

What can we do for you?

Did you know you could earn six points for your innovation? Sokoine University of Agriculture's Directorate of Intellectual Property Management and Linkages and the Innovative Agricultural Research Initiative (iAGRI) have worked with SUA to create a space for innovation, mentoring, and designing new products to meet the demands of the agriculture sector, markets, and agribusiness called TechTalent. Submit your idea and visit us today!

- Do you have a new idea for how to improve agricultural production?
- Do you have an idea for an agribusiness product that you'd like help marketing?
- Are you interested in agricultural mechanization?
- Would you like to meet with successful agripreneurs and private sector entities to learn about the business of agriculture?
- Do you have a business idea and would like help with writing a business plan?

Contact Us

The TechTalent initiative is led by the Innovation Portfolio and SUA's Directorate of Intellectual Property Management and Linkages. It is located on the second floor of the iAGRI building on the SUA main campus. iAGRI is the white building at the end of the road to the left of the SUA administration block. The Innovative Agricultural Research Initiative (iAGRI) aims to strengthen training and collaborative research capacities of Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and the Tanzanian Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MALF) with the goal of improving food security and agricultural productivity in Tanzania.

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TechTalent



**Turning Great Ideas
and Innovations into
Business Opportunities**



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



iAGRI
Innovative Agricultural Research Initiative

Do you have an innovative agribusiness idea?

Objectives

To bridge the gap between research findings, innovation, and commercialization, TechTalent provides a space to stimulate ideas and encourage, inspire, and empower would-be innovators. TechTalent targets generators of ideas with resources and feedback to develop their potential prototypes, provide coaching, and link them to markets for their products.

- Add value to existing technologies and innovations to meet market needs
- Take research results to commercialization
- Link innovators with a database for researching existing intellectual property to pinpoint gaps in the agribusiness space



Innovators

Are you an innovator? Idea-generators are problem-solvers who range from students, alumni, academic staff from Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA); students participating in iAGRI advanced degree training; faculty and students of the iAGRI Consortium partnership; and participants in the iAGRI Collaborative Research Projects. The Innovation Portfolio team assists innovators access a range of innovation services and support systems and networks. The new Tech Talent space provides

innovators with the following three interconnected services to drive innovation:

Innovation Training

The training objective is to create an innovative culture of idea generation that attracts more ideas on a continuous basis. Innovators are trained on how to move from concept to solution and how to prepare Preliminary Statement of Work (Pre-SOW) – ideation, curation, narration to solution and the power of entrepreneurship, how to sell a business idea and how to pitch a business idea to an investor when they are offered to meet.

Innovation Coaching

Guided coaching is aimed in providing practical tools and support to help innovators explore new directions, unlock their potential, increase adaptation and develop the talent and capability by pairing them with a more skilled or experienced person in the same field. Coaching is done on need basis and conducted in person or virtually by phone or internet.

The Innovation Portfolio provides two types of coaching:

- One-On-One coaching- To coach each innovator member one at a time
- Group Coaching: Support members to coach each other (a peer coaching group) based on their need.
- Workshops and seminars with SUA staff, leading agribusiness entrepreneurs, and universities within the RUFORUM network.

Innovation Networking

This includes referrals through Innovation Portfolio extensive networks so that the innovators have access to the best expertise. Innovators are made aware that they do not have to reinvent the wheel – but should look outside in the open innovation space, find what exists, identify the gaps, and then adapt it or combine it with other approaches that work. There are many tools and templates out there. Innovation Portfolio approach combine strategic thinking with the practical tools required for developing new products, services, and strategies, all focused first and foremost on leapfrogging to the next big innovation breakthrough.