



Youth Action in Agriculture Development (YAAD) wins African Technology Development Forum (ATDF) Entrepreneurship Award - By Thokozire Gwaza

Entrepreneurship is a game changer for many Youth worldwide as it ensures youth employment as well as youth participation and integration into economic growth at national and regional levels.

The ATDF Entrepreneurship Hub (AEH) Founded in 2007 is a unique multidisciplinary and multinational private firm that primarily promotes innovation, entrepreneurship and business development among the youths and Medium Small and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs). AEH recognized the need for greater youth participation in enterprise development and business incubation in Malawi, and engaged in supporting start-up businesses to innovative young entrepreneurs in different countries across Africa. In this regard AEH announced the call for business proposals that clearly identified and sought to exploit business opportunities along the fish value chain in Malawi.

As young innovators in business, Youth Action in Agriculture Development (YAAD), an initiative of the Afri-fishNet's Youth for fish Program (YFFP), which aims to inspire and enhance youth skills in value addition in different disciplines in agriculture, proposed the production of fish sausages, in Malawi.

This is a very rare yet interesting business idea as no company in Malawi makes fish sausages. YAAD was awarded a total of MK500, 000.00 (US\$689.16) to kick start its business in an effort to reduce fish postharvest losses whilst offering new fish based food alternatives.



Picture 1: YAAD coordinator and representatives receiving the cheque



Picture 2: YAAD members celebrating the award

The awarding ceremony was opened by AEH managing Director Mr. Victor Konde, who said that “fish Business is profitable. It needs sharp minds to use diversified technologies in value addition” and that “Young people with sharp minds and courage are what the Malawi nation needs for transformation”.

Sub-Saharan Africa has the lowest fish supply per person globally, with supply predicted to fall by 20% in the next two decades. Poor processing and management result in losses worth up to US\$5 billion each year. Although Lake Malawi accounts for about a third of the total surface area of Malawi, the country is a net importer of fish partly due to post-harvest losses.

YAAD has members in Fisheries, Aquaculture, Agribusiness, Animal science and food science and was one of the seven youth organizations that were awarded out of 21 shortlisted young Malawian entrepreneurs.