



Pamoja Founders Project

Inaugural Cohort Fellow Profiles





Ethiopia





Nathnael Tadesse
Founder and CEO
Senaryo Trading PLC

Nathnael Tadesse has over 15 years of experience in solar market development, credible exposure to the solar technology market, and strategic market development in the Ethiopian solar market and industry. As founder and CEO of Senaryo Trading PLC, a provider of PV solar solutions for residential and commercial customers in Ethiopia, Nathnael delivers high-quality, cost effective, and environmentally friendly solar energy systems that meet the diverse power needs of the public and help attain sustainable economic development of society. He has led in the design, installation, maintenance, and consulting of various solar projects and aims to combat energy challenges by making solar power accessible and affordable. His vision is to be a reliable and preferred specialized renewable energy solution provider by adopting an applicable, sustainable, and affordable distribution network across Ethiopia.



Kenya





Elizabeth Okullow
Co-Founder
AquaMnara

Elizabeth Okullow is an enthusiastic and passionate advocate for the blue economy, focusing on sustainable aquaculture and technology. As the co-founder and CEO of AquaMnara, Elizabeth empowers farmers with efficient fish farm management and comprehensive aquaculture solutions. Elizabeth's expertise spans agribusiness management, business coaching and advisory, entrepreneurship, and leadership development. Through AquaMnara, she has successfully applied her skills in strategy development, partnership building, and stakeholder management to ensure sustainable fish farming practices that preserve lake and ocean resources, are simple and profitable, and benefit both farmers and the environment. Elizabeth holds a bachelor's degree in microbiology from Karatina University and is pursuing an MSc. in Management and Organizational Development at the United States International University. Elizabeth's awards and fellowships include the NextGen Accelerator Fellow by Harvard Innovation Labs, Women in Ecopreneurship by the U.S Embassy through TechCamp, the TECA Fellowship, the Mandela Washington Fellowship, and the Top Fellow title at Africa YES.



Benson Abila
Founder
M-taka

Benson Abila is a social entrepreneur, sustainability advocate, and civil engineer with experience in waste management, recycling, and circular economy. As the founder of M-taka, an award-winning tech-integrated waste management and recycling social enterprise, Benson is dedicated to making a lasting impact and shaping a better future for communities across the continent. Benson is also the founder of Homeless of Kisumu, a non-profit improving the well-being and livelihoods of vulnerable groups in the Kenyan Western Region. He has worked with notable partners like USAID, GIZ, Global Affairs Canada, Michigan State University, and US Embassy- Kenya and led his teams to special programs and awards, including the World Food Programme Innovation Accelerator, United Nations SDSN 2023 Investment Readiness Program, and The Presidential Innovation Award. Benson is also a 2022 Mandela Washington Fellow, 2023 Metis Fellow, and 2023 Jasiri Fellow. He also serves as a board member at the Dolfine Korando Faith Foundation, championing innovation and safeguarding.



Nigeria





Mafeng Samuel Danyang
Co-Founder
Kayan Gona Agro Network

Mafeng Samuel Danyang is a passionate agriculturist with over five years of experience in agri-business, working with smallholder farmers in farm inputs, markets, and advisory. As the co-founder of Kayan Gona Agro Network, a social enterprise that distributes farm inputs, quality seeds, and agronomic training to farmers in rural communities of Nigeria, Mafeng creates innovative agricultural ideas, builds teams, and advocates for sustainable living and well-being. With Mafeng's leadership, Kayan Gona won the D-Prize award in 2023. Mafeng is also a professional teacher and certified builder registered with the Nigerian Institute of Buildings.



Babajide Oluwase
Co-Founder and CEO
Ecotutu

Babajide Oluwase works at the intersection of urban management, sustainability, and entrepreneurship. As the co-founder and CEO of Ecotutu, a leading cleantech company providing multichannel solar-powered cold chain solutions to businesses in the agriculture sector, Babajide provides leadership and strategic direction to meet business goals across new business development, growth, fundraising, and people development. Since 2015, Babajide has demonstrated extensive experience in creating sustainability-focused solutions and has worked to establish cost-saving initiatives for corporate organizations, research think tanks, and government MDAs. He recently worked as a project technical support on a Green Climate Fund (GCF) bid set up to strengthen the resilience of Lagos's water sector. Babajide is a recipient of numerous awards and fellowships including George Ayittey Platinum Prize Winner; Tony Elumelu Foundation/GIZ Fellow; Sustainable Solutions Africa 30 under 30 Fellow; Global Shaper of the World Economic Forum; Yunus and Youth Global Fellow; Orange Corners Innovation Fund Winner; NutriPitch Grand Prize Winner; Mandela Washington Fellow; and Global Fund for Food Security Award, among others.



Dr. Akpem Terese Shadrach
Founder
Vet Konect

Dr. Akpem Terese Shadrach is a veterinarian and social entrepreneur with over seven years of experience in animal health, agriculture, social entrepreneurship, and sustainable development. As the founder of Vet Konect, Akpem blends animal health expertise with digital innovation to build a digital animal health platform providing access to animal health coverage for livestock farmers and pet owners across Nigeria and other African countries. With a passion for empowering youth, Akpem has trained and mentored over 15,000 youth through Mind The Gap as a digital innovation lead and community manager, fostering digital skills among job seekers, entrepreneurs, and corporate workers. His impactful leadership at the Nigeria Youth SDGs Network spearheaded significant initiatives, including the nationwide Youth Dialogue 2019, shaping the decade of action on zero budget and crafting the innovative SDGs Playbook. He has been recognized for his excellence with awards and honors, including the Hero Kickstart Foundation Grant 2018, ONE Champion 2018, VetsArk Innovation Challenge 2019, Top 5 Finalists in the AYUTE Nigeria Challenge, and the 2023 s Mandela Washington Fellow award.



Mozambique





Abdul de Almeida
Co-Founder
Crimas, Orza and FAE

Abdul de Almeida has eight years of professional experience in business in the agricultural sector. As the co-founder, senior consultant, and trainer at CRIMAS, OARZA, and FAE, Abdul focuses on helping smallholder farmers to succeed through promoting an inclusive business model and capacity building for smallholder farmers and young entrepreneurs. Abdul plans to continue turning farmers into active agents of environment conservation through agroforest practices and entrepreneurial skills by increasing their turnover and reducing unit costs. Abdul holds a bachelor's degree in forestry engineering, is a Mandela Washington Fellow, and a member of ILA (International Leadership Association). Through his work, CRIMAS was elected as the best service provider of the year in Africa according to ASEB (Africa Startup Ecosystem Builders), and he was named as Top 100 Land Accelerator Africa Restoration Champion and graduate of the land accelerator 2023 Africa top sixteen cohorts.



Tanzania





Abdallah Mabrouk
Founder & Executive Director
Ibukia Shambani

Abdallah Mabrouk is an entrepreneurial visionary with over eight years of expertise in Tanzanian agribusiness and the circular economy. As the founder and executive director at Ibukia Shambani, a non-profit social enterprise focused on uplifting smallholder farmers, Abdallah leads initiatives providing crucial resources like inputs financing, training, insurance, storage, and market access. His work drives increased productivity and economic resilience in rural communities, emphasizing sustainable agricultural practices and reducing food waste. Simultaneously, through Wasteless Foodies and Technology Company Ltd, Abdallah turns discarded pineapple peels into eco-friendly detergents like hand wash, shampoo, dishwasher detergent, and organic pesticides which not only combats food waste but also fights climate change by preventing the accumulation fruit peels in landfills and curbing the production of methane gas, a potent greenhouse gas. His academic background includes a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics and agribusiness from Sokoine University of Agriculture. Abdallah's accolades include being a 2021 Mandela Washington Fellow, winner of the 2019 Tony Elumelu Entrepreneurship Competition, and the inaugural recipient of the Catalyst Grant by D-PRIZE and Mandela Washington Fellowship



Uganda





Nalugemwa Elizabeth
Founder
Seedloans and Kyaffe Farmers Coffee

Nalugemwa Elizabeth is a dedicated social entrepreneur recognized for her impactful work with Seedloans and Kyaffe Farmers Coffee. As the director at Kyaffe Junior School, Nalugemwa is committed to shaping the future through education, and with expertise as a cultural integration specialist in Uganda, she continues to bridge communities for positive change. As a 2018 Obama Foundation Leader, she has demonstrated exceptional leadership. In 2019, Elizabeth received the Women Stop Hunger Award, highlighting her contributions to addressing food insecurity.



Juliet Namwanje
Founder
Zimba

Juliet Namwanje has experience in agroforestry and sustainable land use. As a D-prize fellow and founder of Zimba, a social enterprise start-up that empowers smallholder farmers in Uganda's degraded drylands, Juliet works to enable farmers to monetize their land by cultivating eucalyptus tree farms with high-value cash crops. She aims to provide comprehensive support to farmers, encompassing the provision of agro-inputs, technical guidance, and intensive training. Juliet's work also fosters resilient food systems by cultivating staple and marketable cash crops, boosting community food availability. Her work connects smallholders to high-value markets to create sustainable livelihoods and address market inequities, ensuring that the benefits of agroforestry extend to the most marginalized stakeholders.



Emmanuel Dusabimana
Founder
Agriboom

Emmanuel Dusabimana is a dedicated advocate for sustainable agriculture. As the founder of Agriboom, an innovative social enterprise working towards improving the lives of smallholder farmers in Gulu, Uganda, Emmanuel leads initiatives promoting better farming practices and improving people's lives in rural communities by implementing innovative solutions and leveraging technology and community engagement to drive transformational change. Emmanuel's vision for Agriboom is to empower smallholder farmers by increasing crop yields and enabling sustainable revenue growth by providing them with high-quality and affordable agro-inputs to increase food security and build resilient, sustainable, and prosperous farming communities and food systems in Uganda



Brendah Nantongo
Founder

Veathari Ventures Limited

Brendah Nantongo has over ten years of combined experience in agricultural engineering, technology and innovation, and project management. As founder Veathari Ventures Limited, Brendah is a social entrepreneur and has been building business-oriented solutions to help smallholder farmers make a good living from their farming activities. Such solutions involve improving primary production, expanding the variety of commodities, and providing accessible and highly scalable agricultural inputs and processing capacity. Her passion for creating a better world drives her to develop impact-focused initiatives that solve daily challenges