

EVI-SICEE REPORT **Evidence for Informing Scaling and Impact in** **Youth and Women-Led Clean Energy** **Enterprises (EVI-SICEE) in Africa** **Women and Youth in Clean Energy** **Entrepreneurship Workshop**

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Background

The EVI-SICEE project has been under implementation with the objective of generating evidence to inform the scaling of promising youth and women-led clean energy enterprises in Kenya. Informal, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) continue to drive economic activity in Kenya, with a significant proportion of youth engaged either as entrepreneurs or employees along clean energy value chains.

Despite the growing potential of clean energy technologies including solar, clean cooking, bioenergy, productive-use energy solutions, energy efficiency and climate-smart innovations, youth participation remains constrained by:

1. Limited awareness of viable clean energy entrepreneurship pathways
2. Weak access to finance and business development services
3. Limited ecosystem coordination at the county and regional levels
4. Structural and socio-cultural barriers affecting youth and women
5. Fragmented linkages between academia, industry and financing actors

The first Youth in Clean Energy Entrepreneurship Workshop, held in Homa Bay County in 2025, successfully convened clean energy entrepreneurs from the Nyanza region and generated important dialogue and insights on youth participation in clean energy innovation.

The second Youth and women in Clean Energy Entrepreneurship workshop, was held in Eastern Kenya, and was to seek to build on this foundation by placing stronger emphasis on:

- Building awareness and inspiration among youth to pursue clean energy entrepreneurship.
- Strengthening and aligning the regional clean energy support ecosystem to better serve youth entrepreneurs.

Thus, the workshop moved beyond dialogue toward practical ecosystem alignment and structured follow-up.

1. Opening and setting the scene

The section documents key deliberations during the opening session.

1.1 Opening session – by Yvonne Gitu, ACTS

Yvonne delivered the welcome remarks, officially opening the workshop, and setting the context for the engagement. She welcomed participants and invited them to introduce themselves, an exercise that highlighted the diversity of stakeholders present, including entrepreneurs, researchers, practitioners, academia, and other actors within the clean energy ecosystem.

In her remarks, she emphasized the importance of bringing together such a diverse group, noting that the workshop provided a valuable platform for interaction, knowledge exchange, and collaboration.

She underscored that the engagement represents a critical step in translating research into actionable insights that can inform both policy and practice in the clean energy sector. Yvonne also acknowledged the presence of key partners and stakeholders and recognized the contribution of the Chuka University team in supporting the organization of the workshop. She encouraged participants to actively engage, share experiences, and contribute to the discussions, noting that the success of the workshop would depend on collective participation and openness.

The workshop opened with welcome remarks and institutional presentations led by representatives from Chuka University. The session served to officially receive participants, provide institutional context, and set the tone for interactive engagement.

1.2 Welcome Remarks and Institutional Presentations- Chuka University

The Chuka University team representative, Prof. Jafford Njeru welcomed participants and emphasized the university's commitment to partnerships, knowledge of co-creation, and community engagement. The institution was presented as an active knowledge hub that integrates teaching, research, and outreach to respond to real-world challenges, particularly in environmental sustainability and the clean energy transition.

He highlighted the university's strong focus on applied research and its deliberate shift toward community-engaged scholarship. This approach emphasizes collaboration with practitioners, entrepreneurs, and development partners to ensure that research outputs are translated into practical, scalable solutions. Renewable energy was identified as a key thematic area, with emphasis on its role in addressing environmental degradation, reducing reliance on biomass, and promoting sustainable development.

The university also reaffirmed its openness to partnerships in research, capacity building, content development, and innovation support. Participants were encouraged to explore collaboration opportunities, leveraging the institution's academic expertise, research infrastructure, and technical capacity.

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Figure 1: Prof. Njeru highlights the university's commitment to partnerships, co-creation and clean energy research

As part of the session, selected innovators presented their enterprises, showcasing grassroots solutions emerging within the clean energy and circular economy space. These included innovations in oyster nut value addition, which demonstrated how indigenous crops can be transformed into income-generating and environmentally beneficial products.

Bana girl innovation highlighted the development of biodegradable sanitary pads made from banana fibers, applying circular economy principles to address menstrual health challenges while reducing plastic waste.

These presentations reflected the growing role of youth- and women-led innovation in addressing intersecting environmental, social, and economic challenges within local communities.



Figure 2: Pamela Apuko “Bana Girl” showcasing her innovation, biodegradable sanitary pads made from banana fibers

Questions, Reflections, and Plenary Discussion from the presentation

The session concluded with an interactive plenary discussion that brought together participants, facilitators, and institutional representatives. The discussions focused on key technical, business, and policy-related aspects emerging from the presentations.

One of the major discussion points centered on product development processes and hygiene standards, particularly in relation to the biodegradable sanitary pad innovation. Concerns were raised regarding packaging processes and the extent to which manual handling might affect product hygiene. In response, it was clarified that sterilization is conducted prior to packaging, and protective measures such as gloves are used to minimize contamination risks. It was further explained that while some processes remain manual due to limited automation, strict hygiene protocols are maintained throughout production.

Another key area of discussion focused on intellectual property (IP) protection and innovation uniqueness. Participants were encouraged to understand that even similar products can have distinct value propositions based on design, process, composition, or application. It was emphasized that innovations should be protected through appropriate intellectual property mechanisms, as differentiation within the market often lies in proprietary knowledge, trade secrets, or product improvements.

The conversation also addressed market positioning, scalability, and sustainability of enterprises, with emphasis on the importance of moving beyond product development to long-term business viability. Participants were encouraged to consider how innovations evolve into sustainable enterprises through strategic planning, value addition, and market differentiation.

Additionally, reflections were made on the importance of transitioning from theoretical knowledge to practical implementation, particularly within academic and training institutions. The discussion highlighted the value of engaging practitioners and entrepreneurs in learning spaces to bridge the gap between theory and practice.

The plenary session reinforced the importance of critical engagement, practical problem-solving, and knowledge exchange as central elements in strengthening the clean energy innovation ecosystem.

2. Keynote and Partner Remarks

2.1 Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF)- Presented by Jemima Mawia



Figure 3: Jemima reaffirming YEDF's commitment to supporting youth-led enterprises through finance, training and market linkages

Jemima, representing YEDF, conveyed greetings from the CEO and reaffirmed the Fund's commitment to supporting youth-led enterprises across Kenya. She described YEDF as a government initiative focused on addressing youth unemployment through a combination of affordable financing, entrepreneurship training, market linkages, and incubation support.

Drawing from practice, Jemima emphasized that sustainable enterprise growth requires more than access to credit. She highlighted the importance of complementary support systems particularly capacity building and market access, which is consistent with research showing that integrated interventions significantly improve business survival and growth among youth enterprises.

She also noted that YEDF has been actively engaged in the clean energy project from the outset, with some of its beneficiaries contributing to the research process. This reflects a participatory and evidence-driven approach, where beneficiary experiences inform program design. The workshop was framed as an interactive platform aimed at co-creation, encouraging participants to critically reflect both challenges and opportunities in the clean energy sector.

Jemima further emphasized on the importance of addressing barriers faced by youth and women, particularly in accessing finance, technical knowledge, and markets. At the same time, she positioned clean energy as a rapidly expanding sector with significant potential for inclusive economic participation. She concluded by reaffirming YEDF's readiness to support participants through its nationwide presence, including county-level officers.

Key Highlights:

- YEDF provides affordable loans, training, market linkages, and incubation for youth enterprises.
- Emphasis on integrated support systems beyond financing alone.
- Active involvement in the project, including beneficiary participation in research.
- Focus on youth and women's challenges in clean energy (finance, skills, market access).
- Encouragement of active participation and co-creation during the workshop.
- Strong county-level presence to support entrepreneurs locally.

2.2 Kenya Climate Innovation Center (KCIC)- Presented by Vincent Ogaya

Vincent, representing KCIC, provided an overview of the organization's role in supporting climate innovation and enterprise development. He explained that KCIC focuses on the commercialization of climate technologies and business models through structured incubation (for early-stage startups) and acceleration (for growth-stage enterprises), reflecting a lifecycle approach to enterprise support.

Vincent highlighted that KCIC works with enterprises contributing to both climate change mitigation and adaptation, with the energy sector being a key focus area.



Figure 4: Vincent highlights KCIC's role in commercializing climate innovations through incubation and acceleration support.

He noted that while energy was previously the largest sector supported by KCIC, it remains highly significant due to its strong linkages with other sectors such as agriculture and waste management. This reflects broader evidence on the energy–agriculture nexus, where clean energy solutions enhance productivity and resilience in rural economies.

Particular attention was given to the productive use of energy, especially in agricultural contexts. Vincent cited applications such as cooling, drying, and processing, which are critical for value addition and reducing post-harvest losses. He also highlighted KCIC's regional presence through its incubation center in Meru (Tagulu), which serves entrepreneurs in the area.

In addition to technical support, Vincent emphasized KCIC's role in facilitating access to finance and connecting enterprises to wider innovation ecosystems. He encouraged participants to engage actively, ask questions, and explore available opportunities.

Key Highlights:

- KCIC supports commercialization of climate innovations through incubation and acceleration.
- Focus on climate mitigation and adaptation of enterprises.
- Clean energy identified as a key sector with cross-sector linkages (e.g., agriculture, waste).
- Strong emphasis on productive use of energy (cooling, drying, and processing).
- Availability of regional incubation support (Meru – Tagulu center).
- Provision of financing and ecosystem linkages for enterprises.
- Encouragement of interaction, learning, and opportunity exploration.

2.3 EVI-SICEE project presentation- Presented by Mourine Chepkemai(ACTS)

Mourine delivered a presentation outlining the institutional context and key components of the EVI-SICEE project. She situated the project within the organization's broader strategic framework, which is anchored on five thematic areas: agriculture, food and nutrition security; climate-resilient economy; technology, innovation and knowledge; digital economy; and gender, youth, and inclusive development. She noted that the organization operates across more than 25 countries in Africa and has a strong focus on policy-oriented research and multi-stakeholder engagement.

The presentation focused on the EVI-SICEE project, a multi-country initiative implemented in Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, and South Africa. The project, which began two years ago, was competitively selected among over 1,000 submissions and is part of a cohort of 12 funded projects. Its overarching objective is to generate evidence to inform, optimize, and scale youth- and women-led clean energy enterprises.



Figure 5: Mourine from ACTS presenting the EVI-SICEE project, highlighting collaborative efforts to advance sustainable clean energy innovation and entrepreneurship.

She explained that the project adopts a systems-based approach to understanding the structural and systemic factors that influence access to investment and growth opportunities for youth and women in the clean energy sector. These factors include limited access to finance, gaps in technical and business skills, weak market linkages, and inconsistencies in policy and regulatory environments. This approach aligns with existing research emphasizing that entrepreneurial success is shaped by broader ecosystem conditions rather than isolated interventions.

The project is structured around three key pillars: research, capacity building, and transdisciplinary knowledge exchange. Under the research component, extensive mapping studies were conducted across multiple regions in Kenya to assess the clean energy landscape. These studies informed the development of several targeted outputs, including reports tailored for policymakers, private sector actors, and entrepreneurs, thereby strengthening the evidence–policy–practice interface.

The capacity-building component, implemented in collaboration with the Kenya Climate Innovation Center, involved a business incubation program targeting 13 entrepreneurs selected through a rigorous, data-driven process from a larger pool of over 1,500 participants. The incubation model combines technical training with practical enterprise development support, including boot camps, mentorship, and experiential learning activities.

She also emphasized that the incubation program was designed using a bottom-up approach, ensuring that training content was responsive to the specific needs of participating entrepreneurs. Key areas of focus included financial planning and management, business model development, intellectual property protection, marketing strategies, diversification of income streams, business formalization, and pitching skills. In addition, participants were supported in strengthening their digital presence through the development of websites and social media platforms.

The transdisciplinary knowledge exchange component facilitated learning through interaction, collaboration, and exposure. Activities such as exchange visits and field engagements enabled entrepreneurs to gain practical insights from peers and practitioners, reinforcing the importance of experiential learning. The project also engaged multiple stakeholders, including government actors, private sector players, and NGOs, to strengthen the clean energy ecosystem.

Furthermore, the project applied a value chain and gender lens, focusing on clean energy technologies such as solar systems and clean cooking solutions. This approach enabled a more comprehensive understanding of the roles, relationships, and constraints within the sector.

She concluded the presentation by highlighting the importance of integrated and collaborative approaches in advancing clean energy entrepreneurship. Strategic partnerships, particularly with ecosystem actors and policymakers, were identified as critical for addressing systemic barriers, influencing policy processes, and ensuring long-term sustainability. Participants were encouraged to actively engage in the workshop as a platform for shared learning and co-creation of solutions.

Key Highlights:

- The project is a multi-country initiative (Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, South Africa) that started two years ago.
- Selected among over 1,000 proposals, demonstrate strong relevance and competitiveness.
- Focus on systemic barriers: access to finance, skills gaps, market constraints, and policy challenges.
- Structured around three pillars: research, capacity building, and knowledge exchange.
- 13 entrepreneurs incubated through a rigorous, evidence-based selection process.
- Adoption of a bottom-up approach to tailor training to entrepreneurs' needs.
- Training covered financial management, business models, IP protection, marketing, and pitching.
- Strong emphasis on experiential learning through exchange visits and stakeholder engagement.
- Application of a value chain and gender lens in clean energy (solar, clean cooking).
- Recognition of policy engagement and partnerships as key drivers of sustainability and scale.

3. Setting the scene**3.1 Youth initiatives at the grassroots: Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) Perspective - Presented by Morris Murimi**

Morris, representing YEDF, provided a contextual and reflective perspective on youth entrepreneurship at the grassroots level, with a particular focus on the emerging clean energy and climate innovation space.

He began by expressing appreciation for the opportunity to engage with participants and emphasized the importance of understanding what young people are currently doing to create impact within their communities and across the country. He noted that while there are numerous innovative ideas emerging from youth, there remains a critical need to better align these efforts with emerging opportunities in climate change and clean energy.

Morris provided an overview of YEDF as a state corporation established to address the persistent challenge of youth unemployment by supporting young people to transition from job seekers to job creators. He highlighted the Fund's core areas of support, including entrepreneurship training, access to affordable finance, mentorship, market linkages, and support for business incubation and development. He emphasized that these services are designed to provide a holistic support system that enables young entrepreneurs to start, grow, and scale their enterprises.



Figure 6: Morris Murimi from YEDF sharing insights on grassroots youth initiatives that foster entrepreneurship and access to clean energy financing

Drawing from practical experience, he outlined key sectors where youth are currently active, particularly at the grassroots level. These include agriculture and agribusiness, trade and informal services, construction and housing, the creative economy, and ICT-driven enterprises. While these sectors demonstrate strong youth participation, Morris noted a significant gap in engagement within the clean energy and climate innovation space.

He posed a critical question to participants: whether young people are adequately tapping into opportunities presented by climate change and clean energy. The general consensus from the discussion was that youth participation in this sector remains limited, despite the growing potential and relevance of clean energy solutions. He emphasized that although climate innovation is gaining traction, it is still an emerging field in many parts of the country, particularly at the grassroots level.

Morris further highlighted that while some youth-led initiatives are emerging in areas such as solar energy, clean cooking, and climate-smart agriculture, these efforts remain small in scale and insufficiently supported. He stressed the need to intentionally “unpack” opportunities within the clean energy sector to make them more visible and accessible to young entrepreneurs.

In his reflections, he identified several structural and systemic barriers that may be limiting youth engagement in the sector. These include limited awareness of available opportunities, gaps in technical and entrepreneurial skills, constrained access to finance, low adoption of clean energy solutions by end users, and policy and coordination challenges.

He also noted the limited involvement of young people in policy dialogues related to climate and energy, which further restricts their ability to influence and benefit sectoral developments.

He concluded by emphasizing the need for a more coordinated and inclusive approach that brings together stakeholders across sectors to support youth participation in clean energy entrepreneurship. This includes strengthening awareness, building capacity, improving access to finance, and creating an enabling policy environment.

Key insights from the presentation

- Youth engagement is sectorally uneven- young people are highly active in agriculture, trade and services, construction, creative industries, and ICT, but less engaged in clean energy and climate innovation, despite its growing relevance.
- Many youth enterprises are established for survival rather than opportunity, limiting innovation, scalability, and long-term sustainability.
- Significant untapped opportunities in clean energy- The sector presents emerging opportunities (e.g., solar energy, clean cooking, climate-smart agriculture), but youth participation remains low and fragmented.
- Limited awareness of clean energy opportunities- Many young people are not fully aware of the economic potential within climate change and clean energy spaces.
- There is a need for stronger technical and business development skills to enable youth to transform ideas into viable enterprises.
- Access to finance remains a key barrier:
 - Limited access to startup capital, especially at the idea stage
 - Preference among youth for grants over loans, due to fear of repayment risks
 - Need for diverse and flexible financing models
- Low market adoption of innovations- Even where solutions exist, consumer uptake is slow, often due to preference for traditional practices.
- Policy and regulatory constraints:
 - Perceived burden of taxation and compliance discourages formalization
 - Limited policy support and coordination for clean energy enterprises
 - Inadequate inclusion of youth in policy dialogues
- Education employment mismatch- The education system still largely prepares youth for formal employment, yet job opportunities are limited, creating a gap in entrepreneurial readiness.
- Weak ecosystem coordination- Fragmentation among stakeholders (government, private sector, NGOs) limits effective support and scaling of youth enterprises.
- Emerging but small-scale youth innovations- Youth-led clean energy initiatives exist but are limited in scale and impact, requiring targeted support to grow.
- Need for intentional ecosystem strengthening- Greater emphasis is required on awareness creation, capacity building, financing, and partnerships to unlock youth potential in clean energy.

Questions, Comments, and Reflections

The session was followed by an interactive discussion in which participants shared experiences, raised concerns, and sought clarification on key issues.

A major concern raised by participants related to access to finance, particularly at the early or idea stage of enterprise development. Participants noted that many innovative ideas fail to progress due to lack of initial capital and questioned whether there are funding mechanisms that support ideas before they become fully established businesses. There was also a strong sentiment expressed against loan-based financing, with some participants indicating a preference for grants due to the perceived risks associated with loan repayment, especially for startups.

In response, it was clarified that YEDF operates as a revolving fund and therefore primarily provides loans rather than grants. However, participants were encouraged to engage with the Fund for guidance and linkages to other partners who may offer grant-based support, particularly for early-stage innovations.

Participants also raised concerns regarding the regulatory and taxation environment, particularly the role of tax authorities. It was noted that fear of taxation and compliance requirements can discourage young entrepreneurs from formalizing their businesses. Suggestions were made for more supportive and phased approaches to taxation, including capacity-building initiatives and grace periods to allow businesses to stabilize before full compliance is enforced.

Another key issue discussed was the lack of awareness and exposure to opportunities within the clean energy sector. Participants noted that many young people are still oriented toward traditional employment pathways due to education systems and societal expectations, which limits their engagement in entrepreneurship and emerging sectors such as clean energy.

The discussion also highlighted policy and institutional gaps, including limited political goodwill, weak integration of environmental priorities in development frameworks, and insufficient support for sectors such as agriculture and environmental management. Participants emphasized the need for stronger alignment between policy, practice, and grassroots realities.

Additionally, concerns were raised about market readiness and adoption of innovations, with participants noting that even when solutions are developed, uptake by communities can be slow due to preference for traditional practices.

The discussion underscored the complexity of challenges facing youth entrepreneurs, while also highlighting opportunities for strengthening support systems through collaboration, policy reform, and targeted capacity building.

3.2 Regional evidence for scaling youth and women- led clean energy ecosystem -Presented by Moses Ojiambo , Practical Action

Moses, representing Practical Action, provided an overview of the organization's global and local work in advancing inclusive development, with a strong focus on empowering youth and women. He noted that Practical Action is an international development organization headquartered in the United Kingdom, with operations across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, and has been active in Kenya since 1990.

He explained that the organization's work is guided by four key thematic areas: agriculture, climate change, energy, and cities that fit people. Within the context of the workshop, he emphasized the organization's focus on clean energy and its role in supporting sustainable livelihoods.

Moses highlighted several ongoing projects in Kenya, including the Resilient Agriculture for Young People (RAY) initiative, which aims to promote youth engagement in agriculture through climate-smart and circular production systems. The project supports young people to maximize productivity within limited land spaces by integrating innovative practices such as aquaculture, organic farming, and waste-to-resource systems.



Figure 7: Moses Ojiambo from Practical Action presenting regional evidence and strategies for scaling youth- and women-led clean energy initiatives across communities

A key feature of Practical Action's approach is its emphasis on access to finance through innovative pathways, including linking youth to funding opportunities through business pitching rather than traditional collateral-based lending. Additionally, the organization is working closely with financial institutions to develop tailored financing products for clean energy entrepreneurs, particularly those without collateral.

Moses also underscored the organization's role in policy development and implementation, particularly through supporting county governments in the development of CEPs. He noted that Practical Action has supported over 15 counties in developing these plans and is currently working with Tharaka Nithi County. Importantly, the organization ensures that entrepreneurs are actively involved in the policy development process, enabling policies to reflect real challenges and opportunities within the sector.

Further, he highlighted the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration, including partnerships with institutions such as KEBS for quality assurance and certification, and linkages with agencies like the MSEA to ensure sustainability beyond project timelines.

Overall, his presentation emphasized a participatory market systems approach, where different actors within the ecosystem, entrepreneurs, financial institutions, government, and development partners, are engaged collaboratively to drive sustainable impact.

3.3 County Government Perspective- Presented by Priscah Erastus, Tharaka- Niithi energy director

Priscah, representing the County Department of Energy, welcomed participants and provided insights into county-level efforts in promoting clean energy and supporting youth and women in innovation.

She emphasized the importance of collaboration between national government, county governments, private sector, and development partners, noting that all actors are working toward a common goal of improving livelihoods. She highlighted that participants were not only representing themselves but also their respective counties, reinforcing the significance of knowledge transfer beyond the workshop.

Priscah outlined several initiatives undertaken at the county level, including:

- Capacity building and training for entrepreneurs in clean cooking and renewable energy.
- Market linkages and exhibitions, enabling entrepreneurs to showcase and sell their products.
- Public awareness campaigns (roadshows) to promote adoption of clean energy technologies.
- Development of the County Energy Plans (CEPs), supported by Practical Action.

She further explained that the CEPs development process involved stakeholder engagement, data collection, validation, and public participation across different sub-counties. The plan is intended to guide budgeting, investment, and implementation of energy solutions tailored to the county's diverse geographical and climatic conditions.

Priscah also highlighted practical climate adaptation and innovation strategies relevant to the local context, including:

- Adoption of solar-powered irrigation systems
- Promotion of drought-resistant crops such as millet and sorghum
- Use of biogas systems and waste-to-energy solutions
- Investment in water harvesting and storage technologies
- Application of greenhouse and smart irrigation technologies

She emphasized that youth play a critical role in climate action due to their adaptability, energy, and capacity for innovation. However, she also acknowledged several challenges affecting youth participation, including limited access to finance, low awareness, inadequate technical skills, infrastructure gaps, and regulatory barriers.



Figure 8. Priscah Erastus, energy director Tharaka-Nithi, presenting the county government's perspective on supporting youth and women in clean energy entrepreneurship through policy and local initiatives.

Questions, Comments, and Discussion

The session concluded with an interactive discussion, where participants raised practical concerns and shared experiences from the field.

A key issue raised was access to finance, which was consistently identified as a major barrier to youth participation in clean energy and climate innovation. Participants also highlighted low adoption of technologies, noting that even when solutions are available, uptake by communities remains slow.

The discussion further identified challenges related to:

- Limited awareness and need for capacity building
- Inadequate technical skills and infrastructure
- Water scarcity and high cost of storage solutions (e.g., tanks)
- Poor road access affecting business operations
- Regulatory and licensing challenges, particularly at the county level

In response, it was noted that county governments can provide support mechanisms such as waivers and tailored licensing frameworks, particularly priority sectors like renewable energy. Participants were encouraged to actively engage with county offices to access such support.

A practical example was shared by a participant who successfully negotiated a flexible licensing arrangement (“GENZ package”) with a county government, demonstrating the importance of proactive engagement with regulatory institutions.

Additional questions were raised regarding:

- Cost implications of implementing CEPs, with clarification that full cost estimates would be available upon completion of the planning process
- Opportunities for integrating carbon credit initiatives, which were noted as potential areas for future inclusion in energy planning

The discussion highlighted the importance of continuous dialogue between entrepreneurs and government actors, as well as the need for responsive policies and support systems that address real challenges faced at the grassroots level.

4. Kenya’s clean energy ecosystem and the entrepreneurial context for youth led businesses - Interactive session moderated by Vincent Ogaya, KCIC and Priscah, Director of Energy Tharaka Nithi

This interactive session combined two themes:

- Understanding markets, financing, and policy/regulatory issues in Kenya’s clean energy ecosystem
- Drawing from real entrepreneur experiences to identify what works and what constrains youth-led clean energy businesses

In this session, participants shared lived experiences working with communities, county governments, NGOs, and national programs.

4.1 Key Discussion Area I: Partnerships for Market Development

Participants highlighted how community trust and local partnerships are central to expanding markets for products such as improved cookstoves, briquettes, liners, and electric cooking solutions. Communities were described not only as beneficiaries but as market partners and influencers. This aligned with the workshop's emphasis on customer-centered enterprise models.

Insights shared included:

- Community–private sector partnerships build trust, create local jobs, and expand market reach. Communities are not only beneficiaries but market partners and influencers.
- An example shared from Kajuki jiko production group showed how community trust directly drives product uptake.
- Public–private partnerships (PPPs) were seen as essential:
 - Government role: enabling policies, subsidies, certification, de-risking the sector
 - Private sector role: innovation, production, distribution
- County–community co-design of solutions increases ownership and adoption of clean energy technologies at grassroots level.

4.2 Key Discussion Area II: Opportunities for Clean Energy Entrepreneurs to Engage and Partner with Government

Several entrepreneurs shared positive experiences of collaborating with government, noting that public sector engagement can open significant opportunities for clean energy enterprises when approached strategically. Participants highlighted that success in working with government requires understanding procurement processes, responding to calls for quotations & tenders, and maintaining proper documentation and compliance. Those who had previously supplied public institutions emphasized the importance of patience, professionalism, and consistent follow-up, as government processes can be lengthy but ultimately rewarding.

Opportunities identified were:

- Government-supported training and certification for technicians and trainers
- Subsidy programs that enabled vulnerable households to adopt liners, briquettes, and improved cookstoves
- Formation of associations such as the Embu Clean Energy Association to organize entrepreneurs
- Access to public barazas and forums to create awareness of clean energy products and influence behavioral change
- Government licensing and recognition that legitimizes enterprises
- Policy principles such as Polluter Pays and Precautionary Principle guiding environmental responsibility

4.3 Key Discussion Area III: Behavioral Change and Market Adoption

Participants emphasized that clean energy adoption is rarely an immediate switch from traditional to modern technologies. Instead, it follows a gradual behavioral shift in which households transition step by step as trust, awareness, and familiarity grow. Entrepreneurs shared experiences from counties such as Kakamega and Embu illustrating that communities typically move from three-stone fires to ICS, then to briquettes or liners, and eventually to LPG or electric cooking options.

This progression is influenced by long-standing cooking habits, perceived cost and risk, trust in new technologies, and the visible choices of neighbors and peers. As such, market development for clean energy is not only about product availability but also about shifting mindsets and routines over time.

Government barazas and community forums were highlighted as valuable platforms where entrepreneurs can demonstrate products, explain benefits, address fears, and normalize clean energy practices. In this context, behavioral change becomes a deliberate market strategy, supporting a social and psychological transition that enables sustained adoption rather than a one-time purchase decision.

4.3 Key Discussion Area IV: Challenges in Working with Government

Consistent with the workshop's problem-solving approach, participants candidly examined the practical challenges clean energy entrepreneurs encounter when engaging with government systems. While government institutions present important market opportunities, several systemic barriers were highlighted that often discourage or strain small youth and women-led enterprises.

These included:

- Delayed payments from public institutions and government offices affecting supplier cash flow, especially for small suppliers who lack the financial reserves to withstand long settlement periods.
- Corruption and lack of transparency in tendering processes, which undermines fairness and access for genuine entrepreneurs.
- Weak enforcement and implementation of existing policies, where well-intentioned frameworks exist but are not consistently implemented at operational levels.
- Gaps in meaningful public participation, where entrepreneurs and community actors are not sufficiently involved in energy planning and decision-making processes that affect them.
- High licensing costs for small youth enterprises were identified as a burden for emerging youth enterprises, making it difficult for them to formalize and compete effectively in government procurement opportunities.

These reflections provided valuable, ground-level feedback to the county Energy director of Tharaka Nithi count, Madam Priscah, highlighted areas for policy and administrative improvement.

Reflections from Facilitators- Vicent Ogaya, KCIC and Priscah, Tharaka Nithi energy director

- The facilitators reflected on the participants' experiences by situating them within the broader clean energy ecosystem, emphasizing that the challenges and opportunities discussed are not isolated issues but part of how markets, financing systems, and policy environments interact.
- They stressed the need for alignment between markets, financing, and policy. Entrepreneurs may have viable technologies and business models, but without supportive policies, accessible financing mechanisms, and responsive markets, their enterprises struggle to scale. Similarly, government policies promoting clean energy can only be effective if entrepreneurs are aware of them, able to access them, and supported by financial institutions and suppliers who understand the sector's realities.
- The facilitators also underscored the importance of constructive engagement between entrepreneurs and government. Rather than viewing government solely as a barrier, they encouraged participants to see public institutions as partners and to actively provide feedback on procurement challenges, payment delays, and policy gaps. Such feedback, when channeled through forums, stakeholder meetings, and official engagements, can inform improvements in how government supports the sector.
- Finally, it was acknowledged that county governments vary significantly in their approach to supporting clean energy enterprises. Some counties have proactive energy departments, supportive leadership, and clear programs for youth and women, while others are still developing their frameworks. This variation presents both a challenge and an opportunity: entrepreneurs must understand their local county context, while counties can learn from one another to strengthen support for clean energy entrepreneurship.

Key Takeaways for Youth clean energy entrepreneurs from the interactive session

The session enabled participants to appreciate that:

- Clean energy enterprises thrive through trust-based local networks
- Engagement with government can unlock opportunities for growth and legitimacy
- Collective organization through associations strengthens advocacy and visibility
- Policy engagement should focus on implementation and accountability, not only formulation
- Market expansion requires sustained awareness and behavior change efforts

By connecting enterprise experiences to the broader ecosystem, this session deepened participants' understanding of how systems coordination between communities, entrepreneurs, NGOs, and government actors shapes the success of clean energy initiatives. It positioned youth entrepreneurs as active contributors to Kenya's clean energy transition rather than passive recipients of support.

The interactive dialogue enriched the workshop by grounding theoretical discussions in practical, lived experiences, thereby strengthening learning outcomes and peer exchange.

5. Unlocking Finance and Partnerships for Youth and Women in Clean Energy Enterprises- present by Vestwoods energy company

This session focused on demystifying access to finance for clean energy entrepreneurs, especially youth and women, while linking financing opportunities to practical technology solutions presented by industry players. The facilitator, Vincent, opened the discussion by challenging the common belief that money is scarce, emphasizing instead that money exists in many places, and the key skill for entrepreneurs is learning where to find it, how to access it, and how to structure partnerships around it.

Participants were invited to openly share their experiences on how they have sourced funding for their enterprises, how they have used it, and whether it met their expectations. This peer exchange created a practical foundation for the discussion before introducing technical and financing insights from private sector partners.



Figure 9. Representative from Vestwoods Energy Company presenting strategies for unlocking finance and fostering partnerships to empower youth and women in clean energy enterprises.

The private sector partner, contribution came from Vestwoods, a solar energy company working with local youth entrepreneurs to distribute and install portable and hybrid solar power solutions. Their presentation highlighted how manufacturers and suppliers can become financing partners, not just product vendors. They explained that youth entrepreneurs can secure projects (e.g., for schools or community institutions) even without upfront capital, through structured agreements where the company supplies equipment and allows staged payments once clients pay.

The discussion also explored the realities and risks faced by youth installers when working with institutions such as schools, where delayed payments, management changes, and weak contractual arrangements often expose young entrepreneurs to financial strain and legal vulnerability. In response, Westwood proposed an improved model where tripartite agreements are signed between the supplier, the youth installer, and the end client (e.g., the school), to protect all parties and ensure accountability.

The company further demonstrated how their portable solar power stations, hybrid inverters, lithium batteries, and off-grid systems respond to Kenya's challenges of frequent blackouts, high electricity costs, and unreliable grid supply from Kenya Power. Their solutions were positioned as cost-saving, reliable alternatives for homes, salons, cyber cafés, schools, health facilities, and small businesses, particularly in rural and peri-urban areas.

Beyond product promotion, the session underscored the importance of business networking, such as attending trade exhibitions (e.g., at Kenyatta International Convention Centre) where entrepreneurs can connect directly with manufacturers from different countries and build supplier relationships that open doors to credit, materials support, and technical training.

Overall, the session blended financial literacy, partnership strategy, risk awareness, and technology exposure, offering participants a practical understanding of how to navigate financing challenges while leveraging private sector collaboration to grow clean energy enterprises.

Key Insights from the Session

- Money is available, but entrepreneurs must learn where to find it and how to structure access to it.
- Manufacturers and suppliers can act as financing partners by supplying materials on credit tied to project payments.
- Networking at exhibitions and trade fairs is a powerful way to build supplier and financing relationships.
- Delayed payments from institutions (e.g., schools) are a major risk area for youth in clean energy businesses.
- Communication with financing partners is essential when payment delays occur.
- Portable and hybrid solar solutions present viable alternatives to unreliable grid electricity and expensive tokens.
- Technical knowledge and training increase entrepreneur confidence and market credibility.

- Private sector actors like Vestwoods are actively interested in empowering local youth through training, product access, and financing models.
- Clean energy solutions address real community pain points: blackouts, equipment damage from voltage fluctuation, and high electricity costs.
- Proper contractual and financial planning is as important as technical installation skills in the clean energy business.

5.1 Financing Gaps in Clean Energy SMEs – Addressing the Valley of Death through Risk Management and Innovative Financing Models –Presented by George Kariuki, KCIC

The presentation examined the persistent financing gaps affecting Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the clean energy sector, particularly the “valley of death” phase where enterprises struggle to transition from early-stage support to commercially viable investment. The presenter explained that many clean energy SMEs face structural barriers including high upfront capital requirements, long payback periods, high perceived investment risk, and a lack of suitable financing instruments between grants and commercial bank loans.

A key message from the session was that the financing challenge is not simply a lack of money, but a systems failure characterized by weak investment pipelines, limited enterprise preparedness, and risk-averse capital markets. The presenter highlighted the “missing middle” gap between donor grants and bankable commercial capital where many promising enterprises stall.

To address this, the presentation proposed expanding the use of catalytic capital, including grants, repayable grants, patient equity, and concessional loans that can absorb early-stage risk before enterprises become attractive to commercial investors. Bridging the missing middle requires innovative instruments such as convertible debt, quasi-equity, revenue-based financing, and blended crowdfunding-equity approaches.

The importance of developing a strong investment pipeline was emphasized through feasibility study grants, prototype funding, and business model validation to ensure enterprises become investment-ready. Complementing this, the session underscored risk management through blended finance tools such as first-loss capital, guarantees, and interest subsidies to de-risk investments and attract private sector participation.

The presentation further explored performance and data-driven financing, including Results-Based Financing (RBF) linked to verified outputs, and the use of PAYGo and mobile money data to improve credit assessment for clean energy enterprises. Several innovative financing models were discussed, including PAYGo combined with asset financing, integration of carbon finance, venture debt blended with grants, and the use of crowdfunding platforms.

Beyond capital, the presenter stressed the need for enterprise support ecosystems involving incubators, accelerators, mentorship, and investment readiness support. The recommended approach is an integrated ecosystem that combines capital, technical assistance, networks, investor matchmaking, and post-investment support, supported by enabling policies such as guarantees to local banks and support for early-stage funds.

The session concluded that solving clean energy SME financing gaps requires coordinated ecosystem action, combining catalytic funding, flexible financial instruments, risk-sharing mechanisms, and strong enterprise support systems to move enterprises successfully across the valley of death into sustainable growth.

Insights from the Presentation

- Clean energy SMEs face a critical “valley of death” where they cannot transition from early grants to commercial financing.
- The core problem is systemic: high upfront costs, long payback periods, high perceived risk, and weak investment pipelines.
- There is a “missing middle” between donor grants and bank loans where appropriate financing instruments are lacking.
- Catalytic capital (grants, repayable grants, patient equity, concessional loans) is essential to absorb early-stage risk.
- Innovative instruments such as convertible debt, quasi-equity, and revenue-based financing can bridge financing gaps.
- Building a strong investment pipeline through feasibility studies, prototyping, and business model validation is critical for investment readiness.
- Blended finance tools (first-loss capital, guarantees, interest subsidies) can de-risk investments and attract private capital.
- Results-Based Financing (RBF) and use of PAYGo/mobile money data can improve credit assessment and link financing to verified performance.
- Combining PAYGo, asset financing, carbon finance, crowdfunding, and venture debt offers practical innovative models for the sector.
- Strong enterprise support ecosystems (incubators, accelerators, mentorship) are as important as capital.
- An integrated ecosystem approach, capital, technical assistance, networks, and policy support, is necessary for sustainable SME growth.
- Addressing financing gaps requires system-level action, not just more funding.

5.2 County Youth Enterprise Financing Opportunities –presented by Lilian and Elijah, YEDF

Lilian and Elijah, representatives from Embu and Tharaka-Nithi County Youth Enterprise Office, delivered an informative session outlining financing opportunities available to young entrepreneurs within the county. They noted that their office is locally based and works directly with youth to strengthen and expand their businesses through targeted financial products designed to support enterprise growth, employment creation, and sustainable livelihoods.

Their presentation focused primarily on asset financing; a product aimed at helping young business owners acquire income-generating assets that can significantly expand their operations. They explained that the county finances up to 75% of the asset cost, requiring the entrepreneur to contribute 25% to ensure ownership, responsibility and commitment.

Examples provided included financing of lorries for hardware and animal feed distributors to improve transportation to suppliers and customers, as well as the purchase of high-value equipment such as printers for commercial use. Repayment periods range from 12 to 60 months, with flexibility for high-value assets. Real examples were shared of beneficiaries who began with small, financed assets such as motorbikes and gradually scaled to larger transport vehicles as their businesses expanded.



Figure 11. Elijah and Lilian from YEDF presenting how to access funding from YEDF for clean energy entrepreneurs

Eligibility requirements were clarified, noting that applicants may apply as sole proprietors with a county business permit, as registered businesses, or as limited companies where youth hold at least 70% directorship. The officer emphasized that the funds are strictly for business expansion and productive use.

Another key product discussed was the Mobility Loan, designed to support youth who secure employment opportunities abroad. Through partnerships with registered recruitment agencies in countries such as the UK and Gulf states, the county provides approximately KES 200,000 to cover visa processing, documentation, and travel costs. Beneficiaries repay the loan after securing employment abroad, often completing repayment within six months due to higher foreign earnings. The officer noted that many youths from the county have already benefited from this facility.

The session also highlighted the “Go Green” financing window, which supports enterprises involved in clean energy, environmental sustainability, and green businesses. A local beneficiary present at the workshop was referenced as a successful example of a youth entrepreneur who accessed significant funding under this facility to grow her briquette production enterprise.

Participants were informed that these loans are offered at affordable management fees rather than commercial interest rates, with an 8% fee for individuals and 6% for groups, reinforcing the county’s non-profit, developmental approach to financing. The officer emphasized that the initiative is practical, transparent, and accessible to all youth who meet the policy criteria and encouraged participants to visit the county offices for further guidance and application support.

The session was highly practical and motivating, demonstrating clear pathways through which young people can access capital to scale businesses, acquire productive assets, explore overseas employment opportunities, and invest in green enterprises. It strongly aligned with the workshop's broader focus on youth empowerment, entrepreneurship, and sustainable economic development.

Key insights from the session

- The county provides practical, youth-targeted financing products that directly support enterprise growth and job creation.
- Asset financing covers up to 75% of the cost of income-generating equipment, encouraging ownership while easing capital constraints.
- Flexible repayment periods and inclusive eligibility criteria make the facility accessible to youth at different stages of business formalization.
- The Mobility Loan enables youth with overseas job opportunities to access funds for visa and travel costs, expanding economic pathways.
- The Go Green financing window links youth entrepreneurship with clean energy and environmental sustainability.
- Affordable management fees (instead of commercial interest) make the financing development-oriented and accessible.
- The presence of real beneficiaries and hands-on application support demonstrates the program's credibility and practicality.
- The overall approach is structured to help youth scale businesses, create employment, and contribute to local economic development.

6. Clean Energy Incubation Program Graduation Ceremony

A key highlight of the workshop in Chuka was the graduation ceremony for 13 women and youth clean energy entrepreneurs who had successfully completed a 9-month incubation program under the EVI-SICEE Project in collaboration with the Kenya Climate Innovation Center (KCIC).

The incubation program was designed to strengthen the technical, business, and market readiness of emerging clean energy enterprises through structured mentorship, capacity building, and enterprise support. Over the nine months, the entrepreneurs received website development services, training on risk management, digital marketing, business model development, and guidance on navigating the policy and financing landscape within Kenya's clean energy ecosystem.

During the ceremony, each of the 13 entrepreneurs was individually recognized and awarded a certificate in acknowledgment of their commitment, growth, and successful completion of the program. The moment was marked by visible pride and celebration, as fellow participants and facilitators congratulated the graduates for their achievement. The atmosphere reflected not only personal accomplishment but also collective inspiration for other youth and women entrepreneurs present at the workshop.

This graduation served as a practical demonstration of the impact of sustained incubation support in enabling women and youth to build viable clean energy enterprises.

It reinforced the workshop's broader message that with the right ecosystem support, training, mentorship, partnerships, and institutional backing, youth-led clean energy businesses can grow from small initiatives into structured enterprises contributing to Kenya's clean energy transition.

The ceremony also acted as a motivational milestone within the workshop, showcasing real examples of progress and success emerging from the same ecosystem being discussed throughout the sessions.



Figure 12. Participants of the Clean Energy Incubation Program during the graduation ceremony, celebrating milestones in youth and women-led clean energy entrepreneurship.

7. Closing Remarks by Benedict Atavachi, CEO- Youth Enterprise Development Fund

In his closing remarks at the workshop Benedict Atavachi, appreciated the organizers, ACTS, KCIC, county representatives, private sector actors, researchers, and youth participants, for advancing clean energy entrepreneurship through collaboration and knowledge sharing.

He noted that Kenya's clean energy sector offers strong opportunities for youth in areas such as solar energy, clean cooking, bioenergy, energy efficiency, and productive use technologies, while acknowledging barriers including limited awareness, weak access to finance, and poor ecosystem linkages. He commended the workshop for addressing these challenges and strengthening coordination among actors.

The CEO congratulated 13 youth entrepreneurs who completed a nine-month incubation programme, urging them to apply their skills in the marketplace, create jobs, and serve as clean energy champions in their counties. He reaffirmed YEDF's commitment to supporting youth enterprises through the Go Green Finance product, which offers loans from Ksh 20,000 to Ksh 2 million for green businesses.



Figure 13. Benedict Atavachi, CEO of YEDF, delivering closing remarks emphasizing continued collaboration and support for youth and women in clean energy entrepreneurship.

He concluded by calling for stronger collaboration among ecosystem partners to ensure promising youth-led clean energy ideas grow into sustainable enterprises.

7.1 Workshop Closing Remarks by Mourine Chepkemai

The workshop concluded with heartfelt appreciation by Mourine Chepkemai, ACTS to all participants for their active engagement, openness in sharing experiences, and valuable contributions throughout the sessions.

Mourine, emphasized that the knowledge shared during the workshop would not end in the room but would be documented into various knowledge products, including a comprehensive workshop report, blogs, and potentially academic outputs such as conference papers and journal articles. Participants were reminded that their voices and experiences were contributing meaningfully to broader clean energy knowledge and practice.

Special appreciation was extended to key project partners, notably KCIC, for their continued collaboration and support. Mourine highlighted that the partnership extends beyond the current project, with plans to formalize and deepen collaboration through a forthcoming Memorandum of Understanding. Recognition was also given to Practical Action for its impactful work in the region and its support to communities in advancing sustainable energy solutions.

Gratitude was expressed to the entrepreneurs and graduates who attended, acknowledging them as champions of clean energy enterprise and role models for others.

The hosting institution, Chuka University, was warmly appreciated for providing a conducive venue and logistical support that contributed to the workshop's success. County representation was also acknowledged, recognizing the local government's responsiveness and support to the initiative.

A notable reflection came from Annette Mukami, a faculty member from Chuka university, who shared how university students have been developing clean energy project plans as part of their coursework. This highlighted an opportunity for future collaboration where such academic projects could be linked to real financing and implementation pathways through partnerships formed during the workshop. The coordinating team was recognized for their dedication in organizing the workshop and project implementation over the past three years.



Figure 14. Mourine Chepkemai from ACTS delivering the workshop's closing remarks, commending participants' contributions and reaffirming commitment to advancing clean energy innovation.

7.2 Closing remark from Chuka University by Prof. Njeru

The closing remarks from the university leadership, delivered by the Prof Jafford, on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, welcomed participants back for future collaborations and emphasized the importance of continued networking, learning, and advancing sustainable environmental practices. The workshop officially concluded with a word of prayer, giving thanks for the successful event, safe participation, and the shared commitment to advancing clean energy, environmental sustainability, and community development.

7. Field Visit to Kajuki: Practical Insights into Clean Energy Innovation

As part of the workshop, participants undertook a field visit to Kajuki, where they engaged directly with a clean energy entrepreneur specializing in improved cookstove production. The visit provided a valuable opportunity to move beyond discussions and observe how clean energy solutions are designed, produced, and applied in real-life community settings.

The session was highly interactive, allowing participants to follow the entire production process of improved cookstoves, from raw material preparation to assembly and final use. The demonstration highlighted the use of locally available materials such as clay and ash, reinforcing the idea that effective clean energy solutions can be developed using accessible and affordable resources. This practical exposure deepened participants' understanding of how simple innovations can be adapted to meet local needs while remaining environmentally sustainable.



Figure 15. Participants arrive at Kajuki enterprise.

A notable aspect of the production process was the emphasis on quality and durability. Participants learned that the lifespan and efficiency of cookstoves depend on factors such as the quality of materials used, proper curing and drying processes, and ongoing maintenance. It became evident that technology alone is not sufficient; user behavior and proper handling also play a significant role in determining long-term performance, particularly in projects linked to carbon credit initiatives. Participants appreciate how such systems enhance accountability and provide measurable data on impact over time.



Figure 16. Participants during the field visit to Kajuki, gaining hands-on insights into local clean energy innovations and community-driven solutions.

The visit further highlighted the importance of skills transfer and local capacity building. By training local technicians to assemble, maintain, and repair the stoves, the enterprise ensures sustainability and reduces reliance on external expertise. This approach not only supports the longevity of technology but also creates employment opportunities within the community.

From a business perspective, participants gained insights into the economic realities of clean energy enterprises. While the venture demonstrated clear income-generating potential, it also revealed challenges such as limited access to machinery, production constraints, and the need for financial support to scale operations. This underscored the importance of strengthening support systems around entrepreneurs, including access to finance, tools, and markets.

Another key takeaway was the role of circular economy principles, as waste materials were repurposed within the production process. This approach minimizes waste while maximizing resource efficiency, aligning with broader sustainability goals.

Importantly, the visit also revealed that the success of such innovations depends on community acceptance and adoption. Even well-designed technologies require user awareness, training, and behavior change to achieve their intended impact.

The Kajuki field visit was a highly enriching experience that brought to life many of the themes discussed during the workshop. It illustrated that:

- Practical, locally grounded solutions can effectively address energy challenges.
- Small-scale innovations can have meaningful environmental and economic impact.
- Strong technical skills, combined with business acumen, are essential for sustainability.
- Collaboration, learning, and peer exchange are critical in strengthening the clean energy ecosystem.

The visit not only enhanced participants' technical understanding but also inspired reflection on how similar models can be adapted, scaled, and supported within their own contexts.



Figure 17. Group photo of the participants during the workshop

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Workshop program

YOUTH IN CLEAN ENERGY ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKSHOP

Second Kenya Edition (2026)-Eastern Region

LOCATION & VENUE: Chuka University

DATES: 8th April – 9th April 2026

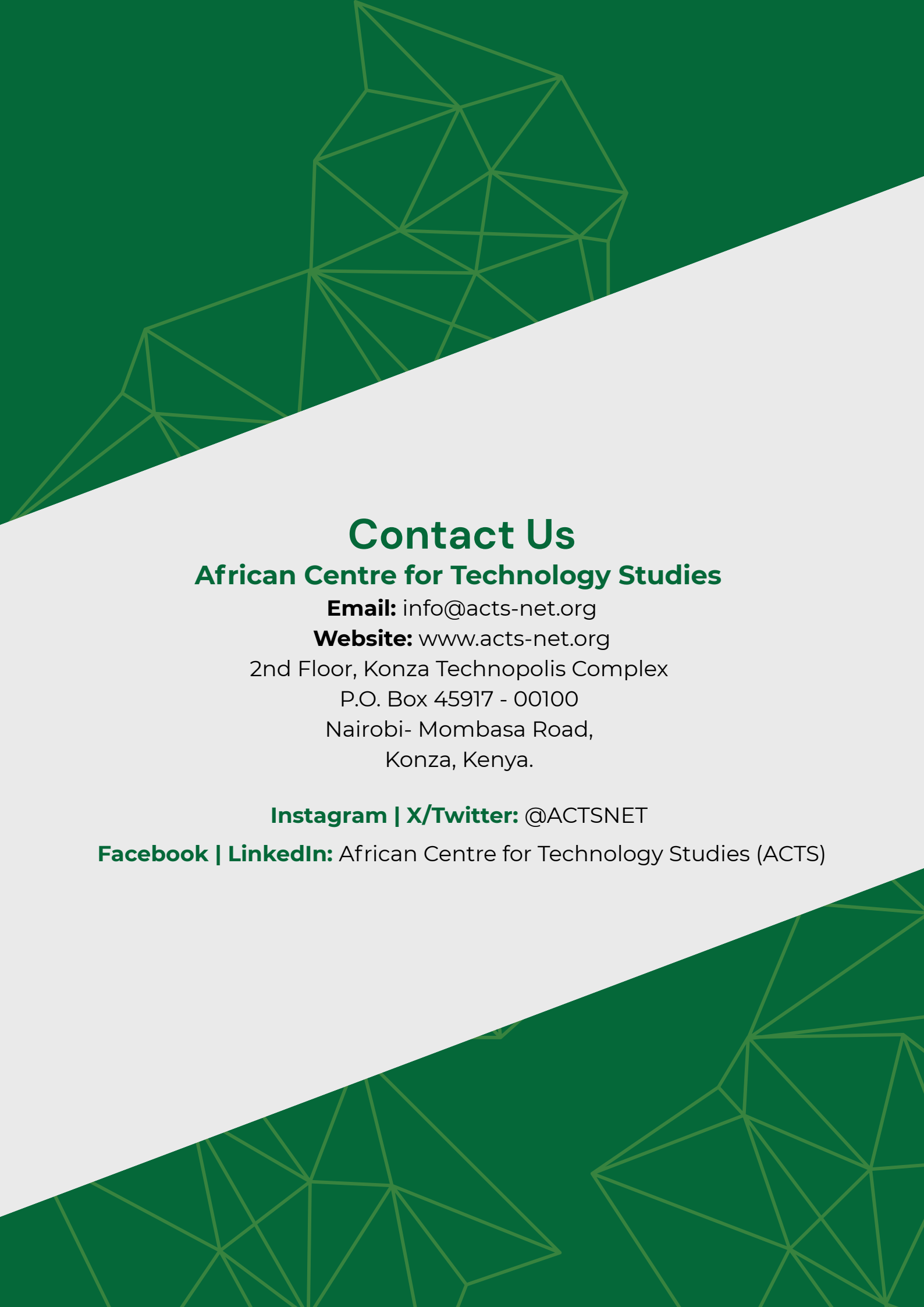
Opening session Moderator: Mourine Cheruiyot		
Time	Description	Speaker/ Facilitator
08:30 - 08:45	- Registration	Tiffany/Joyce/YEDF
08:45 - 9:20	Participants-Introduction -Learning Workshop expectations -Workshops objectives	Mourine Chepkemoi
09:20 - 09:50	Welcome remarks from the stakeholders - ACTS - KCIC - YEDF - Counties Representatives	Yvonne Gitu
9:50- 10:20	Chuka University- Welcome remarks and a Presentation	Prof. Jafford Njeru Rithaa
10:20-11:00	EVI-SICEE Project Objectives Evidence for scaling youth and women-led clean energy enterprises: empirical data from the field, Incubation Programme, and update on Implementing Countries.	Mourine Chepkemoi

10:20-11:00	EVI-SICEE Project Objectives Evidence for scaling youth and women-led clean energy enterprises: empirical data from the field, Incubation Programme, and update on Implementing Countries.	Mourine Chepkemoi
	Group Photo	ALL
11:00 - 11:30 – Tea break plus group photo		
Session1: Setting the scene - Moderator – Chuka University		
11:30 -12:00	Youth initiatives at the grassroots	Morris Murimi, YEDF
12:00-13:00	Regional Evidence for scaling youth and women-led clean energy Ecosystem • GIZ • Practical Action Rep- Joyce Mureithi • Climate change and innovation opportunities for youth-County Rep	Vincent Ogaya
13:00 - 14:00 – Lunch break		
Day 1: Session 2: The Kenya’s clean energy ecosystem and the entrepreneurial context for youth led businesses - Interactive session. Moderator: YEDF and KCIC		

14:00-15:30	Panel Discussion: Building a Strong Ecosystem for Youth and Women-Led Clean Energy Enterprises in Kenya • Academia rep- Chuka Rep • Research Rep- Maxwell and Joyce • Private sector- Kanjuki enterprise. • County Rep Guiding Discussion Questions 1. What policy and regulatory barriers limit the growth of youth and women-led clean energy enterprises? 2. How can county governments support enterprise growth and local energy markets? 3. What financing mechanisms can unlock growth for small clean energy enterprises? 4. How can research and data improve decision-making and enterprise support? What partnerships are needed between public institutions, private sector, and communities	Jemimah Mawia
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15:30 – 17:00	Group discussion Group 1: Policy and Regulatory Environment Discussion Points • Policies needed to support youth and women entrepreneurs in clean energy • Opportunities for national and county government collaboration • Improving regulatory frameworks for clean energy enterprises Group 2: Financing and Business Growth Discussion Points • Addressing financing gaps for early-stage clean energy enterprises • Risk management and innovative financing models • Strengthening enterprise support ecosystems (incubators, accelerators) Group 3: Market Development and Community Adoption Discussion Points • Strategies to expand clean energy markets in rural and peri-urban areas • Community engagement and trust building	
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Day 2		
Time	Description	Speaker/ Facilitator
09:00 – 11:00	Post-Incubation stage - Kenya Climate Innovation Centre - Vincent Ogaya	Sarah Njeru
11:00 – 11:30	Tea break	
11:30 - 13:00	Graduation Ceremony • Keynote Address: <i>From Incubation to Market – Scaling Sustainable Enterprises (Mentorship)</i> • Graduation Ceremony & Certificate Awarding • Closing Remarks Group Photo & Networking Documentary of success stories	Mourine Chepkemoi
13:00- 14:00	Lunch break	
14:00- 16:00	Site Visit: Designed to complement the workshop by bridging theory and practice: Allowing participants to reflect on key lessons from Kajuki Production Center.	Yvonne Gitu



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