

Innovate & Elevate

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QUARTERLY ISSUE





About KIEP

The Kenya Industry and Entrepreneurship Project (KIEP) is a six -year US\$50 million project being implemented by the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry (MITI) under the State Department for Industry -SDI, with support from the World Bank.

KIEP aims to deliver on the Government's industrialization agenda by strengthening the entrepreneurship ecosystem, increasing firm level innovation and productivity, and developing technically skilled talent in Kenya.

The first component has three subcomponents namely: SKIES, Startup Savanna and iTATU.

Sub component 1a of KIEP, Strengthening Kenya's Innovation Ecosystem (SKIES) aims to build the capacity of ecosystem intermediaries (Incubators, Accelerators and Techbootcamps) in developing their individual business models towards operational sustainability, expansion, and increased quality of services provided. SKIES will also provide subsidized tuition costs for Rapid Tech Skills Students to pursue in demand tech courses, soft skills and entrepreneurship in selected universities.

The International Acceleration Process is being implemented through a sub-component known as Startup Savanna which aims to position the Kenyan Startups and entrepreneurship ecosystem globally, connecting Kenyan Startups with a range of international resources and networks to assist

them in their growth plans.

The Industry-Academia Platform dubbed iTATU sub-component plays a crucial role in connecting Kenyan corporates with talented students, who tackle challenges posed by companies, in delivering innovative solutions. This collaboration aims to enhance corporate productivity, skills gap bridging and increase competitiveness. Beyond the increased competitiveness of the participating companies, iTATU also contributes to the employability of Kenyan students by exposing them to "real-life" problems and opportunities and giving them new networks.

The second component is called KIEP 250+. It invites small and medium enterprises in select sectors to apply for business training that includes enhancing the managerial and technical skills of their senior staff and improving their access to and use of technology. The goal is to significantly increase the competitiveness of SMEs. SMEs accepted into KIEP 250+ will receive an integrated package of diagnostic and advisory services as well as financial support to address identified gaps. This will enhance their innovation capacity, upgrade processes, increase use of technology and promote market linkages.

The third component provides support for communications, M&E and Project implementation.



SKIES Post-Launch Update

Active Outreach & Awareness Creation

After the stakeholder analysis and mapping, SKIES initiated a robust outreach and awareness campaigns through six national information sessions. Over 130 potential intermediaries and 900+ Kenyan students were reached. Tailored info sessions for Track 1 and Track 2 beneficiaries provided detailed information on KIEP and SKIES, resulting in increased awareness and engagements leading to a large number of applications by the potential SKIES beneficiaries. The effectiveness of the outreach strategy was demonstrated through the engagement with over 500 active participants in the various info sessions.

Online Receipt of Proposals & Short Listing.

The call for applications remained open for three weeks, receiving a total of 1,531 submissions.



SKIES Pitch Event (Final Identification of Phase 1 Beneficiaries)

The SKIES Pitch Event held on 18th December, 2023, at the SKIES Management firm offices marked a pivotal moment in the final beneficiary identification. A 14-member Expert Review Panel (ERP) comprising of eco-system actors, industry leaders and subject matter experts ensured the integrity of the final selection process.

Applicants	Shortlisted	Selected
Incubators	8	7
Accelerators	5	3
Tech boot camps providers	10	8



Industry Academia Platform (IAP) - iTATU

Harnessing The Boundless Creativity Of Students To Tackle Challenges Faced By Companies!!!!

Through carefully curated challenges and with support from iTATU facilitators and mentors, students were invited to devise solutions as requested by four local companies - Endless Africa, Kenya Power, Milly Fruits and LRC Foundation.

Endless Africa looks at how innovative micro-dairies that communities can use to avert post harvest losses as well as launch value addition ventures while Kenya Power is seeking to promote sustainable energy solutions through adoption of renewable energy and integration of cutting-edge digital technologies such as smart grids, decentralized energy systems, and AI powered management platforms.

Milly Fruits Company's challenge is around development and application of a blockchain technology for traceability while the fourth firm, LRC Foundation, seeks to revolutionize telephone (remote) farming by introducing precision farming, bolstered by AI, resulting in higher yields, reduced environmental impact, and improved food security.

Other follow-up activities by iTATU Students solving the community issues.

Geothermal Egg Automation Project

In September 2023, iTATU students built a Geothermal Incubator Automation that incorporates sensors, an Arduino-based microcontroller, and GSM technology to allow for remote monitoring and control of the incubator temperature and humidity for successful egg incubation. The project holds significant potential for the Songoroi Farmer community in Eburu.

What is coming up next?

Mobius Motors plans to pose a new challenge: Green mobility – A revolution from oil to Hydrogen.

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From right to left: Michael Wainaina, KIEP 250 + Project Manager, Principal Secretary, State Department for Industry, Dr. Juma Mukhwana, Rose Ogangah, General Manager, Animix Ltd, during the grant contracts signing ceremony

KIEP 250+ Drives Progress Across The Various SME Cohorts

Introduction

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) continue to be pivotal to Kenya's economic and business growth, contributing significantly to the country's GDP, fostering employment, and sustaining livelihoods. KIEP 250+ is actively supporting three distinct SME cohorts, totaling approximately 150 businesses at various stages of the project.

Cohort 1 Grant Contracts Signing Ceremony

A momentous occasion took place on December 4th 2023, as Cohort 1 SMEs witnessed the signing of their grant contracts. This event, officiated by Dr. Juma Mukhwana, the Principal Secretary of the State Department for Industry, marks a crucial milestone for both the SMEs and the project. With approved interventions backed by project funding, Cohort 1 SMEs are currently collaborating with diverse business development service providers to implement strategies aimed at addressing identified business gaps and areas for improvement. KIEP 250+ emphasizes the promotion of local manufacturing, increased productivity, innovation, and value addition across government priority sectors like agriculture, healthcare, and manufacturing among others.

During the ceremony, Dr. Mukhwana emphasized that the grant provided by the

World Bank and the Government through KIEP 250+ is intended to transform and enhance business operations, promoting efficiency, agility, innovation, and improved competitiveness among the SMEs.

Cohort 2 Field Visits and Performance Improvement Plan Development

Cohort 2 SME field visits are going on as part of the due diligence and diagnosis processes. These are very fundamental steps of the project as they allow for a proper analysis of the business together with the entrepreneurs to identify the needed business improvement areas and possible interventions. The SMEs are spread across the country, widening the geographic representation of the project. KIEP 250+ seeks to foster a pull effect, whereby enhanced SMEs serve as catalysts for knowledge-sharing among their peers and inspire smaller entrepreneurs and startups to innovate and compete effectively.



SME Linkages And Upgrading Program

On 6th December 2023, Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI) organized a sensitisation workshop and launched the incubation programme for successful Micro-Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) applicants selected to participate in the inaugural KIEP-KIRDI project. KIRDI will support the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to improve their managerial and technical skills as well as the technologies in use within their premises.

Targeting 90 SMEs, KIRDI hopes to promote increased uptake for innovation and technology adoption. KIRDI has since developed customized training content in agro-processing, engineering, ICT and digital technologies, leather, textile, energy, chemical products, ceramics and building materials, environment and business development services sectors that suit the technical needs of the select SMEs beneficiaries. Also set to benefit are startups and SMEs led by youth, women and persons with disability.

Development of training manuals customised training content has been developed to suit the technical needs of the select SMEs beneficiaries. The training material covers Agro-processing, Engineering, ICT and Digital technologies, Leather, Textile, Energy, Chemical Products, Ceramics and Building Materials, Environment and Business Development Services sectors. A total of 35 training manuals have been developed.

Pictorials

SKIES Pitch Event



Pictorials

ASSEK Annual Conference



Pictorials

KIRDI ESS Training and Launch for call for applications



Pictorials

KIEP 250+



Cohort 1 Grant Contracts Signing Ceremony



Cohort 2 Field Visits



Cohort 3 CFA Workshops

Pictorials

iTATU Innovation Challenge on Geothermal Driven Incubator





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