

## COP 29 Fact Sheet: AIM for Climate Innovation Sprints

- **52 AIM for Climate Innovation Sprints** announced at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP 29, totaling **129 sprints** since the launch of the AIM for Climate initiative at COP 26.
- **Over \$12 billion USD** in total increased investment in climate-smart agriculture and food systems innovation since the launch of AIM for Climate, demonstrating sustained support from private sector and public-private partnerships for agricultural innovation.
- An AIM for Climate Innovation Sprint is an increase in aggregate self-financed investment from non-government partners to achieve an outcome or output in agriculture innovation and for climate-smart agriculture and food systems, completed in an expedited time frame.
- New Innovation Sprints span the four AIM for Climate focal areas: Methane Reduction, Emerging Technology, Smallholder Farmers in Low- and Middle-income Countries, and Agroecological Research.
- To see summaries for all AIM for Climate Innovation Sprints (2021-2024), please visit the <u>AIM for Climate Innovation Sprint website</u>.
- To join the conversation with AIM for Climate partners, please visit the <u>AIM for</u> <u>Climate LinkedIn</u> page.

#### Innovation Sprints Summary Information (listed below in order of monetary amount):

# Macauba: Developing a Climate Resilient Sustainable Aviation Fuel Feedstock with Land Recovery in Brazil

Acelen Renewables is combating global climate change with an innovative and impactful decarbonization solution for the aviation industry. By producing sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) from Macauba, a native Brazilian energy crop, Acelen Renewables is also rehabilitating 180,000 hectares of degraded pastures in Northeast Brazil. The company aims to produce 1 billion liters of SAF per year from 2027 and is developing the Acelen Agripark, an innovation center to advance Macauba domestication and commercial-scale production, with a capacity of 10 million seedlings annually. Backed by Mubadala Capital, this initiative starts with a **\$3 billion USD** investment.

#### Innovation Sprint Participants:

<u>Acelen Renewables</u>

**Point of Contact:** Bernardo Estephá, Decarbonization Coordinator, Acelen Renewables, <u>bernardo.estepha@acelen.com</u>

#### Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities

The Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities seeks to expand markets for America's climate-smart commodities, leverage the greenhouse gas benefits of climate-smart commodity production, and provide direct, meaningful benefits to production agriculture, including for small and underserved producers. As America's farmers and ranchers confront the challenges of climate change, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and its partners are working to provide the tools needed to build operational and environmental resiliency by implementing climate-smart production practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon, such as cover crops, no-till, nutrient, and manure management as well as pasture and forest management. Project partners span private, non-profit, and academic sectors, with nearly 100 universities, including over 30 minority-

serving institutions, as well as collaboration with over 20 tribes and tribal groups. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has invested \$3 billion USD across 135 pilot projects through this effort and an additional **\$1 billion USD** is anticipated in matching funds from project partners. This first-of-its-kind effort requires projects to: 1) Provide technical and financial assistance to producers to implement climate-smart production practices on a voluntary basis on working lands; 2) Pilot innovative and cost-effective methods for quantification, monitoring, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas benefits; and 3) Develop markets and promote the resulting climate-smart commodities. Visit the Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities website and <u>project dashboard</u> to learn about the many organizations that contributed non-federal matching funds.

## Innovation Sprint Participants:

- Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities
- U.S. Department of Agriculture

**Point of Contact:** Katina Hanson, Acting Senior Advisor for Climate-Smart Commodities, U.S. Department of Agriculture, <u>climate-smart-commodities@usda.gov</u>

**Advancing Sustainable Agriculture and Carbon Finance to Uplift Smallholder Farmers** Varaha's innovation sprint aims to deliver **\$500 million USD** in benefits to smallholder farmers in developing countries by 2025, integrating them into the global carbon market. This initiative will empower sustainable agriculture, improving livelihoods while removing 18 million tons of CO<sup>2</sup> equivalent across 4 million acres. Leveraging remote sensing, machine learning and biogeochemical models, Varaha will drive regenerative agriculture, agroforestry, and nature-based solutions to create scalable climate impact and effective carbon sequestration.

# Innovation Sprint Participants:

Varaha Climate AG Private Limited

**Point of Contact:** Aniket Kumar, Communications Manager, Varaha, <u>aniket.kumar@varahaag.com</u>

## PHYLA Earth: Climate-Resilient Agroforestry for Farmer Productivity

The PHYLA innovation sprint scales ecosystem restoration through climate-resilient agroforestry, focusing on establishing elite pongamia and biodiverse agroforestry systems across Sub-Saharan Africa. This initiative will regenerate land and communities while producing feedstocks for biofuel, plant-based proteins, and regenerative food and fiber crops. By collaborating with strategic technology, value chain and offtake partners, PHYLA Earth is pioneering a regenerative blended finance model to catalyze **\$400 million USD** in new investment. The PHYLA innovation sprint transforms the traditionally competitive relationship between food security and energy securities into a highly symbiotic one.

# Innovation Sprint Participants:

- PHYLA Earth
- <u>MUSIKA Development Initiatives</u>
- <u>SDG Center for Africa</u>
- <u>Cameron Barney and Herbst Hilgenfeldt Partners</u>
- Soil In Formation (SIF)
- Banker for Net Zero
- The Howard G Buffett Foundation Centre for No-Till Agriculture
- The Soil & Climate Initiative
- <u>Safe Hands for Girls</u>
- <u>The University of Reading</u>

**Point of Contact:** Benjamin Warr, Director, Chief Scientific Officer, PHYLA Earth, benjamin@phyla.earth

# Atlas Agro: Scaling Green Nitrogen Fertilizer Production for Global Impact

Atlas Agro's innovation sprint will accelerate the expansion of our local, green nitrogen fertilizer production model with a commitment to have at least two facilities, one in the U.S. and one in Brazil, approved through final investment decision by the end of 2025. Our process uses renewable energy sources to produce green hydrogen, which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 99% compared to traditional grey hydrogen production methods. The sprint is focused on establishing the first two sites in our global network of green nitrogen fertilizer facilities, fostering collaboration with key stakeholders, and developing strategies for farmer support and adoption. With a **\$325 million USD** investment through this innovation sprint, we will expand our global reach and accelerate technology deployment.

## Innovation Sprint Participants:

- <u>Atlas Agro</u>
- <u>U.S. Department of Agriculture</u>
- <u>Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Hub</u> (PNWH2)

**Point of Contact:** Gina Zejdlik, Head of Policy and Government Affairs, Atlas Agro, gina.zejdlik@atlasagro.ag

# Financial Inclusion for Climate Resilience & Adaptation (FICRA) Fund

CGIAR and Big Valley GmbH are launching a **\$250 million USD** impact fund to combat climate risks threatening small-scale farmers across Asia-Pacific, Latin America, and Africa, which remain acutely vulnerable to climate extremes yet receive inadequate financing to adopt resilient practices. This science-driven initiative provides patient debt to 25-30 financial institutions, supporting small-scale farmers' transitions to climate-smart technologies. Leveraging concessional capital, the fund seeks to mobilize private finance, expanding climate-adaptive financing in agriculture to strengthen food security and sustainable rural livelihoods.

## Innovation Sprint Participants:

- Big Valley GmbH
- <u>CGIAR, Impact Sustainable Finance</u>

**Point of Contact:** Godefroy Grosjean, Co-lead CGIAR Hub for Sustainable Finance (ImpactSF), CGIAR, <u>g.grosjean@cgiar.org</u>

# Ag360 Climate Fund Investing in Biochar + Circular Agriculture

The Ag360 Climate Fund is a 10-year, **\$150 million USD** blended impact fund investing in gender-responsive circular agriculture projects in the Global South. It finances innovative agriculture waste-biochar initiatives and corporate loans to agriculture small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Key solutions include regenerative farming, waste-toenergy, and composting. Biochar, produced from agricultural waste, enhances soil fertility and sequesters carbon. The fund promotes sustainable farming systems while providing technical assistance to improve climate resilience and support local livelihoods.

# Innovation Sprint Participants:

- Big Valley GmbH
- Enabling Qapital
- <u>CGIAR, Impact Sustainable Finance</u>
- Puro.Earth
- International Biochar Initiative

**Point of Contact:** Godefroy Grosjean, Co-lead CGIAR Hub for Sustainable Finance (ImpactSF), CGIAR, <u>g.grosjean@cgiar.org</u>

## **Bezos Earth Fund Sustainable Protein Innovation Sprint**

To feed 10 billion people by 2050, the demand for animal protein is expected to grow by more than 50%. The Bezos Earth Fund innovation sprint aims to increase investment and partnerships for alternative proteins. Alternative proteins are products that substitute animal-based meat, dairy, and eggs and can be: i) Plant-based proteins (using soy, pea, wheat, and other plants to produce alternatives), ii) fermentation-based proteins (using microbes to produce bioidentical alternatives to animal products) or fungi to produce whole biomass meat alternatives, and iii) cultivated proteins (growing protein using actual cells extracted from animals). This sprint will catalyze \$150+ million USD investment for alternative protein R&D, including the **\$100 million USD** awarded by the Bezos Earth Fund to the 3 recently established Bezos Centers for Sustainable Proteins in the USA, UK, and Singapore. It will galvanize technological support, and instrumentalize cooperation and partnerships from public and private sector actors to support the Centers in protein diversification and service the needs of the industry.

# Innovation Sprint Participants:

- Bezos Earth Fund
- <u>The Good Food Institute</u>
- North Carolina State University, Bezos Center for Sustainable Protein
- Imperial College London, Bezos Centre for Sustainable Protein
- <u>National University of Singapore, Bezos Centre for Sustainable Protein</u>

**Point of Contact:** Andy Jarvis, Director, Future of Food, Bezos Earth Fund, andy.jarvis@bezosearthfund.org

# Scaling Food Recovery for Climate and Farmer Security

The Farmlink Project's innovation sprint (**\$100 million USD** by 2030) launched in August 2024 to reduce U.S. hunger and food waste emissions through large-scale produce recovery, USDA farmer reimbursements, and third-party emissions verification. By creating a verified open-source tool, we will quantify the climate benefits of food recovery. This effort boosts climate and agricultural security – protecting farmers' livelihoods and supplying food-insecure communities while mitigating \$57.6 million in social damages from greenhouse gas emissions.

## Innovation Sprint Participants:

• The Farmlink Project

**Point of Contact:** Julia DeSantis, Director of Sustainability, The Farmlink Project, julia.desantis@farmlinkproject.org

# Silica - Enhanced Weathering in Latin America, Starting in Mexico

Silica is an enhanced rock weathering project developer permanently removing CO<sup>2</sup> in Latin America, starting with Mexican sugarcane regions. Silica's mission is to remove CO<sup>2</sup> at scale while regenerating soils, increasing crop yields, and improving the livelihoods of rural communities. Silica's projects are expected to permanently remove 300,000+ net tons of CO<sup>2</sup> through 2028. Silica will spread ~5 million tons of rock dust across 250,000 hectares, impacting 50,000+ smallholder farmers, through deployment of **\$48 million USD** of capital.

## Innovation Sprint Participants:

• <u>Silica</u>

Point of Contact: Toni Braso, co-founder, Silica, toni@silica.earth

## AI-powered Local Climate Adjustment Solution

Heka Cloud's innovation sprint is a 12-month field pilot project focused on water abundance for agriculture and food security, covering 65,000 km<sup>2</sup> area in the United Arab Emirates. The AI-powered, automated field ion emitter systems intelligently harvest atmospheric humidity to generate the controlled precipitation daily. The sprint's total increased investment is **\$25 million USD**.

## Innovation Sprint Participants:

Heka Cloud

Point of Contact: Shuang Chen, CEO, Heka Cloud, shuang@hekacloud.com

# Shamba Shape Up: The TV show reshaping agriculture in Africa

Shamba Shape Up (SSU) is a highly influential TV, radio, and social media series that is making a transformative impact on agriculture across Sub-Saharan Africa. Through its engaging and informative content, SSU provides practical, hands-on solutions to farmers in Kenya, Uganda, and Zambia, equipping them with essential skills and knowledge to enhance their agricultural practices. The SSU programs focus on a wide range of topics, including climate-smart techniques, improved crop and livestock management, clean energy use, nutrition, financial literacy, and sustainable farming methods. The program currently reaches millions of rural farmers through TV broadcasts, radio shows, and digital platforms, effectively addressing the information gap in remote and underserved areas. With a committed investment of **\$15 million USD** over five years, SSU aims to expand its reach to five additional low- and middle-income countries by 2026, starting with Ethiopia, and will continue to extend its impact to more African nations in subsequent years.

## Innovation Sprint Participants:

- <u>The Mediae Company</u>
- Shamba Shape Up
- <u>iShamba Limited</u>

**Point of Contact:** Patricia Gichinga, Head of Communication and Production, The Mediae Company, <u>patricia@mediae.org</u>

## Leveraging Opportunities and Pathways to Unlock Green Jobs for Youth

This innovation sprint aims to unlock the immense potential of green jobs for young people, with a strong focus on gender equity and inclusive opportunities in the green economy. The goals of the innovation sprint are 1) empowerment in green skill sets and entrepreneurship of at least 5,000 youth, and 2) promotion of clear, accessible, and gender-inclusive job pathways into the green economy for small-holder farmers. With our innovation sprint participants, the sprint will mobilize **\$10 million USD** in private sector investment to create and scale 20 youth-led green initiatives or businesses.

# Innovation Sprint Participants:

- <u>AGRA</u>
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- U.S. Agency for International Development

**Point of Contact:** Mashoko Chakanyuka, Head, Youth Employment in Agriculture, AGRA, <u>MChakanyuka@agra.org</u>

## **Transforming Arid Lands into Productive Agroforestry Systems**

This innovation sprint aims to revolutionize agriculture in arid regions by deploying a scalable, climate-smart agroforestry model. Led by Sand to Green, in collaboration with Mascara Osmosun and Access Impact, this project will convert 50 hectares of barren desert into fertile, productive land by 2025. Utilizing solar-powered desalination technology, we will provide a sustainable water source, essential for implementing advanced agroforestry techniques that enhance soil health, increase biodiversity, and boost crop yields by up to

30%. A key innovation is our approach to brine management. By cultivating halophyte plants that thrive in saline conditions, we will transform the by-products of desalination into valuable biomass, enhancing soil quality and creating additional economic opportunities. This Sprint will directly benefit smallholder farmers in Morocco by offering resilient agricultural practices that improve food security and livelihoods. The project will also mitigate climate change by sequestering approximately 13 tons of CO<sup>2</sup> per hectare annually. Furthermore, it will create new job opportunities and build local capacity through training and knowledge transfer.

Our approach not only addresses the urgent challenges of desertification and water scarcity but also sets a precedent for sustainable land management in arid regions worldwide. By 2025, we aim to demonstrate the feasibility and impact of this model, paving the way for broader adoption across similar environments globally. This innovation sprint exemplifies how emerging technologies and innovative practices can drive climate-smart agriculture, ensuring both environmental sustainability and economic prosperity in some of the world's most vulnerable regions. This sprint is supported by an increased investment of **\$8.68 million USD**, which will be allocated toward the development and deployment of climate-smart agroforestry systems, including the cost of solar-powered desalination infrastructure, planting materials, monitoring technologies, and local capacity-building initiatives.

## Innovation Sprint Participants:

- Sand to Green
- <u>Osmosun</u>
- <u>Access Impact</u>
- University Mohammed VI Polytechnic (UM6P)

*Point of Contact:* Benjamin Rombaut, Chief Executive Officer, Sand to Green, <u>benjamin@sandtogreen.com</u>

# Transforming Agriculture for a Climate-Resilient Future: Balancing Climate Resilience, Technology, and Tradition

With an investment of **\$7.9 million USD**, this innovation sprint is driving 12 projects that promote climate-smart agriculture and improve food systems across Latin America and the Caribbean. These initiatives, taking place in 11 countries, focus on research and development to enhance climate resilience, reduce agricultural emissions, and improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers. Many projects integrate cutting-edge technologies, including bioproducts, nanotechnology, and artificial intelligence, to optimize resource management, such as water and soil nutrients, thereby increasing efficiency and lowering emissions. At the same time, traditional knowledge from indigenous communities contributes sustainable practices that have been effective for generations, offering culturally relevant solutions well-suited to local ecosystems.

## Innovation Sprint Participants:

• <u>FONTAGRO</u>

Point of Contact: Eugenia Saini, Executive Secretary, FONTAGRO, esaini@fontagro.org

## Terraso: Empowering Smallholder Farmers with Climate-Smart Digital Tools

Terraso is an open-source software platform designed to support smallholder farmers worldwide in making climate-smart, science-based land management decisions. By providing free, accessible tools for data collection, mapping, analysis, and sharing, Terraso addresses gaps in community-level responses to climate change. By delivering best-inclass tools and reliable data to smallholder farmers, climate resilience and local livelihoods will be dramatically improved for millions of people living in these communities worldwide. Tech Matters values this project at **\$5.19 million USD**.

# Innovation Sprint Participants:

• <u>Tech Matters</u>

**Point of Contact:** Steve Francis, Terraso Project Director, Tech Matters, steve@techmatters.org

### Fortified Whole Grain Advancing Nutrition and Climate Action

The Fortified Whole Grain Alliance has invested approximately **\$4.5 million USD** to promote the production and consumption of fortified whole grain foods in low and middle-income countries, reducing the reliance on refined grains. This shift in consumption from refined to fortified whole grains addresses climate resilience, nutritional deficiencies, and environmental impact by diversifying and fortifying grains with essential micronutrients.

#### Innovation Sprint Participants:

• Fortified Whole Grain Alliance

**Point of Contact:** David Kamau, Managing Director, Fortified Whole Grain Alliance, <u>dkamau@fwg-alliance.org</u>

# Grow More with Less: Advancing Climate Resilience with Precision Agriculture Solutions

Netafim, Orbia's Precision Agriculture business, is the world's largest irrigation company and a global leader in precision agriculture solutions. As part of its commitment to advancing sustainable agricultural practices, Netafim's innovation sprint focuses on accelerating the adoption of precision irrigation and its all-in-one digital operating system, GrowSphere<sup>™</sup>, for key U.S. crops, including alfalfa, corn, cotton, and wheat. This initiative aims to increase crop productivity, conserve water, reduce fertilizer use, and lower greenhouse gas emissions. To achieve this mission, Netafim has committed to investing \$4.2 million USD through 2025, with plans to expand into additional markets in the future. Netafim delivers innovative, tailor-made irrigation and fertigation solutions to millions of farmers, enabling smallholders and large-scale agricultural producers in over 100 countries to grow more with less<sup>™</sup>.

#### Innovation Sprint Participants:

• Orbia Precision Agriculture – <u>Netafim</u>

**Point of Contact:** Aubrey Bettencourt, Global Director Government Relations & External Affairs, Orbia Precision Agriculture – Netafim, <u>Aubrey.Bettencourt@Netafim.Orbia.com</u>

## **NEORICE - Negative Emission Organic Rice**

This innovation sprint aims to scale the NEORICE sustainable rice cultivation process across Vietnam and Southeast Asia, leveraging innovative technologies like the Professional Agriculture System (PAS). NEORICE integrates advanced organic farming techniques with digital solutions, reducing methane emissions, improving farmer incomes, and enhancing soil health. Total increased investment for this sprint from 2021-2025 is **\$3.1 million USD**.

## Innovation Sprint Participants:

- <u>AHA Agrochem JSC</u>
- Vietnam Rice Industry Association (VietRISA)
- Lotus Rice

## Point of Contact: Khoa Nguyen, CEO, AHA Agrochem JSC, khoa@camchau.com

# Digitalizing the Tree Crop Development Authority in Ghana: A Catalyst for Sustainable Agriculture

Our innovation sprint represents a transformative investment in agricultural technology. We aim to support the Tree Crop Development Authority (TCDA) by leveraging digital innovations through cBrain's F2 platform to advance sustainable practices, enhance productivity, and foster a resilient agricultural ecosystem. To realize this vision, with a total investment of **\$3.03 million USD**, we are committing over \$1 million USD, with an additional \$2 million USD allocated by the World Bank to further TCDA's digital journey throughout 2024/2025. In addition, the Danish Government contributed seed funding of \$30,000 USD to support an initial discovery workshop, which will lay the foundation for the TCDA's organizational setup and the pilot design of a registration workflow in one value chain.

Through this sprint, we aim to showcase the F2 platform's value, with the potential for a full rollout at the TCDA to cover the entire agency and its regional offices—from individual smallholder farmers to all actors within the value chain. The full implementation, which includes hosting, support, and maintenance over the next decade, is projected at USD 4 million. cBrain is proud to be an AIM for Climate partner, and we are enthusiastic about partnering further to demonstrate the F2 platform's impact and secure the necessary support to scale its capabilities across Ghana's agricultural landscape.

## Innovation Sprint Participants:

- <u>cBrain</u>
- <u>Tree Crop Development Authority</u>

# Point of Contact: Niels Tanderup Kristensen, Director, cBrain, nit@cbrain.com

# Accelerating Drought-tolerant Seed Distribution to Farmers through Agricultural Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises

Access to climate-smart inputs, including <u>drought-tolerant seed</u>, is essential to productivity of farmers threatened by climate change and the shifting rainfall patterns on which their lives and livelihoods depend. Agricultural small- and medium-sized enterprises (agriSMEs), including African seed companies (<u>https://legacycrop.com/</u>), can sustainably improve access and availability of inputs to farmers, resulting in higher productivity and resilience. Pangea and its partners are raising **\$2.7 million USD** to channel debt and equity into these agriSMEs so that they can accelerate distribution of seed and climate-smart inputs to farming communities.

## Innovation Sprint Participants:

- Pangea Global Ventures
- Legacy Crop Improvement Centre
- <u>African Agricultural Technology Foundation</u>
- Just Capital Quotient

**Point of Contact:** John Scicchitano, Managing Director, Pangea Global Ventures, j@PangeaAfrica.com

## Sugar-free Buckthorn and Carob Spread for Health-conscious People

This innovation sprint aims to accelerate the development of the buckthorn spread project, Al Nabaq-Délice, a product naturally sweetened with carob and without preservatives. With funding of **\$2.7 million USD**, this program will focus on the integration of sustainable practices and expansion into the healthy products market. The sprint will take place over eight months, partnering with experts from the food and beverage sector to ensure impact and growth.

## Innovation Sprint Participants:

• Al Nabaq-Délice

**Point of Contact:** Lyadini Jamila, Group Representative, Al Nabaq-Délice, jamlyadini@gmail.com

# Climate Change and Food Security through Genomics Research studies in United Arab Emirates (UAE)

East Precision Agriculture & Innovative Technology's (EPAIT) innovation sprint establishes the first precision agriculture center in the UAE, focusing on integrating advanced technologies to enhance agricultural productivity sustainably. The program employs agrigenomics, which applies genomic tools in agriculture, to address climate change and improve crop and livestock resilience. Key methodologies include optimizing artificial photosynthesis to produce hydrogen for microbial growth, significantly increasing solar energy conversion efficiency compared to traditional plant photosynthesis. Using the bacterium *Xanthobacter autotrophicus*, known for carbon and nitrogen fixation, supports sustainable bioproduction. Genomics enables researchers to trace molecular variations across diverse conditions, enhancing understanding of gene evolution and boosting productivity in crops and livestock.

Techniques such as next-generation sequencing facilitate the identification of beneficial genes, enabling gene editing (e.g., CRISPR/Cas9) for traits like drought and disease resistance. Outcomes will include improved crop health, increased farming productivity, and enhanced resilience to climate challenges through genetically optimized crops. Furthermore, the program focuses on developing bioproducts for stress protection and promoting biodiversity to secure food resources in harsher climates. In animal breeding, genomics accelerates the selection of desirable traits, while monitoring gut microbiomes can optimize animal health. Additionally, addressing antimicrobial resistance through genomic surveillance supports public health. The EPAIT sprint will leverage an increased investment of **\$2.3 million USD**.

#### Innovation Sprint Participants:

East Precision Agriculture & Innovative Technology LLC - SPC

**Point of Contact:** Mariam Y Muse, CEO, East Precision Agriculture & Innovation Technology LLC, <u>ceo@epait.ae</u>

## Sustainable Land Initiative: Accelerating CSA through Digitalization

The Sustainable Land Initiative is a novel means of rapidly identifying climate smart agriculture (CSA) practices on working lands, consistently quantifying the practices' positive impact, and accelerating planning and implementation of those practices by removing barriers for small farmers to adopt CSA practices. Supported by an investment of **\$2.05 million USD**, the Sustainable Land Initiative sprint will advance scaling of standard software that documents all practices, enabling qualified experts to support each landowner with technical assistance, grant funding, and implementation support within weeks of first meeting each farmer.

## Innovation Sprint Participants:

- <u>cBrain</u>
- Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District
- Initiative for Climate Leadership and Resilience Cal Poly University

Point of Contact: Michael Larcher, Solution Lead, cBrain

#### Champions 12.3 Private Sector Roadmap for FLW Reduction in Africa

This innovation sprint aims to significantly reduce food loss and waste in at least seven countries in Africa – Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Zambia – and scaling across Africa and the globe as interest, resources, and capacities allow. The sprint will leverage private sector investment and public-private partnerships in food loss and waste reduction to scale adoption of technologies and climate-smart practices. By addressing critical points of food loss and waste in the food supply chain, the sprint aims to enhance food security, create jobs and work opportunities, improve farmer incomes, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with food loss and waste. Key interventions

include capacity building for farmers and agribusinesses, facilitating access to finance for climate-friendly technologies, and creating an enabling policy environment to support sustainable practices. This effort aligns with the goals of AIM for Climate by promoting climate-smart agriculture and building resilience against climate change impacts.

The first phase Sprint, over a 2-year period, will enable coalition partners to (i) complete foundational analytics, (ii) hold business roundtables, (iii) refine the model, and (iv) learn from initial experiences in catalyzing investment to scale up food loss and waste reduction strategies in the 7 countries. A second phase will then scale this program in terms of number of countries engaged, value chains prioritized, and private investment leveraged, based on lessons learned and most effective interventions. The sprint will invest a minimum of **\$2 million USD** in aggregate self-financed funding from the key implementing partners. This sprint will then seek to mobilize and leverage a total of \$30 million in private sector investments to support the adoption of climate-smart technologies and practices among farmers and agribusinesses.

#### Innovation Sprint Participants:

- <u>AGRA</u>
- Champions 12.3
- World Bank
- World Resources Institute
- U.S. Agency for International Development

**Point of Contact:** Adam Gerstenmier, Chief of Party, PIATA and Strategic Initiatives, AGRA, agerstenmier@agra.org

#### Towards Harmonized Environmental Footprint Data for the US Agri-food Sector

MxNS|Blonk is committed to empowering food system actors with environmental footprinting standards, technical tools, specialized data and expert insights needed to contribute to a more sustainable agri-food system. Recognizing a need for standardization of footprint calculations and background data for the US, we aim to develop a US food ingredient environmental footprint database. With an investment of **\$1.65 million USD**, we facilitate a multistakeholder process to define the scope, governance and business model for the development of the database.

## Innovation Sprint Participants:

<u>Mérieux NutriSciences | Blonk</u>

*Point of Contact:* Janjoris van Diepen, US Footprint Director, Mérieux NutriSciences | Blonk, janjoris@blonksustainability.com

## Accelerating Win-Win Solutions for Animal Health and the Climate

Environmental Defense Fund and partners launch an Innovation Sprint to drive investment in better animal health and climate outcomes. With initial investments of nearly **\$1.5 million USD**, the sprint will spur additional large investments and action in 2025. This is a first-of-its-kind global campaign that brings together philanthropies, the public and private sectors, and scientists to align financing, accelerate research, and ramp up on-the-ground farmer supports to deliver animal health improvements that also reduce methane emissions from livestock systems, lower food waste and enhance nutritional security and public health for smallholders and pastoralists worldwide.

## Initial Innovation Sprint Participants:

- Environmental Defense Fund
- <u>Global Methane Hub</u>
- New Zealand Agriculture Greenhouse Gas Research Centre
- International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

**Point of Contact:** Jennifer Chow, Senior Director, Agriculture, Water, and Food, Environmental Defense Fund, <u>jechow@edf.org</u>

## Autoponics: Sustaining Agriculture, Feeding the Future

Autoponics is driving the future of agriculture with sustainable hydroponic and aquaponic systems designed to address water scarcity and improve food security. By integrating AI and the Internet of Things (IoT), our solar-powered systems reduce water use by up to 70% and increase crop yields by 30%. Focused on empowering smallholder farmers in Africa, our innovation sprint aims to deploy 50 systems by December 2025, delivering tangible climate-smart solutions to feed the future. Autoponics and Afriquantrix will increase investment by a total of approximately **\$1.5 million USD** over the sprint period.

### Innovation Sprint Participants:

- <u>Autoponics</u>
- <u>Afriquantrix</u>

Point of Contact: Youssef EL AYACHI, CEO, Afriquantrix, <u>v.elayachi@afriquantrix.com</u>

#### Leveraging livestock data to reduce methane emissions in MENA

Livestock producers in the Middle East contribute to 12% of the region's greenhouse gas emissions, while producing up to 40% less yield per animal compared to leading agricultural nations. Greener Herd's livestock management app aims to provide 26 million MENA livestock producers with the data and know-how to boost yields, increase animal welfare, and reduce methane emissions by between 30-40% in the process. The sprint is raising **\$1.3 million USD** for product development, data collection, and deployment.

#### Innovation Sprint Participants:

- Greener Herd
- <u>Michel Daher Foundation</u>
- <u>Mawarid Holding</u>

Point of Contact: Alexander Kappes, CEO, Greener Herd, <u>alexander@greenerherd.com</u>

#### Agroforestry and Ecosystem Restoration Ending Poverty in Haiti

Haiti was where Columbus sailed in 1492. After 300 years of massive deforestation by the Spanish and French empires, enslaved Africans and Taino Indians created the first free Republic. Leveraging **\$1.2 million USD**, Fondwa University, farmers, and nuns will help Father Joseph Network achieve ecosystem restoration and agroforestry on 55 square miles of mountain watershed. Help harvest food and carbon credits, and stop global warming, by building a new New World together.

#### Innovation Sprint Participants:

• Father Joseph Network USA

**Point of Contact:** Dr. Anne Petrov, Executive Director, Father Joseph Network USA, <u>apetrov.fatherjosephnetworkusa@gmail.com</u>

# Scaling Hydroponic Agriculture for Climate Resilience Across Africa and the Middle East

The Jodoor innovation sprint seeks to revolutionize sustainable agriculture in Africa and the Middle East through the deployment of hydroponic farming systems. Our mission is to empower local communities, particularly smallholder farmers, to adopt climate-resilient farming techniques by providing affordable, turnkey hydroponic farms fabricated locally. These systems minimize water and nutrient consumption while maximizing yield, making them ideal for regions prone to water scarcity and climate change. We aim to scale up production, install systems across several pilot farms, and offer comprehensive e-learning programs to train farmers in these technologies. By leveraging IoT systems to monitor and optimize farm conditions, we ensure precision farming and reduced resource waste, aligning with global climate goals. This sprint will demonstrate the viability of hydroponic farms as a sustainable solution for boosting food security while contributing to climate adaptation and mitigation. We aim to increase investment to **\$1.2 million USD** over the course of this sprint through partnerships with local manufacturers, private investors, and reinvestment of profits from our turnkey farm systems.

# Innovation Sprint Participants:

• <u>Jodoor</u>

**Point of Contact:** Sokayna BELLAM, Chief Agronomy Officer, Jodoor,

sokaynabellam@gmail.com

## Advanced HYD-TEP-SA System for Wastewater Treatment and Plant Growth

The HYD-TEP-SA Innovation Sprint aims to develop a cutting-edge wastewater treatment system that integrates hydroponics, direct sand filtration, and protozoa-enhanced treatment. This initiative, hosted at the University Mohammed VI Polytechnic, focuses on enhancing agricultural productivity and water quality for sustainable practices. With a budget of **\$1 million USD**, the project will demonstrate the system's efficiency in pollutant removal and its scalability for diverse agricultural applications.

## Innovation Sprint Participants:

• University Mohammed VI Polytechnic (UM6P)

*Point of Contact:* <u>ELMAAIDEN Ezzouhra</u>, Scientist, University Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, <u>ezzouhra.elmaaiden@um6p.ma</u>

## Scaling Bio Solutions: Empowering 50K Farmers Through Training and Infrastructure

This innovation sprint aims to catalyze the widespread adoption of Bio Seed and Bio Shot, groundbreaking biotech solutions for sustainable agriculture, among 50,000 smallholder farmers across Africa, Southeast Asia, and Central America by the end of 2025. By combining training, infrastructure improvements, and local partnerships, this Sprint will create a sustainable ecosystem for the adoption of climate-smart agricultural technologies with an aggregated investment of **\$995,000 USD** between Ag Biotech, Inc., and partner organizations.

## Innovation Sprint Participants:

- Ag Biotech, Inc.
- Ag Ploutos Company Ltd.

**Point of Contact:** Tristan Hudak, Director of International Development, Ag Biotech, Inc., <u>tristan@agbioinc.com</u>

## LifeBox - Clean Energy & Safe Water

LifeBox is tech-enabled and ready-made for every need from water pumping for irrigation, water desalination, or electricity for home appliances. Using only solar power, LifeBox is a customizable solution for climate-smart agriculture and farming. In executing this sprint, NoorNation will leverage a total increased investment of **\$900,000 USD**, with \$350,000 USD in investments from venture capitalists, grants, and accelerator programs complemented by \$550,000 USD in revenue generated from LifeBox sales.

## Innovation Sprint Participants:

NoorNation

*Point of Contact:* Salahaldin Muhammad, Business Development Engineer, NoorNation, <u>hello@noornation.com</u>

# A 7-Step, AI-Empowered, Model for Scalable Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation for Smallholder Farmers

This initiative utilizes the PlantVillage+ platform to implement a comprehensive, Al-driven 7-step plan that integrates climate adaptation and mitigation, connecting farmers in the Global South to biochar carbon markets. Steps 1-6, Adaptation, focuses on empowering farmers with knowledge from NASA SERVIR's data platform and other sources. It provides essential inputs, crop protection solutions, improved storage systems, and enhanced access to markets, equipping farmers to better adapt to climate challenges. Step 7, Mitigation, converts crops that are not fully consumed into durable carbon in the form of biochar. This process not only sequesters carbon but also reduces methane and nitrous oxide emissions. By combining biochar with manure and utilizing biochar as fertilizer, we further diminish nitrous oxide emissions from the soil. Partners include Carboneers and Biochar Life, both of whom have pioneered cash payments to farmers for capturing and storing carbon through biochar. Additionally, we will leverage Terraspect's advanced digital payment systems to ensure farmers receive direct payments for their carbon storage efforts. Finally, we will employ PlantVillage's Biochar App alongside Terraspect's social impact calculator to accurately track carbon drawdown, ensure transparency in payments to farmers, and assess our impact on Sustainable Development Goals. This sprint is supported by a **\$500,000 USD** investment, with gratitude to the Hopper-Dean Foundation.

# Innovation Sprint Participants:

- PlantVillage+
- <u>Feed the Future Current and Emerging Threats to Crops Innovation Lab</u>, Pennsylvania State University
- <u>Carboneers</u>
- <u>Biochar Life</u>
- <u>Terraspect</u>

**Point of Contact:** David Hughes, Scientist & Founder, PlantVillage+ at Pennsylvania State University, <u>dhughes@psu.edu</u>

# Promoting Smart Agriculture in Mukono District

Mukono District Farmers' Association will conduct climate smart agriculture in Mukono District through training farmers in fifteen sub-counties for two years with the invested funds of **\$500,000 USD**. The goal of the sprint is to reach 10,000 rural farmers and to promote gender equity while increasing farmers' capacity for climate change resilience.

## Innovation Sprint Participants:

- <u>Mukono District Farmers' Association Ltd.</u>
- Kikandwa Village Mukono

**Point of Contact:** James Katamba, Coordinator, Mukono District Farmers' Association Ltd, jamesyakobo20@gmail.com

# SolarAgroBot 2.0: Sustainable AgriTech for Water Efficiency

SolarAgroBot 2.0 is an AI-powered, solar-driven agricultural robot designed to optimize water and nutrient management in arid regions. By monitoring crops in real time and applying precision irrigation, it reduces water waste and enhances crop productivity. The project will deploy 500 units in Morocco over the next two years with a projected investment of **\$475,000 USD**.

## Innovation Sprint Participants:

• SolarAgroBot

Point of Contact: Chouaib Bentabet, CEO, SolarAgroBot, <u>bentabetchouaib@gmail.com</u>

# Expanding Weedbot for Sustainable Soil Health and Productivity

Greenfield Robotics' Weedbots eliminate weeds autonomously, reducing or even eliminating herbicide use. The platform now includes a cover crop attachment that improves soil health and boosts yields by planting cover crops during cash crop growth. Tested in Kansas, it ensures effective planting in dry climates, with limited commercial rollout planned for 2025/2026. Initial investment for development is **\$300,000 USD**.

### Innovation Sprint Participants:

• <u>Greenfield Robotics</u>

**Point of Contact:** Jared Brown, Head of Business Development, Greenfield Robotics, jared.brown@greenfieldrobotics.com

#### Transforming Organic Waste into Biofertilizers for Farmers

PGPR Technologies' Innovation Sprint transforms organic waste into sustainable biofertilizers for African farmers. By leveraging cutting-edge biotechnology, the sprint develops ChitoGreen, a shrimp-waste-based biostimulant, and BaioLizer, a biofertilizer derived from dairy waste. With a **\$240,000 USD** investment, this initiative promotes eco-friendly, cost-effective farming solutions that enhance soil fertility and reduce chemical input reliance, benefiting smallholder farmers across Africa.

#### Innovation Sprint Participants:

• PGPR Technologies Organization

Point of Contact: - Hamza El Kharroubi, CEO, PGPR Technologies, elkharroubi@pgpr.tech

#### Forecasting and Analytics for Real-time Climate Adaptation for Global Agriculture

AiQlim Intelligence is launching an Innovation Sprint to enhance real-time climate adaptation tools for global agriculture. This 18–24-month project will develop AI and ML-powered climate forecasting systems tailored to various agricultural sectors. With secured funding of **\$150,000 USD** from the Chilean National Agency for Research and Development and seeking an additional \$1 million USD, AiQlim aims to expand its services globally, improving resource efficiency and increasing crop yields.

#### Innovation Sprint Participants:

• AiQlim Intelligence

Point of Contact: Carlo Montes, CEO, AiQlim Intelligence, <u>cmontes@aiqlim.com</u>

## Tech for Climate-Positive Traceable Organic Regenerative Fish Production

US-based Organigogo, Inc. has embarked on a year-long innovation sprint with the goal of establishing collaboration-driven, international organic aquaculture hubs. These hubs, acting as centers of excellence, will empower smallholder farmers globally to transition from traditional methods towards climate- positive, transparent organic fish production. Using innovative technology, we aim to create a robust and efficient organic aquaculture network beginning in Mexico, with plans for international expansion. To date, Organigogo has invested over \$2.6 million USD, with an allocated **\$120,000 USD** for 2025, and is actively seeking additional funding to broaden our global impact.

#### Innovation Sprint Participants:

• Organigogo, Inc.

Point of Contact: Nitza Clavel, CEO, <u>nclavel@organigogo.com</u>

#### **Optimizing Plant Disease Detection for Sustainable Agricultural Growth**

The DeepLeaf innovation sprint aims to enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability through advanced plant disease detection technologies. Our solution

leverages AI-driven imaging and machine learning models to identify and manage plant diseases in real-time, reducing crop losses and promoting efficient farming practices. By integrating high-resolution RGB and infrared cameras with an intuitive mobile app, we provide farmers with actionable insights and early warnings about plant health issues. The sprint will focus on refining and expanding this technology to cover a broader range of crops and environmental conditions. Our approach involves collaborating with key agricultural partners and stakeholders to test and optimize the system in real-world scenarios, ensuring its effectiveness and scalability. The ultimate goal is to support smallholder farmers in low- and middle-income countries by improving their crop yields and resilience to climate change while reducing reliance on harmful pesticides. Since 2020, DeepLeaf has invested a total of **\$105,000 USD** in self-financed funds. This investment reflects our commitment to scaling our technology and expanding our impact in the agricultural sector.

## Innovation Sprint Participants:

- <u>DeepLeaf</u>
- Les Domaines Agricoles
- <u>Kumbi Cocoa</u>
- <u>African Reflections Foundation</u>

Point of Contact: El Mahdi Aboulmanadel, CEO & Founder, DeepLeaf, mahdi@deepleaf.io

# Eco-Revolution: Microalgae for Wastewater Treatment and Animal Feed production in Morocco's Drylands

The Eco-Revolution project aims to tackle environmental and agricultural challenges in Morocco's arid regions using innovative microalgae technology. It will convert wastewater into valuable resources, addressing water management and livestock nutrition. With current increased investment of **\$100,000 USD**, we seek \$2 million for an R&D pilot by 2025 and \$200 million for industrialization, targeting 20 hectares of microalgae production over five years. The project aims to produce 120,000 m<sup>3</sup>/hectare of purified water and 1,000 tons/hectare of high-quality animal feed annually while sequestering 2,000 tons of CO<sup>2</sup> each year.

# Innovation Sprint Participants:

 <u>Moroccan Foundation for Advanced Science, Innovation, and Research – University</u> <u>Mohammed VI Polytechnic (MAScIR-UM6P)</u>

**Point of Contact:** Hicham ELARROUSSI, Head Scientist of Algal Biotechnology, MAScIR-UM6P, <u>Hicham.elarroussi@um6p.ma</u>

## AgroGo: Smart Irrigation System for Sustainable Agriculture

AgroGo is launching an innovation sprint to develop a smart irrigation system aimed at smallholder farmers in Morocco and other low- and middle-income countries. Leveraging Internet of Things (IoT) technology, this system will monitor soil moisture, weather, and crop health in real-time, improving water efficiency by 30% and boosting yields by 20%. The AgroGo sprint is supported by an investment of **\$40,000 USD**.

## Innovation Sprint Participants:

- <u>AgroGo</u>
- TECH-57
- Ministry of Agriculture Morocco

## Point of Contact: Hamza Khotbhi, founder/CEO, AgroGo, <u>khotbih@gmail.com</u>

## BeeSmart: Advanced Beehive Monitoring System for Sustainable Apiculture

BeeSmart is an innovative beehive monitoring system designed to enhance the sustainability and productivity of apiculture through advanced Internet of Things (IoT) technologies and data analytics. This solution aims to develop and deploy HiveSensor, a

comprehensive monitoring device that tracks the critical environmental parameters within the hive, such as temperature, humidity, and bee activity. The data collected will be analyzed to provide real-time insights and predictive analytics to prevent colony collapse disorder (CCD) and optimize honey production. By utilizing this technology, beekeepers can proactively manage their hives, reduce losses, and contribute to the preservation of biodiversity. The total increased investment for this sprint is **\$37,000 USD**, excluding future projected investments.

## Innovation Sprint Participants:

• BeeSmart

*Point of Contact:* Sadkaoui Abderrahim, Founder, BeeSmart, <u>sadkaoui.abderrahim@gmail.com</u>

## Digitizing Farm Operations for Small-Holder Farmers in Africa

We believe farmers are the cornerstone of the food supply chain. That is why we are partnering with coffee farmers in Kenya and the Cocoa Farmer Association of Nigeria to digitize their operations. This empowers farmers to become active participants in the supply chain, increase their incomes, and adopt climate-friendly practices. Through this sprint we have invested **\$35,000 USD** and are committed to increasing our investment throughout 2025. Additionally, we are seeking partners to join us to continue to expand this digital agricultural transformation project.

## Innovation Sprint Participants:

- <u>AGnimble</u>
- <u>Cocoa Farmer Association of Nigeria</u>

#### Point of Contact: Nsidibe Etim, Founder/CEO, AGnimble, netim@agnimble.com

#### Very Low Power Autonomous Electro Valves

A patented breakthrough invention that will radically change the manufacturing process of electrovalves, which will revolutionize the fields of application of electro valves such as in irrigation. This invention gives rise to a new generation of very low-power autonomous electro valves regardless of their size, allowing irrigation, automated water distribution for good water management and energy efficiency. Thanks to the innovative triggering mode of this new generation of very low-power electro valves, the following characteristics result: 1) control of several electro valves with a very low power of 0.1W; 2) energy savings of up to 90% of the energy consumed by an electro valve equivalent; 3) autonomous function using a mini solar panel to install it anywhere, unlike conventional electro valves that require an electrical connection. The EAU RO VANNE electro valves can be controlled remotely via a mobile app. Regardless of the length of time that elapses between opening and closing, energy consumption remains low, which is different to electro valves currently on the market. Additionally, across a range EAU RO VANNE electro valve sizes, power, energy consumption, and the small quantity of copper (5g) used remain unchanged. The cost of this new generation of electro valves will be affordable, allowing even smallholders farmers to benefit from its advantages to improve his agricultural productivity while reducing energy use and water consumption. This sprint is supported by increased investment of **\$21,000 USD** from grants and prizes. We seek \$4 million USD in additional funding to advance manufacturing, adoption, and scaling of our innovative climate-smart technology.

## Innovation Sprint Participants:

• EAU RO VANNE

*Point of Contact:* Diba Oumaima, Co-founder, CEO, & Inventor, EAU RO VANNE, <u>oumaima3diba@gmail.com</u>

#### Al Hariss by Agrisolutions

Al Hariss by Agrisolutions is an Al-powered solution aimed at early disease detection in crops, reducing losses and environmental impact. Currently in the testing phase in Morocco's Souss region, it provides real-time data to farmers, helping improve agricultural productivity. Our technology boosts crop yields, lowers pesticide use, and reduces waste, offering farmers potential cost savings of 15-20%. Leveraging increased investment of **\$19,000 USD**, we aim to expand the solution across Morocco's agricultural sectors for broader impact.

#### Innovation Sprint Participants:

<u>Al Hariss by Agrisolutions</u>

*Point of Contact:* Hind Sahir, Co- Founder, Al Hariss by Agrisolutions, <u>Hind.SAHIR@um6p.ma</u>

## Moukfi: Empowering Farmers with Sustainable Labor Solutions

Moukfi is an innovative agency designed to address the critical labor challenges faced by farmers in Morocco. By acting as an intermediary, Moukfi bridges the gap between farmers and the available workforce, ensuring that both parties benefit from fair and equitable working conditions. Our agency targets two main groups: farmers of any production type or farm size and physically capable workers over 18 years old. We aim to streamline the hiring process, providing farmers with reliable and skilled workers while also safeguarding the rights of the laborers through transparent and ethical practices. Our approach includes creating a digital platform where farmers can post job openings, and workers can apply directly, ensuring quick and efficient matching. We also plan to offer training programs for workers to enhance their skills, making them more valuable assets to the agricultural industry. By focusing on both efficiency and fairness, Moukfi seeks to increase agricultural productivity while supporting the well-being and rights of the workforce. The Moukfi innovation sprint is supported by **\$16,000 USD**.

## Innovation Sprint Participants:

• Moukfi

**Point of Contact:** Maryame Faska, Founder, Moukfi, maryame.faska@um6p.ma || Sara Ghanem, Manager, Moukfi, <u>sara.ghanem@um6p.ma</u>

## Zero Methane, Sustainable & Nutritious Rice Using Plant Cell-Culture

Paddy rice emissions account for 12% of global anthropogenic methane emissions and use 30% of global fresh water. By 2050, Climate change will decrease rice production by 10% when the population will need 70% more food. With half of the world consuming rice, a nutrient light grain, nutrition is challenged too. This sprint will develop a proof of concept for a rice alternative that is superior in nutrition, produces no methane and uses 87% less water. We estimate that by 2040 we should be able to mitigate 0.1GT of CO<sup>2</sup> using our method. The sprint leverages existing funding totaling **\$10,000 USD** and seeks additional funding for further development and scale-up operations.

## Innovation Sprint Participants:

• Good Grainary

*Point of Contact:* Sowmya Purushothaman, Founder, Good Grainary, <u>Sowmya.purushothaman@gmail.com</u>

## Arbutus Berry Delights

The Arbutus Berry Delights Innovation Sprint aims to highlight and protect the *Arbutus*, a wild fruit tree that grows in mountainous regions, particularly in the western Mediterranean basin. Our goal is to take local action to protect the tree from deforestation and to genetically improve its seeds so that they become more resistant to climate change, while also increasing its productivity. The *Arbutus* berry is a small red fruit that is extremely

beneficial for health due to its high Vitamin C content and pectin, which aids digestion and can also be used as a natural gelling agent. To start, in the first phase, we will focus on adding value by transforming the fruit into jam and marketing it to raise awareness of its benefits and importance. We believe that the *Arbutus* tree can follow the same path as the Argan tree, and we also believe that the *Arbutus* berry can enter the red fruit market due to its health benefits and delicious taste. With initial self-financed increased investment of **\$600 USD** since 2020, we have focused on market research and data gathering for the project's feasibility. We seek an additional investment of \$196,000 USD for factory rental, processing equipment, and research (including genetic improvement of seeds, installations for testing new cultivation techniques).

#### Innovation Sprint Participants:

- Agronomic and Veterinary Institute (IAV) Hassan II
- <u>Agrifood Tech Incubator</u>
- University Mohammed VI Polytechnic (UM6P)

**Point of Contact:** Loubna Wahid, Founder of Arbutus Berry Delights, Agronomic and Veterinary Institute Hassan II, <u>loubnawahid19@gmail.com</u>

#### **MOCAP: Moroccan Capers**

Our innovation sprint aims to revolutionize the Moroccan caper industry by promoting sustainable cultivation and increasing global market penetration. By partnering with local farmers, we will provide them with the tools and knowledge to maximize their yields, while also exploring new markets and product variations. We have invested **\$250 USD**, and seek to raise \$250,000 USD, to purchase a year-round supply of capers, develop innovative product lines, and launch a targeted marketing campaign. Our goal is to sell 3,000 units within the first year and establish long-term partnerships with Moroccan farmers. This project will not only boost the local economy but also contribute to sustainable agriculture. Capers are drought-resistant and require minimal resources, making them a perfect fit for Morocco's climate. By supporting caper farmers, we are helping to advance agroforestry, preserve the environment, and create a more resilient food system.

#### Innovation Sprint Participants:

• MOCAP

Point of Contact: MHILIS Ghizlane, founder, MOCAP, mhilisghizlane7@gmail.com