Working with select micro-financers, the County Government is developing a risk-sharing facility by providing a monetary deposit as security to cover default risk and unlock up to 50% of the secured funds for lending to entrepreneurs along the sustainable agriculture led clean energy powered agro-value addition chain. Working with select micro-financers, the County Government is developing a risk-sharing facility by providing a monetary deposit as security to cover default risk and unlock up to 50% of the secured funds for lending to entrepreneurs along the sustainable agriculture led clean energy powered agro-value addition chain.

The EBAFOSA modus operandi is based on forging voluntary mutual partnerships among complementary stakeholders - state & non-state, individual & institutional. These stakeholders volunteer physical & non-physical resources on their disposal - expertise, professional skills, organizational & professional networks, ongoing initiatives - to build mutual partnerships that meet their organizational & business interests but aligned to actualize the shared EBAFOSA strategic objective. That bridging policy & operational gaps towards establishing EBA-based agriculture led clean energy powered industrialization zones with efficient access to markets & supply chains.

Private sector partnerships are critical in creating market opportunities for employment along this chain. This networking with industry leaders is also an opportunity for youth to build partnerships along the entire chain for markets, supply chains etc., and launch their own businesses.

EBAFOSA is demonstrating how integrating technologies (rather than considering in silos) is critical to maximizing agro-productivity. For example, on-farm IBA technologies are being integrated with clean energy & ICT to unlock sustainable EBA-driven agriculture led industrialization powered by clean energy. Eliminating food losses due to both degraded ecosystems (over 300 million tonnes of annual grain losses) and postharvest losses (up to $48 billion worth of annual food losses).

In Kenya, EBAFOSA driven ICT app called EdenSys is enabling farmers to use their mobile phones to access advisory services, to access inputs including clean energy, access markets where they can price and sell their products among other resources to forge business models/ideas.

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While Africa is faced with significant socio-economic (food insecurity, poverty, unemployment etc) & climate resilient challenges, the continent does not lack ideas, resources, nor innovations to solve these challenges. Rather it lacks the institutional harmonization & incentives needed to bridge policy & operational gaps to achieve scaled up implementation of known ideas & innovations. And these means of implementation can be mobilized & deployed through targeted mutual partnerships among complementary actors.

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By convening & forging the necessary multi-sectorial partnerships needed to bridge policy & operational gaps to maximize productivity & climate proof Africa's food systems by establishing sustainable IBA-driven agriculture led, clean energy powered industrialization. For example, on the policy level, EBAFOSA is convening policy makers from critical ministries of agriculture, energy, infrastructure / roads, lands, trade & industry, planning, environment among others to form inter-agency policy task forces. These are to bridge institutional silos & foster collaborative policy processes to harmonize respective sectoral policies towards complementing the shared aim of maximizing productivity & climate-proofing Africa’s food systems. For example, the Sierra Leone task force is harmonizing finance, industry, energy, agriculture, sectoral policies to establish tax concession incentives for agro-based industries in rural areas.

Climate smart agriculture (CSA) is a combination of approaches that seek to enhance agricultural productivity without piling on emissions. However, CSA main priority is not prioritizing the health of ecosystems that are the foundation of food production through provision of goods & services like pollinators (responsible for 75% of all food crop), water, healthy soils etc. Without which no crops can grow. Hence, CSA approaches cannot be undertaken in silos as Africa’s agro-productivity is to be enhanced sustainably in the long run. EBAFOSA offers a venue within which CSA can be applied within a wider context of climate proofing & maximizing productivity of Africa’s food systems, enhancing ecosystems to ensure benefits of CSA can be actualized in the long term. EBAFOSA brings CSA actors to benefit of the continuum value chain services in a way that is non-linear.

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When maximized through industrialization, Africa’s agro-value chain is projected to be worth up to $1 trillion by 2030. Through Innovative Volunteerism, EBAFOSA is providing youth with an opportunity to network and top up into this $1 trillion economy. For example, networking with industry leaders engaged along the sustainable agriculture led, clean energy powered industrialization value chain is an opportunity for youth to build technical skills for employment along this chain. This networking with industry leaders is also an opportunity for youth to build partnerships along the entire chain for markets, supply chains etc., and launch their own businesses.

What benefits do African Agricultural Entrepreneurs get from being members of EBAFOSA?

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The EBAFOSA modus operandi is based on forging voluntary mutual partnerships among complementary stakeholders - state & non-state, individual & institutional. These stakeholders volunteer physical & non-physical resources on their disposal - expertise, professional skills, organizational & professional networks, ongoing initiatives - to build mutual partnerships that meet their organizational & business interests but aligned to actualize the shared EBAFOSA strategic objective. That bridging policy & operational gaps towards establishing EBA-based agriculture led clean energy powered industrialization zones with efficient access to markets & supply chains. This is referred to as Innovative Volunteerism. And the effectiveness of EBAFOSA to this end is demonstrable.

What does EBAFOSA contribute to employment of youths who constitute about 60% of unemployed in Africa?

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