



Youth as drivers of Innovation: Interactive Event
Thursday 22 November 2018
18:00- 20:00 FAO, Rome, Italy

Innovators Showcase

Thort Chuong

Country: Cambodia

Affiliation: UC Davis

Contact: thortagro@gmail.com

About the Innovator: Thort is the manager of a social entrepreneurship project helping Cambodian farmers install and produce vegetables under protected net houses. He began experimenting with new horticultural technologies with Cambodian vegetable farmers and strengthened collaboration between the UC Davis Horticulture Innovation Lab and the Cambodian Royal University of Agriculture. As a young agricultural scientist and extensionist, Thort has brought this horticultural innovation technology to hundreds of vegetable farmers which has spread to different vegetable production regions throughout Cambodia.



Sara Kate Smith

Country: Canada

Affiliation: Private Sector Mechanism

Contact: smithsarakate@gmail.com

About the Panelist: Sara Kate is a passionate advocate for agriculture and represents 4-H, a global youth development organization, as the Canadian youth representative. At 16 she founded Speak Out Loud, a professional development conference and communications curriculum for rural youth. She is a political science student, TEDx speaker, and was honoured to be the recipient of the prestigious 4-H Canada L.E.A.D. Scholarship and the Member of Parliament Youth Volunteer Award.



Mabelle Chedid

Country: Lebanon

Affiliation: Food Heritage Foundation

Contact: mabelle.chedid@food-heritage.org

About the Innovator: Mabelle is a co-founder and the current president of the Food Heritage Foundation - a Lebanese organization working to preserve and promote local food systems. The Foundation is creating work opportunities in the agro-food and tourism sectors for rural youth, women and farmers. She is also the executive officer of the Environment and Sustainable Development Unit (ESDU) at the American University of Beirut. Since 2014, she has been coordinating the Knowledge Access in Rural Interconnected Areas Network.





Kevin Kabera

Country: Rwanda

Affiliation: STES Group

Contact: kevkar93@gmail.com

About the Innovator: Kevin Kabera is a software engineer at STES Group. The startup focusses on the BazaFarm technology, which captures data on microclimate and soil condition to enable farmers a real-time control for enhanced crop growth. The STES Group is a group of young engineers in action who were drawn together by the passion for innovating, creating and transforming the engineering field in Rwanda with a core focus on the agriculture sector. STES group's ultimate goal is to create local industries hence creating jobs through rapid industrialization to drastically reduce the current high rate of unemployment among the youth. The two other co-founders of the STES Group, Ndayisaba Wilson and Simbi Arsene are also participating in this event.



Philip Subu

Country: Solomon Islands

Affiliation: YPARD Solomon Islands and Malaita Youth in Business Association

Contact: psubu2@gmail.com

About the Innovator: Philip is a researcher and co-founder of the Pacific Grassroots Development Innovation Nexus- a Social Enterprise focusing on scaling up social impacts in the Pacific and indigenous Research community. He is also a development practitioner and an executive member of the Malaita Youth Caucus - a body established to channel the interests of the Malaita Youth to the Government. The Malaita Youth Caucus currently works with 70 young agripreneurs in Malaita Province, Solomon Islands.



Mwila Kangwa

Country: Zambia

Affiliation: AgriPredict

Contact: mwila@agripredict.com

About the panelist: Mwila Kangwa is an IT specialist, co-founder and CEO of AgriPredict Solutions, an Agro-Tech in Zambia. With 10 years experience in the ICT industry, Mwila appreciates that leadership is a moment-to-moment choice and not about title, tenure or position. Leadership is for everyone, every day. Some of Mwila's success stories in project management include: Washington Hospital Centre (Data migration), Spry Consult (Enterprise resource planning implementation) and Lima Links (Market Price Information Platform). The two other cofounders of AgriPredict, Mwiza Simbeye, a computer scientist, and Patrick Sikanda, a data scientist, are also participating in this event





Youth Panel Discussion

Kofi Kisiedu Acquaye

Country: Ghana

Affiliation: YPARD Africa

Contact: kisiedu@gmail.com

About the panelist: Kofi is the programme officer for Young Professionals in Agricultural Development (YPARD), Africa, which is hosted by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). He currently coordinates the activities of YPARD's country chapters in Africa which are aimed at developing the youth as agricultural development experts.



Nikki Pilania Chaudhary

Country: India

Affiliation: YPARD India

Contact: chaudharyfarms@gmail.com

About the Panelist: Nikki is the Director of Chaudhary Agricultural Services Pvt. Limited - a family owned enterprise with a special focus on Dairy Farming. She manages a dairy farm that aims at producing high quality milk through forage-based nutrition and balanced breeding strategy. She sees India's Dairy Sector as a big opportunity and plans to expand towards Vertically Integrated Dairy farming.



Melissa Bozzolini

Country: Italy

Affiliation: Luiss University

Contact: bozzolinimelissa@yahoo.it

About the panelist: Melissa is a practicing lawyer and a food law Masters Student at Luiss University in Rome. The Masters course focuses on a range of issues from the institutional grounds of food legislation, the regulatory tenets of safety, security and environmental protection to the regulation of technological innovation in the food sector, as well as on bio-agriculture technologies.





Maycol Cano

Country: Nicaragua

Affiliation: SAT/ 4H Network

Contact: maycolp75@gmail.com

About the Panelist: Maycol is a farmer and a horticultural specialist in Nicaragua. He runs a Tutorial Learning System focusing on the social and economic transformation of communities through learning, entrepreneurship, agricultural production and community service in rural areas of Nicaragua. He also leads the “A New Sunrise” 4-H club which focuses on innovative approaches of raising funds for the club.



Alpha Sennon

Country: Trinidad and Tobago

Affiliation: YPARD and WHYFARM

Contact: alphasennon1@gmail.com

About the panelist: Alpha is the founder of WHYFARM - a globally recognized and award-winning nonprofit organization that pioneers Agricultural Educational Entertainment (Agri-edutainment). The organization’s mission is to promote the importance of sustainable agriculture among youth and children, to build their capacity in Agricultural Entrepreneurship, and to empower them to contribute to the achievement of global food and nutrition security. Alpha is also a farmerpreneur, motivational speaker, agri-youth advocate, and graduate of the University of the West Indies.



Severine von Tscharner

Country: United States of America

Affiliation: Founding Board Secretary, Farm Hack and National Young Farmers Coalition

Contact: severine@agrariantrust.org

About the panelist: Severine is an organic farmer, advocate, and organizer based in Maine, USA. Since 2008, she serves as a founding board president of Agrarian Trust— an innovative national land-access advocacy organization. She is the founding board secretary for Farm Hack - an open-source online and in-person community platform for farm-tools, software and hardware for sustainable farms, and the National Young Farmers Coalition.

