United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

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Call for Applications and Nominations

GREEN TECHNOLOGIES FOR AFRICAN MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

Duration
6 weeks

Beginning of the training : 10th October 2022

Application Deadline : 3rd October 2022

Coming soon

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Online Training

ECA
Southern Africa Office

GREEN TECHNOLOGIES FOR AFRICAN MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

Call for Applications and Nominations

Announcement in Brief

Course Type : Online Course

Program Area: Sustainable Development

Date : 10th October 2022 - 18th November 2022

Duration : 6 Weeks

Language : English

Application Deadline: 3rd October 2022

IDEP strongly encourage and supports the participation of suitably qualified female officials in its capacity development and training programme

Program Rationale

Climate change poses far-reaching challenges to societies around the world. Although Africa's contribution to the unfolding climate crisis is minimal, most African countries – which remain dependent on rain-fed agriculture – will suffer significantly from weather disruptions caused by climate change. Reversing climate change and adapting to its severe effects will remain to be the defining policy challenges of the coming decades.

In 2015, 174 countries from around the world came together to sign the Paris Climate Accord, a landmark agreement that aims to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. A key element of the Paris Climate Accord is maximizing the development and transfer of green technologies to bring down GHG emissions and improve the climate resilience of communities around the world. The Paris Agreement also places great emphasis on supporting the efforts of developing countries, including those in Africa, to build their capacities to deal with many of the challenges brought by climate change.

Most African countries are signatories of the Paris Agreement and actively pursue policies to cutdown on their GHG emissions. The Africa Union's Agenda 2063 envisions a climate-resilient continental economy and is currently supported by its Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy (2022-2032). Concurrently the continent has to accelerate sustainable structural transformation through green and high value-added manufacturing to create jobs and reduce poverty. In line with that policy priority, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) has an expressed commitment to foster the development of blue, green and digital economies in Africa.

The UNECA recognizes the vast employment potential of green investments in Africa, which can provide a stronger gross value-added and jobs creation pathway than traditional fossil fuel-based investments. Capitalizing on the vast employment potential of green growth requires efforts to build the capacities of African entrepreneurs, to enable them to spearhead the transition towards a green economy. This course is a part of ECA's ambition to support human capital development and green innovation to facilitate green industrialisation and accelerate climate transition in Africa.

This course, developed by the ECA African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) and the ECA Subregional office for Southern Africa (SRO-SA), in collaboration with the ECA Green and Blue Economy Section, seeks to build capacities of African entrepreneurs that run micro- small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) as well as stakeholders engaged in the areas of green technologies, green entrepreneurship and green growth.

MSMEs are estimated to constitute more than 99 per cent of all businesses active in the continent. MSMEs are thus expected to spearhead climate transition in Africa to enable the continent to meet its obligations under the Paris Climate Agreement. For small businesses, an active focus on sustainability can provide a vital competitive edge by preparing firms to a future of high carbon taxes, volatile and increasing oil prices and falling costs in green technologies. By developing green technologies that enable climate change adaptation and mitigation, businesses can also differentiate themselves from competitors by building a reputation as sustainable enterprises, which improves competitiveness by attracting environmentally conscious customers, workers and investors from around the world. The pursuit of green technologies in African MSMEs, therefore, is a vital strategic move as much as it is an ethical imperative.

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Objectives

The overarching objective of the course is to build the capacities of MSMEs, policy makers and other relevant stakeholders in Africa by equipping them with the latest knowledge on green technology and green innovation and make a case for transitioning towards green technologies and green business models.

The course aims to highlight future growth pathways that exploit the potentials provided by green technologies to bring about climate transition in Africa, achieve recovery from the economic shocks of Covid-19, and build resilience against similar future shocks.

The course will aim to be practical and will rely on case studies to demonstrate how green technologies can help African entrepreneurs build competitiveness in the post-Covid-19 era and build resilience against shocks. It will endeavour to showcase best practices from around the world that have potential applications in African businesses. Challenges that businesses face to develop, and access green technologies will be discussed in detail. Participants will be encouraged to be thoughtful and reflect on the promises and challenges of technological innovation for effectively addressing societal problems linked to climate change in their respective sectors and countries.

The general objectives of the course include the following:

- **Motivate the case for building green economies in Africa and explain the role of green technologies for a climate-resilient recovery**

- **Explain the potential role of African micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) in advancing climate transition and green investments**

- **Assess the readiness of African MSMEs to harness opportunities from the green economy and discuss potential constraints that limit their performance**

- **Illustrate how MSMEs in Africa can harness green technologies to build competitiveness using concrete cases as examples, including those from other parts of the world**

- **Analyse challenges that MSMEs face in accessing green technologies and engaging in green Research and Development (R&D) and innovation and innovation**

- **Describe a wide range of policy tools, institutions, incentives and reforms that can ensure the effectiveness of green technologies for African MSMEs**

- **Discuss the drivers of green entrepreneurship in Africa in multiple sectors, with a particular attention to the participation of women and youth.**

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The proposed course will be hands-on and will seek to allow trainees to develop skills that can enable them to act effectively and strategically. It will also be highly interactive to allow participants to articulate their views and to learn from one another. Upon concluding the course, the trainees will emerge with an improved and critical understanding of the challenges and opportunities in developing and adopting green technologies. Moreover, the trainees will have acquired a range of skills relevant for innovation development, management and implementation in order to enable them to effectively exploit opportunities from green technologies.

Content

The course will be composed of six modules that cover different aspects of green technologies, including the design, implementation, financing and policy themes around them. These modules are carefully selected with the intention of equipping owners and managers of African micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) with the latest knowledge in the theory and practice of green technologies. Each module will be covered within a week commencing from Oct 12, 2022.

- Module 1: The Sustainability Challenge and the Role of Green Technologies.

This module will provide an introduction to the sustainability challenge by outlining the nature of major environmental crises, their underlying economic reasons, recent trends in climate change problems and global policy efforts to contain them.

- Module 2: Green Technologies in Africa: Opportunities and Constraints.

This module will provide a general introduction to green technologies, highlighting the opportunities they provide and the trade-offs that arise between competing objectives of green innovations. It will further discuss the structural and policy constraints that African MSMEs are facing to develop and adopt green technologies.

- Module 3: Green Technologies in Africa: A Sectoral Focus.

This module will provide an overview of major recent developments in green technologies in important sectors. Using detailed case studies, it will illustrate the opportunities and challenges of introducing green technologies in sectors like agriculture, energy, water conservation etc.

- Module 4: Green Financing for Green Technologies.

This module will introduce trainees with the growing domain of sustainable/impact financing. It will discuss current impact financing frameworks and major actors that provide such financing programs, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

- Module 5: A Design Approach for Green Technologies.

This module will familiarize participants with the tenets of design thinking as a practical philosophy for addressing sustainability challenges.Trainees will learn how to apply design thinking to identify optimal green innovations that are technically feasible, environmentally sustainable, economically viable and user-friendly.

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- Module 6: Deploying Green Technologies.

This module will introduce trainees with diverse sustainable business models that are relevant for African MSMEs. Among others, it will cover standard business models in circular economy and sustainability such as of Triple Bottom Line (TBL) business models, social enterprise business models, Base of the Pyramid (BoP) strategies and sharing economy business models.

Pedagogical Approach and Mode of Delivery

The online course will be offered over a period of six weeks from Oct 10 – Nov 18, 2022. Each module will be delivered within one course per week. The first and the last sessions will be live webinars while the remaining four will be made available online in self-paced mode for individual study.

In this course, a set of five carefully selected instructional tools will be used to achieve the learning objectives outlined above. These are lectures, case studies, group activities/workshops, online forums, and multimedia engagement. Live and recorded lectures will be used to succinctly summarize key substantive materials relevant to the course.

The course will also cover real-world cases that illustrate the process of developing and implementing green innovations by small, medium and large companies. Group activities will be used to enable trainees to apply the lessons they acquired from the course on real-world problems. Finally, the course will include an online platform where the instructor and participants will post relevant articles to stimulate interaction among participants. This experience will sharpen the ability of trainees to analyse complex topics from an informed position and work towards a common understanding on controversial issues.

Certificate of Completion

A Certificate of Completion will be issued by IDEP and SRO-SA to all participants who successfully complete the course-related self-assessments presented for each module.

Target Audience

The target participants are as follows:

- Enterprise owners, businessmen and employees of MSMEs in Africa as well as members of MSME and business associations;

- Government policy officials and, practitioners directly connected with technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, MSMEs and private sector development issues;

- Officials of national agencies and non-state actors with a professional interest in technology, innovation, entrepreneurship and MSME related issues.

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Acceptance to the Course

Until the registration deadline, participants are accepted to the course on a rolling basis and subject to availability of slots. Please refer to the paragraph below to see priority target group. Applications must be completed exclusively on IDEP online application platform.

https://idep-applications.uneca.org/

Technical Requirements

Access to internet is an essential condition for participation. The following specifications, as a minimum in terms of hardware and software, are required to take this e-Learning course, please consult your Network Administrator or Systems person to ensure that you have the following:

- Platform: Windows 95, 98, 2000, NT, ME, XP or superior; Mac OS 9 or Mac OS X; Linux
- Hardware: 64 MB of RAM, 1 GB of free disk space
- Software:
  - Adobe Acrobat Reader
  - Adobe Flash Player
  - Microsoft Office (Windows or Mac) or Open Office
  - Browser: Internet Explorer 7 or higher or Firefox 36 or higher
- Modem: 56 K
- Note that JavaScript, Cookies and Pop-ups must be enabled

Important Dates

- Deadline for Applications and Nominations: October 3rd, 2022.
- Course Period: 10th October- 18th November, 2022.

Contact Information

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