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**DEVELOPING THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND TALENT OF YOUTH
TO FURTHER FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION**

The following case study was received as a result of a call issued by the Committee on World Food Security for case studies highlighting examples of initiatives aimed at 'Developing the knowledge, skills and talent of youth to further food security and nutrition'. The cases received provide the background for a discussion of lessons learned and potential policy implications at a special event on October 15th, 2015 during CFS 42. Find out more at www.fao.org/cfs/youth.

Background

Provide brief overall context of where the initiative took place

The initiative took place in Kwakwa Bakundu where over 85% of youths are engaged in agriculture especially in the cultivation of Cocoa and other food crops like Cassava, Beans, Pepper, Vegetables, Bush pepper, Banana, Plantains, Cocoyams,.

Youths were offered participatory training sessions on Agriculture and the current challenges of food security and Climate change adaptation mitigation.

Challenges

Overview of the challenges faced in building knowledge, skills, or talent development of youth

Lack of agricultural inputs and transportation facilities,

No basic knowledge of online services for agriculture and nutritional services,

Lack of opportunities for micro credits and loans to advance agricultural innovation within the communities,

Lack of storage facilities and or warehouses for agricultural products there by leading to wastes and damages,

Lack of means of overcoming the current climate change challenges like drought, low yields, floods, seed resistant breeds, new breeds, efficient pesticides.

Approach Used

Outline why the approach was chosen for the specific challenges and context

A series of meetings and events related to agricultural innovation and food security challenges among youths.

Youths sharing various talents and skills they could bring in to promote Food security among their communities if the means are available.



Outcome and Impact Achieved

How many youth benefitted? How did they benefit? How were food security and nutrition improved?

72 youths aged between 15-35 years participated in the series of consultations representing colleges, CSOs, NGOs, Cultural Groups and community organizations.

Information regarding sustainable production and consumption in meeting the current climate change challenges was well articulated and assimilated,

Youths gained confidence to explore other opportunities for agricultural innovation and food security enhancement.

Markets and better prices for their agricultural commodities became a reality to their opinion. They learn could sell depending on their decision and any period of the year.

Lessons Learned/Opportunities for Scaling-Up

How should the approach be adapted to other situations in the future? Suggestions for overcoming challenges?

Youths like any other demographic group are willing to be part of the general ending poverty and hunger initiative and contributing to sustainable development of their communities and nations.

More opportunities to improve communications among youths related to food security and nutrition,

Pre- finance little groups and co-operatives

Policy Implications

What policy changes are needed to support this type of initiative and scaling up?

Better synergies between government and communities especially other stakeholders working with Agriculture and nutrition in communities on youths especially young girls.

This initiative will encourage more youths to stay back home in their communities, be part of development in their communities, end outward migration, increase production of national agricultural output.

FEEDAR & HR worked with the cooperative arm FEEDAR & HR Cooperative and Microcredit Unit which could establish a strong small loan/grant to youths and women in a sustainable manner.