

CAPACITY BUILDING

ALIN collaborates with other partners to empower *infomediaries* and communities on various development issues and use of ICT tools. The capacity building activities include: Thematic workshops like writing skills and production of multimedia clips, exposure of *infomediaries* with similar interests through exchange visits to learn new innovations and technologies to improve their competence on development issues.



To promote local level networking, ALIN supports the formation of grassroots networking nodes known as 'Focal Groups'. These groups form the entry points of ALIN into the community and support the operations and governance of the *Maarifa* centres.



WHERE WE WORK

ALIN's *Maarifa* centres are spread in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania but the information resources reach individuals and institutions beyond the area of operation.



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OUR MISSION

is to improve the livelihoods of arid lands communities in East Africa through delivery of practical information using modern technologies.



Connecting Communities with Knowledge

WHO WE ARE

Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN) is an International NGO that facilitates information and knowledge exchange to and between extension workers or *infomediaries* and arid lands communities in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The information exchange activities focus on small-scale sustainable agriculture, climate change adaptation, natural resources management and other livelihood issues.

To increase its reach and effectiveness, ALIN targets *infomediaries* who work for governments, NGOs, CBOs and faith-based organisations. These are the people who act as a source of information and knowledge for the rest of the community out

of duty or social responsibility. Information is accessed through community-based *Maarifa* (Knowledge) centres via a range of channels that include: web portals, Web 2.0 applications, mobile phone platforms, workshops, exchange visits and regular publications.

Vision

A knowledge driven society.

Mission

To improve the livelihoods of arid lands communities in East Africa through delivery of practical information using modern technologies.



MAARIFA (KNOWLEDGE) CENTERS

In line with the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) Action Plan (www.itu.int/wsis/docs/geneva/official/poa.html), ALIN is contributing to an inclusive information society through

the development of community-based *Maarifa* (Knowledge) centres to improve ICTs skills, increase local content and open rural areas to opportunities such as e-learning, e-government, e-commerce and outsourcing. A typical Maarifa center is a space located in a room or fabricated container in a remote setting, which features publications, five or more computers with Internet connectivity.

WHAT WE DO

Agriculture information

ALIN has over 20 years experience targeting grassroots communities with practical and usable information through multimedia tools. It collaborates with The AgriCultures Network (www.leisa.info) to produce **Baobab** magazine and other media to build knowledge, exchange information and stimulate debate and concerted action among key stakeholders. In this way we promote sustainable family farming, stressing its capacity to address hunger, poverty, environmental degradation and climate change.

Climate Change Adaptation

ALIN recognizes that climate change is happening and will increasingly affect the poor and therefore works with other partners to improve access to good quality information and knowledge on climate change adaptation practices using publications and web 2.0 tools. **Joto Afrika** is a series of printed briefings and online resources that communicates information about climate change adaptation in sub-Saharan Africa. It features summaries of African research, community case studies and other relevant information, all presented in a clear and accessible style. The series is produced in partnership with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) of the University of Sussex, UK.



Market Linkages

ALIN supports agricultural producers to access more efficient and effective markets by making their products more visible and easy to find at the national level through the usage of an online commodity exchange platform, Sokoapepe (www.sokoapepe.co.ke).



Sokoapepe is an integrated supply chain solution that collects agricultural commodity information from the field, collates it into a regional and national perspective

and disseminates packaged products to end users via various media, including SMS, WAP, Email and Web. In addition, it provides a payment mechanism whereby users pay for the information they receive and for services such as buyer/seller matching and posting of bids.

