

Interview „Students4Kids“: Samaki

How did you hear about the Students4Kids-Initiative and what motivated you to participate?

We, Enactus Aachen, heard about the competition in a newsletter by our parent organisation, Enactus Germany. The requirements and conditions to participate fit perfectly with our project Samaki, which we submitted. The competition looked like the perfect opportunity to continue our project as well as to receive external feedback from renowned experts.

Why did you decide to follow the idea of introducing a new crop in Zambia?

Originally the idea to develop a robust and easy method for fish farming came to us during another, similar Enactus project in Tanzania, where we met a lot of people trying to cultivate fish themselves, since they sold very well on the local markets. However, due to their lack of know-how they were not able to make them work and all their fish died. The approach to utilize fish for solving many of the local food issues convinced us, since it tackles a lot of different challenges at once. With an optimized and improved fish farming system, people can increase their income by selling fish, whilst contributing to the available food supply with highly nutritious fish. By utilizing solar energy, fish farming is environmentally friendly and can be done in remote regions of Africa. After we successfully built a prototype in Aachen we decided that this was the right solution and went to advance it further.

What did you enjoy most about the competition?

Thanks to participating in the competition we received a lot of constructive as well as encouraging feedback for our concept. Above all, analysing these new input, feedback and ideas by renowned experts as a team was a lot of fun and we really got to know each other on a deeper level. Obviously, the final pitch in Berlin was an absolute highlight for us as well.

Was there ever a moment when you just wanted to stop and give up?

We were never frustrated on a basic, serious level during the competition. Some of the challenges and issues were more difficult to solve than others, but as a team we always managed to support and encourage each other and work out the best solution together.

How did you prepare for your pitch in front of an audience, especially since it was via Skype?

At first, we developed the presentation based on our written concept as well as all the additional analysis we did during the competition (e.g. the risk assessment). Then we rehearsed the pitch quite a few times, both in order to iron out any flaws as well as to work on finishing within the set time. In the end we took a deep dive into the hard facts again and prepared for all possible questions the jury could have during our pitch.

What's your advice for the new teams joining the competition this year?

For us as a team, the competition was an amazing opportunity to further improve our concept and ultimately implement it. With this in mind, we recommend to all the new people joining the competition: Drive your ideas forward with lots of motivation and passion, but above all with a lot of fun!

– Team Enactus Aachen