

July 13, 2018

Tokyo-based Leapfrog Ventures has launched a \$4.5 million fund (http://weetracker.com/2018/07/04/exclusive-japanese-leapfrog-ventureslaunches-usd-4-5-mn-fund-for-sub-sharan-africa/)focusing on investments in startups across sub-Saharan Africa, centered on the countries of Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania.

Launched by Takuma Terakubo in partnership with Samurai Incubate, the company where he formerly worked, the fund will be stationed at the well-known co-working space, kLab in Kigali, Rwanda. The plan is to make investments of approximately \$50,000 each in seed-stage startups engaged in agriculture, logistics, energy, healthcare, and finance.

"We want to make seed stage investments in about a hundred startups in the next three years, and foster business alliances with Japanese companies wherever we find tech synergies," Terakubo told WeeTracker (http://weetracker.com/2018/07/04/exclusive-japanese-leapfrog-ventureslaunches-usd-4-5-mn-fund-for-sub-sharan-africa/).

Beyond this, the company also intends to serve as an incubator for innovative entrepreneurs by capitalizing upon the region's young demographic and by forging opportunities for collaborations **Svibs gripen New** companies. For this

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Tapping into the potential that lies in Africa for return Schaptal FRE (https://twitter.com/globalaginvest) in agriculture, as well as other primary sectors, is becoming a growing theme

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Within the next 25 years Africa will need to see 341598061;0699129595561(0671e00e29)
people, according to the report, "The Future of Food Demand: China, Africa and India" issued by CME Group

(http://www.cmegroup.com/education/featured-reports/future-of-foodgrowing-global-appetites.html). And together with the continent's young average age, low per-capita calorie consumption rate, increasing urbanization, and rising standards of living, the continent poses a huge opportunity for investors engaged along the food chain.

Meanwhile, in "Ending Poverty and Hunger by 2030: An Agenda for the Global Food System" – another report issued in 2015 – the World Bank said that food demand in sub-Saharan Africa is projected to climb by 60 percent (http://agritrade.cta.int/Agriculture/Topics/ACP-regional-trade/World-Bankprojects-60-growth-in-food-demand-in-Africa-by-2030) over the next 15 years.

These shifts in demographics, consumer tastes, and urbanization are resulting in a projected increase in food imports from a value of US\$35 billion in 2015 to US\$110 billion by 2025.

In August 2016, a consortium of European investors – including Rabobank, Norway's Norfund, and FMO – partnered through the pooling of currently held stakes in several financial service providers (FSPs) in sub-Saharan Africa to create a new investment company

(https://www.globalaginvesting.com/top-hedge-fund-africa-launching-food-focused-pe-fund/)called Arise.

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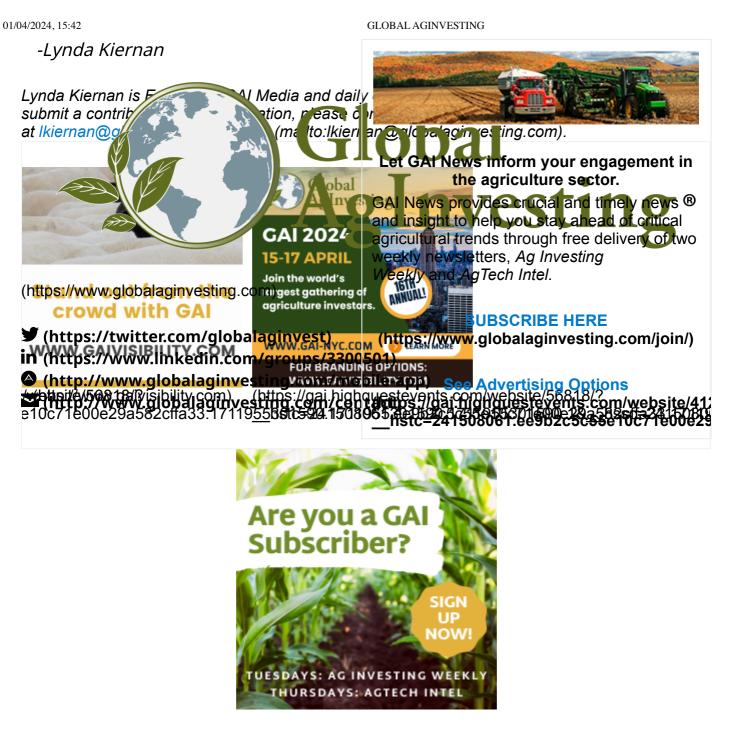
Other funds that have turned their attention to the continent are Aqua-Spark, which launched an Africa-focused fund

(https://www.globalaginvesting.com/aqua-spark-launches-15m-africa-focused-aquaculture-fund/) in June of last year.

Then there is Bob Geldof's Africa-focused private equity firm 8 Miles (https://www.globalaginvesting.com/bob-geldofs-8-miles-acquires-staketropical-fruit-producer/), which was named for the shortest distance between the African and European continents. This fund typically makes investments of between \$15 million and \$45 million across a range of consumer-driven sectors with a geographical focus on African countries that display strong macroeconomic themes.

Last year also saw London-based Victus Global Capital and Bermuda-based Altree Capital join forces to launch a US\$50 million investment fund (https://www.globalaginvesting.com/victus-global-altree-capital-launch-50mgender-focused-african-ag-fund/)that will target investments in women-led African agribusinesses.

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