

Doga Makiura

Degas Ltd. is building and deploying Frontier AI in emerging markets, primarily in Sub-Saharan Africa, with the mission of “Changing people’s lives, dramatically.” Its geospatial foundation model (Degas FM) is built from scratch, pre-trained on millions of global satellite images and proprietary field data. Degas FM powers AI applications across agriculture, insurance, infrastructure, and beyond - revolutionizing how we understand Earth with minimal data. The model is under continuous development to be applied globally: in Ethiopia for AI-driven area-yield insurance with JICA; in Thailand for cassava disease detection and soil modeling with Sojitz; and across 35,000 acres in northern Ghana, where Degas directly finances over 20,000 smallholder farmers each year. Degas was selected as the only geospatial AI company under Japan’s GENIAC program - a national initiative to accelerate global leadership in Generative AI. In 2020, Degas received a letter of appreciation from Ghana’s President for its contribution to digital agriculture. As CEO, Doga has lived in Ghana for the past six years, leading field-driven AI development. He previously led Southeast Asia growth at Quipper (acquired by Recruit) and was a researcher at the University of Tokyo’s Center for Spatial Information Science. Runs on Ethiopian food and abstract art - still a challenge for AI to parse