

# My Midway Recap of The Mentorship Experience with the Commonwealth Women's Mentorship Pilot Scheme

My journey as a mentee continues to be an eye-opening and exciting one.

One of my very first tasks was to narrow down the many ideas in my mind. I was reminded that while I may be passionate about several things, the six-month journey should be toward the destination of bringing one business idea to a reality.

My mentor and I 'meet' regularly via Skype video sessions, along with informal meetings, or conversations rather, via email. Our Skype sessions continue to be the most fruitful. My mentor shares personal anecdotes of being in the agri industry, and I share my experiences as a consumer and observing the local food industry.

Most notably and recently, my mentor had me explore several avenues of establishing my presence in the industry locally, and in general. Some of the methods I am beginning to utilise include:

- Exploring the possibility of starting a franchise within the same industry, to gain an 'insider' understanding before fully starting a manufacturing company of my own.
- Networking with local agri and local food industry players.
- Partnering with local food brands and activists who hold a similar ethos of promoting local produce and healthy produce consumption.

Another recent milestone reached has been the construction of my business plan. This admittedly has been the most time-consuming act thus far but of course, a crucial part of planning any business.

At present, the focus is being shifted to the manufacturing details of my brand's products; as my mentor put it 'putting meat on the bones'. I look forward to the coming months as the programme continues.