Title: Popularise improved crop production systems among rural smallholder farmers

How did you come up with the thought of starting this company?

We saw the need to popularise the improved crop production systems among rural smallholder farmers in order to curb climate change-induced farming challenges, while alleviating poverty among these farmers and contributing to the overall improvement of Food Security levels in Nigeria and Sub-Saharan Africa. We also thought that the problem of climate change is very prevalent especially this side of the content and thought to ourselves how we can come up with a solution that can act as a point of climate action, either through climate adaptation or mitigation. After massive research and consultation, Simkay Foods was born.

What makes your innovation unique?

We have developed a model for training and supporting farmers on the adoption of improved, irrigation-based farming systems for increased yield quantity and quality, which effectively curbs the challenge of reduced rainfall quantities and the relatively lower yield quantities. This model is called the Vertical Sack Farming technique is currently the focus. We noticed that there is a challenge with information trickling down as well the implementation of whatever information is available. We also thought that information is one of the prerequisites of tackling climate change. In cognizance of this, our model of work becomes very unique.
How do you think other businesses in Africa can support climate action?

There are so many ways in which businesses can support climate action. Businesses can focus on scaling up sustainable food and land use systems. They can also invest in resilient water infrastructure and lowering carbon emissions through the use of renewable energy like solar and wind. It is the simple practices that make the difference. Like reviewing the carbon footprint of your product materials, packaging, delivery methods, and end-of-life disposal or reuse if you create and manufacture physical things. Businesses are also able to modify or replace parts of their product with more environmentally friendly alternatives, resulting in a better product that can market as environmentally friendly and potentially create more revenue. It is also important to note that sustainable products and services are increasingly gaining demand in the market.

How do you think YouthADAPT Challenge will assist Africa in climate action?

YouthADAPT Challenge is definitely here to assist Africa in climate action. Currently, the training we have received from KCIC Consulting Ltd and the financing we have been offered by the development partners will go a long way in helping us set up a solar-powered automated processing facility. This facility will assist us to afford the required resources to meet the exponentially growing demand for our products. It will also scale up our operations to extend our impact to more rural smallholder farming communities. This will in return accelerate climate action in Africa. In addition to this, we think through the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP), many entrepreneurs in Africa stand to benefit, just like us, and it is this focus on businesses that will assist in climate action.

What message do you have for development partners who may be looking into making an impact through climate action?

What we would tell development partners looking into making an impact in climate action is that we feel they should focus more on adaptation than acceleration. This is because Africa needs to adapt more to climate change and its impact. They should also come up with strategies that will help the adaptation processes. The most effective policies are likely to be those that minimise current vulnerability while also improving a broad range of capability to adapt to environmental, resource, and economic disruptions.
How did you come up with the thought of starting this company?

The poor disposal of waste in drainage channels has been the major cause of flooding in Douala and most Western parts of Cameroon. The menace has often caused floods by clogging drains, causing respiratory issues when burned, shortening animal lifespans when consumed, and contaminating water bodies when dumped into canals and oceans. Moreover, polluted water is unsuitable for drinking, recreation, agriculture, and industry. It diminishes the aesthetic quality of lakes and rivers. The water also destroys aquatic life and reduces its reproductive ability. This is what pushed us to start Bleaglee. We saw the need to counter this challenge by using technology to provide sound management of waste, early warning system and disaster risk reduction, with informal waste collectors and youth eco-groups as our service delivery channels.

What makes your innovation unique?

Remember we are looking at flooding from a climate change perspective. The paradox of flooding is that it is caused by climate change from one angle and also it contributes to climate change on the other angle. As global warming rises global temperatures, there is more water evaporating from the land and water bodies. In turn also, the frequency and size of heavy precipitation also affects the size of flooding. In light of this, our innovation becomes very unique since we provide early warning for multi-hazards such as flooding, respiratory issues and water contaminations by building software for drones to inspect poorly disposed waste on drainage channels and water ways. From our digital platform, we provide...
on-demand waste recycling and disposal service to individuals and businesses, and pay them via mobile money and e-wallet. After collecting waste on drainage channels and water ways, we then proceed to collect from nearby individual owners of waste who booked a pickup request via our digital platform.

**How do you think other businesses in Africa can support climate action?**

On that I will stick to what we do. And I think other businesses can support climate action by reducing the amount of waste that they produce. Reduced waste generation is a key approach for any firm to lower its carbon footprint. All businesses produce waste, whether it is industrial waste from a huge corporation or paper waste from a tertiary SME. Waste is waste and therefore it is critical to properly use equipment and devices to avoid their deteriorating faster, and to repair broken gadgets rather than replacing them with new ones. This will save our ecosystem as we eye a sustainable future. So businesses need to think about sustainability; Not just focussing on profits but also thinking about leaving a better world for future generations.

**How do you think YouthADAPT Challenge will assist Africa in climate action?**

In Africa, there is a very big potential for the programme and the partners to provide young entrepreneurs with skills expedient for sustainable and climate-smart development. The youth are more than enthusiastic and what is needed from YouthADAPT through the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP) is just handholding through mentorship and perhaps financial support to help scale the businesses. For instance, through the financing we are receiving from the YouthADAPT Challenge, we will now increase solid waste management, disaster risk reduction, early warning systems and the number of youth’s workforce in Cameroon and Africa. The financial support will also bring growth to our business and expand our innovative solutions across Cameroon and Africa at large. This will in turn accelerate climate action and propel the continent towards a sustainable future.

**What message do you have for development partners who may be looking into making an impact through climate action?**

It is doable. By working together with entrepreneurs, Africa will be at the forefront of climate action. So, the message we have for development partners is that there are many organisations like ours that are innovative and focused on mitigating climate change and its impact. All they have to do is to identify and fully support such organisations for the sake of the planet’s future. Also, let them think about how we can work together in implementing the tens of treaties, conferences and agreements on climate change, and in no time, it will be achieved.

**So, the message we have for development partners is that there are many organisations like ours that are innovative and focused on mitigating climate change and its impact.**
How did you come up with the thought of starting this company?

What pushed us to start Mumita Holdings is the 85 percent of women in rural Cameroon who rely on African Indigenous Vegetables (AIV). This is a vital part of their cultural history, a source of nutrients, and a source of money. Because of its importance, demand has increased, but output has remained low, resulting in a gap. The gap has been caused by climatic changes experienced by the entire world in the last decade. This has led to uncertainty in rainfall patterns, which has the most detrimental effect on agriculture especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. Extended periods of drought have also been key factors leading to the gap. So we came in to reduce the negative impact of these adverse changing climatic conditions on the AIV value addition chain, to shorten the gap which exists between production and demand.

What makes your innovation unique?

What makes our innovation unique are the techniques we use to shorten the gap between production and demand. We have developed low-cost greenhouses to ensure year-round cultivation of vegetables, which in turns helps the farmers double their revenues and reduce the influence of the ever-changing climate on vegetable cultivation. We also provide solar powered irrigation systems to farmers, to assist in farm irrigation during extended periods of drought. Also, we have Capacity Building programmes which we term as one of the solutions for addressing the problem of poor post-harvest handling of AIV.
How do you think other businesses in Africa can support climate action?

Businesses have the capacity, flexibility, resources, and knowledge needed to support climate action. It is just a matter of identifying a key area in climate action and putting effort in it. One-way businesses can support climate action is by focusing on green energy. This includes solar and wind energy. Diesel powered engines should be abolished as a way of achieving the clean energy goals. By doing this, Greenhouse Gases (GHG) will be highly reduced, and this will propel the continent towards a green future.

How do you think YouthADAPT Challenge will assist Africa in climate action?

YouthADAPT will definitely assist Africa in climate action because of their great initiative of training and funding organisations like us. Currently from the funding we have received, we will be able to unblock and penetrate new markets for the sales of the products and services and this will strengthen our supply chain. We will also be able to build more production and transformation units and ensure a stable logistics unit canopying new farmers through cooperatives. Such progress will not only benefit us as a company but also the entire continent in terms of revenue and growth. This will in turn foster climate action as we enhance the push for a sustainable future.

What message do you have for development partners who may be looking into making an impact through climate action?

To development partners looking into making an impact through climate action, we would say Africa is the future. They are all welcomed into this continent and they should not fear assisting SMEs that are focused on climate action since through that a sustainable future is achievable. For example, if you look at what we are doing as Mumita Holdings from the support by AfDB and Global Center on Adaptation through their implementing partner KCIC Consulting Ltd, we are able to have a humongous impact. From the training and finance we have received from the YouthADAPT challenge we will now be able to unblock and penetrate new markets for the sales of the products and services. This will strengthen our supply chain and help us build more production and transformation units. We will also be able to canopy new farmers through cooperatives, build more capacities especially in women in order to expand production which will reduce cost and benefit from the economy of scale. This will push not only us but the entire Africa in terms of revenue sustainability and growth.

“From the training and finance we have received from the YouthADAPT challenge we will now be able to unblock and penetrate new markets for the sales of the products and services. This will strengthen our supply chain and help us build more production and transformation units.”
How did you come up with the thought of starting this company?

The plastic pandemic is evident and unavoidable in Nigeria, as it is in many other African countries. Even little rain showers in Nigeria cause floods because the drainage system is clogged with waste, the majority of which is plastic bags, water bottles, and other objects. Over 381 million metric tons of plastic waste is created globally every year, and the unfortunate part is that only 9% of this material is recycled. So, we reasoned, “Why can’t we make shoes out of plastic waste?”

What makes your innovation unique?

What makes our innovation unique is when we learned that the average weight of a sneaker is roughly 0.8 kilograms, which is about the same volume of plastic garbage produced every day by each person in a city. With our backgrounds in environmental science and shoe design, we decided to turn these plastic wastes into shoes. Shoes that are not only constructed from recycled plastic waste but are also customizable. This therefore meant that we will not only be getting rid of plastic waste but getting a sustainable solution for it as well.
How do you think other businesses in Africa can support climate action?

If at Salubata we have managed to change plastic waste into durable shoes then businesses in Africa can always have something to support climate action. From our experience, we would suggest to businesses to choose sustainable suppliers. By this we mean each business also bears responsibility for the partners it selects. Choosing a supplier is also an environmentally conscious decision. As a result, businesses should make an effort to select suppliers who can demonstrate excellent environmental practices. Also, let them make use of locally available raw products that do not have an effect of climate change when extracting.

How do you think YouthADAPT Challenge will assist Africa in climate action?

We can learn from how we have benefitted first. The grant we are receiving will be critical in supporting us in increasing our effect because the majority of it will go toward scaling up production of these shoes as well as assisting us in acquiring 2,000 more consumers and expanding beyond Nigeria. So, it is this ripple effect from YouthADAPT that will be felt continent wide. But also, further to this, we are not the only organisation that is benefitting from the programme. The other organisations will also have the same effect. We therefore hail the donors AfDB and GCA as well as the support organisation, KCIC Consulting for being at the forefront on climate action.

What message do you have for development partners who may be looking into making an impact through climate action?

Development partners should shift their focus into sectors like waste management. Waste is becoming a more crucial threat especially in Africa where recycling plants are few compared to the waste being discharged. Every organisation that is dealing with waste management should be supported fully in a way to show support in counteracting this menace. In our case, for example, through the support of the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP), we will expand manufacturing capacity, acquire new customers, and expand our company. This will mean that we will be taking in more plastics thus reducing the impact of the same to the environment. We look forward to seeing a clean green Africa.
How did you come up with the thought of starting this company?

What made us start Soupah Farm is after we realised traditional farming is clearly running out of space and continues to have detrimental consequences for the environment. As the world’s population continues to rise, there is a need to create contemporary agriculture that benefits humanity while minimising environmental impact. Today farmland takes up half of the world’s arable land, and according to World Resources Institute (2020), Agriculture contributes about 12% to greenhouse gas emissions; causing global temperature to increase.

What makes your innovation unique?

Our innovation is unique since we take deforestation, mechanisation, excessive use of water, depleting soil nutrition out of food production and leverage controlled environment agriculture practices and resource-smart growing technology. We plant vegetables such as lettuces, kale, leafy greens, tomatoes, strawberries and herbs using hydroponics technology and we innovatively operate these farms from the rooftop of a building within the city of Ibadan (Nigeria) to harvest and sell to customers at affordable prices and also process into healthy and nutritious ready-to-eat meals, juices and tea.
How do you think other businesses in Africa can support climate action?

As a company focused on making the best use of every space, businesses should also embrace the use of resources and energy more efficiently. Whether you have employees or not, whether you operate from home or in an office, make sure to turn off equipment when they are not in use, recycle more, increase insulation, print only when necessary, if in agriculture use the best farming practices and so on. There are undoubtedly many little modifications you could make if you think about every part of your working day. You will also save money by doing so. Larger energy consumers should pay closer attention to the efficiency of their equipment and processes and replace them as needed.

How do you think YouthADAPT Challenge will assist Africa in climate action?

YouthADAPT has significantly helped us to build farms that unlock nutrition for everyone, while protecting our environment. Our current production capacity is at 0.6 ton per cycle. We aim the funds will help us to increase our production capacity by 1500%; it will help us to automate our processes and achieve 9 tons per production cycle. We will cut agri-emission and increase access to nutrition by 1.3% within our impact communities. As we protect the environment, this will help build a low carbon society. This fosters climate action as the continent will be heading towards a clean green future.

What message do you have for development partners who may be looking into making an impact through climate action?

We tell development partners that Africa has a great deal of untapped potential. Many organisations are now focusing on sustainable methods to run their businesses and it is time for them to completely support such businesses. Climate change remains a worldwide threat, and businesses that are leading the charge to minimise its effects should be recognized and supported. This will be the required motivation towards climate action. On the end of the development partners supporting us through the YouthADAPT, we would like to tell them that they are doing a great thing because for us the funds we are received from the challenge will help us to implement our long-awaited franchising model and set up additional 4 rooftop farms within 2 cities in Nigeria that will double as demonstration centres for women and youths to acquire skills training for green jobs. This will also be engagement farms that will create further awareness about climate-smart agriculture for existing farmers and empower communities to lead a sustainable lifestyle. We trust that these farm centre will create over 10,000 climate-conscious consumer movements with additional 2000 direct and indirect jobs that will stimulate our local economy and the continent’s economy at large.
How did you come up with the thought of starting this company?

We started Global Farms Ltd since we saw that climate change has been a substantial danger to smallholder farmers in recent years, and it has the potential to undermine global progress toward poverty alleviation, food security, and sustainable development. This is because most smallholder farmers rely on rain-fed agriculture, cultivate marginal land, and lack access to technical or financial support; they are particularly vulnerable to climate change. Therefore there is a need to support such farmers to invest more in climate-resilient agriculture.

What makes your innovation unique?

Global Farms seeks to contribute to the drive modernization of the agricultural sector through the provision of a wide range of agribusiness services for speedy growth of various commodities in the production value chain including training, inputs support and mechanisation services. While at these services, we are ensuring consistent protection of the natural environment for sustainable farming systems. The company is also into the production, trading and marketing of paddy rice, maize, and soybeans through its network of 500 smallholder farmers with an intended objective of expanding. The company applies advancements in product quality and conservation agricultural practices.
How do you think other businesses in Africa can support climate action?

Businesses in Africa ought to fully support climate action. There are several ways to do this ranging from measuring carbon footprint to the use of sustainable products. But we will focus on the most omitted one and this is refusing to be responsible. Businesses must be ready to be held accountable for what happens to the environment. The amount of carbon emitted, and the waste being released all come out from a certain place. More climate champions in the private sector are needed to make the argument that addressing the climate catastrophe is good business, especially in these times of political divisiveness. Businesses must accept to be held accountable.

What message do you have for development partners who may be looking into making an impact through climate action?

Development partners should be aware that because of Africa’s high levels of background poverty, farmers’ reliance on rainfall, insufficient infrastructure, and lack of social welfare, global warming has worsened the climatic risk that the continent has long faced. Therefore it is high time they came fully to support innovations and organisations that are at the forefront of fighting climate change.

How do you think YouthADAPT Challenge will assist Africa in climate action?

With Youth Adaptation grant support, we will increase awareness of climate adaptation and resilience among rural farmers, increase production volumes of grains, reduce poverty, increase food security, and above all preserve the ecosystem services for sustainable agriculture in Africa. Global Farms is largely impactful to rural farmers and the natural environment in the Northern part of Ghana and Africa as a whole. As a company, we are looking forward to partnering with organisations, individuals, and funding agencies who have key interests in safeguarding the natural environment and promoting farming system practices to enhance food security in Africa. This will assist the continent in climate action.
Title: Climate change puts climate-smart irrigation technology on the spotlight.

How did you come up with the thought of starting this company?

Irrigation Hub started due to reduced, and unreliable rainfall that has resulted in reduced smallholder farmer production, reduced income, and in extreme cases drought and hunger. Our climate-smart irrigation solution seeks to address these challenges to guarantee the success of this critical sector through improved production, income, and livelihoods of the most affected. Agriculture is the main economic activity across Africa, contributing approximately 20-30% of GDP.

What makes your innovation unique?

At Irrigation Hub, we offer climate-smart ideas on irrigation technology. Our solution offers an end-to-end water cycle as a key requirement for agricultural production. This is through water harvesting that provides water supply all year round, the water is then utilised economically and precisely through a smart drip irrigation system that is solar-powered, and finally mulching technologies that allow for water preservation during farming. Our products include dam liners (for water harvesting), smart drip irrigation, Solar-powered pumps, mulching technology, and farm planning services. The solution enables smallholder farmers to produce agricultural commodities all year round as they do reduce reliance on rain, their yield is also increased due to precise watering in turn increasing their returns and ability to earn from their small agricultural lands.
How do you think other businesses in Africa can support climate action?

Businesses stand a chance to support climate action. They must develop long-term sustainability goals that are both ambitious and feasible. They must also examine their current technologies and supply chains to ensure they are making the best decisions for themselves, the customers, employees, and the environment. Developing long-term sustainable goals comes along with investing in time and designing an effective plan driven by ambitious long-term goals. Such goals can include using 100% renewable energy in their operations and setting carbon-neutral goals.

How do you think YouthADAPT Challenge will assist Africa in climate action?

The grant we have received will enable us to equip a whole branch thus reducing our delivery turnaround time to time to our clients since we have a limited geographical footprint across the country. We will also be able to support the rollout of the pay-as-you-go purchase model since our product payment plan is purely cash. This is currently limiting our market penetration as most of our target market, smallholder farmers, and struggle to meet the initial cost of the system. We intend to push this innovation here in Kenya and in the continent at large. This will ensure we support climate change action in the entire continent.

What message do you have for development partners who may be looking into making an impact through climate action?

What I would say is that climate change is a huge risk that threatens people’s lives and livelihoods. Because these risks cannot be eliminated, development partners must take strong action to assist businesses and individuals in managing them. To do so, it is necessary to plan ahead and implement proactive steps that will not only decrease climate risk but also accelerate development. The partners out there looking into making an impact first is to recommend the great work that you are doing. Secondly, keep on with the great support. More enterprises are coming up and there is a need to support them to achieve their great dreams and ambitions in fighting climate change.

The grant we have received will enable us to equip a whole branch thus reducing our delivery turnaround time to time to our clients since we have a limited geographical footprint across the country.
How did you come up with the thought of starting this company?

The impact of climate change has brought about many challenges to the lives of farmers, and the greatest impact will be felt among the populations, predominantly in developing countries, referred to as “subsistence” or “smallholder” farmers. Their vulnerability to climate change comes both from being predominantly dependent on rain-fade agriculture, and from various socio-economic, demographic, and policy trends limiting their capacity to adapt to change. From this, we saw the need to come up with strategies and solutions that are targeted at helping smallholder farmers to mitigate and accelerate adaptation plans.

What makes your innovation unique?

Our innovation is unique since we have established farmer business schools to offer customised training services, Risk management Services and Technical efficiency Analysis services. We have also developed a tool that monitors and quantifies climate change and its impacts in diverse sectors such as energy, agriculture, biodiversity, urban development and health to help shape policy framework. The innovation hub we have built also develops and tests digital innovation that tackles constraints in the agriculture sector.
How do you think other businesses in Africa can support climate action?

To support climate action we can say businesses need to take the bold step of sustainability. Businesses can also help raise awareness among their employees, customers and other stakeholders. Organising internal competitions or campaigns to raise and improve sustainability awareness is a fantastic idea. On our side, we collaborate with other organisations to create something creative, impactful, and memorable. These are the kind of moves that will help our business support climate action and push us towards a sustainable future.

How do you think YouthADAPT Challenge will assist Africa in climate action?

YouthADAPT Challenge is indeed assisting Africa in climate action. As in our case, the funding we have received as Sustainable builders Zambia has scaled our research and innovation and we are looking forward to supporting mass production of digital innovation products being formulated and innovated from our business hub. This will in turn help propel our country and the continent at large as the new innovation will help mitigate climate change.

What message do you have for development partners who may be looking into making an impact through climate action?

First is to highly commend them for the great work they are doing. Development partners should also take advantage of the continent’s numerous opportunities. They are playing a critical role in assisting the continent in mitigating the effects of climate change. As a result, they should continue to support and fund organisations working to combat climate change. This will help accelerate climate action since the organisations will have the capability to push their sustainability agendas.

As in our case, the funding we have received as Sustainable builders Zambia has scaled our research and innovation and we are looking forward to supporting mass production of digital innovation products being formulated and innovated from our business hub.
How did you come up with the thought of starting this company?

In the past years, farmers in Sub Saharan Africa have experienced droughts and famine, decreased crop production, poor livelihood due to lack of income, hunger and poor nutrition. This has been attributed to unpredictable weather conditions; floods, temperature rises, poor agricultural practices, and lack of access to good quality seeds and seedlings among others. Moreover, lack of farm inputs, especially quality seedlings - due to high prices of seeds, lack of information on best varieties for different climates and regions, and lack of good knowledge on how to propagate seedlings has caused many farmers end up with huge losses, low germination rate in nurseries, and losses attributed to transplanting. We saw the need to increase productivity in agriculture by providing farm inputs. We achieve this by providing farmers with seedlings, agricultural extension services, and farm inputs such as fertilizers and bio-solutions.

What makes your innovation unique?

Our innovation is unique since we have countered food insecurity by providing a variety of readily available seedlings for planting during all seasons with keen interest to arid and semi-arid areas with a key focus on drought-resistant crops. We have also improved access to quality seedlings for farmers by providing well-selected seedlings and farm inputs for great adaptation with regional climatic conditions and food trades and need in the markets. The Proper use of Idle farms to productivity and income generation due to the availability of seedlings, free agronomic guidance has also hastened land conservation.
How do you think other businesses in Africa can support climate action?

We are a perfect example of how businesses can support climate action. Businesses should adopt tree planting as a way to accelerate climate action. In recent years, tree-planting has been a focal point of many environmental movements. Planting trees is becoming increasingly popular as a simple and effective strategy to help reduce carbon emissions and restore natural ecosystems. Enterprises should come up with achievable tree-planting campaigns. For instance, Safaricom Kenya has a great initiative of coming up with the Safaricom forest, a program that aims to plant over 1 million trees by 2030. But it is important to note that tree-planting programs must be thoroughly researched and planned; otherwise, they will cause more harm than good.

What message do you have for development partners who may be looking into making an impact through climate action?

Development partners can also make an impact on climate action by advocating for afforestation. Tree planting is still one of the most efficient ways to counter carbon emissions. We can therefore say trees are the most efficient carbon machines. Through photosynthesis, trees extract carbon dioxide from the atmosphere for their own growth and energy. As a result of this process, they generate oxygen, which we breathe. Restoring the forest size will therefore mean that tons of carbon being emitted would be countered. Development partners should therefore support and invest in entities that are focused on restoring the forest cover.

How do you think YouthADAPT Challenge will assist Africa in climate action?

Africa will benefit from the YouthADAPT Challenge as it supports organisations working to expand forest cover. As trees create oxygen and take in carbon dioxide, this limits the quantity of carbon emitted. Carbon dioxide, which is hastening climate change, must be mitigated before it becomes uncontrollable. As a result, sponsoring organisations that deal with carbon emissions places YouthADAPT at the forefront of assisting Africa with climate action.