

PROFILE AND SUCCESS STORIES OF THE 3RD EDITION RURAL YOUTH AWARDS 2019

#GYINGambiaRYA2019

The 3rd Edition of the Rural Youth Awards 2019 recognises and celebrates the achievements of rural youth in entrepreneurship and agribusiness thus provide some financial support to deserving rural youths.

3RD EDITION RURAL YOUTH AWARDS 2019

THEME: DISCOVERING VALUE CHAIN BY PUTTING YOUNG PEOPLE IN AGRICULTURAL VALUE ADDITION

DATE: SATURDAY, 27TH APRIL, 2019

**VENUE: WULI AND SANDU DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (WASDA),
WULI WEST, UPPER RIVER REGION (URR)**



Rural Youth Awards 2019

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Global Youth Innovation Network Gambia Chapter (GYIN Gambia Chapter) wishes to extend sincere gratitude and appreciation to the 'profiling crew of the shortlisted nominees' for the 3rd Edition of the Rural Youth Awards 2019 for their patience and understanding during the countrywide coverage.

These are no other persons than Mr Sarjo Jarjo, the Chairman, #GYINGambiaRYA2019 of the National Organising Committee of the Rural Youth Awards, Mr Lamin K Sanyang of Diligent Media, Mamadou Jallow, FASDEP Driver and Mr Madi S. Njie, GYIN Gambia's Communications Specialist as well as Ambassador Mamadou Edrisa Njie, Executive Director, GYIN Gambia Chapter for ably leading the team during the four days profiling of the nominees.

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Gratitude also goes to our editorial team- Mr. Modou S. Joof, Mr. Madi S. Njie and Mrs. Mariam Saine.

On this special occasion, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to our partners- The Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) and The Building Resilience Against Food and Nutrition Insecurity in the Sahel (P2RS) for supporting this year's Rural Youth Awards 2019.

Gratitude also goes to Wuli and Sandu Development Agency (WASDA) for hosting this year's Rural Youth Awards 2019 as well as the Community of Upper River Region under the dynamic leadership of the Governor, Fanta Bojang Samateh Manneh and the Technical Advisory Committee for the warm reception.

Thanks to the Jury for their commitment and professional excellence and to ensuring that the deserving youth emerged as Winners.

Sincere appreciation goes to GYIN International, Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Amina Sillah PhD and Dr. Saikou E. Sanyang, Director General, department of Agriculture for the support.

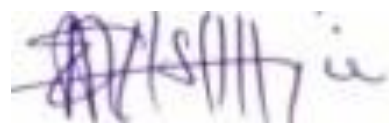
Singular recognition to the National and Local Organising Committee for their tireless efforts for the successful coordination of the Awards.

Distinct gratefulness to SUMA EVENTS and MK Enterprise- Catering and Delivery Services for all arrangements including lightening, seating arrangement and food were excellent. We are satisfied with your efforts.

To the Winners and Nominees, you are at our hearts and our best partners. Without your sincere efforts, timely submission of application forms, our Rural Youth Awards would not have been so successful. Again, we would like to let you know that GYIN Gambia and its partners respect you and you have been such an inspirational figure us. GYIN Gambia has been blessed to have you as Winners and Nominees.

We would like to thank all the media houses in The Gambia both print and electronic for the publicity as well as online mediums and bloggers who blogs and tweets about the award.

Thanks and appreciation also goes to all other individuals and organizations that contributed immensely to the successful of this award.



Ambassador Mamadou Edrisa Njie
Executive Director
GYIN Gambia Chapter

Rural Youth Awards 2019

Guest Speaker



Modou NS N'jie is an ICT expert with over 22 years' experience.

He served as an Independent Consultant for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Banjul office, Deloitte and as IT Manager for two major banks in The Gambia.

Over the past five years, Mr. Njie transformed himself into a social entrepreneur by starting up Farm Fresh, the #1 online Food Store and Delivery Service in The Gambia, with a focus on promoting local produce and thereby securing

income for local farmers and food processors.

Farm Fresh has allowed Gambians from the diaspora to easily order fresh and healthy food for their families at home, earning the venture a nomination in the 'Emerging Businesses in The Gambia by The Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) Business Gala Dinner in 2015.

His current growth plans include regional expansion to Sierra Leone, Senegal and Nigeria, and also a Franchise System that would allow expatriates to become shareholders.

He recently won the SEEDSTARS Start Up competition in The Gambia where he pitched on behalf of his new startup company called Money Farm.

Mr. Njie is also a Tony Elumelu Entrepreneur, EMPRETECO and Seedstars Alumni 2019.

He won the audience award on behalf of his company Farm Fresh at the Future Agro Challenge Global competition held in South Africa in 2017.

He is also the proprietor of his first business venture an IT firm known as N-Web Plus which has been actively operating since 2003.

He is the former Vice Chairman of the Internet Society Gambia Chapter.



WINNER

Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2019

Name: Agie Isatou Gaye

Age: 24

Type of Business: Poultry Farming

Award Category: Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2019

Address: Sukuta, West Coast Region (WCR)

Agie Isatou Gaye is a beneficiary of The Gambia Investment & Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA) training for young entrepreneurs during which she met a pool of young poultry farmers. She is the Founder and Proprietress of Dundeggee Poultry.

Inspired by them, she started her poultry with 150 broiler birds in 2016 supported by the Food and Agriculture Sector Development Project (FASDEP). In 2018, she received 250 broiler birds from the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) Mini Grant Scheme. All the broilers were sold, and she added a new consignment of 200 layer birds on 1st August, 2018 as part of her

poultry expansion.

She sold their eggs and bought more birds to maintain a steady flow in the eggs supply business.

Ms. Gaye is also a beneficiary of the Global Youth Innovation Network Gambia Chapter (GYIN Gambia Chapter) Youth Mentorship Programme on Enterprise Management and Alumni of Entrepreneurship, Leadership and Information Technology (ELIT 2018) National Youth Summer Camp during which she learned book keeping and how to manage her poultry.

“

If I win this award, I will expand my business, buy more layers and feeds

”



WINNER

Young Agribusiness of the Year 2019

Name: Metta Sanneh

Age: 23

Type of Business: Horticulture

Award Category: Young Agribusiness of the Year 2019

Address: Pacharr Village, Central River Region South (CRR South)

Ms Sanneh ventured into gardening to be employed and support herself. She also felt the need to utilize the available land in her area to produce vegetable crops.

She said she ventured into gardening to help herself and her family. Sanneh started by paying for the digging of two wells at one hundred and fifty (D150.00) each, on a land availed to her.

“

If I win this award, I will extend my production capacity by digging more wells for the garden

”

“I prepared nursery beds because I wanted to help myself and my family. My mother is old. The land owner helped me in preparing the soil and fencing of the place,” she said.

Today, she has traders who travel several kilometers, all the way from Basse, to buy products in the garden.



WINNER

Young Agro-Tech of the Year 2019

Name: Abdoulie Sanneh

Age: 32

Type of Business: Welding of Farm Implements

Award Category: Young Agro-Tech of the Year 2019

Address: Bwiam, West Coast Region (WCR)

Abdoulie Sanneh received training in welding and making of farm tools in Dakar, Senegal.

“I had a workshop in Dakar but I came back because I want to benefit my people by providing farming tools and helping the young ones to acquire welding skill,” he said.

He produces garden tanks, garden forks, garden trowels, rakes and harrowing. He is also responsible for the maintenance of milling machines in Bwiam and the surroundings, makes and repair donkey, cow and horse carts.

“

If I win this award, I will use the money to add heavy machines that can be used to manufacture new farming equipment such as heavy duty drilling machines

”



Best Business Idea of the Year 2019

Name: Tijan Chorr

Age: 29

Type of Business: E-Commerce

Award Category: Best Business Idea of the Year 2019

Address: Old Yundum Village, West Coast Region (WCR)

Tijan Chorr works with farmers to market their products online. His objective is to bridge the gap between the producers and markets.

“This is where Laga Afrik stepped in. We want to be the linkage between them and the markets by helping to create a bigger customer base for farmers’ nationally and internationally,” he said. Farmers in the rural areas are faced with problems of access to markets. This is a problem he said he wants to solve.

Inspired by GYIN Gambia’s Entrepreneurship, Leadership and Information Technology (ELIT 2018) National Youth Summer Camp on the

theme ‘Broadening Young Entrepreneurs’ Mindsets on Value Addition’, Tijan created accounts on various social media platforms (like Facebook, WhatsApp and LinkedIn) that have up to 4,000 followers.

He is currently studying web design, and as well, he is into branding and promotion, something lacking among farmers.



If I win this award, I will expand the business to reach more farmers and more markets and potential customers. I would also find an office space



Rural Youth Awards 2019



Best Emerging Business of the Year 2019

Name: Muhammed S. Juwara

Age: 23

Type of Business: Poultry Farming

Award Category: Best Emerging Business of the Year 2019

Address: Bora Kanda Kasse, Upper River Region (URR)

Muhammed S. Juwara started his business by buying and selling fuel.

In 2016, he participated in GYIN Gambia's National Youth Summer Camp on Entrepreneurship, Leadership, and Information Technology (ELIT 2017). There, he said, he learned more about how to start and run a successful venture, and decided to venture into poultry farming. He started with seven thousand dalasis only (D7,000.00) of proceeds from his fuel business.

He started with fifty (50) birds (broilers) he bought from Kombo Poultry, and also bought two (2) bags of chicken feeds. All of the birds sold.

Unfortunately for him, when he bought another 50

layer birds, 25 died due to what he said was "the weather condition" – exposure to extreme heat. There are no nearby poultry farms where Juwara could buy from, he had to travel hundreds of kilometers.

Juwara is currently struggling with his business and had to fetch and sell firewood to support his business. "I had challenges of transporting my birds from Greater Banjul Area (GBA) to Basse due to the heat during the day. I prefer transporting it at night if not they will die," he said.



If I win this award, I will use the money to buy more birds, expand my poultry house so that I can supply my village and the surrounding villages with eggs and meat, and also to inspire others to venture into poultry business





Best Processing and Value Addition Business of the Year 2019

Name: Burama Dampha

Age: 21

Type of Business: Groundnut Processing

Award Category: Best Processing and Value Addition Business of the Year 2019

Address: Kabakama, Basse, Upper River Region (URR)

Burama Dampha is the owner of BD Enterprise which mills millet, coos and processes groundnuts.

"I started the business in 2016 with a vision to be the leading and the most preferred Milling Service Provider in Upper River Region by 2025," he said.

Dampha started with a small groundnut milling machine and made up to D30, 000 in profits. His parents gave him fifteen thousand dalasis (D15,000.00) and he bought a machine and a generator.

That was when he started improving, and now has 3 machines which are operated by dynamos.

“

If I win this award, I want to expand my business into other parts of the region, especially in the Wuli's where such kind of machines are not available. I would also like to buy a groundnut cracking machine

”

He also bought an electricity meter at twenty-two thousand dalasis (D22,000.00). He also secured 3 more milling machines from the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) Mini Grant Scheme in 2019.

Dampha have employed five (5) young people, three of whom are stationed here [at Kabakama], and the other two are with the mobile milling machine moving from one community to the other in Upper River Region (URR).



WINNER

Young Business Innovation of the Year 2019

Name: Marie Sambou

Age: 31

Type of Business: Oyster Farming/ White Lime

Award Category: Young Business Innovation of the Year 2019

Address: Lamin Village, West Coast Region (WCR)

Marie Sambou was inspired by her mother who is an oyster farmer. They normally harvest oysters for four months when the harvesting season opens which usually closes for eight months.

After harvesting the oyster, she explained that they boil and prepare it for sale. The oyster shells are also preserved and burnt into white powder formula, locally called 'Lasoh'.

"We burn the shells for two days to turn into ashes. We will then mix the ashes with water and pack it in empty cement bags for sale," she said.

They created another post- seasonal oyster farm to generate income when the season closes.

Some of their difficulties at the farm include good market and preservation methods.

She said some people used to caricature her for being a high school graduate and venturing into oyster farming. Sambou enthused that she earns two thousand dalasis (D2,000.00) daily from the business and deposits about ten thousand dalasis (D10,000.00) per month in her bank account.

“

If I win this award, I will buy a fiber boat because I have an ordinary boat which does not last long. I will also extend my farm because its small but my main objective is to buy a fiber boat which cost about twenty thousand dalasis (D20,000.00) and can last for about three to four years. I will use the remaining balance from the thirty-five thousand dalasis (D35,000.00) to extend my farm

”



WINNER

Best Business Partner of the Year 2019

Name: Isatou Sonko

Age: 35

Type of Business: Horticulture

Award Category: Best Business Partner of the Year 2019

Address: Berending Village, North Bank Region (NBR)

Isatou Sonko cultivates onion and sells to her customers in the Greater Banjul Area. She usually sells a bag of onion between three hundred dalasis (D300.00) and five hundred (D500.00) depending on the market price. Ms. Sonko is presently managing 20 beds at the National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project (Nema) sponsored garden in her village, Berending. However, she said the space allocated to her at this garden is not enough as she tries to increase production. She has since secured space (140 beds) in a nearby garden to cultivate an additional 75 beds of onion and 65 beds of okra crops.

“When the market price is good, I sell at one

“

If I win this award, I will increase production and expand my agribusiness venture by cultivating other vegetable varieties. Gardening is my career, it helps me to be able to solve my household needs and to be able to buy and resell other petty goods

”

thousand dalasis (D1,000.00) per basket but when the price is not favorable I sell at five hundred dalasis (D500.00) or six hundred dalasis (D600.00) which kills my business,” she explained.

Ms. Sonko said her main challenge is the inadequate water supply. “I usually pay other people one hundred dalasis (D100.00) to fetch water for me from the wells,” she said. “I would have loved to own a borehole, but I cannot afford it.”



Best Service Provider of Agro-Products of the Year 2019

Name: Lamin Kinteh

Age: 33

Type of Business: Agro Products

Award category: Best Service Provider of Agro-Products of the Year 2019

Address: Kerewan, North Bank Region (NBR)

Lamin Kinteh started his business two years ago as a gardener but faced numerous challenges such as access to vegetable seeds and other farming inputs.

He managed to raise some money from his little profits to buy a small amount of seeds from Senegal and resell to other farmers. Kinteh said his business is now yielding dividends and is supporting his family's needs.

He is the sole provider of farm inputs (vegetable seeds) in his area, but a shortfall in profits means he can't buy seeds in bulk quantities for resale. Nonetheless, Kinteh is planning to move into

his new shop situated on the Kerewan highway to ease access by customers. He also wants to expand his business to meet his customers demand, about 20 women groups depend on him for farm inputs supply, and other customers at Nuimi Lamin, Aljamdou, Jurunku and Drammeh Joka.

"I don't have the means of mobility to reach out to all these 20 women groups, but if I have some financial support, I will open other branches in different locations to enable them have access to my inputs."

“

If I win this award, I will use the money to buy lots of farm implements and seeds to supply to farmers, as they are very expensive in their localities

”



WINNER

Best Packaged and Labelled Products of Agro-Products of the Year 2019

Name: Marie Madeline Mendy

Age: 23

Type of Business: Food Processing

Award Category: Best Packaged and Labelled Products of Agro-Products of the Year 2019

Address: Farato Village, West Coast Region (WCR)

“ I also want to establish a garden, and if I became a winner I will be able to achieve some of these ”

Inspired by her mother who has been into packaging food products long before she was born, Marie Madeline Mendy took up the trade after receiving a Diploma in Agriculture.

“I want to contribute to the development of my nation. I thought it wise to engaged in food waste management,” she said. “I believed that I can only achieve this through processing and packaging.” But before she began processing and packaging food items, Mendy did some research on women’s involvement in vegetable production, the progress made and challenges faced.

“I concluded that post-harvest loses are a major problem. This also motivated me to set up a small business,” she said.

She has since set up what she called a “processing room” with the hope that it grows up to a center in the long term.

Food handling requires certain quality standards and Mendy knows this. She said she uses apron when processing and keeps it clean in order to avoid cross contamination of food, and observes strict hygiene measures.

Since marketing is sometimes a problem, she said it is safer to have the products properly packaged for durability and safety of consumers.

Currently, she uses her uncle’s building for processing, but hopes to have her own. She also plans to contact Super Market owners about supplying her products.



NOMINEE

Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2019

Name: Rohey M. Bah

Age: 27

Type of Business: Fishing & Poultry Farming

Award Category: Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2019

Address: Brikama Town, West Coast Region (WCR)

Rohey M. Bah has been into fishing and poultry since three years ago. She was motivated by her friends to venture into the business and eventually started with only 40 broiler birds with the help of her younger brother who was a back way returnee (migrant). She was able to raise funds through the business and expanded her poultry with up to 1,350 layer birds.

“I get into fishing as part of my business plan B. Again, so many youths get into poultry business because people are into poultry without knowing the challenges involved, such as marketing,

so I deemed it necessary to get into another field because I realize that fishing is a lucrative business,” she said.

After buying shrimps from the fisher men, she serves as a middle-woman selling shrimps to the consumers. However, she lamented many challenges that she is facing in the shrimps’ business.

“

Winning the award will really help me in my business to buy a freezer because sustainability matters especially by getting the right things at the right time. I will employ other young people who will do delivery up to the door steps of our customers. It will also help me raise my business to another level thus inspiring more youths to venture in fishing business

”



NOMINEE

Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2019

Name: Nyima Sillah

Age: 31

Type of Business: Horticulture

Award Category: Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2019

Address: Jarra Medina, Lower River Region (LRR)

Nyima Sillah is a vegetable gardener. She has been cultivating onions and pepper at the Jarra Medina vegetable garden for three years supported by the National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project (Nema) -International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UN Agency based in Rome.

Presently, she has 7 beds of pepper and 8 beds of onion. She said her main objective is to make

“

If I win this award, I will expand my production scale by establishing more garden beds

”

money and to support her family.

The gardening has benefitted her a lot in providing food for her family and her children's educational needs.

“As a young lady, I entirely depend on my production to make ends meet,” she said.



Young Agribusiness of the Year 2019

Name: Alhagie Karamo Jammeh

Age: 28

Type of Business: Horticulture

Award Category: Young Agribusiness of the Year 2019

Address: Busumbala, West Coast Region (WCR)

Karamo Jammeh discontinued his Junior Secondary School and started gardening after her mother passed on. He has worked for various projects, but said he wanted to do something on his own.

He rented the land and pays (in cash or crops) to the owner of the land after every harvest.

However, like other gardeners and vegetable crop producers, inadequate access to water supply is impeding his business ambition.

“To water my beds, I have to fetch water from a

tap a long distance from the garden,” he said. “My main problems are access to water and land.”

Mr. Jammeh harvests tomatoes up to four times annually, and sells these and other produce (onions, cassava etc) to women who are engaged in petty-trading. He also uses Facebook to market his produce.

“

If I win this award, it will help solve some of the problems affecting my business, and help promote agriculture in general, and as well, motivate my fellow youth

”



NOMINEE

Young Agribusiness of the Year 2019

Name: Alieu Jallow

Age: 31

Type of Business: Sheep Fattening

Award Category: Young Agribusiness of the Year 2019

Address: Kerr Ngatta Badibu, North Bank Region (NBR)

Alieu Jallow engages in sheep fattening. He is the proprietor of Jallow's Sheep Fattening center which he started two years ago

Mr. Jallow was motivated to venture into sheep fattening business as not too many people in his area are into the business.

He stated that during Tobaski feast, only imported sheep are available for religious offerings in his area from neighboring Senegal, as a result, sometimes the animals are often sick due to the

“ If I win this award, I will extend my place where my sheep can grow faster. I'll buy more rams, feeds and consult a veterinary officer to provide medication for my animals on weekly or monthly basis ”

long distance they travel through coupled with price escalation of ram during feast.

It is against this background that he decided to do sheep fattening to help farmers to get sheep at cheaper price than before.

His main aim is to expand his business and have healthier sheep to sell at an affordable price.



NOMINEE

Young Agro-Tech of the Year 2019

Name: Omar Fadera

Age: 32

Type of Business: Wielding of Farm Implements

Award Category: Young Agro-Tech of the Year 2019

Address: Brikama Town, West Coast Region (WCR)

Omar Fadera makes farm implements to cater for the needs of the farmers. He produces hoes and other garden tools. He also makes garden water tanks and distributes some of them in Kiang to big garden owners.

Omar supports his family's basic needs from his previous work but he got laid off six months ago. So he decided to start his own wielding business from scratch, but the building of his workshop is incomplete.

“

If I win this award, I will complete the construction of my workshop, and buy other materials. These materials will help strengthen my business. Young Gambians will also benefit through training and in future they will be able to start their own businesses

”



Best Business Idea of the Year 2019

Name: Alpha Dem

Age: 22

Type of Business: Poultry Farmer

Award Category: Best Business Idea of the Year 2019

Address: Dongoroba Village, Lower River Region (LRR)

Alpha Dem is a poultry farmer. He studied Poultry Management at The Gambia Songhai Initiative (GSI) in Chamen, North Bank Region (NBR). He was retained by the Centre Management as an Assistant Field Coordinator.

Dem had an idea of starting a poultry farm after realizing that there was none in his area—Dongoroba village and surrounding.

Most of the residents usually travel several

“

If I win this award, I will expand my business by constructing a poultry house, buy more chicks and feeds

”

kilometers to Jarra Soma to buy meat. He said he wanted to ease people's burden of traveling to far distances only to get meat and fertilizers.



NOMINEE

Best Business Idea of the Year 2019

Name: Wally Juwara

Age: 31

Type of Business: Horticulture

Award Category: Best Business Idea of the Year 2019

Address: Kartong Village, West Coast Region (WCR)

Wally Juwara is engaged into gardening in Kartong Village. He is into vegetables and trees production as a youth to make best use of his available land in his community.

“I believe it is my responsibility to be part of the Agricultural Value Chain to provide healthy and fresh vegetables to the market,” he said. Since he started his business for over five years, Juwara was able to settle his household needs and support his family.

His main challenge is having good market for his

tomato production. Currently, he needs a tomato processing machine to be able to transform and process the tomatoes into paste. He also wants to do proper fencing of his gardening to protect it from cattle intrusion. Watering is also another challenge that he is facing in his garden.

“

If I win this award, I will buy a processing machine to process my tomatoes and peppers into sauce. I will fence my garden and I will find water pumping machine to enable me have a bumper harvest every year

”



NOMINEE

Best Emerging Business of the Year 2019

Name: Fansainey Ceesay

Age: 30

Type of Business: Horticulture

Award Category: Best Emerging Business of the Year 2019

Address: Kiang Jali, Lower River Region (LRR)

“

If I win this award, I will increase production and to address the water problem

”

Fansainey Ceesay was sponsored by the National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project (Nema) project-sponsored alumnus of the Songhai Agricultural Training Centre, Porto-Novo, in the Republic of Benin.

She has her own garden and also works at the closed Livestock and Horticultural Development Project (LHDP) sponsored garden at her village, Kiang Jali.

Ceesay produces onion, sorrel, cabbage, and pepper. She has cultivated 33 beds in her garden and owns 12 more beds at the village garden.

“I got lot of benefits in the production of

vegetables. I use some of the produce for home consumption and sell the rest.”

However, Mrs. Ceesay said the major problem she faces is inadequate water supply for the crops.

“We struggle, watering by shifts. If I water my crops today, I have to give chance to others for two days to water theirs,” she said.

Ceesay prepares compost manure for her crops because using organic manure help in creating good health. She said it also helps reduce post-harvest loses because the crops do not easily get rotten.



Best Emerging Business of the Year 2019

Name: Amadou Manneh

Age: 28

Type of Business: Sheep Fattening

Award Category: Best Emerging Business of the Year 2019

Address: Kanuma Village, North Bank Region (NBR)

dalasis (D1,000.00).

“When business is going fine, I could make up to four thousand dalasis (D4,000.00) per day. But the cost of chicken feeds is expensive, it is the reason I can’t increase production yet,” he said.

Amadou Manneh engages in sheep fattening and poultry farming. He started with one sheep he bought at eight hundred dalasis only (D800.00).

Today, he has five sheep and his birds are now laying eggs, which he sells at the village. However, he said he can’t afford the cost of feed. He sells chicken at three hundred dalasis (D300.00) and the bigger birds at one thousand

“

**If I win this award, I will
buy more sheep, birds
and feeds**

”



Best Processing and Value Addition Business of the Year 2019

Name: Hanjula Janteh

Age: 34

Types of Business: Food Processing

Award Category: Best Processing and Value Addition Business of the Year 2019

Address: Saruja Village, Central River Region South (CRR South)

Hanjula Janteh graduated from High School, and after two years without finding a job, she was frustrated.

Then she went to The Gambia Technical Training Centre (GTTI) to do some courses for nine months. Presently, she is on attachment at the Saruja Youth Garden sponsored by the National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project (Nema).

“Now, I started processing tomato and pepper into tomato- paste and pepper-sauce,” she said. But how does she do it? “For tomatoes - I split it, remove the seeds. I only need the flesh. I mixed

“

If I win this award, I will expand my business by building a center where I will be doing the processing work. I will also buy the materials needed for my work

”

9kgs of tomatoes with one 1kg of water. I will then filter the water to separate the seeds, and other unwanted materials.

“I boil water and add oil to make the product last longer or prevent spoilage. I will then add palm oil to give colour, and put it in a mug which is labeled with my business trademark- Janteh 1 Enterprise.” Janteh sells a mug of tomato-paste at fifty dalasis (D50.00) or one hundred dalasis (D100.00) depending on the size.



NOMINEE

Best Processing and Value Addition Business of the Year 2019

Name: Amara Bajaha

Age: 30

Type of Business: Groundnut Processing

Award Category: Best Processing and Value Addition Business of the Year 2019

Address: Keneba, Kantora District, Upper River Region (URR)

Amara Bajaha processes grains into powder, and groundnut into paste.

He started this business with his father, and when he passed on, he continued managing the business – with the approval of his family members.

He has since bought a new machine after the old one had a problem, and now works with one of

his brothers. His family benefits by having their millet and groundnut processed for free.

“I was in the Kombos [urban area], but I realized that I have an income-generating initiative in the village and I decided to move back,” he said.

“

If I win this award, I will buy additional machines. I am looking for other types of machine but I could not afford the cost. The machine has helped me, and is serving the village at large

”



NOMINEE

Best Processing and Value Addition Business of the Year 2019

Name: Yaya Sowe

Age: 27

Type of Business: Food Processing and Preservation

Award Category: Best Processing and Value Addition Business of the Year 2019

Address: Gunjur Village, West Coast Region (WCR)

Yaya Sowe's idea to start a food processing and preservation business is inspired by what he saw in Nigeria, Benin and The Gambia where he received training on leadership and entrepreneurship. "I had this idea [to start a business] in 2018 when I was selected for Young Africans Leadership Initiative training in Nigeria. I had the chance to go to the Songhai Center in Benin, and while I was there, we were served with juice and I checked what was written on it. "I said to myself that I can do this because my country has all the ingredients that I would need."

“

I do not have all the materials I need to do my job properly, that is why, if I win this award, it will help my business and also help train other youths on food processing

”

Sowe did a little internet research on how mango jam (and juice) is made from Songhai students. He also received training on food processing from the Peace Ambassadors' The Gambia (PAG), on making groundnut cake, pepper source, and mango jam. However, due to constraints in financing, Sowe has been struggling to get his business running, though he still sells based on orders.



Young Business Innovation of the Year 2019

Name: Ida L.B Ceesay

Age: 31

Type of Business: Chicken Fat Processing

Award Category: Young Business Innovation of the Year 2019

Address: Nemakunku, West Coast Region (WCR)

Ida L.B Ceesay is the proprietress of 'I Delicious Afra and Catering'. After spending some time in her catering business, she started processing chicken fat into laundering soap in last November, which she inherited from her mother.

Her soap making is different from others as her own is made from chicken fat oil.

Her idea of venturing into soap production started after realizing that the chicken fat which she disposed while preparing her chicken afra can be processed into soap. This, according to her, is geared towards keeping the environment clean and making proper waste management.

"The soap business is really going fine because

I make weekly sales of two hundred and eighty dalasis (D280.00) to three hundred and fifty dalasis (D350.00)," she said.

Some of the challenges she is currently faced with include lack of heavy safety gadgets and big basins to enable her increase her production scale.

"I need bigger basins that I can use to process the soap and also the bar container to put the mixture and give it a proper shape. I also need packaging and labeling materials to meet the competitive market," she said.

“

If I win this award, I will buy more materials for my soap production. I will further improve on my packaging and labelling to increase my sales and visibility

”



NOMINEE

Young Agribusiness of the Year 2019

Name: Lamin Touray

Age: 27

Types of Business: Poultry Farming

Award Category: Young Agribusiness of the Year 2019

Address: Barrow Kunda, Wuli West, Upper River Region (URR)

Lamin Touray ventured into poultry business to help his community to get access to poultry meat and eggs, as there is none available within the community.

He already made a household name for himself of being a poultry farmer and gain good market for his products.

He started with 100 chickens (broilers and layers) which have grown into matured birds and laid eggs. Touray sells both eggs and birds, some of which cost up to six hundred dalasis (D600.00). He usually engages a veterinary officer to inspect

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If I win this award, I will expand the house, buy more birds and feed, and save some of the money for veterinary services

”

his birds for proper caring.

His major challenge is space as he uses a small house to raise his birds. He also face challenges in providing enough feeds to the birds.

“A bag of chicken feed cost one thousand, five hundred dalasis (D1,500.00) including the cost of transportation. I have spent thirty-five thousand dalasis (D35,000.00) for roofing, plastering plus payments to the contractor who built the house,” he said.



Young Agribusiness of the Year 2019

Name: Muhammed Lamin Camara

Age: 20

Type of Business: Horticulture

Award Category: Young Agribusiness of the Year 2019

Address: Jarra Medina, Lower River Region (LRR)

Muhammed Lamin Camara is a young gardener who started producing onions, tomatoes, okra, pepper and cabbages in 2016.

He was inspired into gardening by his grandmother, whom he used to assist in her garden at the age of 8.

He said gardening has helped him to be able to settle his household needs and among other social problems.

Camara sells his farm produces at Bureng, Jareng, Jarra Soma, and at nearby markets. He also has a customer in Serekunda who buys his produce.



If I win this award, I will demarcate my own garden because this one I am currently having is too small, it's just one hectare. This award will help me to extend it to two hectares and buy more farming implements





NOMINEE

Best Service Provider of Agro-products of the Year 2019

Name: Abdoulie Ceesay

Age: 24

Type of Business: Poultry Farming

Award Category: Best Service of Agro-Products of the Year 2019

Address: Toniataba Village, Lower River Region (LRR)

Abdoulie Ceesay is a 'back way' (migrant) returnee. He said his father paid almost three times for a boat for him to Italy, but all went in vein.

"I agreed to come back, because that is not the end of life. My father helped me and bought 150 broilers for me," he said.

Ceesay gained experience managing poultry when he was working for an Arab poultry farmer in Libya. He said he ventured into poultry because he wants to solve the problem of the

villagers to get access to poultry products, and also to inspire other youths to venture into the business.

“

If I win this award, I will extend the poultry house, buy more layers and broilers, and buy more feeds. I want to be the leading producer of eggs and poultry products in this region. I want the whole region to feed on my products

”



NOMINEE

Best Service Provider of Agro-Products of the Year 2019

Name: Buba Ceesay

Age: 25

Type of Business: Poultry and Animal Husbandry

Award Category: Best Service Provider of Agro-Products of the Year 2019

Address: Kiang Keneba, Lower River Region (LRR)

Buba Ceesay is an Alumni of Keneba Junior Secondary School. When he completed his Senior Secondary schooling in the Greater Banjul Area, he returned to his home, Keneba, at a time when the 'back-way' (irregular migration) was the talk of the town.

"I even had someone who wanted to sponsor my journey, but I refused to go," he said.

Inspired by a friend who was into poultry business, Ceesay joined the Medical Research Council (MRC) and when he received his first

salary, he bought a sheep to start a sheep fattening business. Today, he owns 15 sheep, 3 goats, and a poultry farm.

While people buy from him when they have ceremonies, women gardeners have also found his business useful for the manure it provides.

But he faces financial challenges in relation to the cost of maintaining his business, especially for medical and related issues. He is self-employed.

“

If I win this award, I will expand my poultry by buying more birds and feeds

”



NOMINEE

Best Processing and Value Addition Business of the Year 2019

Name: Mahawa Taal

Age: 23

Type of Business: Food Processing

Award Category: Best Processing and Value Addition Business of the Year 2019

Address: Kiang Jifarong, Lower River Region (LRR)

Mahawa Taal is fighting malnutrition in children by processing beans, rice, groundnuts and millet.

“I usually roast the groundnuts, and later have it processed at the milling machine. I will then use all their end products.

“I use two items for each sample. I mix rice and groundnut, and maize with beans. I take 2kgs for each product and mixed them together to have a balance diet.”

However, she said one does not have to mix

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If I win this, award I will expand my business to supply super markets, and for our Gambians to eat their own home made products. I will also improve on my labelling and packaging

”

groundnut and beans because both products perform the same functions in the body. She said these foods are important to children and pregnant women.

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