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Drones Applications for African Agriculture

A WEBINAR



about the organizers

The African Farmers' Stories, an initiative of Support4AfricaSMEs, began in May 2020 to provide support and propagate hope to farmers across the continent during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through interviews with farmers and agribusiness owners on Instagram and Twitter, the initiative aims to ensure that the voices and struggles of invaluable farmers are heard through this difficult time, to offer visibility that could help attract investors or partnership, and to inspire hope.

Support4AfricaSMEs is a campaign that was launched to address the needs of African SMEs during and beyond the COVID19 pandemic through storytelling and the provision of useful information or resources.

Our goal is to provide visibility for SMEs and small holder farmers that can help attract investments or partnerships, while educating them through trainings and webinars, all under the overarching vision of propagating hope.

Through our interview series on social media platforms like Instagram and Twitter, articles on LinkedIn developed from the transcripts of these interviews, and mini-documentaries, we have raised awareness about the plight of local farmers and business owners continent-wide.

The campaign has launched two main initiatives: The African Farmers' Stories and The African SME Stories which have the same goal of sharing African stories of hope, innovation and resilience, crowd sourcing and promoting in-kind resources, schemes, and initiatives. They are initiatives on agribusiness and entrepreneurship respectively.

The African Farmers' Stories has organized webinars that brought together speakers and hundreds of attendees from countries like Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ghana, Nigeria, Singapore and the UK. It has also spotlighted issues such as the Oke-Aro Swine Flu pandemic and the Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease that reportedly claimed over 250,000 pigs and over 100,000 rabbits respectively. This initiative has amassed a growing membership of over 2000 farmers and agriculture enthusiasts who engage and interact on our WhatsApp and Telegram platforms, creating a strong family.

Founded by the duo of prolific filmmaker and former CEO of Tony Elumelu Foundation, Parminder Vir OBE; and renowned Nigerian agribusiness expert, Victoria Madedor, Support4AfricaSMEs is run by diverse team of pan-African volunteers and has partnerships with organizations such as Big Dutchman, Clarke Energy, Ajike People's Support Centre, Full range Microfinance Bank, Business Day, JMSF Agribusiness and more.



about this event



As a responsible, engaging agro organization, one of our goals is to deliver an interactive session that will help agribusiness owners or newbies focus specifically on understanding the playbook that works in the agric sector. We understand that agriculture is a lifelong learning profession with innovations that are adaptable when properly understood by users in Africa.

The African Farmers Stories, together with Foodlog.nl, Seed2Feed, IFAMA2020, Ajike People Support Centre and many others partners, have been working together in addressing some of the challenges faced in Africa agriculture to make practicing agriculture in future years more efficient and profitable.

There are many reasons why we are organising this webinar. In the year 2021, we want African farmers to use drones and other smart farming technologies in delivering sustainable agricultural systems.

In the current normal, use of sustainable information and communication technology in agriculture is not an option. It is a necessity for these reasons:

- Promotion of agricultural productivity
- Increased food security
- Improved rural livelihoods
- Promotion of agriculture as an engine for pro-poor economic growth
- To provide agriculture survey services to insurance companies and governments at all levels.

What are drones?

Drones are remote controlled aircraft with no human pilot on-board. Drones have a huge potential in agriculture especially in supporting precision farming, drones can do soil health scans, monitor crop health, assist in planning irrigation schedules, apply fertilizers, estimate yield data and provide valuable data for weather analysis.

How will drones impact agriculture?

The use of drones in agriculture will significantly revolutionize the way we prepare for and respond to disasters that affect not only the livelihoods of vulnerable farmers but also the country's food security. From mapping to surveillance, the uses of drones in agriculture are very vast.

Drone technologies provide a unique opportunity for the African economy to generate additional growth and prosperity through smart agriculture as it opens the door to new markets for innovative services with immense potential. The technology is considered by many as equivalent to the mobile phone revolution, as it is both game-changing and disruptive. It is time for African farmers to key into it.

Coen Hubers
Founder and
Coordinator,
LDE Centre for
Sustainability
Greenport Hub

H.E. Amb. Dr. Olufolake Abdulrazaq
First Lady, Kwara State, Nigeria
Founder, Ajike Peoples Support
Centre

**Prof Dr Guido de
Croon**
Full Professor
Micro Air Vehicle
Laboratory TU
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Victoria Madedor
Co-Founder, The
African Farmers
Stories

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Support4AfricaSMEs

Edobong Akpabio
Visionage Agrotech
Farms Ltd

Babatunde Olarewaju
Lead Strategist, FutuX
Agri-Consult

Maren Schoormans
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Development Officer,
Viscon Group



Bram Tijmons
Founder and CEO,
Pats Drones

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Consults

Helen Ese Emore
Principal Consultant,
Scientia Consult

Ikechi Agbugba
Asst. Prof,
Agricultural
Economics, Rivers
State University

Billy Katontoka
Owner & CEO,
MiDrone Pilot
Academy

Samson Ogbole
Founder and
Farmer, Soilless
Farm Lab

Herman Krebbers
Project Manager
Mechanisation and
Precision Farming, Delphy

Richard Ogundele
Founder/CEO JSMF
Agribusiness Nigeria.

speakers

Opening Remarks

16:00

HE Amb. Dr Mrs Abdulrazaq,
First Lady, Kwara State,
Nigeria. Founder, Ajike
People's Support Centre
Parminder Vir OBE,
Co-Founder,
Support4AfricaSMEs



Letter to my Farmers

Babatunde Olarewaju,
Lead Strategist, FutuX
Agri-Consult

16:05



Innovation Challenges for Applying Drones in Agriculture

Maren Schoormans, Chief Business
Development Officer, Viscon Group
(moderator)

Samson Ogbole, Founder and
Farmer, Soilless Farm Lab

Bram Tijmons, Founder and CEO,
Pats Drones

Oluwatosin Ogunsola, Templus
Agro-Consults



16:15

The Future of Drones in Agro-food

Ms. Edobong Akpabio, Visionage Agrotech
Farms Ltd (Interviewer)

Prof Dr Guido de Croon, Full Professor Micro
Air Vehicle Laboratory TU Delft

16:55



Innovation Challenges for Applying Drones in Agriculture

Helen Ese Emore, Principal Consultant, Scientia Consult (moderator)

Herman Krebbers, Project Manager Mechanisation and Precision Farming, Delphy

Ikechi Agbugba, Asst. Prof, Agricultural Economics, Rivers State University.

Billy Katontoka, Owner & CEO, MiDrone Pilot Academy

Richard Ogundele, Founder/CEO JSMF Agribusiness Nigeria.



17:15

17:55

Closing Remarks

Victoria Madedor,
Co-Founder, The African Farmers Stories

Coen Hubers,
Founder and Coordinator, LDE Centre for
Sustainability Greenport Hub



appreciation

Many thanks to everyone who participated in this event from different countries in Africa, Europe and beyond. It is because of your engagement and sacrifice that this unique intercontinental partnership is possible.

A very special thanks goes to Ms. Parminder Vir OBE, co-founder of Support4AfricaSMEs which birthed The African Farmers Stories; Frans de Jong, founder of Seed2Feed, for creating the foothold on which these combined African-Dutch activities are standing. And last to Dick Veerman, co-founder

of AgriFoodNetworks.org for organizing the digital silk roads for the coming century.

We acknowledge the numerous organizations that have partnered with us so far and hope to forge even stronger bonds as the years go by.



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Big Dutchman.



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