

20th May 2021, 12:00-14:00 (GMT)

## Session N°4:

# Sustainable food systems: the key role of SMEs and businesses



INNOVATIONS  
SERIES





***Sustainable food systems:  
the key role of SMEs and businesses***

*20<sup>th</sup> May 2021, 12:00-14:00 (GMT)*

**THE CASE OF SHEKINA ENTERPRISE**

*By*

*Pierre Damien MBATEZIMANA*

*Founder & Managing Director*

# Company Profile



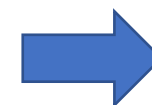
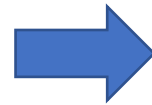
- **Company: SHEKINA Enterprise**
- **Sector of Activity: Food Processing**
- **Creation: 2007**
- **Owner: MBATEZIMANA PIERRE DAMIEN**
- **Size: Medium**
- **Location: Rwanda**

# Innovations: technology for drying fruit and vegetables

Product: **Cassava leaves**

- Dried cassava leaves

- Dried cassava leaves **mix**



# Innovations

- ✓ Development of fruit & vegetables drying technology
- ✓ Dried cassava leaves (which turn the fresh cassava leaves from 24 hours-shelf life into a 2 years-shelf life)
- ✓ Dried cassava leaves Mix (Instant product with 5 minutes cooking times instead of 3 – 4 hours for fresh leaves)

# Other achievements:

## Economic, social and environmental impact.



Shekina is proud of:

- Having established a well organized cassava leaves value chain, where more than 2,000 women farmers got innovative solution to valorise Cassava leaves and generate income.
- Having provided regular employment (45 to 70 employees depending on the season)
- Having empowered a group of 100 women who are now managers and leaders of 5 collection centres that were set up.
- Having connected the farmers to international market (Our products are exported to EU, US, UK, Canada and regional markets)
- Having established a business model which can be replicated in other African countries.

# Other achievements: Pictures

**Farmers delivering cassava leaves**



**Women managers of the collection centers**



# Challenges

- Lack of fund to invest in researches for products and technology development.
- Lack of fund for expansion.
- Waste management (there is an opportunity to use the waste of cassava leaves to produce biogas which can replace fire wood used to produce heat for the dryers, while other leaves can produce fertilizer).





# THANK YOU





*This series of events is organised by PAFO and COLEACP.  
COLEACP operates within the framework of development cooperation  
between the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS)  
and the European Union (European Development Fund – EDF), with the  
support of the French Development Agency (AFD).*

# Thank you

