

**Let us support you to grow
your wood business in Rwanda**

Incubator & Accelerator

Program for the Rwandan
Wood Sector

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2022



About The Incubator | Accelerator Facility

National Industrial Research and Development Agency (NIRDA), with support of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, has established a new Incubator/Accelerator Facility (I/AF) for the Rwandan wood sector. The main objective of the I/AF is to improve the competitiveness of start-ups and companies in the wood value chain.

Description

The I/AF offers tailored incubation and acceleration services to start-ups, companies, and cooperatives from the wood sector to help them improve the performance of their businesses, access to markets, and ability to compete.

The services will be provided through incubation/acceleration programs with a duration of 7 to 8 months.

Incubator Program

This 7 to 8 months program targets early-stage start-ups with less than 12 months of business operations to increase their competitiveness within the wood processing sector as well as established entrepreneurs who seek to diversify into the wood sector for the first time. The I/AF will help these businesses to equip them with the necessary technical and business management skills to start and operate a business.

Incubator program eligibility:

- Less than 12 months of business operations (including start-ups) OR
- Businesses that want to diversify their products (can be more than 12 months of business operations as long as they are new to using wood components)

Accelerator Program

This 7 to 8 months program targets entrepreneurs, business owners, and management teams in more mature micro, small, medium-sized, or large enterprises and cooperatives in the wood sector. It seeks companies with a potential to grow and contribute to the development of the Rwandan wood sector. The I/AF will provide general and tailored assistance to these businesses to accelerate their growth, technically improve, attract investments, and expand into new markets.

Accelerator program eligibility:

- More than 12 months of business operations
- Any size of enterprise in the wood sector is welcome to apply

The services offered by the I/AF include:

- Business advice
- Entrepreneurship and business management training
- Coaching and mentoring Access to technical infrastructure
- Technical assistance
- Market information services Marketing assistance
- Facilitation of financial and investment linkages
- Facilitation of linkages for technological upgrading
- Access to a network of investors and financiers and partner organizations
- Access to state-of-the-art IT solutions
- Peer-to-peer learning and networking
- Advertising for your business

Value chain (VC) function

Proposed solutions to the key VC bottlenecks



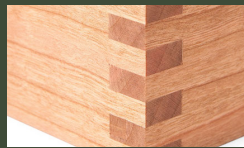
Sales and Distribution

Access to domestic, regional, and international markets



Tertiary processing

Improved product design, quality (furniture, construction, toys, crafts, composite product).



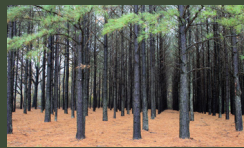
Secondary processing

Increasing/Improving secondary processing units/ capacities (Improved timber drying practices, timber kiln drying, intermediary products and engineered timber, panel products)



Primary processing (Sawn Timber, treatment and drying)

Introduction of upgraded timber-sawing technologies
Introducing/improving timber preservation treatments with the use of chemical preservatives, vacuum or pressurised treatment.



Wood production and harvest

Improved silviculture and forest logging operations
Control of Tree pests and diseases



Seed collection and tree nurseries

Production and distribution of quality seeds/clones



Cross-cutting

- Develop specific financial products for investors
- Improved product diversification
- Improved quality of local timber and wood products
- Improved timber recovery rates
- Recycling and waste management

How can I apply?



Step 1:

Visit <https://www.nirda.gov.rw/incubation-acceleration-facility/>



Step 2:

Download and read the Guidelines for Applicants



Step 3:

Fill out the Incubator or Accelerator Application Forms via the application portal



Step 4:

Upload all relevant documents and submit before the application deadline

When can I apply?

Application opens:

15th February 2022

12:00 pm (noon) Kigali Time

Application closes:

31st March 2022

12:00 pm (noon) Kigali Time



IAFWoodSector



IAF_Wood_Sector

Questions?

For more information, please email us at IAF.applications@icon-institute.de or telephone on 0787753355.

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH Promotion of Economy and Employment Project (Eco-Emploi) contracted ICON-INSTITUT GmbH to implement the National Incubator/Accelerator Facility for the Wood Sector. The Eco-Emploi Project is part of the Rwandan-German development cooperation, commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

