The African innovation and entrepreneurship landscape is rapidly expanding with new opportunities for people in every country to take their ideas from mind to market.

Many African countries have carved out a viable path to development by harnessing innovation and entrepreneurship. As a result they have stimulated fast growing economies. infoDev seeks to foster knowledge-based economies and assist in the creation of sustainable businesses in the Climate Technology, Agribusiness Innovation, and Mobile Innovation sectors, among others.

infoDev is a global program within the World Bank Group that works at the intersection of innovation, technology, and entrepreneurship. Our program creates opportunities for inclusive sustainable growth and employment in developing countries. infoDev assists governments and technology-focused small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to improve capacity and skills, increase access to finance and markets, ensure the appropriate enabling policy and regulatory environment for business to flourish, and test out innovative solutions in developing country markets. We do this in partnership with other development programs, with World Bank/IFC colleagues, and with stakeholders from the public, private and civil society sectors in the developing world.

Each of our programs provides services, equipment, mentorship, and access to markets and finance, with the aim of assisting every innovative and entrepreneurial mind in Africa.
The Mobile Innovation for Development program seeks to create open spaces where mobile application developers can interact, developers can interact, work, and gain access to tools and expertise to assist in the creation of viable mobile application businesses. The program encourages **innovation** and **competitiveness** among Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

The Mobile Innovation Program supports growth-oriented mobile apps businesses, by

- **Enabling entrepreneurship in the mobile industry, through venture incubation and acceleration**;
- **Building mobile innovation communities of entrepreneurs, investors, partners and mentors**; and
- **Researching the app economy of emerging and frontier markets**.

**Activities** include training, regional and global **competitions** and **workshops** for developers and entrepreneurs. In the recent past, **challenges** to develop apps serving the base of the pyramid, **thematic hackathons** (e.g., focused on creating health, education, or governance apps), **peer-to-peer learning events** on business and technical topics, and **contests** designed to identify promising women entrepreneurs, were highly successful.

THE AFRICAN mLabs helped startups raise over USD 1,600,000 in external investments, brought 227 mobile applications to market, and provided in-depth support to more than 125 businesses.

**mLabs** offer specialized mobile business incubation - physical workspaces and state-of-the-art equipment, back-office support, testing facilities, and technology-neutral platforms. While they also organize ecosystem-building programs, their focus is on supplying the capital-intensive resources small entrepreneurs need to test their products, and to develop the relevant technical skills and business know-how to turn scalable mobile solutions into thriving businesses. There are two regional mLabs in: **Kenya** and **South Africa**.

**mHubs** are multi-stakeholder networks that organize informal gatherings on topics related to mobile technologies, competitions for entrepreneurs, local businesses, individual users, and peer-learning sessions. The hubs also run training and mentorship programs and networking events. Through these activities, **mHubs are able to map communities in the mobile industry ecosystem and help strengthen personal relationships between entrepreneurs, developers, network operators, device manufacturers, investors, marketing specialists, and students.** There are three regional mHubs in: **Kenya**, **Tanzania**, and **Uganda**.

**Relevant publications:**

i.e. *Mobile Usage at the Base of the Pyramid in Kenya*, and more.
The Climate Technology Program (CTP) accelerates climate technology **innovation** and **entrepreneurship** in developing countries. It aims to transform climate change challenges into market opportunities by offering a suite of local and global programs and financing that build in-country and international innovation capacity in clean-tech.

**East African Climate Innovation Network**
The Climate Technology Program and the African Center for Technology Studies (ACTS), established the East African Climate Innovation Network (EACIN). The network aims to develop **innovative, sustainable** and **profitable** solutions to climate challenges.

**CICs**
A network of Climate Innovation Centers (CICs) were designed and launched to accelerate the development, deployment, and transfer of locally relevant climate technologies. The CICs aim to boost developing country Green Growth and job creation by financing and supporting the competitive and profitable involvement of clean tech SMEs in local and international supply-chains and markets.

**Ethiopia**
InfoDev will launch a Climate Innovation Center in Ethiopia in 2013. The aim of this CIC is to **develop new industries, create jobs, and deliver products and services** that respond to Ethiopia’s own challenges. Priorities for the Ethiopian CIC include sustainable agribusiness, bio-fuels and bio-mass, transportation technologies, hydropower (micro) and energy efficiency.

**South Africa**
InfoDev is working with The Innovation Hub in Pretoria to develop a Climate Innovation Center (CIC) in South Africa. The CIC will leverage South Africa’s world-class technology and finance capabilities to allow local entrepreneurs and innovators to **develop innovative technologies and businesses addressing local climate challenges**. Special attention will be paid to ensure CIC activities serve the needs of historically disadvantaged groups.

**Ghana**
InfoDev is working to design a CIC to support the growth of Ghana’s climate technology sector, in 2013. The CIC will enable Ghana’s strong entrepreneurial community to address its unique climate change challenges, including floods, droughts, changing agricultural seasons, shifting temperatures and rainfall patterns. **Climate smart agriculture, rural off grid renewable energy, green buildings and transport** allow entrepreneurs to **turn these challenges into business opportunities**.
InfoDev’s Agribusiness Innovation Program (AIP) seeks to promote the success of pioneering agro-processing entrepreneurs and to create powerful demonstration cases illustrating how engagement of farmer associations, industry, financiers, and governments, around a notion of realizing shared value, can increase the competitiveness of the agro-processing sector. The ultimate purpose is to catalyze the green growth of a competitive agro-processing sector and, in turn, harness greater development gains in the form of inclusive and sustainable growth and job creation.

Agribusiness Innovation Centers (AICs)

The creation of the Agribusiness Innovation Centers (AICs) will result from a variety of models tested for providing pioneering agro-processing entrepreneurs with holistic financial and nonfinancial service offerings that enable innovation, facilitates access to markets, and in turn accelerates the growth of enterprises. In addition, the AICs seek to assist entrepreneurs in harnessing their comparative advantage by improving their products and deepening market shares in existing markets, while also encouraging entrance into new markets. Feasibility assessments for the development of AICs took place in Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nepal, Senegal and Tanzania.

AIC Service Portfolio

- **Market Linkages** - Market information, marketing skills and market linkages backwards and forwards in the value chain.
- **Finance** - Financial management skills and access to appropriate financing products.
- **Technology** - Technology information, training and technology access.
- **Business Services** - Business center, mentoring and coaching and assistance with navigating regulatory requirements, standards and compliance.
- Agribusiness entrepreneur networks, competitions and fairs.

Agribusiness Incubation

InfoDev is launching a new training course for professionals looking to use business incubation to enable the start-up and growth of innovative agribusiness enterprises in developing countries. It was designed as an effective “how to” course for business incubator managers and stakeholders interested in designing a new agribusiness incubator or strengthening an existing one.

Agribusiness incubators can provide:

- Advice on strategy, management, operations, marketing and technology.
- Access to market linkages, technology, finance, equipment, and facilities.
- Guidance on regulatory requirements, quality and safety standards.

Each additional job in agro-processing adds another 2.8 jobs to the wider economy, often benefitting smallholders, rural communities, and the unskilled.