

Agri-Hack Talent Caribbean:

Trinidad and Tobago National Selection Process

Context:

The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), in collaboration with institutions including the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and ConnectiMass will organise a Caribbean Initiative for ICT for Agriculture called Agrihack Talent Caribbean. Its main objective is support the development of ICT innovations and entrepreneurship in agriculture by young people.

The Agrihack Talent Caribbean initiative is different. It begins with national coding competitive selection events across the Region, staged in Trinidad and Tobago by **The Community HUB Corporation**

The Community HUB Corporation (the "HUB") (www.mycommunityhub.org), registered as a non-profit organization in 2009, is an innovative social enterprise, with a global vision for change through the development of youth and communities, by leveraging Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs).

The winning teams from the national events will move on to the regional finals that will be held during the Caribbean Week of Agriculture to be held in Suriname in October 6th- 12th, 2014. An incubation process will follow for winners to fine-tune their products and favour actual roll-out. Promotional activities will also be undertaken for winners.

Rules:

1. Each team of young developers (at least 2 persons, aged 15 to 35 years old) has the option to select the challenge which inspires its members, and develop their application on it.
2. Once the best team is nominated, the HUB will advise them to select the best two representatives to travel to Suriname for the finals, in addition to one hub representative.
3. The Community HUB Corporation will also provide guidance as well as technical and business support to the nominated team to improve their prospects of winning at the regional finals.
4. Teams must leverage Microsoft Windows Phone 8.1, Windows 8.1, or Azure technology in their applications

Challenges/ Problem Sets:

The following Caribbean challenges on which the applications will be developed have been identified by key regional stakeholders. Each team of developers will select one challenge on which they will develop their application.

1. Market Access/Entry & Penetration



How can buyers

farmers and have an

easier, real-time, and more effective way to inter-connect, share information, sell and buy agricultural products? How can logistics/distribution be better streamlined? How can timely access to accurate and current market trends be favoured?

2. Access to Production information and Knowledge (Weather, Soil, or Pest Management, etc.)

How can farmers have access to regularly updated production information (especially the “How-to” information) that will aid them in best decision making, in terms of Crop Selection, Fertilisation, Harvesting, Weather, Soil Management, and Pest Management. How can knowledge and technology transfer be facilitated in that process?

3. Collaboration Apps for Farmers

How can farmer groups (including co-ops, associations) better exchange among themselves, use and contribute to technology driven solutions? This would notably favour better production planning, record keeping, soil management, pest management, anti-praedial larceny best practices sharing?

4. Extension Service Information

How can Agricultural Extension Service Information be made more real time, robust, accessible and relevant to extension officers?

5. Climate Change and Water Management

How can ICTs help address, and create greater understanding of Climate Change issues for the Caribbean Agriculture Industry? How to alleviate and adapt in terms of preparation; farming choices, planning and sustainable production; access to, storage, management and strategic use of water; financing; insurance, risk mitigation & risk assessment tools to measure climate change factors and assess damage?

6. Agriculture API

Developing a Caribbean Agricultural Application Programming Interface (API) that will facilitate the collection, distribution of Agricultural information and ease of access across the Caribbean and across the entire industry value chain. This development could build on existing open and public Application Programming Interfaces: adding data, resources and building more solutions. For Jamaica, it would be on the Harvest API developed in collaboration with RA DA. A collaboration for a regional agriculture API is also an option.

Timeline:

- September 04 - 12, 2014 - Local Competition: one competitive process to nominate their best team to the regional finals. The exact date is to be confirmed, but will be between the Sept. 4 and Sept 12, 2014.
- October 6th- 12th, 2014 - Regional Finals: Caribbean Week of Agriculture to be held in Suriname.

Process:



Local -

1. You may also, in collaboration with agricultural stakeholders from your region, select, **out of the six official challenges, at least two** challenges, and focus on them for your local hackathon or coding event. No new challenge will be selected.
2. One competitive process will be conducted to nominate their best team to go to the regional finals. Once the best team is nominated, the hub will advise them to select the best two representatives to travel to Suriname for the finals, in addition to one hub representative.

Regional -

1. At the finals in Suriname, teams will receive coaching, mentorship and valuable feedback from senior players in the ICT and agriculture sector. This is in addition to time allocated for further development and refinement of their solutions. The finalists will also have the chance to network with participants of the Caribbean Week of Agriculture 2014 event in Suriname. This will offer opportunity for the developers of agriculture solution to better understand their customer needs and establish key industry and institutional connections.
2. One representative of the Community HUB Corporation will also attend that meeting. CTA will facilitate airline reservations, accommodation and local transport for two members of national winning teams, for their stay in Suriname.
3. The judging panel for the final regional competition will be drawn from three domain expertise areas of agriculture, ICT and business. The judging criteria to be used at the final competition will be circulated in due course.

Prizes:

At the national level, winners of competitive selection processes will receive an incentive after the regional event. At the regional level, national winners (named “finalists”) will compete for seed grants amounting to EUR 5,000 (approx. TTD \$42,000); EUR 4,000 (approx. TTD \$33,500) and EUR 3,000 (approx. TTD \$25,000) for the first, second and third overall positions respectively. There will also be post competition incubation and business support to the winning teams for a period of 6 months. Interventions provided during the incubation period will include support to finalise development of winning solutions. The financial estimation of the direct benefits to be earned by the overall winning team (cash, incubation and other rewards) is above 15, 000 EUR (approx. \$126,000 TTD).

Register Now!

Interested participants should submit their selected team leader and members’ names as well as their email addresses and contact number to info@mycommunityhub.org by Wednesday 27th August, 2014.

For more information on the entire AgriHack Talent initiative and the experience previously held, check this blog <http://hackathon.ict4ag.org/>

