

Research Questions in Green Growth for Rural Africa¹

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UNU-INRA has identified the following research questions under its priority thematic areas in green growth for rural Africa. Interested applicants can adopt and design research to address any of these.

Thematic Area 1: Green Business Opportunities in Rural Africa

- In what ways and through what measures could green business opportunities in infrastructure, livestock, fisheries, land and other natural resources sectors overcome the problem of growing unemployment in rural Africa?
- What are the opportunities for, and constraints to environmentally friendly investments in infrastructures such as transport, energy and shelter in rural areas and how can such investments boost labour productivity?
- What are the opportunities for, and constraints to innovation in rural green businesses, and what are the implications for land and water management in rural Africa?
- What are the constraints to, and opportunities for sustainable growth and expansion of SMEs in fisheries, farming and agro-processing in rural Africa?

Thematic Area 2: SMEs and Resource Efficiency, Productivity and Resilience in Rural Africa

- How to achieve resource use efficiency in fishery, agriculture and livestock in rural Africa and what is its impact on job creation?
- What are the policy options for increasing firm-level and aggregate productivity for rural green SMEs?
- How could resource use efficiency and resilience in agriculture, mining, fisheries and livestock contribute to improve labour and capital productivity?
- How can rural SMEs contribute to, and benefit from environmentally friendly, quality infrastructure in rural Africa, including transport, energy and shelter?

Thematic Area 3: Rural SMEs, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

- What are the ingredients for an attractive business and investment environment for rural SMEs specializing in ecosystem services such as fish-breeding and coastal protection of coral

reefs, water filtering, soil protection and carbon sequestration?

- How to leverage the potential of ecosystem services in rural Africa to appeal to SMEs in the area of land and natural resources management, including agriculture, forestry, water and mining?
- Through what channels / mechanisms does commercial ecosystem management contribute to inclusive growth?
- How could green entrepreneurship foster innovation in fishery and livestock management in rural Africa?
- What are the opportunities and challenges to public-private partnerships for ecosystem management in Africa?

Thematic Area 4: Institutions and Governance for Environmentally Friendly Business Practices

- What are the ingredients for an optimal institutional framework to promote labour intensive green business activities in rural Africa?
- What are the ingredients for an optimal institutional and legal framework to foster an insurance market around rural ecosystem management businesses and activities in Africa?
- What are the ingredients of the optimal incentive framework that promotes maximum productivity in land, natural resources and infrastructure management businesses while minimizing their negative impacts on environment?