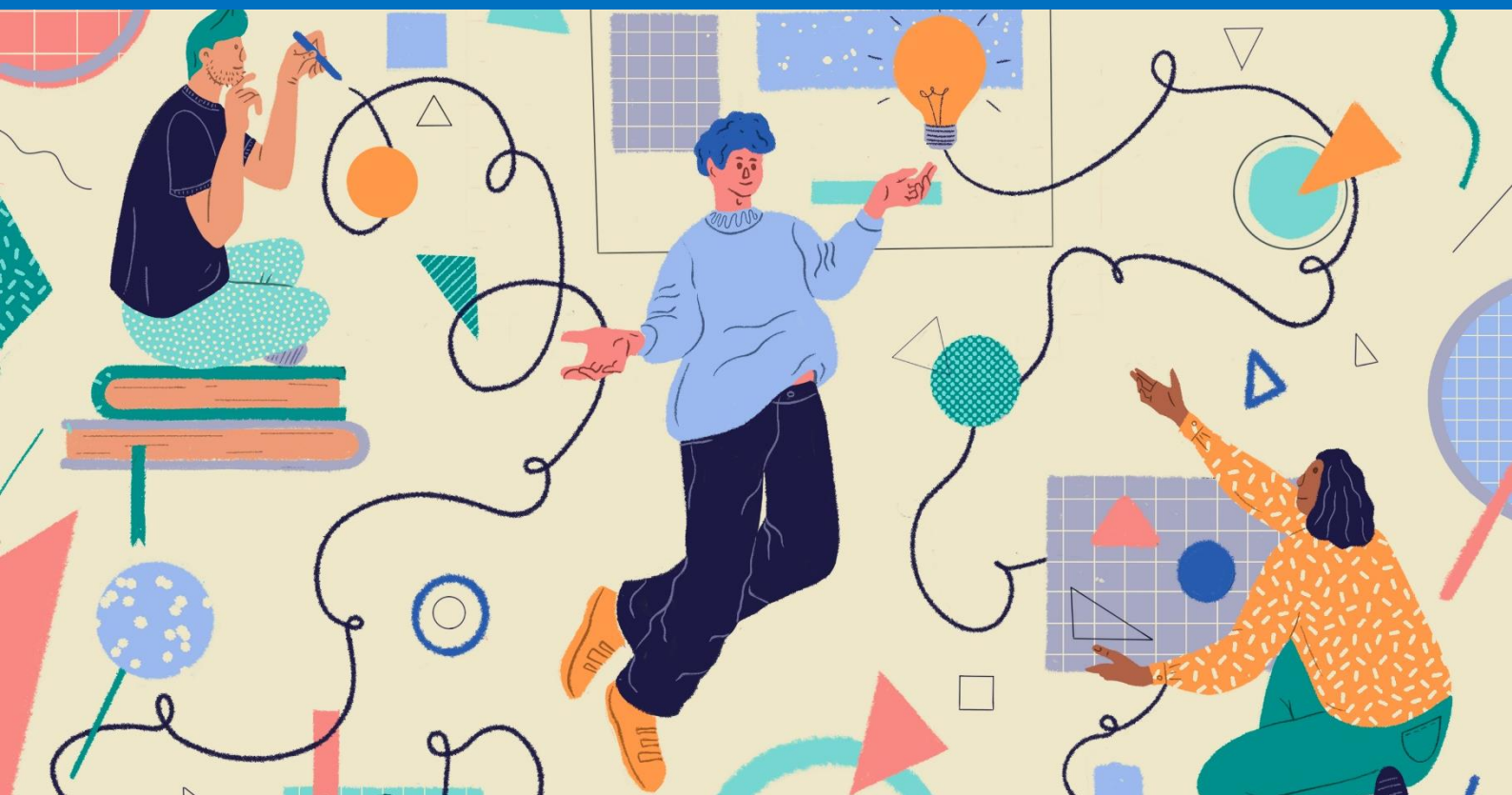


**YOUTH EMPLOYMENT
& ENTREPRENEURSHIP
TEAM**



Netherlands Enterprise Agency

Research Agenda



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands

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Executive Summary

Orange Corners, an initiative by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, aims to empower young entrepreneurs in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East through three main pillars: incubation/acceleration programs, activities to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem, and financial support through the Orange Corners Innovation Fund. Managed by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), Orange Corners operates in 20 regions, addressing the challenge of (youth) unemployment and poverty in low-income countries. Having started in 2016, Orange Corners has rapidly grown since, generating valuable data sets for research and prompting internal reflections on programme quality and meeting diverse entrepreneurial needs across countries.

Research plays a pivotal role in the Orange Corners initiative, serving two primary purposes that drive its operations and aspirations. Firstly, research is crucial to enhancing programme effectiveness by facilitating continuous adaptation through inclusion of literature insights, and data-driven improvement. Through an extensive Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) structure, Orange Corners collects and analyzes data from participants, hubs, and ecosystem actors, enabling the refinement and enhancement of programs. Secondly, Orange Corners' research can contribute to and influence entrepreneurship theory and practice in low- and middle-income countries. Orange Corners aims to inform policy, share insights with a wider community, and contribute to academic research.

Orange Corners' dynamic research agenda guides its research focus through four main areas and two cross-cutting themes: entrepreneurial ecosystem development (EED), scaling businesses in low- and middle-income countries, entrepreneurship in fragile contexts, and agri-entrepreneurship, with cross-cutting themes of gender and digitalisation. By addressing these research priorities, Orange Corners aims to provide practical insights that enhance effective entrepreneurship support programming in LMICs while contributing to knowledge development in critical areas.

For research line 1: entrepreneurial ecosystem development, OC places specific interest on the impact of EED interventions, the maturity of local entrepreneurial ecosystems, and the driving forces for job creation. Regarding line 2: scaling businesses in LMICs, OC prioritizes research that gains insights into entrepreneurs' experienced tension between financial sustainability and creating social/environmental impact, incorporation of value chain dynamics into entrepreneurship training programs, and the effect of (lack of) regulation on the scaling process. For line 3: entrepreneurship in fragile contexts, OC will focus on generating insights on how to adapt programming in times of crisis, as well as how the type of disturbance affects individual entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial ecosystem, and how entrepreneurship programmes can better support female entrepreneurs deal with gender-specific barriers in fragile settings. For line 4: agri-entrepreneurship, OC aims to increase understanding on how ecosystem actors such as incubators, governments and financial institutes can create an enabling environment for agripreneurs and how their approach should differentiate from their approach in other sectors.

Recognizing the need for collaboration, Orange Corners actively seeks partnerships with knowledge institutes and practitioners to implement the research agenda, offering opportunities for data sharing, hosting students, and commissioned research. Interested collaborators can contact Milou.derks@rvo.nl to explore possibilities.

Introduction and Background: The Orange Corners Initiative

The Orange Corners is an initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands that provides young entrepreneurs across Africa, Asia and the Middle East with training, mentorship, network, funding and facilities to start and grow their businesses. Orange Corners is managed by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency at the request of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Its Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship Team works closely together with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and local partners in each programme country. Having started in 2016, with an incubation programme in South Africa, Orange Corners is currently active in 20 regions. This includes: Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Iraq (Baghdad), Iraq (Kurdistan region), Jordan, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Palestinian Territories, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, and Sudan. Orange Corners envisions a world in which every young person has the opportunity to develop their skills and build their own business in order to contribute to a more sustainable, inclusive and prosperous world. Our primary goal is to facilitate the growth of sustainable and impactful businesses in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Through our systemic approach, we not only empower young individuals to take the next step in their entrepreneurial journey, but also launch projects and programmes that advance entrepreneurial ecosystems as a whole. Ultimately, flourishing of entrepreneurial communities will enable youth to create jobs for themselves and others and result in innovative products and services, further driving economic growth.

Entrepreneurship stands as a pivotal part of Dutch interventions in reducing poverty and unemployment in low-income countries declared by the Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation in the BHOS policy note 2022. The continent's rapidly growing population has resulted in a burgeoning workforce, and traditional job opportunities often fall short of accommodating this expansion. Entrepreneurship, with its emphasis on innovation and self-driven economic initiatives, offers a viable alternative. By encouraging and supporting aspiring entrepreneurs, African nations can harness the potential for job creation within their own communities. Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) are known to be significant contributors to employment, and the entrepreneurial sector has the capacity to absorb a substantial portion of the workforce, particularly among the youth. Furthermore, fostering a culture of entrepreneurship can lead to the development of diverse industries and economic resilience, which are essential for reducing the vulnerability of African nations to external economic shocks. In this context, entrepreneurship becomes not just a response to unemployment, but a catalyst for sustainable economic development, and inclusive prosperity on the continent.

Orange Corners (OC) supports young entrepreneurs, with growing their businesses through three main pillars. First, each programme country has an **incubation or acceleration programme**, which provides entrepreneurs with the tools and skills to start and grow their business. Each incubation or acceleration cycle usually lasts 4-8 months and provides intensive training, mentoring and network opportunities to 30-50 entrepreneurs per year. Second, every year several activities are executed focused on strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem, involving education, policy making and skills building. Examples include 'knowledge-to-knowledge' programmes where programme country universities work on their entrepreneurial education supported by Dutch universities, design challenges for students to raise awareness on entrepreneurship while developing solutions to local challenges, start-up acts where multi-stakeholder partnerships are used to develop favorable start-up regulations

together with local government agencies. Third, OC also supports entrepreneurs financially through the Orange Corners Innovation Fund (OCIF). The Innovation Fund consists of two tracks. In track I all OC incubation or acceleration participants receive a grant of up to 5000 euro, to improve their product. Each year, a selected number of 5-10 OC graduates in each location receive a grant/loan combination of up to 50.000 euro, to scale their business.

Whilst Orange Corners is a relatively young programme, it has rapidly grown over the past 7 years, both in number of activities as well as in target countries. This growth has opened up amazing opportunities to significantly diversify and expand our impact, and opens up various research opportunities. OC develops large amounts of specialized data sets through its thorough monitoring, evaluation and learning structures. Insights from our programmes and from these data sets might be interesting for both theory and practice. Additionally, growth has also resulted in internal reflection. How can we improve the quality of our programmes to be more impactful? What are the exact needs of entrepreneurs within our programme countries, and how are these influenced by contextual factors and gender? How do these differ between countries and what does this imply for our interventions? How can we contribute to building MSMEs effectively, especially in an age of digitalisation? How can we work better with partners?

To structurally improve our own programme, and to better share insights with a broader audience, OC has developed a tailored research agenda. A research agenda for the OC programme is essential to guide its evolution and enhance its impact on entrepreneurship development. Such an agenda can provide a structured approach to assessing the program's effectiveness, identifying areas for improvement, and adapting to the dynamic needs of aspiring entrepreneurs. It serves as a critical tool for ongoing programme evaluation, enabling a deeper understanding of its impact on job creation, economic growth, and social development in the targeted regions. Moreover, research can uncover best practices, local contextual differences, and evolving entrepreneurial needs, which are essential for programme refinement and customization. By engaging stakeholders, gathering data, and advocating for supportive policies, the research agenda contributes to the program's long-term sustainability and its ability to foster innovation and economic empowerment in the communities it serves.

An Orange Corners Research Agenda

Research within Orange Corners

Research is considered an essential component of Orange Corners for two key reasons, each serving as a driving force behind our operations and ambitions.

First, research helps us to **enhance our program's effectiveness**. To improve the quality and impact of our interventions, we place great emphasis on research. We recognize that the landscape of entrepreneurship and youth employment is constantly evolving, and varies significantly per region. By harnessing the power of research, we can adapt our programmes to align with emerging insights. Here's how we achieve this:

- i. **Continuous Adaptation:** Orange Corners is committed to staying at the forefront of knowledge. By regularly reviewing and incorporating insights from academic and "grey" literature, we can ensure that our programmes remain on the cutting edge of entrepreneurship training.
- ii. **Data-Driven Improvement:** Our renewed Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) structure allows us to collect valuable data through pre, mid, post, and 1-year surveys from OCIAC participants, as well as impact evaluations. Analyzing this data can lead to areas for improvement, enabling us to refine and enhance our programs.
- iii. **Specialized Research:** In addition to ongoing adaptation, we also continue to conduct in-depth research on specific themes. This research can be commissioned or carried out in partnership with experts. These targeted investigations help us delve deeper into critical aspects of entrepreneurship, resulting in more effective strategies and interventions.

Second, research enables us to **contribute to and influence theory and practice** on entrepreneurship in low- and middle-income countries. Beyond refining our own programs, Orange Corners is driven by a broader mission to contribute to the fields of entrepreneurship training and youth development in low and middle-income countries. Our research initiatives can:

- i. **Inform Policy:** We aim to bridge the gap between academia and practical application by building on existing academic and "grey" literature. By doing so, we hope to provide valuable insights to policymakers, both in the Netherlands and within local contexts. This knowledge could assist them to make informed decisions and develop policies that foster youth entrepreneurship and employment.
- ii. **Share Insights:** The knowledge we generate is not, and will not be, limited to our own use. We recognize its potential to benefit a wider community. Our research findings will be shared with other organizations, including donors and international NGOs involved in entrepreneurship training programs. By offering evidence-based insights, we may help other development actors adapt and design more effective initiatives. Entrepreneurial support organizations (ESOs), hubs, financial institutions (FIs), and knowledge institutions (KIs) are among those who can benefit from our research, enhancing the collective impact of entrepreneurship development efforts.
- iii. **Contribute to Academic Research and knowledge:** Our research also extends to the academic realm. Our research can contribute to the body of literature concerned with entrepreneurship

in low and middle-income countries, particularly those examining training, finance, and entrepreneurial ecosystems. By sharing our findings, we contribute to the body of knowledge on entrepreneurship, furthering the understanding of effective strategies and interventions in these regions.

The Research Agenda

This research agenda is a strategic document that aims to guide our research focus for the upcoming years. It's a dynamic document that we regularly update to match our evolving research needs and the changing landscape of entrepreneurship and youth development in low and middle-income countries (LMICs). This document helps us prioritize where we invest our resources and efforts, ensuring our research remains relevant and impactful in our mission to support youth entrepreneurship in LMICs.

The research agenda (RA) underscores Orange Corners' commitment to focusing its research priorities on four key areas, and two cross-cutting themes in the coming years. These areas and themes have been carefully selected based on internal discussions with OCHQ, OC hubs, as well as external consultations with academics specializing in entrepreneurship in LMICs. Additionally, insights into these themes could be beneficial for academia, since an analysis of existing academic and "grey" literature showed ongoing debates that OC research might be able to contribute to. The objective is to ensure that our research efforts are directed toward areas where new insights are needed to drive effective entrepreneurial support programming, both within and beyond Orange Corners. The four research lines are as follows:

1. **Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Development**
2. **Scaling businesses in low and middle-income countries**
3. **Entrepreneurship in Fragile Contexts**
4. **Agri-entrepreneurship**

The cross-cutting themes are **gender** and **digitalisation**. These are paramount to consider for each of the four research areas. For example, the businesses of women in more fragile settings might be affected differently than men, and digital technologies might enable entrepreneurs in such contexts to continue doing business during disruptions. Additionally, women face different challenges when it comes to scaling their business than men. Therefore, gender and digitalisation are included as cross-cutting themes in each of the research lines.

We conducted literature reviews for each of these research areas, examining both academic and grey literature to understand the current knowledge landscape. We identified gaps of interest to Orange Corners and formulated several research questions, and prioritized 3-4 key research questions for each research line. To support our research, we also highlight Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) indicators we can use within our existing framework to collect relevant data to address these questions. OC gathers large amounts of data through an extensive MEL framework, which includes pre, mid, post, and 1-year follow-up surveys to participants of the incubation & acceleration trainings, quarterly reports and annual reports of implementing partners, focus groups on a specific topic, surveys to a specific target audience, depth interviews and more. This approach ensures that our research efforts are informative and practical, serving as valuable resources for programme designers and implementers, ultimately contributing to effective entrepreneurship support programming in LMICs while addressing critical knowledge gaps.

Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Development

Key points

- * **Supportive entrepreneurial ecosystems (EEs) are crucial for creating enabling environments for young entrepreneurs to initiate and expand their businesses successfully.** Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Development (EED) has garnered increased attention from foreign aid, academic research, and local governments as a strategy to achieve **SDG 8** related to decent work and economic growth in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). EED contributes to job creation and economic growth although there is debate over which stage of entrepreneurship may have the most significant impact on SDG 8 in LMICs (fostering start-ups versus boosting existing entrepreneurs and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)).
- * **Entrepreneurial ecosystems vary per country/region and it is thus key to understand their differences before programme design and implementation.** Factors such as in physical infrastructure, favourable policy, entrepreneurial education, market openness, entrepreneurial finance options, or culture and social norms associated with entrepreneurship impact EEs and the potential success of an entrepreneur. **The maturity of an entrepreneurial ecosystem may also be reflected in the type of actors involved: aid-driven or private sector-driven,** influencing programme effectiveness, inclusiveness and sustainability. **One size fits all ‘copy-paste’ interventions and trainings for entrepreneurs facing widely different challenges may thus be unsuitable.** Each programme region necessitates a tailormade approach based on local dynamics and the nature of the entrepreneurial ecosystem to design its interventions accordingly.
- * *Practical gaps* for OC emerge related to EED interventions and the nature of EE. First, OC is interested to assess how limited resources can be best dedicated towards EED, e.g. which EED interventions are the most effective, how can impact best be measured and should these be regional or sector focused. Second, it is key to understand how EED interventions should deviate depending on the maturity of the EE as well as impact source (e.g. start-up, opportunity-entrepreneurs, or necessity-driven). Other *research gaps* of interest to OC and beyond include understanding how exactly entrepreneurial ecosystems between LMICs differ and what this implies for EED.

Key Research Questions

- To what extent are ESO interventions like OC (exclusively) tailored to opportunity-driven entrepreneurs vs. necessity-driven entrepreneurs? Do these interventions sufficiently address the needs of either group?
- What are the key dimensions on which entrepreneurial ecosystems differ and what does this imply for entrepreneurial training programs?
- Which EED interventions are most effective in creating an enabling environment for youth entrepreneurs to flourish depending on the maturity and the source of impact of the ecosystem?
- What are the differences in challenges and training needs experienced by different types of entrepreneurs (start-ups, opportunity driven, small economic unit)? What does this imply for Orange Corners' training programs and interventions?

Scaling businesses in low and middle-income countries

Key points

- * Scaling refers to the process of **expanding or replicating successful projects, interventions, or innovations** to reach a **larger audience or address a broader set of issues**. Scaling is essential for the **long term financial survival of businesses operating in low-income regions** due to the stringent price-performance requirements and low margins per unit of sale
- * Application of existing tools on scaling can improve the current OC programs. There are various practical tools available that can help a business develop a scaling strategy, assess their scaling readiness, building resilience and help them develop the capabilities necessary to scale their organization. **Up until now, few OC hubs include scaling explicitly in their programs, while scale is essential for entrepreneurs operating in low- and middle income environments.** *Gaps for research include understanding how business can adapt to external shocks during scaling (e.g. climate resilience, changing economic conditions), best training methods and best practices to assist entrepreneurs during scaling and the effect of gender dynamics on the scaling process.*
- * Successful scaling requires a thorough understanding of a business' supply chain. **A business needs to understand current supply chain bottlenecks and know how the supply chain will change after implementation of a certain scaling strategy, in order to assess if the changes needed are feasible.** In some cases, it might be wise to develop scaling strategies with key actors in the supply chain and beyond. *Gaps for research include understanding how businesses can improve their access to markets, distribution networks and bigger supply chains, and how businesses can leverage technology and partnerships. Gaps for practice include assessing how OC programs can better support entrepreneurs with effective supply chain management and scaling strategy development, depending on the stage of the business, as well as the role digitalisation can play here.*
- * Ecosystem actors can enable or hinder businesses' potential for scale. However, **most ecosystem actors are not directly involved with individual businesses, but might be more concerned with scaling an entire subsector.** *Gaps for research include understanding how ecosystem actors such as governments and financial institutes create a hindering or enabling environment within a certain subsector and investigating in what way commercial incubators/accelerators and donor programs such as OC can influence this to create an enabling environment. Are there lessons learnt across contexts? Gaps for practice include determining how OC can set up programs with scale in mind. Is a sector focused training program more impactful than sector-agnostic?*

Key Research Questions

- How can entrepreneurship programmes and interventions better assist women in overcoming gender-specific barriers to scale?
- How can entrepreneurship programmes be set up with scale in mind?
 - What scaling strategies work best for entrepreneurs in the early start-up phase depending on sector and country? How can training programs support scaling?
 - To what extent are existing tools for scaling strategy development already used by OC hubs? And tools for capability assessments such as SCALERS? What tools are most useful for OC entrepreneurs?
 - How can supply chain insights before and during scaling best be integrated in entrepreneurship programs?
- How do entrepreneurs deal with the tension that arises from financial sustainability and create social/environmental impact?

RVO RESEARCH AGENDA – RESEARCH LINE 3: Entrepreneurship in Fragile Contexts

Key points

- * Research in RVO Orange Corners (OC) programmes and in the target environment can offer key insights into considerations, opportunities and risks for youth entrepreneurship in fragile contexts related to the context, entrepreneurs and the local entrepreneurial ecosystem for OC and beyond.
- * **Fragile contexts shape the scope of enterprise and inclusion. Entrepreneurship can flourish in these contexts but markets tend to be more exclusive, uncertain and risky. Climate change and crisis warrant attention.** In more volatile OC contexts such as Sudan and DRC, it may be critical for development agencies such as RVO to support *gradual business development*, appreciating when SMEs and entrepreneurs pursue coping rather than pro-growth strategies in the face of risk and insecurity. *Gaps for research include understanding how youth entrepreneurs navigate fragility in their local context, and cope and manage in situations of crisis. Further gaps include understanding the impact of entrepreneurship training programmes on youth empowerment on social inclusion and resilience. Another key gap is understanding how entrepreneurship programmes can be adapted in times of sudden shocks such as conflict or hyperinflation.*
- * **Entrepreneurs may struggle to access key services/resources and be more risk-averse with short-term planning due to volatility and uncertainty. Women and youth may struggle to participate due to social norms, a lack of networks and insecurity.** This may influence the type of entrepreneurship, and aspirations and prospects of entrepreneurs. *Gaps for research include appreciating youth enterprise types and formalization, and entrepreneur motivations, aspirations, networks & leadership.*
- * **Entrepreneurial-ecosystems tend to be undeveloped and disconnected due to weak institutional structures, a lack of private sector capacity/support and socio-cultural dynamics.** *Gaps for research include understanding the influence of entrepreneurial ecosystem interventions on government policy/structures, partnerships, private sector support (e.g. accelerators/hubs/incubators) and (youth/female) enterprise culture. Further gaps include understanding the effect of (absence of) institutional structures on the potential to grow enterprises as well as the role of diaspora groups in youth enterprise.*
- * **Innovation and technology shape entrepreneurship. Emerging social, frugal and digital innovations may be critical in exclusive and low-resource environments.** Potential gamechangers for youth and female enterprise in fragile contexts include *digital platforms*. *Gaps for research include understanding youth (and gender) innovation (trends), impact of innovation, and opportunities/risks of digital innovation.*

Key Research Questions

- How does the type of disturbance (long-lasting structural and chronic crises or sudden shock) affect individual entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial ecosystem?
 - How do youth entrepreneurs cope, and manage their businesses during times of crisis?
 - How can entrepreneurship programmes better support entrepreneurs during crisis? Including attention to mental health and stress.
 - What are the key determinants of resilience in businesses while they scale? How can such businesses adapt to external shocks and changing economic conditions?
- How do youth entrepreneurs navigate fragility in their local context? To what extent are youth enterprises formalized in fragile contexts? And why? What are barriers towards formalization and how do these differ from other more stable contexts?
- How can the importance and role of the informal sector and informal institutions be better understood and included during design and implementation of entrepreneurship programs?
- How does entrepreneurship training influence youth social inclusion and resilience in the local context? How does this differ across gender and in urban/rural areas?
- What types of businesses do youth entrepreneurs in fragile contexts engage in and why? Are there gender differences?

Agri-entrepreneurship

Key points

- * Agripreneurship refers to **using business skills and innovation in agriculture**, to improve farming techniques, outputs, products, and logistics, as well as tackling sector challenges through innovative improvements. Support for (youth) agripreneurship is growing due to the belief that **successful agripreneurs contribute to sustainable food systems**, employment, income generation, and positive social change, including gender and youth empowerment in low-income (rural) regions.
- * Agripreneurship is a subset of entrepreneurship that relates to the agricultural sector and is characterised by its core link to the environment. Unlike conventional entrepreneurship, agripreneurship is closely influenced by specific business, environmental, economic, and social factors. Significant dynamics that influence agripreneurship include **climate vulnerability, smallholder farmer dominance, power imbalances, long and complex value chains, and quality control and markets**, which shape doing business in the agri sector.
- * These unique circumstances of agripreneurship **necessitate a different approach to entrepreneurship training** and require different strategies of entrepreneurial ecosystem actors. Currently, conventional strategies towards entrepreneurship support are often used for agripreneurs as well, with limited positive results.
- * Gaps for practice include understanding how ecosystem actors such as incubators, governments and financial institutes can create an enabling environment for agripreneurs and how their approach should differentiate from their approach in other sectors, **and the role and impact of policies, programmes and regulation on agripreneurship**. Other gaps for practice include understanding how ecosystem actors (and partnerships) **can enhance agripreneurs' skills and capacity, and market participation** (market access, interaction in value chains, and value addition) and relevant **gender needs**.
- * Gaps for research include understanding scaling of agribusinesses while navigating value chain challenges. Further gaps for research include appreciating local **innovations and mechanisms that support access to finance for agripreneurs, technology adoption of agripreneurs and impact (including digital tools), and the scope and impact of climate adaptative strategies of agripreneurs**.

Key Research Questions

- What specific barriers are experienced by agripreneurs in OC countries? How can our interventions help to alleviate those barriers?
- What are the educational and training needs of agripreneurs, particularly beyond just business management, financial literacy, and technical skills? How can these needs be addressed to build a more skilled and knowledgeable agripreneurial workforce?
- How can agripreneurial businesses be integrated into broader agricultural value chains to create more efficient and effective market systems?
- What are the policy and regulatory frameworks that support or hinder agripreneurship? How can these frameworks be improved to create a more enabling environment for agripreneurs?

CLOSING WORDS

Implementation through collaboration

Research is now considered to be an essential component of Orange Corners to enhance our program's effectiveness and influence theory and practice on entrepreneurship training in low- and middle-income countries. This Research Agenda is a strategic document that aims to guide our research focus over the forthcoming years, through outlining research questions for **four key research areas** and **two cross-cutting themes**.

The Research Agenda outlines a broad range of research questions and themes relevant to the Orange Corners to deepen our understanding of our intervention effectiveness and impact, and the influence of the local context. We recognize that our internal capacity to investigate or analyze may be limited however due to time, available data and expertise. Where relevant, we intend to actively seek **partnerships and collaboration opportunities** to implement the research agenda. To date, Orange Corners has mainly worked through partnerships with implementers, who implement the three pillars of our programme, as well as partnerships with private partners, who contribute financially and in-kind (e.g. masterclasses, mentoring, industrial visits, technical advice) to our incubation/acceleration programme in specific countries. Recently, we have also partnered with universities, research consultants and knowledge institutes in our emerging research efforts. Orange Corners is now keen to further develop such collaborations for knowledge and learning exchange, and to contribute to the broader debate on entrepreneurship and development.

Implementation through collaboration

To explore some of the research questions outlined in this Research Agenda, and to embed practice into theory, we aim to actively seek out partnerships and collaborations with knowledge institutes and practitioners concerned with similar research themes. Such partnerships can take various forms, such as sharing our data with researchers at universities, hosting master (or PhD) students to write their thesis, and (partly) commissioned research.

Are you interested in collaborating with Orange Corners? Please contact: Milou.derks@rvo.nl to discuss the possibilities!

APPENDICES

Previously conducted research

- A Tale of Two States: How to support and scale the impact of Sudanese and Ghanaian young innovators in fragility. *Collaboration with academic staff of Organization Sciences Department, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU) & INCLUDE, African Studies Centre Leiden (ASCL)*. Report.
[Innovation in Fragile Settings – Orange Corners](#)

Research currently being conducted

- Differences in Entrepreneurial Ecosystems: Implications for Entrepreneurship Training in Africa. *Collaboration with academic staff of Copernicus Institute for Sustainable Development, Utrecht University & Eindhoven University of Technology*. Conference Proceedings of CSSI conference 2024, full academic paper in development.
- Mismatch in African entrepreneurial ecosystems: how to cater to smallholder farmer entrepreneurs? *Collaboration with academic staff of International Institute for Social Studies (ISS), The Hague, University of Burundi & Eindhoven University of Technology*. Conference Proceedings of CSSI conference 2024, full academic paper in development.
- Barriers to scale. *Collaboration with 5 students of Utrecht University*. Research ongoing, will result in report.