



MENTEE

Bella Akinyi

Founder, [Bolena](#)



Kenya

Bella Akinyi is an entrepreneur in the aquaculture industry while directly empowering hundreds of women and youth within the value chain in a rural setting. Fish shortage in the region, she realized that the shortage led to trading fish for sex, a practice that she wants to eliminate by ensuring that the value chain does not stop at selling whole fish at exploited costs but adding value to the harvest which in turn becomes the main economic driver thus entrenching economic independence particularly among women for a prosperous community. Bella has a strong background in management and is passionate about keeping Lake Victoria and the ecosystem surrounding it clean for sustainable and responsible production of fish years to come.

[Bolena](#)

Is a vertically integrated fish farm which ensures traceability and quality of the fish from the water to your plate. The vertically integrated model allows Bolena as the nucleus farm to engage over 600 farmers as out-growers in order to increase production with an effort to address the 300,000-ton deficit in the country. The company is remotely located and off-grid using solar and wind energy with zero waste as the bi-products of harvested fish are used for biogas energy and other animal food production. Bolena envisions its final product with value addition to fetch higher profit margins with tilapia in various forms such as nuggets, fish fingers and fish patties that can be served on the go thus increasing availability and affordability for many communities while at the same time providing financial freedom for women in the aquaculture industry and eliminating sex-trade for fish as a thing of the past.



MENTOR

Kantha Shelke

Founder / Senior Lecturer
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