



Fyffes Case Study

Meet the Team



Mahamat Azibert Abdelwahab
Data scientist at Ishango
African Institute of Mathematical Sciences

Master's in Data Science & Natural Language Processing



Percy Chukwudi
Data scientist at Ishango
Carnegie Mellon University
Master's in Information Technology

"The fellowship allowed me to work on a deep learning project with a business use case, and I learned about a few algorithms such as Faster R-CNN, Detectron2, and YOLO. I am in a better position to take on more challenging tasks."

– Percy Chukwudi

The Host Company

Fyffes is one of the world's leading companies in the production and wholesale of fresh produce. With an infrastructure that reaches across the globe, Fyffes is involved in the production, procurement, shipping, ripening, distribution, and marketing of bananas, pineapples, and melons. Today, Fyffes is the largest importer of bananas in Europe and the no. 1 importer of offshore melons in North America.

Project Brief

To develop a python-based data model to estimate the size of pineapples from phone-generated imaging directly taken from the plants in the field and to apply this model to internally developed correlations to predict pictures from pineapples into sizes.





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It was a great experience working with Ishango. What made it a success was the pure data science talent of the fellows Percy and Mahamat combined with the project management and guidance from the Ishango team

Claudio Finol

Chief Innovation Officer
Fyffes

Project Outcome

The team used traditional and advanced methods, such as deep learning and transfer learning to identify and estimate the size of pineapples. Hundreds of pineapple images were annotated to train the deep-learning model, which achieved up to 90% accuracy. Reasons for the remaining errors as well as potential solutions were identified.

About Ishango

Ishango is an innovative social enterprise with a mission to create high-skill data science jobs in Africa. We recognise the potential in the best graduates and nurture their talent in line with business needs. Since our launch in 2021, we have connected budding data scientists from across Africa to projects around the world.



Employment

80% employment rate after fellowship



Diversity

40% of fellows have been women



Mentorship

1100+ hours of mentorship from senior data scientists