

Youth employment and entrepreneurship in developing countries

Review of education-to-employment systems and programme funding

Terms of Reference for 3 month internship in first half of 2020

Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (WCDI) works in developing countries (outside of OECD) through “Knowledge in Action”, supporting and leading on programmes and projects across Africa and Asia, to address the challenges of secure and healthy food, more sustainable markets, adaptive agriculture and ecosystem governance.

One of WCDI’s thematic areas of focus is on increasing entrepreneurship and work opportunities for young women and men in food systems. There is on the one hand an enormous and increasing demand for more, and better quality, food emerging in developing countries as the populations rise and the middle class grows. On the other hand there is also an increasing amount of young people entering the job market each year in search of good sources of income to start out their own independent lives. While the agri-food sector(s) will not be able to absorb all of those seeking work, there is a large window of opportunity to expand the provision and diversity of foods, driven by innovation through starting and scaling up businesses all along the value chain. However, it is increasingly recognised that the education systems in many developing countries do not equip the next generation with the appropriate skills, confidence or expertise to fill this gap and is in real need of reform.

WCDI provides technical support to a number of programmes and projects that aim to improve the education ecosystem in developing countries so that young people are able to develop the skills, confidence and expertise to establish and grow start-ups and drive the innovation required to improve food systems.

Internship activities and deliverables

WCDI is offering an internship for a graduate student to lead the work in two areas

- How do our education projects contribute to improved entrepreneurship and/or employment opportunities for young people, and innovation in the countries’ food systems? And how can our support potentially be improved? Develop and apply a framework for what education systems need to look like to improve youth opportunities and to be able to develop food systems, and use this to benchmark and evaluate existing projects.
- Develop an investment strategy for programmes with youth as the core focus. Based on a review of key donors and major programmes addressing youth employment and entrepreneurship, prioritize key funding sources and develop funding products that WCDI can use going forward.

All work is desk- and interview-based, and may involve attendance to events within the Netherlands.

Guidance and learning:

You will be physically located at the WCDI offices on the WUR campus (with some flexibility to work remotely as agreed) and primarily supervised by Thomas Tichar (Youth & Gender Advisor in Food Systems) with secondary supervision from the finance team. You will be able to join all relevant on-

site meetings, team lunches, youth & gender cluster meetings, brown bag events, etc. held during the time spent at WCDI.

This internship will give you the following experience;

- An in-depth understanding of education systems, employment and entrepreneurship and youth issues (including gender-based), primarily in African context.
- A hands-on understanding of how programmes and projects are funded in the development sector.
- How to work within and across different teams, manage time and prioritize responsibilities.
- Develop products in different formats and for different audiences.
- Exposure to a team of over 50 scientific staff working across a diverse array of thematic areas related to food systems and international development.

What we are looking for:

- Student in their final year of MA or MSc in related subject, e.g. international development, food systems, labour studies, political economy, rural livelihoods, etc.
- Able to illustrate knowledge of relevant topics.
- Working professional level of written and spoken English. Ability to read French is a plus.
- Proven experience of how to conduct desk-based research, analyse large amounts of information and concisely summarise key learnings with specific target audience(s) in mind.
- Comfortable with microsoft office software (word, ppt, excel).

Compensation:

€290 p/month compensation is provided together with, as required, a laptop and an email account.

How and by when to apply:

Please submit a cover letter of up to 300 words, together with your CV, explaining your motivation for this internship by Friday, 14 February to thomas.tichar@wur.nl. As required, interviews will be held before end of February and, in agreement with the selected candidate, will begin by early to middle of March.