CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Learning Route: ‘Innovative ideas and approaches to integrate Rural Youth in Agriculture. The progress in Kenya.’
16th– 24th August 2015, KENYA

Learning Route Overview

Addressing the needs of rural youth is gathering attention with international development agencies, donors and private companies supporting new initiatives by governmental and non-governmental organizations in many parts of the world and in Africa in particular. Issues surrounding rural youths such as limited access to educational services, dependency on mainly unpaid labour in family farms and working in the informal sector as well as the considerable impact of migration on their livelihoods - especially affecting young women - have been widely recognized as significant.

A recent study by the Brookings Institution1 points out that “According to the United Nations (2012), Africa’s 2011 population was estimated at 1.05 billion and is expected to double by 2050. Africa is the youngest continent in the world: About 70 percent of its population is 30 years of age or younger.”

These figures alone would merit focusing attention on the issues mentioned above2.

There is overall agreement that if youth issues are not addressed high rates of youth unemployment and under-employment will persist and overall development in African countries could be negatively affected.

In this context, the Procasur Corporation in Africa has partnered with the Junior Farmer Field Schools (FAO), Strengthening Rural Youth Development through Enterprise (TechnoServe), Mkulima Young and USTADI to develop a Learning Route (LR) on “Innovative Ideas and Approaches to Integrate Rural Youth in Agriculture”.

This Learning Route:

1. Offers the opportunity of learning directly in the field and from its protagonists being some of the best initiatives implemented in favour of youth transforming policies into actions and progress.

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2. Is hosted by the following outstanding Kenyan public and private development champions:

1. Junior Farmer Field Schools (FAO).
2. Strengthening Rural Youth Development through Enterprise (TechnoServe).
3. Mkulima Young
4. USTADI - Entrepreneurship development

More details on the hosts in the last page of this call.

1. The objectives

General Objective
The aim of this Learning Route is to contribute to lesson-sharing and learning at country and regional level in order to build technical capacities within development practitioners on innovative strategies and approaches to engage rural youth in agriculture, increase employment and reduce poverty.

Specific Objectives
- Understand the institutional framework of national public policies, programs and projects for rural development and poverty reduction in favour of rural youth in a PPP framework.
- Learn from best practices, impact and challenges through the promotion of entrepreneurial and business learning among youth to generate employment in rural areas.
- Learn from best practices, impact and challenges for promoting financial education and access to services among rural youth.
- Learn from best practices, impact and challenges in using Information, Communications, Technology (ICT) tools and methods in favour of creating conditions for youth development.

2. The dynamics

Hands on Learning
The 8-days Learning Route considers exchanges with key host experiences in the Agriculture and Rural Development sectors, field visits to outstanding rural communities and youth entrepreneurs and the exchange with experts and practitioners from several countries and regions in Africa.

Innovation Plan (IP)
During this unique journey through knowledge, participant will be supported by PROCASUR and experts in the design of an Innovation Plan, aimed at integrating and adopting best practices for their respective settings and to enhance their organizations and projects performance.

A Contest after the Learning Route will prize the best two Innovation Plans with a starting capital of USD 2500.

3. Dates and locations

1. The Learning Route on ‘Innovative ideas and approaches to integrate Rural Youth in Agriculture. The progress in Kenya’ will be carried out between the 16th and 24th of August 2015. Participants will be travelling across various districts in Kenya.
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2. Participants profile

The Learning Route is open to rural practitioners, stakeholders in the public, private and community sector recognizing rural youth as a priority target group. The nomination of teams by country and projects is encouraged.

3. Conditions and services

In order to join the Learning Route, each participant and/or its sponsoring organization need to fulfill the following requirements:

1. Submit a timely, correct application form and institutional endorsement letter.
2. Cover the participant’s travel expenses from the place of origin to Nairobi and return.
3. Cover her/his travel insurance for the 8 days of the Learning Route.
4. Obtain entry visa to Kenya, if required, and cover the costs associated (invitation letter provided by PROCASUR).
5. Pay a Training Fee of USD 2500 for the services described below.*

PROCASUR will provide technical and operational services as follows:

1. Technical and operational assistance before, during and after the Learning Route.
2. Payment of experts, trainers, translators and interpreters. **
3. Accommodation in three-star hotels as well as in the local communities, when home-stay is available.
4. Three daily meals and two coffee breaks (non-alcoholic beverages);
5. Internal transport inside Kenya during the Learning Route, including airport pickup and drop-off.

*A small Scholarship Fund for those needing partial co-funding for the Training Fee is available. For more information, please contact PROCASUR a.s.a.p.

** Please note that the language used during the Learning Route will be English; simultaneous interpretation from local languages will be provided.

*** The implementation of this learning route is subject to a minimum participation of 15 applicants. If this target is not achieved by the deadline date, Procasur Corporation reserves the right to postpone the learning route to a future date. This will be communicated to all applicants in due time.

6. Application process

Potential candidates for this Learning Route are welcome to submit their application forms and endorsement letters before the 13th July 2015, to vsauve@procasur.org or vlikhanga@procasur.org. Early applications are encouraged. We will be happy to provide you with more information on the Learning Route and guide you in the application process.
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Contacts:

For more information please email or call:
Ms. Valentina SAUVE (PROCASUR): vsauve@procasur.org; Phone: + 254 (0) 706046742
Ms. Loise IRUNGU (PROCASUR): l.irungu@procasur.org; Phone: +254 (0) 722407722

We will be pleased to assist you!

_Procasur Corporation_ is a global organization specialized in harvesting and scaling-up homegrown innovations. The organization’s mission is to foster local knowledge exchange to end rural poverty. By sharing innovations through customized local knowledge-management tools and methodologies, the organization connects global institutions with local talents, providing the structured learning platforms necessary to spread innovation. Procasur has facilitated learning opportunities in over 20 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, affecting the lives and livelihoods of thousands of rural talents across the globe. To learn more, visit africa.procasur.org.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOST EXPERIENCES</th>
<th>WHAT WE CAN LEARN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLS)</td>
<td>To empower vulnerable youth, and providing them with the livelihood options and gender-sensitive skills needed for long-term food security while reducing their vulnerability to destitution and risk coping strategies. The strength of the JFFLS is its unique learning methodology and curriculum, which combines agricultural, life and entrepreneurship skills in an experiential and participatory learning approach uniquely suited to rural communities and low literacy levels.</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
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<td>2. Strengthening Rural Youth Development through Enterprise</td>
<td>To create employment opportunities for rural disadvantaged youth throughout agricultural value chains. Delivering a comprehensive package of services aimed at rural young people in Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda. The services include training in life skills, financial literacy, and a “Farming as Business” curriculum. TechnoServe also hold business plan competitions and create job placements in rural communities, leveraging their current programs in the dairy and coffee sectors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TECHNOSERVICE</td>
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<td>3. Mkulima Young ICT and marketing</td>
<td>Young farmers are plagued with problems affecting their productivity and marketing where middlemen offer meager prices for their produce, delays with payments and expensive farm inputs. With the aim of encouraging youth to engage in agricultural issues, Mkulima Young is creating a virtual space for young farmers to connect with those aspiring them.</td>
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<td>4. USTADI Entrepreneurship development</td>
<td>USTADI’s mission is to provide youth led organizations with both funding and capacity building, thereby enabling them to move from being passive recipients and become active participants in the promotion and creation of youth employment.</td>
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