AFRICAN CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN DATA SCIENCE (ACE-DS)

Call for Proposals on "Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Agriculture, Health and Climate innovative ideas and prototypes"

African Center of Excellence in Data Science (ACE-DS) is one of 24 African Centers of Excellence (ACE) in ACE II Project. ACE-DS is based at the University of Rwanda in the College of Business and Economics, and it was established on 17th October 2016. Main objective of ACE-DS is to deliver quality post-graduate education and build collaborative research capacity in data science. ACE-DS has MSc and PhD programs in Data Science in: Data Mining, Econometrics, Biostatistics, Actuarial Science and Demography. The Center addresses development challenges in Rwanda and the region by:

- Training data scientists and researchers using data science tools in PhD and Masters programs as well as short courses;
- Creating a research hub for postgraduate students, attracting international expertise and practitioners; and
- Stimulating collaboration between academics, partners and stakeholders.

The main activities of ACE-DS are post-graduate training, short courses and collaborative applied research. ACE-DS partners with other academic institutions, private and public institutions, and industry to support teaching (including professional short courses), supervision, research, and practicum attachments.

ACE-DS got an international accreditation from Data Science Council of America (DASCA). With this accrediting agency ACE-DS is also conducting online professional training in: Associate Big Data Engineer, Senior Big Data Engineer, Associate Big Data Analyst, Senior Big Data Analyst, Senior Data Scientist, and Principal Data Scientist.

In 2022, ACE-DS established a Data Driven Incubation Hub (DDIH) with an aim of transforming ideas into real-world solutions turning brilliant ideas from conceptions to commercialization. Connecting created data-driven solutions to the industry/institutions for informed decision-making. Data Driven Incubation Hub at African Center of Excellence in Data Science wishes to inform university graduates with artificial intelligence for agriculture, health and climate innovative ideas and prototypes about incubation program whereby those with innovative ideas will be incubated for 6 months at the hub to help them develop products from their ideas.

Objective
The objective is to get artificial intelligence for agriculture, health and climate innovative ideas and prototypes from university graduates to be incubated at the Data Driven Incubation Hub at African Center of Excellence in Data Science for a period of 6 months.

Expected results
Following this call, 15 Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Agriculture, Health and Climate innovative ideas and prototypes will be selected to be incubated at the Data Driven Incubation Hub in African Center of Excellence in Data Science.

Incubation Duration
The selected projects will be incubated for 6 months at the data driven incubation hub.

Qualified applicants
The Incubation program is designed for individuals with innovative ideas or prototypes in the field of Agriculture, Health and Weather who at least have a Bachelor degree.

What to expect after selection
During that period of incubation, the selected incubatees will be provided with different trainings that will lead them from ideation to commercialization stage. The incubatees will be provided with mentors who will support and train them, demo days will be organized for the incubatees, pitching to potential investors, building networks for entrepreneurs, innovation week to showcase ideas to industries and funders, how to brand and also train them about intellectual property. Incubatees will also be trained about:

- How to develop solutions
- How to design prototypes based on customer's needs
- How to choose the right technology and tools
- How to develop the prototype and product
- How to test product
- How to negotiate with investors

Criteria of the ideas/prototypes
- Innovative
- Solving existing problems in the community
- Feasible

Proposal guidelines
- Names of applicant
- Project title
- Introduction
- Problem
- Solution
- Methodology
- Conclusion

Application process
To apply, please use this Google form link: https://bit.ly/42lU6Og

Deadline is on 22nd March 2023 and selected incubates will be notified by 23rd March 2023.

For more information, please contact Dr. Jennifer Batamuliza, Head of Data Driven Incubation Hub and Professional Short courses, African Center of Excellence in Data Science, University of Rwanda Tel: +250788312697 Email: bajelo2000@gmail.com.

Done at Kigali, 6/3/2023

Associate Professor Charles Ruranga
Director of African Center of Excellence in Data Science
College of Business and Economics, University of Rwanda