



# The Horticulture Innovation Lab's Youth –Led Horticulture Training and Service Center

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# Background and Context

- Guinea – Young developing country from 1956
- Population nearing 12.5 millions (2017 census)
- GDP (nominal) of about \$9 Billion (USD)
- Youth Population Percentage: 62%
- National unemployment rate : 70%



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# Youth-led HTSC

- Three year, \$480,000 project - September 2016 to August 2019
  - 2016 – Completed the Horticulture Assessment
  - 2017 – Established the Youth-Led Horticulture Training and Service Center
  - 2018 – Completed a week long Short-course Post-Harvest management
  - 2019 – International visits



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# Project successes

- Youth-led open houses
  - Networking for interns, farmers, entrepreneurs, government officials, civil society, national extension agents, ENAE's, AVENIR
  - Promote innovation and private enterprises
  - Demonstration and showcase of proven technologies: Cold room featuring the CoolBot, Charcoal cool room, Drip irrigation, Trellises, mulching, composting, etc.



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# Young Agro entrepreneurs (AVENIR)

- Identify and engage young entrepreneurs to support and to coach through the develop of their business plan
- Agribusinesses to fill in gap within the value chain
- Safe environment for empowerment, trial and error – develop problem solving skills
- Development of private sector behavior and mind set



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# Our accomplishments

## Development of Agribusiness

- 4 interns have established enterprises and are functioning businesses
- 4 are developing their business plans through the AVENIR capstone training
- 4 are currently in activity with the center

## Internship and collaboration

- 5 American students, graduates and undergraduates completed their internship with the center in 2018

## Horticulture Post-harvest management

- Introduction to the cold chain
- Dry chain
- Market analysis



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# Young Agro entrepreneurs (AVENIR)



- Youth and post-harvest technologies
  - Chimney Solar Dryer
  - Drycard
- Develop business plans
- Market oriented production



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# Strengthen the private sector: Enhancement of the input supply chain

- Identify and collaborate with local input supply services
  - Comptoire agricole
- Mr. Balde working to establish partnership with Technologies distributors from the US to facilitate access in Guinea
  - with StoreItCold and facilitate distribution of the CoolBot
  - Chapin Living Waters for the Drip Irrigation Systems



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# International youth collaboration to advance horticulture



- Interns trainings:
  - Basic food processing
  - Improved production methods
  - Plant disease management
  - Extension Services as a business
- Cultural exchange



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