Open call for African startups addressing access to energy, agriculture, mobility issues

Seedstars and Shell Foundation have joined forces to look for sustainable, scalable and innovative startups addressing universal access to energy-related challenges, as well as sustainable agriculture, mobility and transportation.

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With support from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), they are launching the Energy, Mobility and Agriculture Innovation Program to find African tech entrepreneurs in the mobility, transportation, energy, and agriculture space in order to provide them with the resources, training, and potential funding to scale their startups and impact.

The objective of this program is to support, catalyse and train the highest potential tech-based early stage (seed)African-led startups working towards:

- universal access to energy (household energy to heat, light and cook; energy for business and large communities);
- sustainable mobility and transportation (clean and safe transportation in rural areas and last mile transportation); or
- sustainable agriculture value chains (innovations that improve access to knowledge, finance, markets or knowledge for smallholder farmers).

Selected startups will be able to take part in Seedstars' three-month Investment Readiness Program, which will provide the entrepreneurs with 1-on-1 mentoring with industry experts, potential funding opportunities, and leverage human and knowledge resources available within Shell Foundation.

"Startups have immense potential to solve Africa's biggest development challenges and local African entrepreneurs are uniquely positioned to develop these solutions. We are excited to collaborate with Seedstars to identify and support some of the most promising African-led start-ups that will scale these solutions and improve millions of lives across the continent over time" Tara Collier, market development manager at Shell Foundation.

Criteria

The following are the criteria for startups interested in applying for the program:

- Startup should be African-led and based or operating in at least one Sub-Saharan African country;
- Tech solution must be focused on the mobility, transportation, energy, or agriculture value chains;
- Startup must be at their early stage/seed round with a minimum viable product (MVP);
- Startup must have initial traction and already able to generate revenue;
- Startup must have raised only less than $1M to date; and
- Startup should have significant positive impact on lower income communities (in line with SDGs 2, 7 or 11)

To become part of the mission of providing universal access to energy, and making agriculture and mobility more inclusive and sustainable, send in your applications to the Energy and Mobility Innovation Program page before 20 December 2020.

Interested applicants can apply here https://seedsta.rs/3meCEG1