



WWW UNU-INRA BREAKOUT SESSION AGENDA

HOW CAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN IT, PROMOTE INNOVATIVE WATER REUSE TECHNOLOGIES IN SUPPORT OF RESILIENT URBAN SOCIETIES?

Date: August 23, 2021 --- Total Time: 50 minutes --- 7:00 CET / 5:00 GMT

SYNOPSIS

Increasing urbanization across the world, and especially in Africa, is set to increase water demand in cities in the next decades. At the same time, climate change, pollution and increased competition for water are significantly reducing the availability of freshwater resources. Consequently, an estimated 2.2 billion people globally have no access to safely managed drinking water. Whereas the State is principally responsible for providing access to water for its inhabitants, non-state actors including entrepreneurs have a critical role to play in enhancing the resilience of urban dwellers to potential water scarcity through the development and promotion of innovative water reuse technologies. Unfortunately, entrepreneurship in the water sector has been generally low across countries in the developing world, with minimal youth participation. This is partly due to government's principal role and responsibility to provide safely managed water to inhabitants. On the other hand, there's been minimal and deliberate efforts to promote youth entrepreneurship in the water sector, especially compared to other sectors such as food, energy and finance. Further, entrepreneurship in general is saddled with several challenges (policy, research capacity, finance, etc.) which limit youth participation.

This breakout session will examine the current state of entrepreneurship in the water sector in developing countries and discuss the actions that are needed to increase youth participation in developing and promoting water technologies for enhanced resilience to climate shocks in urban and peri-urban areas. The session will begin with preliminary comments from a water entrepreneur (youth), policy maker and financial sector player, which will set the stage for interaction with the audience

INTERACTION WITH AUDIENCE

Depending on the number of session participants, interaction will either be via Miro or voice. To be able to contribute via Miro, prospective participants are encouraged to create an account here (<https://miro.com/>) prior to the session.

DETAILED SESSION PROGRAMME

Time	Item	Details
07:17 (3 minutes)	Structure of Breakout session	
07:20 (5 minutes)	Introduction	Introducing Miro and tools as well as structure and speakers.
07:25 (15-20 minutes)	<p>Panel</p> <p>Q1. To Entrepreneur - can you tell us about your water-related enterprise, what it does?</p> <p>Q2. To Government and Finance - what available resources are there to support youth entrepreneurs?</p> <p>Q3. To Finance - what support is currently available for young innovators in water/sustainability and what is expected of entrepreneurs to access financing?</p> <p>Q4. To Entrepreneur - what support were you given in terms of finance and technical assistant from both private sector and government? Did you face and challenges starting up?</p>	A round of questions to panellists.
07:40 (20 minutes for all questions)	<p>Group Discussion - Question 1 What innovations in water reuse technologies have you witnessed in your country?</p> <p>Group Discussion - Question 2 What key challenges do young entrepreneurs in the water sector face?</p> <p>Group Discussion - Question 3 What are best practices to overcome identified challenges? / How have these challenges been addressed in other countries?</p> <p>Group Discussion - Question 4 How can youth entrepreneurship in water innovation be accelerated? What incentives are required?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All members of breakout room can provide inputs on a mind map, using Miro. • A timer can be set for each question. • Attendees and panellists will be given an opportunity to also make comments over voice/video.
08:05 (5 minutes)	Synthesising of 3 highlights	We will go through points and show raising of hands to identify top 3 points
08:10	Plenary closing	

