



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.

BUILDING KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND TALENT DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH TO FURTHER FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Background

"Youth: Harnessing the Power to Change the World"

In the Fall of 2014, 4-H organizations from over 60 nations congregated in Seoul, Republic of Korea to participate in the 1st Global 4-H Network Summit. Approximately 250 delegates attended the summit representing 7 million 4-H youth globally

The Summit focused on

- *building capacity for engaging youth in relevant agricultural programming;*
- *increasing capacity, resources, and access to knowledge of high quality positive youth development programming*
- *addressing global issues through the eyes of youth*
- *showcasing 4-H programming from around the world.*

Challenges

The Global 4-H Network Summit was the first time that this grassroots agricultural movement representing seven million youth—acted as one, and on a global scale. The challenge was to develop a common vision that would enable the movement to grow and increase its reach in youth leadership to address global issues.

The challenge put forward to the delegate representatives were the following:

- *To provide a vision that provides a sustainable and innovative Global 4-H network that will enable youth to reach their full potential.*
- *To create a community of practice to foster more opportunities for youth working with adults to address global challenges and create better communities*
- *To develop a common growth goal for the global movement*

Approach Used

In order to outline a path and create strategic goals to achieve in developing youth leadership in agriculture by 2025, the summit discussions were focused around identifying priorities and goals in 6 key drivers of growth:

- *Positive youth development relevant experiences*
- *World Class programming standards in Agriculture*
- *Governance and leadership for a global movement,*



- *The 4-H brand*
- *Resource development*
- *Public-Private partnerships.*

Mature 4-H countries mentored emerging countries by discussing world class practices, sharing resources and building capacity.

The purpose of these areas during the summit was to outline a path and strategic goals to achieve in developing youth leadership in Agriculture by 2025.

Outcome and Impact Achieved

Delegates agreed to the formation of the first Global 4-H Board, chaired by 4-H Canada CEO Shannon Benner. The board will enable 4-H countries, through their programs, to equip and empower young people to meet urgent local, national, and global issues, including sustainable livelihoods and food security. The 4-H Global Board of Directors will provide an overarching governance structure to support the strategic development of the global movement and achieve its goals.

The Global 4-H Network signed the Seoul Declaration. This document, (attached) representing all regions and continents, signifies a common goal and vision of growing the 4-H youth movement to 25 million youth members by 2025.

The Global 4-H Network Board of Directors determined Canada will host the next summit in 2017.

Lessons Learned/Opportunities for Scaling-Up

Although a successful initiative, the Global 4-H Network Summit demonstrated that youth need to be engaged in the next step of the process in order to ensure relevance.

Countries also learned that there were more common threads between them than anticipated and had the ability to develop self-reliant and connected solutions to regional challenges and opportunities.

The 2nd Global 4-H Network Summit will be a larger-scale initiative, gathering senior leaders of 4-H countries as well as youth representatives from around the world, to discuss agriculture and food security. Supported by the federal Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the purpose of the 2nd Global Network 4-H Summit is:

- *To build the capacity of leaders, professional staff and 4-H youth members within Canada and globally.*
- *To align the Global 4-H movement and to strengthen the communities of practice within it.*
- *To showcase the success of 4-H, and to share best practices related to sustainable agriculture and food security with youth.*
- *To offer shared learning experiences that connect 4-H communities in Canada to a broader global perspective.*



- *To increase awareness and understanding among Canadians of the importance of building tomorrow's leaders in agriculture globally.*

Running throughout the summit, delegates and special guests will have the opportunity to engage with stakeholders in a Global Opportunities Expo that will offer resource and information sharing between representatives from 4-H member countries and government, industry, educational institutions and non-governmental organizations. This will be an excellent opportunity to connect 4-H members and leaders to industry partners where there exists a significant labour and skills gap.

Policy Implications

It is imperative that youth be engaged in the solution in addressing global issues and challenges in Agriculture

An integrated and coordinated response is required to increase successful and genuine youth engagement in Agriculture.