

## WATER ENERGY FOOD SECURITY STARTUP ACCELERATION PROGRAM FOR MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE NIGER BASIN AUTHORITY(NBA)



### PROGRAM SCHEME AND OBJECTIVES

Face aux défis énergétiques, alimentaires, et eaux que rencontre la région de l'ABN, auxquels Given the energy, food, and water challenges affecting the NBA region, as well as strong demographic growth, appropriate, sustainable solutions are needed. These include start-ups with a strong social and environmental impact. The "Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus Dialog in the Niger Basin" program supports startups in the WEF Nexus field in the region. Entitled "Water-Energy-Food Security (WEF) Nexus Startup Acceleration Program in Niger Basin member countries (NBA)", the program aims to identify and accelerate 5 high-impact startups in the Nexus field.

### KEY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- Implemented by the 2iE Institute from December 2021 to June 2023, the WEF Nexus acceleration program, is built upon 5 core activities:
- Identification and recruitment of 5 WEF Nexus high-impact startups: definition of eligibility and selection criteria, launch of the call for applications (165 applicants including 25 women), one-week bootcamp (12 pre-selected startups from 9 countries, final selection of the 5 winning startups);
- Acceleration of the 5 winning startups from the bootcamp: positioning, technical and legal coaching, updating the business model, measuring ESG impacts and defining an occupational health and safety policy, optimizing products/improving service offerings, characterization,...;
- Due diligence for valuing startups with investors;
- Meeting with impact investors interested in the Nexus WEF field;
- Capitalization: monitoring, difficulties encountered, lessons learned...;



## STARTUPS PRESENTATION : IMPACTS AND PERSPECTIVES

### Agro Eco Services

Specializing in the production of organic fertilizers, the startup provides an environmentally-sound solution to the problem of urban organic waste management and declining soil fertility in Africa, thanks to a subtle combination of biochar and fertilizer in its products. Processing almost 165 tons/year of organic waste, Agro Eco Services contributes to the reduction of 41.91 tons of CO2, the production of feed for over 3,000 poultry, and the restoration of plant cover on almost 1,000 hectares. Employing 17 people, including 7 women, the startup contributes to the collection and recovery of waste, the reduction of GHG emissions and CO2 storage, the reduction of water consumption dedicated to agriculture, the improvement of yields, and the restoration of farmland, and food security. The social return on investment for waste reduction and GHG emissions reduction are estimated at 1.44 and 1.69 respectively.

The startup has embarked on the process of obtaining organic certification for its fertilizers, enabling it to position itself as the main supplier of green fertilizer to organic pineapple growers in Benin and the West African sub-region.

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### Clean Energy Services

The Cameroon-based startup develops solar thermal and photovoltaic energy solutions for preserving heat-sensitive products and powering farm machinery. It promotes a circular economy by giving new life to freezer carcasses, thus avoiding emissions of Chloro Fluoro Carbides (CFCs), a greenhouse gas with a warming potential of 771 to 7,380 CO2. Clean Energy Services contributes to the recycling of waste, the production of clean energy, the reduction of GHG emissions and CO2 storage, the reduction of water consumption for agriculture, the improvement of agricultural yields, and food security. The startup employs 13 people, including 4 women.

CLEAN ENERGY SERVICES is looking for funding to set up an industrial production unit for solar freezers in Cameroon. The startup is now offering these freezers to health centers, pharmacies, women's groups, and young fish farmers.

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### Green Business Consulting

Green Business Consulting is a start-up that produces and markets green charcoal for cooking, Biochar, and organic fertilizers through the pyrolysis of water hyacinth and typha.

Through this project, Green Business Consulting recovers more than 30 tons/year of water hyacinth, thus combating eutrophication of the River Niger. Since 2018, the startup has contributed to the clean-up of more than 100 hectares of the Niger River water body. With nearly 50 employees, 75% of whom are cash-for-work, it contributes to waste collection and recovery, river de-pollution, the reduction of GHG emissions and CO2 storage, the production of clean energy, the reduction of water consumption dedicated to agriculture, the improvement of yields and the restoration of farmland and food security.

Green Business Consulting sets up its new green coal production plant, enabling the company to increase its production from 12 tons/year to over 500 tons/year.

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### MoonsoftBio

MoonsoftBio is a Guinea-based startup that manufactures intelligent biogasifiers from plastic materials collected and recycled in the city of Conakry. Through this project, MOONSOFTBio offers households, farmers, schools, and restaurants a biogasifier that transforms their biodegradable waste into methane and fertilizer.

The startup recovers an average of 2 tons/year of plastic waste, helping to avoid more than 211,811.36 tons of GHG emissions linked to plastic degradation. It contributes to waste collection and recovery, clean energy production, resilient infrastructure including aquaponics kits, CO2 storage, reduced water consumption for agriculture, improved yields, farmland restoration and food security. Its team currently comprises 6 people, including 2 women. MOONSOFTBIO is testing a new business model that involves equipping every school canteen in the city of Conakry with a biogasifier for waste management.

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### SAVIP

The Sanitation and Clean City Service (SAVIP) initiative was set up in Chad to provide residents with a low-cost collection and management service for plastic and organic waste. It contributes to the collection and recovery of waste, the reduction of GHG emissions, the preservation of water quality and, therefore, the reduction of water-borne diseases. With a dynamic team of 6 young people, including 1 woman, SAVIP is embarking on the transformation of urban waste to produce compost and green charcoal.

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## STARTUPS SUPPORT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPPEMENT GOALS (SDGs)

