

Overview

The Stanford Institute for Innovation in Developing Economies, known as Stanford Seed, is a Stanford Graduate School of Business initiative built on the belief that business is one of the most powerful engines of change and can move developing countries to greater prosperity. Initially formed in West Africa in 2011, Seed has since expanded into East Africa, with plans to open a center in Chennai, India, in 2017. It is a collaborative effort by all seven Stanford Schools and transforms lives through three distinct yet complementary programs.

Program Details

1. The Seed Transformation Program — a yearlong, on-the-ground leadership program for established business leaders in developing economies focused on scaling businesses and creating jobs. This program includes:
 - a. Immersive class sessions taught locally by Stanford University and Stanford GSB faculty. Participants attend four intensive, week-long sessions over the course of six months on topics such as leadership, strategy, business ethics, accounting, marketing and value chain innovations.
 - b. In-company workshops led by trained local Seed facilitators to share knowledge and provide training with the entrepreneur's leadership team.
 - c. Ongoing leadership labs, these small peer groups with support from Seed facilitators provide networking, resources, and ideas to help you implement your transformation plan.
 - d. Following completion of STP, participants may apply to receive high-touch coaching as well as access to Seed interns and consultants.
2. Seed Student Programs — a combination of educational opportunities and summer internships at STP companies, through which Seed introduces Stanford students to the challenges and opportunities of doing business in developing economies.
3. Seed Research — funding for critical research that can lead to breakthrough solutions to alleviate global poverty.

Program Impact

Since its inception, Seed has invested \$9.6M in research in 47 countries throughout the continent. Through the program, 565 entrepreneurs and senior staff members have been trained and mentored, leading to increased revenue and new job creation throughout the region. Participating

companies have raised almost \$11 million in funding and 79 percent have grown their customer base. More data is available in a [motion graphic](#) illustrating the program's impact.

Videos & Articles

- [Profiles of Possibility](#) – interviews with faculty and researchers
- [The Problem Solvers](#) – interviews with participants and faculty
- [Yes She Can](#) – participant profile of Elsie Dogbegah, owner of HomeFresh Foods
- [Putting Safety on the Front Burner](#) – participant profile of Femi Oye, owner of GoSolar Africa
- [The Art of Transformation](#) – participant profile of Constance Swaniker, owner of Accents & Art

Articles about research conducted through Seed research include:

- [Lessons from the Factory Floor](#)
- [Alleviating Poverty in Africa and Indonesia Through Sustainable Palm Oil Production](#)
- [Alleviating Childhood Malnutrition in India](#)

Application Deadlines

The application period is now open for the Seed Transformation Program, with applications in India due May 26, and applications in East and West Africa due June 30. Learn more at seed.stanford.edu.