Youth Employment in Agriculture as a Solid Solution to ending Hunger and Poverty in Africa

Collection of contributions received

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# Topic note

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Government of Rwanda and the African Union, are co-organizing a regional conference on “Youth Employment in Agriculture as a Solid Solution to ending Hunger and Poverty in Africa: Engaging through Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Entrepreneurship” on 20 and 21 August 2018, to promote an exchange among stakeholders on knowledge and good practices regarding the interface between agriculture, youth employment, entrepreneurship and ICT innovations in agriculture and rural development. The conference will focus on the following three major cross-cutting themes related to youth issues:

* Youth and Entrepreneurship focusing on sharing experience, challenges, exploring solutions and new opportunities for youth entrepreneurship, particularly how to develop and sustain youth-led, or youth-focused, business products and services geared towards agriculture and ICTs.
* Digital Innovation to overcome agriculture value-chain related constraints focusing on innovative solutions to support youth-related digital innovation and modern production technologies in agriculture, youth-focused networking and engagement around entrepreneurship, innovation and agriculture.
* Future of Work in Rural Economy focusing exploring the future face of agriculture, its impacts and opportunities for youth, and how international organisations, governments, the private sector, civil society and all other development actors, can leverage expertise and contribute to the groundwork already laid out.

For more information visit the [conference website](http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/youth-in-agriculture/en/).

As part of the preparations for the conference, this online consultation is being held to collect broad views around the major thematic areas of the conference and provide an opportunity to youth engaged in agriculture and rural development across Africa, especially those who may not travel to Rwanda, to:

* Share experiences, successes stories, lessons learned, and good practices of youth led entrepreneurship and digital innovations in agriculture;
* Ask/raise questions on youth employment in agriculture and entrepreneurship, digital innovations and future of work in agriculture to be addressed/answered during the conference.

To contribute to the conference, we invite you to share your experience and views by replying to the following questions:

1. Experience as a Youth in the Agriculture Sector
* How would you describe your experience as an Africa youth engaged in the agriculture sector in your country? What motivated you to engage into the agriculture sector?
1. Major Achievements and Success Stories
* What have been your major achievements? Do you have any experience or innovative ways that have helped you in your work that you would want to share? Do you have a success story – either your own or any other that you are aware of - of youth engaged in agriculture in your country? What is the story?
1. What the Rwanda Youth Conference Should Address
* If given an opportunity, what question would you ask the experts at the Rwanda Youth conference on each of the three sub-themes – a). Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship, b). Digital Innovation to Overcome Agriculture Value-Chain Constraints, and c). Future of Work in Rural Economy - of the conference?

We look forward to your contributions and thank you very much in advance for your time.

Bukar Tijani
Assistant Director General/Regional Representative for Africa
Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)

Regional Office for Africa (RAF)

Accra, Ghana

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Facilitated by:

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Thembani Malapela, FAO

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# Contributions received

## Ervé Marcel Ouedraogo, UEMOA, Burkina Faso

Original comment in French

L’emploi régulier des jeunes dans l’agriculture va favoriser l’émergence d’une catégorie d’acteurs avertis et constituer une masse critique qui va améliorer significativement et durablement la rentabilité économ.

L’emploi régulier des jeunes dans l’agriculture va favoriser l’émergence d’une catégorie d’acteurs avertis et constituer une masse critique qui va améliorer significativement et durablement la rentabilité économique des  exploitations. Il faudrait pour cela continuer les efforts de maîtrise du foncier rural  et mettre en place des outils de gouvernance adaptés pour sécuriser les incitatives.

Par ailleurs, l’encadrement, l’organisation et l’accompagnement des jeunes, par types d’activités, par l’autorité,  pourrait améliorer l’efficience des exploitations individuelles tout en préservant les pressions sauvages sur les ressources naturelles.

English translation

Regular youth employment in agriculture will foster the emergence of an informed group of actors who will form a critical mass which will significantly and sustainably improve the economic profitability of activities.  For that, it will be necessary to continue the efforts to master rural land ownership and implement appropriate governance means to safeguard the incentives.

Furthermore, the training, organization and support of the youth by the authorities, by types of activities, could improve the efficiency of individual activities while preserving natural resources from uncontrolled pressures.

## Andrew Isingoma, Agriculture consultant, Rwanda

To contribute to the conference, we invite you to share your experience and views by replying to the following questions:

1. Experience as a Youth in the Agriculture Sector

Agriculture sector occupies a major percentage in the private sector in my country and plays a major role in GDP. There is attendance of assuming agriculture to be particularly for men in many African countries, this misunderstanding can be solved by providing motivation to younger people with good projects and allow them access to finance.  The government of Rwanda is doing the best to improve Agriculture by not depending on natural rain by improvements in irrigation systems and rain water harvesting. The country has done her best to improve the wellbeing of her people by giving improved seeds to farmers.

2. Employing youth in Agriculture

Global population is expected to increase to 9 billion by 2050, with youth (aged 15–24) accounting for about 14 percent of this total. While the world’s youth is expected to grow, employment and innovative opportunities for youth – particularly those living in developing countries’ economically stagnant rural areas – remain limited, poorly remunerated and of poor quality. The employment of youth in Agriculture sector is a major act that can bring agriculture to good standard of feeding her people and to develop the continent at large, this is so due to the fact that, Youth are willing to work and they have ability to show performance, second; youth people occupy a larger percentage in the population system.

3. AGRICULTURE IMPROVEMENT

in my country ministry of Agriculture and have done best to improve Agriculture technology and wellbeing of her people than ever before, this is evidenced by seeing the seed storage building in different parts of the country. There are also many agriculture projects that are supporting Agriculture development in Rwanda, though much is still needed.

A. Major Achievements and Success Stories

During my BSc-Research in Agriculture I developed a research project which were solving a problem of expensive chemical nutrient additives to farmers and were liked by Research institutions (RAB) which were finally published in CABI-Project. In my MSc-Research project, I developed maize candidate cultivars in the regions which were in needy, while in Uganda. I sometimes was being consulted by World Bank group to give data on Agriculture situation while included in online survey.

B. What the Rwanda Youth Conference Should Address

The conference should address  young beneficiaries of the Project for the Promotion of Entrepreneurship to the younger people especially women and ladies in which they are in situation of difficulty accessing finance, this can be achieved by government agreement with the banks and decentralized financial institutions to support their micro-enterprises of younger people. In order to overcome the challenges, providing solutions through its Support Service to  Finance and Rwanda have done her level best to educate youth and they occupy a big area in the public service, private sector and NGOs, and the country still doing her level best to improve youth and to include them in Agriculture sector. Much improvement is needed to make better the livelihoods of African youth and Rwanda.

C. Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship

There should be improvement in admitting youth in public service and to fund their projects, this can be a good step in development once is done, their projects should also be financed. Youth to successfully participate in the agricultural sector, access to both information and education are fundamental and prerequisite; this can help to be able to acquire knowledge of agricultural production and processing techniques. Young people need access to finance or facilitation for involvements in projects that can develop their livelihoods. This applies to developed and developing countries alike. However, the situation is particularly dire in many developing countries, where access to appropriate education and training often remains insufficient mostly in rural areas.

D. Digital Innovation to Overcome Agriculture Value-Chain Constraints

There are many modern projects which can help gene editing to overcome crop responding to climate, for example crops affected by drought can be changed by introducing resistant genes, and this can be done through gene editing through breeding systems. The introduction of genomic selection in research breeding programs, Bio-informatics and bio-statistical breeding programs, digital pivot irrigation systems on a large scale, Introduction of breeding management systems (BMS) in breeding programs, Marker assisted selection in the breeding programs. I can ask experts how the modern agriculture breeding systems can be introduced to help crops respond to climate change as well as the environment improvement in climate smart systems.

E. Future of Work in Rural Economy - of the conference?

1. What is the future work to improve agriculture systems in rural sector?

2. How can horticulture be improved to overcome malnutrition in rural Areas?

3. How can opportunity be created to the African youth to motivate youth in Agriculture sector?

4. Youth projects are many and needs to be established?

5. What is the vision of the country for the youth who have no mortgage for loan and hence have mental capacity to implement the projects?

## Kevin Gallagher, Future of Agriculture (Asia), Mongolia

Dear Colleagues,

It is not just agriculture that needs discussion. Many youth, especially those with some skills or education qualifications, are concerned about the quality of health clinics, distance to hospitals and quality of education in rural areas. It is critical to take these into account when considering the goals and aspirations of young families. Capital access is probably next followed by having skilled persons nearby to make sure money spent is not wasted.

You may also want to look at Japan, Korea and USA where programmes for young farmers include skills training and access to low interest loans/start-up grants.

By the way, why did FAO cancel its programmes supporting national youth activities like 4H?

All the best,

Kevin Gallagher

## Edson Cagape, cso, Philippines

Good that FAO have manage to involve youth in agriculture but mind you if by far the traditional technologies will remain the same as usual nothing will happened it will only run in full-circle no matter what or how much you infuse money. There must be disruptive solution, one of them is give the agriculture a free energy (free electricity bills) through innovation of small renewable power plants in shallow streams, rivers and canals that will be manage by the agricultural sector in clusters. It cost only 4,000.00 dollars/unit. compose of 100 households.

## Ernestine Umuhoza, Ministry of agriculture and animal ressources Rwanda, Rwanda

Employment of the youth in Agriculture can be a part of solutions to end Hunger and poverty; this is not the only and unique solution to the issue but it can reduce hunger and poverty in such a way that youth is strong enough and if it is involved in the matter considerable reduction can be noticed. Again, youth involvement can increase the sustainability of the business as they are searching the way to improve their welfare and build their financial lives. In addition, they are young and still have the time to work for the business.

UMUHOZA Ernestine

Land husbandry specialist

MINAGRI/RWANDA

## Alphonse Francis Obonyo, Centre for Policy Analysis, Uganda

I can only share my experience with my story on how I started to get involved in agriculture.

I had a bad attitude towards engaging in agriculture. I never wanted to take part in anything related to farming. This is because from childhood my parents, friends and relatives raised me to think that the only way to survive and succeed in life was had to read books, get a degree and I will get a good job. It is not until I was facing challenges with tuition, accommodation at university and living expenses that I realized I needed something else to do. No one knew me so getting a job would take time. The most obvious solution was engaging in agriculture because selling it will be easy. Finding the was easy, at least that’s what I thought. So, I used my parents land in the village to plant groundnuts and maize. With help from relatives’ planting, maintenance and harvesting was not a problem. Once I was able to transport the Produce to Kampala the real hustle begun. The market was flooded with produce. The principle that is followed is that the earlier you go the better. Being always late made some of my produce get rotten and I it always discouraged. Most of all having species of produce that was not marketable was also a problem. To add salt to a wound the returns were very low compared to the input.

I actually gave up for some time but later realized that it only required consistency and regardless of the low returns. The rotting of produce did not stop, the market was still competitive, almost every season a new species of a crop that's more marketable than the other. This would force you to engage in growing a variety of crops at the same time just to meet the demand of the market. Today I am happily a distributor pf maize and rice to schools. I even sell pumpkins.

Agriculture requires patience, persistence and consistency. The challenge we the youth have today is that we want quick money fast. This is why youth are not very interested in agriculture and if they are it is only for subsistence.

The diverse and wide market motivated me to get involved in agriculture. I can not fail to sell something out of my produce. Once you get a grip of the basics the market trend as well as the demand chain, all you need is patience, consistency and hard work but smartly.

Today I supply schools in villages with food and to some markets in Kampala. What has helped me is refusing to go by the market prices. If we all compete with the market prices then we may not sell at all in fear of making losses. Yes, for the start there will be a few losses but it was my way of establishing a market for the future. This guarantees you market for your next production. Partnering with other innovative friends and family in the marketing process has greatly helped. Every time we have a harvest, we hire a truck to move around very early in the morning and by 4:00 pm east African time the truck is empty. Also, the civil society space has created a platform to market the produce. This has greatly increased our sales. Using social media like what’s app and Facebook has also expanded our market reach.

Question to the Experts

What advice would you give to youth who despise getting involved in agriculture? And the Parents friends and relatives who demonize the agriculture sector? How can states incorporate agriculture studies to equip youth with skills? What agricultural policies do they think are lacking and how can youth influence the policy-making process?

How best can youth in advocacy champion the need for a favourable market where taxes are equally paid and tax exemptions equally are given? This is because most African states are getting development loans from development agencies and partners but these loans come with strings attached that make the economic environment unfriendly to young agricultural entrepreneur. For example, loans that come with the requirement for exemptions to taxes to imported agro-produce into African states. This diminishes the market and undermines our efforts?

## Justin Chisenga, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Italy

Dear All,

Thank you to colleagues that have set the ball rolling with their contributions to the discussion.

As you prepare your contributions, please remember the objectives of this discussion and, as much as possible, to focus your contributions on the questions that have been put up for discussion. This way, we will be able to have something to contribute to the Rwanda Youth Conference in August.

Regards,

Justin Chisenga

Facilitator

## Fao Publications, Italy

Here is a selection of titles proposed by [**FAO Publications**](http://www.fao.org/publications)for forum participants who would like to read more on Youth employment in agriculture and digital innovation.

[**RURAL YOUTH AGED 15–17: THE RIGHT SEASON TO SEED THE FUTURE**](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6975e.pdf)
In light of the challenges faced by rural youth, this report proposes policies to increase human capital and channel resources towards youth aged 15–17 to ensure equal access to education and decent jobs.

[**YOUTH AND AGRICULTURE: KEY CHALLENGES AND CONCRETE SOLUTIONS**](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3947e.pdf)
This publication shows how tailor-made educational programmes can provide rural youth with the skills and insights needed to engage in farming and adopt environmentally friendly production methods.

[**RURAL MIGRATION IN TUNISIA: DRIVERS AND PATTERNS OF RURAL YOUTH MIGRATION AND ITS IMPACT ON FOOD SECURITY AND RURAL LIVELIHOODS IN TUNISIA**](http://www.fao.org/3/I9193EN/i9193en.pdf)

This report calls for a strong political engagement both nationally and internationally to revive rural economies and reverse trends such as low farming productivity and inadequate access to technology and resources.

[**HIRE SERVICES AS A BUSINESS ENTERPRISE: A TRAINING MANUAL FOR SMALL-SCALE MECHANIZATION SERVICE PROVIDERS**](http://www.fao.org/3/I9207EN/i9207en.pdf)
This manual for hire service providers covers machinery operation and maintenance, draught animal care, financial procedures and other topics, organized in 5 modules and 27 sessions.

[**INNOVATIVE MARKETS FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: HOW INNOVATIONS IN MARKET INSTITUTIONS ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5907e.pdf)
This publication presents 15 cases from around the world, providing insights into institutional change and how a different type of market incentive contributes to the redefinition and adoption of sustainable practices by farmers.

[**SUCCESS STORIES ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SECOND EDITION)**](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6733e.pdf)
ICTs can transform lives and improve livelihoods in agriculture by helping to secure savings, find affordable insurance and tools to manage risk, increase access to financial services, and provide business opportunities.

[**INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) IN AGRICULTURE**](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7961e.pdf)
An assessment of platforms promoting ICT for agriculture, food security and nutrition and proposals for improving its usage, such as the creation of the ICT for Sustainable Agricultural Production Innovation Lab.

[**BUILDING AGRICULTURAL MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEMS**](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7151e.pdf)
This publication reviews the features of market information systems (MIS) development for agriculture, focusing on price information and new technologies for price data collection and dissemination.

[**E-AGRICULTURE IN ACTION**](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6972e.pdf)
Case studies on the innovative use of emerging technologies, such as 3D food printing, electronic traceability services, and multiparameter monitors for indoor air quality, to improve the livelihoods of farming communities.

[**E-AGRICULTURE IN ACTION: DRONES FOR AGRICULTURE**](http://www.fao.org/3/I8494EN/i8494en.pdf)

This book promotes replicable ICT solutions for agriculture, focusing on unmanned aerial vehicles, also known as drones, and their usage in crop production, early warning systems, disaster risk reduction, forestry, fisheries, and wildlife conservation.

[**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF E-AGRICULTURE IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA: INSIGHTS FROM SELECTED COUNTRIES IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA**](http://www.fao.org/3/I8303EN/i8303en.pdf)
Among the topics discussed during the workshop were the role of ICTs in agricultural development in the region and within the different countries, and the need for collaboration and knowledge-sharing via online communities, including ESCORENA and AGROWEB.

Further reading

[**YOUTH MOBILITY, FOOD SECURITY AND RURAL POVERTY REDUCTION (RYM)**](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6099e.pdf)

[**YOUTH MOBILITY, FOOD SECURITY AND RURAL POVERTY REDUCTION**](http://www.fao.org/3/I9274EN/i9274en.pdf)

[**THE RURAL YOUTH MOBILITY PROJECT: METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS**](http://www.fao.org/3/I8740EN/i8740en.pdf)

[**PROMOTING ALTERNATIVES TO MIGRATION FOR RURAL YOUTH IN TUNISIA AND ETHIOPIA**](http://www.fao.org/3/I8664EN/i8664en.pdf)

[**FAO, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP MODEL FOR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE EXPERIENCES FROM MALAWI, TANZANIA MAINLAND AND ZANZIBAR ARCHIPELAGO**](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4118e.pdf)

## Chonyui Duna, Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network, Cameroon

1. Experience as a Youth in the Agriculture Sector

As an African youth and Cameroonian to be precise, we are blessed with a lot of natural resources which are readily available for exploitation when it comes to agriculture. From my own point of view, In Cameroon and in the African continent at large, we cannot be saying resources are not scarce. Most African youths are just lazy and very inpatient to start up from a scale. Most youths are afraid to take risk. Many African youths believe in getting fast money without any stress. Agriculture needs a lot of time and patient to get good yields from the field be it in livestock or crop production.

What motivated me into Agriculture?

Firstly, the passion to rear animals and cultivate my own crop and see them grow.

Secondly, I hate to be hungry and to see others hungry when there are natural resources around us that can be manage sustainably in order to alleviate famine and extreme poverty.

Lastly I don’t admire working under someone knowing well that with very little capital, I can start up a small farm of my own (be an entrepreneur), create employment for myself and for others who are interested in engaging in the field of Agriculture.

2) Major Achievements and Success Stories

My name is Chonyui Bouldwin Duna, a Cameroonian by nationality born on the 12/06/1994 in Bamenda, North West Region of Cameroon. I had my Ordinary level in 2012 and Advance level in 2013 all in Progressive Comprehensive High School (P.C.H.S)MankonBamenda and was later enrolled into the College of Technology of The University of Bamenda in November 2013 through a competitive entrance exams. I Studied Agriculture and to be précised Animal Production Technology.

For the Academic year2015/2016, I was elected as the departmental president of mydepartment (Animal Production Technology).

For the Academic year 2016/2017, I was elected as the Student Association President of the College of Technology.

Finally, I graduated in December 2017 with a B-Tech in Animal Production Technology with a Second Class Honor (Upper Division) with a GPD of 3.06.

I run a small farm where I raise chickens, breed and sale German shepherd puppies and also cultivate some garden crops such as tomatoes, leeks just to name a few to earn a living. I have been engaged in this since 2013.

Infrastructure

I have a brooding room with size 2x4 m with a capacity of 300 day old chicks and a fattening barn sized 3x4 m with a capacity of 120 mature broiler chickens (45 days of age and above). I also have two cages where I breed my dogs (Cross bred German shepherd).

Activities

I offer extensive services to backyards chicken farmer to whom I supply with three weeks old chicks (training them how to raise the birds in a sustainable manner e.g feeding birds with fermented feed which is climate friendly), Consultancy to neighbors who want to start up their own farms and I also offer training to young farmers on how to brood and raise their own birds.

Expanding my farm is my greatest wish as of now because I have the prospect of training more youths but my space is insufficient. I have skills and the potential to meet SDG 1 and 2 and also reduce unemployment to a significant percentage in Cameroon, Africa and the world at large.

## Yannick Fiedler, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Italy

Over the last months, FAO has carried out three multi-stakeholder workshops in [Uganda](http://www.fao.org/capacity-development/news-list/detail/en/c/1099036/), [Côte d’Ivoire](http://www.fao.org/capacity-development/news-list/detail/en/c/1127274/) and the [SADC region](http://www.fao.org/capacity-development/news-list/detail/en/c/1111084/) to identify existing and needed capacities that engage and empower youth to carry out and benefit from responsible agricultural investments.

During these workshops, young agri-entrepreneurs frequently mentioned that the absence or lack of access to incentives (financial, fiscal, incubators, etc.) was one of the challenges they faced in launching and sustaining their businesses in the early stages. For example, participants from one workshop mentioned that the allocation of fiscal incentives was subject to the generation of a turnover by far exceeding the capacities of a new business led by youth with limited amount of capital. Therefore, it was argued, that a policy initially designed to support agribusiness development inadvertently discriminated against youth and prevented them from sustaining their business.

From an expert perspective, I would therefore be interested in learning about good practices and cases of incentives that are supporting young agri-entrepreneurs.

From a policy perspective, I would be interested in learning about new or planned incentives by AU governments that would help realize the target of the Malabo Declaration to create job opportunities for at least 30% of youth in agricultural value chains.

Thank you.

## Lilian Umeakunne, Radiant Initiative for Africa/Grow4Peace, Nigeria

My Motivation:

My story is my source of inspiration every day. I was raised by a single mother whose fate in her marriage was decided the moment she had a baby girl as her first issue. She had to leave, had to raise me alone, had to create a means of survival for us, then, agriculture saved us. She was hardworking and resourceful in many ways than I can think of and taught me how to grow vegetables the moment I could walk. Together we grew crops all season round, during the dry season, we moved closer to the river to plant vegetables for easy irrigation. I developed a deep connection and understanding of crop production ever since. She was able to raise me, give me the best education and till date I strongly believe that agriculture could save so many more people especially the girl child.

Major achievements and success stories:

After my graduation from the University of Nigeria Nsukka, where I studied Agricultural Extension I decided to intern in major Agric-based organizations mostly international NGOs to understand the work they do, the progress made towards grassroots agricultural development, the effectiveness of various existing Federal Government interventions in agriculture, the strategies to achieve the SDGs 1 and 2 and challenges limiting our goal of achieving food self-sustainability. This opportunity was one of the best times of my life, being a part of creating a solution to problems facing agriculture.

A few years later I decided to get actively involved in food production, to deploy my knowledge, skills and creativity into crop production, I had on lease a hectare of land for 5 years where I started with most crops; vegetables- Watermelons, Peppers, Tomatoes on a rotational basis. I germinated the seedlings in my house, raised them in the nursery before transplanting to the field. I was making enough profit as a startup, putting healthy food out there and progressing while doing what I love most. There are downsides to this, the expensive agro-inputs, labour, irrigation problems and unpredictable weather conditions, after the first few months I was learning, unlearning and keeping my records to ensure I was making progress.  Today, I have added a new staple crop, a vegetable –Maize, Okro and as I gain more space I will keep expanding and adding more crops. The benefits of being an agroprenuer most times outweigh the disadvantages because agriculture is risk-filled and some of these risks are not under our control, we can avert most of them by adequate planning.

I have never been more optimistic about the future, recently I was awarded by the Institute of International Education (IIE), New York through the Indigenous Biocultural Exchange Fund a grant of $5,000 due to impact from the work I do in food production in my local community. I was also selected for a prestigious scholarship this June to pursue an MSc in Food Security in the UK and my overall goal is to understand how other countries got to the stage where they are food secure, to understand the global drivers of food insecurity and policies that could yield huge benefits for the sector.

The Conference should address:

Post-harvest losses among other threats in Africa, especially Nigeria’s goal of achieving food security is a major setback. More than 70% of Nigerians are farmers, yet we are hungry, prices of foodstuffs go up as soon as there is a seasonal change. During the on-season of certain crops, the quantity disposed of in marketplaces and farms are so much that we are left with nothing in the coming months. Value addition to our agricultural produce could assure food available all year round. Also, according to World Bank Group Agriculture, women farmers could raise 150million people out of hunger and malnutrition if equipped with as much knowledge, information and capital as the men. Women involvement in Africas's (Nigerian) agriculture is still very little because most of them do not have access to arable land, capital and training on new farming knowledge. These are factors that if addressed could secure Africa’s food future.

## Mary Odusegun, Npower Agro, Nigeria

1. Experience as a Youth in the Agriculture Sector

I believe that Agriculture is the backbone of an economy. I am a Plant Breeder. I am very interested in agriculture and that was what made me to apply as NAGRO volunteer in the ongoing NPOWER Programme in my Country Nigeria. So far I have gathered a lot of experience through trainings and seminars organized during this programme. I know some youths who have started farming and earning some money through this programme. In the near future I am planning to go into large scale farming. The only challenge now is the continuity of this programme which will be terminated very soon. Continuity and follow up with youths should be discussed in this conference. Also Youths need to be encouraged with loans to carry out their plans. If the Youths are encouraged to start something on their own, then our problems are half solved.

Thanks

## Donald Houessou, Centre d'Actions pour l'Environnement et le Développement Durable, Benin

Dear all,

Thanks for the consultation.

The Centre d' Actions pour l' Environment et le Development Durable in Benin conducted in 2017 a study to explore the youth profile regarding their implication in agribusiness. The [report](https://www.aced-benin.org/sites/default/files/publications/aced_profil_des_jeunes_web.pdf) provides insightful results and shows that youth are heterogeneous and should be categorised before any initiative of youth implication in agribusiness. The study reveals four categories of youth: 'Undecided no-entrepreneurs', 'entrepreneurs with agricultural training', 'entrepreneurs without agricultural training' and 'no-entrepreneurs interested by agribusiness’. Further, the cross-analysis of these categories with some indicators of the business environment in agriculture shows that they cannot succeed in this business environment unless some capacitive imperatives are given to them. Hence, policies should consider the profile of youth in their programmes, support the improvement of the agricultural training curriculum by including capacities imperatives and improve the business environment in agriculture.

Therefore, the experts at the Rwanda Youth conference could discuss for a). Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship, how to mainstream the youth profile and capacities imperatives in the policies and curricula, respectively.

Find attachment below

[Rapport\_Profils des jeunes en Ag au Benin.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/discussions/contributions/Rapport_Profils%20des%20jeunes%20en%20Ag%20au%20Benin.pdf)

Regards.

Donald Houessou

## Makhosi Mahlangu, African Food Revolution, Italy

Am fortunate to be part of a group of over 40 scientists including not less than 10 food scientists. We are from different parts of Africa. We are a group which intends to use disruptive thinking to develop the food sector in Africa. Our goal is to build rural entrepreneurs who are the future of food production systems in Africa. We are food revolutionists who are using 2 basic methods as our foundation for food processing in Africa that is heat and fermentation techniques. Most of the members have done their Food Science degrees in Italy which is considered the modern pioneers of the modern food industry. The same development techniques used by farmers in Italy can easily be used on the African continent. A lot has to be done to drive the food industry in Africa and feel that basic food processing techniques should be at the fingertips of all rural food producers in Africa. Our group is called the African Food Revolution and our activities can be viewed on our website which is www.africanfoodrevolution.org. It is imperative that we use passion, intuition, novel technologies and basic food processing techniques to fully exploit the African food market and create wealth and employment in food production platforms.

Please find the attachment below

[AFR COMPANY PROFILE EZINKULU.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/discussions/contributions/AFR%20COMPANY%20PROFILE%20EZINKULU.pdf)

## Samuel Kalu, Young Professionals in Agricultural Developement (YPARD), Nigeria

Hello All,

It is my delight to contribute to the ongoing consultation. I would like to address three of the topics the consultation centres on.

1. Experience as a Youth in the Agriculture Sector

My experience as a young person involved in the agricultural sector in Nigeria has been sweet and sour, sweet because I grow my own food, most of them anyways and also make money from growing it when I sell the produce. I also train other young people living close to me, on my farm various crops they can make money from and those far away using the internet (WhatsApp) and their success makes me happy. Sour because of the numerous challenges involved in farming two of which for me has been having reliable experienced farm hands(despite the fact that i train young people on how to effectively grow the horticultural crops I grow and use them on contract basis, they tend to abscond especially when I need them the most). Second of is getting good land for farming near my farm. Most of the land here have been mined on and their top soil removed, hence I am settled with a small space that I have to grow in sacks by mixing soil with manure. Second is the slow acceptance of technology use in Agriculture in Nigeria, leading to no customers most of the times.

Growing up in a family farming background, I developed an interest in farming even though I wanted to study engineering. Well, I eventually studied Agriculture(B.Agric with options in Soil Science and Meteorology) and after my compulsory National Youth Service (NYSC), I started my company Agritechnovate Solutions Enterprise which so far saw me involved in various farming areas: Poultry(for egg production), Horticulture - African vegetables: Ugu(Telferia), Ewedu(Jute), Amaranth and Celosia; also crops like Cucumbers, Peppers, Tomatoes.

2. Major Achievements and Success Stories

Well, major achievement for me as a young person involved in the Agric sector in Nigeria has been starting my company, because by means of it we have been able to train many young people, setup several farms across the country, procured and installed farm technology in farms. Technologies such as nipple tip drinkers for farm animals, drip irrigation systems, sprinklers, spray tubes and other technologies for crop farmers.

As a service oriented company, we need clients who wants their farm setup or who needs our procurement and setup of farm technologies service, due to the slow acceptance of technology in the Agriculture sector in Nigeria we utilize innovative ways of getting clients using the internet. We promote our services on our [Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/Agritechnovate) and share them on other Agric focused groups with high follower ship, that way we reach a lot of people who may be interested in our service. We also advertise our farm technologies procurement and installation services on a popular forum board in Nigeria - Nairaland, where we have gotten most of our clients for 3 years now! We also share our services on Agric focused WhatsApp groups, and on my [Agric blog](https://kalusam.wordpress.com/).

Success story? Well, not your typical kind of success story. Like I mentioned, technology is been slowly adapted in Agricultural sector in Nigeria. I remember when we started promoting the use of technology in farming by the use of treadle pumps, drip irrigation, sprinklers at all there was zero to nothing response, many farmers prefer to wait for rain or use only a petrol pump and one hose to irrigate 1 acre, however in recent times more and more people have seen the need to embrace the use of these technologies to make farming easier and attractive to the youth, until Africa as a whole adapts the use of technology in farming, most of its young population will never want to do agriculture or anything related to it!

Also learning of the success of those I have trained on various farming practices as well as those who got better results from using the farm technologies we installed for them, I feel ecstasy...That for me is real success!

3. What the Rwanda Youth Conference Should Address

If given an opportunity, I would you ask the experts at the Rwanda Youth conference, the following questions below centred on each of the three sub-themes.

a) Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship,

What incentives have you put in place to create employment for youth or empower young people already in Agriculture?

b) Digital Innovation to Overcome Agriculture Value-Chain Constraints, and

What sustainable digital solutions are available for young people to do business seemlesly across the value chain?

c) Future of Work in Rural Economy - of the conference?

What new opportunities will be made available in the Agric sector for rural youths?

## Lazarous Ng`ambi, Zambia

Having grown up in an environment were all food products are bought and never involved in the actual production of these agriculture produce, got me thinking ON how expensive it is providing food for those people living in towns especially if you are bread winner of a family. It is from this view that I see an opportunity for business and consider to venter in (agriculture).

One English phrase says an apple does not fall far from its tree, so I have been. I have grown up in the city and the only form of activity done is schooling after which we start chasing after jobs. I do not know if this is the modern African way of life. My guardians little did they talked about agriculture and if they did it was so negative.

Why then do I want to venture into agriculture?

It is an area I feel passionate about that I can contribute manful to my nation and Africa at large were food security is concerned. In addition to this I will learn more in there are of research as it would be easy to conduct research on my farm.

Why am I not starting early?

Politics, Politics! In Zambia in some areas to get the land it’s very difficult as one has to have a political affiliation for easy access of land. Little support is given to the youth and not having faith in them.

## Kafui Agbe, Young Professionals for Agricultural Development, Ghana

Dear All members,

It is refreshing and exciting to see the world moving towards the future thus thinking of the youth, agriculture, ICT and rural development. Engaging rural youth in agriculture with youth led ICT solutions coupled with the development of needed infrastructure is key to Africa’s growth, ending hunger and poverty. I will like to address the questions for this all important discussion;

1. Experience as a Youth in the Agriculture Sector

I have experience as an advisory service provider in the agricultural sector for ten years, as an agripreneur in poultry and livestock production, and innovative financing of small holder farmers in rural areas. All these is motivated by one thing "feeding myself and others without relying on the external world".

With my work as an advisory service provider (extension officer) i had the opportunity to train many including youth in crop production, livestock production, and value chain processes, etc. Taking up a current training of rural farmers in the rice and maize value chain in Ghana on Farmer Business School (FBS) with the objective of explaining the financial implication of agricultural technology application, I have observed that young farmers that attended the training programme have the willingness to pursue farming but are looking for simple technologies to overcome the drudgery involved. They also want rural infrastructure of roads, schools, and telecommunication developed so as to transport their inputs with ease; educate themselves and children; and access Agricultural ICT solutions to enhance productivity.

I started poultry and livestock production in 2015, due to the realization of the high import bill associated with poultry product in Ghana. The objective of the poultry enterprise was to increase in poultry production by farmers. This is achieved through production day old chicks, rearing them for six week (pullet stage) and sell to both domestic and commercial farmers. With this several households established backyard poultry farms to serve their egg and meat needs. One key factor leading to my poultry business model was the practical training I received from Creating Champions in Livestock Agribusiness Incubator that have enhance my skills in poultry breeding, hatchery processes and business management. This shows the importance of skills training and entrepreneurship in agriculture.

Studying trends on how savings is perceived and the unavailability of financial service providers in the rural areas, we have developed an innovative savings and financing scheme for small holder farmers in the rural areas and piloted since 2016. Small holder farmers are put into groups, taken through financial literacy education and savings done through produce or anything of value. The Project is named Save Everything of Value project (SEVAP) since the agricultural produce that they have is of monetary value which is converted by a "Group Offtaker" and the monetary value placed into their individual accounts. Withdrawals and other payments are made through mobile money which help reduce the risk and financial burden of travelling to financial institutions far from the locations.

2. Major Achievements and Success Stories

I have impacted many farmers including youth with adequate knowledge in agriculture to transform their lives.  Undertaking the poultry business has initiated more than 100 households to keep backyard poultry for their egg and meat needs and trained the youth in poultry production. With the innovative savings scheme, small holder farmers have been given the opportunity for financial inclusion to enhance their livelihoods.

Raising finance for poultry project was a major challenge that was solved by consulting friends to help with some money which helped to start the business.

Below are few success stories of youth engaged in agriculture in Ghana:

1. Cynthia Aveh (Founder- TrustFarm Ltd and Greencredit)

Cynthia is a graduate of the Founder Institute Accra cohort 2017 where she founded Trustfarm and Greencredit respectively. Trustfarm is founded on technology to provide a sustainable market for food crops and livestock for small and large holder farmers. Greencredit leverage on blockchain technology and initial coin offering to raise fund to plant more trees, and save the ecosystem through beekeeping. She has the ambition as a young woman to impact the world through agricultural entrepreneurship.

2. Micheal Sakyi (CEO-SM Golden Bee)

SM Golden Bee is an Agribusiness company founded by a young man for beekeeping and production of soap, cream with the honey, wax and propolis. He also offers practical training for other youth especially in rural areas. He objective is to protect the ecosystem, preserve bees for increase plant pollination and supply of valuable bee products to the society.

3. Gideoa Padi Konotey (CEO-Goat Masters Ltd)

Goat Masters Ltd is an agribusiness firm focused on value addition to goat with special focus on value chain form; rearing, butchering, processing, packaging, marketing and distribution of livestock into various consumables ([http://www.goatmastersgh.com](http://www.goatmastersgh.com/)/).

4. Trotro Tractor Ltd

A team of young passionate Africans using internet of things (IoT) and technology to change the lives of smallholder farmers through the provision of platforms which makes agricultural mechanization (Tractor) service available, accessible and affordable to enhance productivity, improve efficiency and reduce post-harvest loss (<http://www.trotrotractor.com/>)

These and many other youth exist in the agriculture space in Ghana that need support and the encouragement to achieve the goal of ending hunger and poverty.

3. What the Rwanda Youth Conference Should Address

a) Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship:

What harmonize effort is been taken on the African continent to ensure youth are employed in Agriculture?

b) Digital Innovation to Overcome Agriculture Value-Chain Constraints,

What step are been taken to address the infrastructural constraints associated with digital innovations in Africa?

What is the policy position on Digital Innovations?

What financing scheme exist for digital innovation in the Agriculture value chain in Africa?

c) Future of Work in Rural Economy - of the conference?

The Future of work in rural economy will improve only with decent rural infrastructure. Can we have a resolution for Governments to tackle the rural infrastructural deficient alongside embarking on youth employment in Agriculture to address hunger and poverty?

## Aklilu Nigussie, Ethiopian Institutes of Agricultural Research, Ethiopia

I am engaged in research and development yet I was grown in cultivating my families land in rural side of the country in Ethiopia. I was always in search of technologies that can enhance the productivity of my families land as we were depend our livelihood on it; from food to income generation for sustainability.

Yet; the access of technological packages the fit to our existence of agro-ecological zone was almost negligent (closer to zero) because of different factors like distance to the main rural towns and others.

What motivated me to engage on agriculture was; because of the reason that I encountered while I was a farmer in my family’s plot of land.

My achievement engaging in the research and development me and colleagues has tried our bests to involve in the scaling up of different technologies to the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in Afar and Oromia (Metehara district) like chicken birds and bread wheat in small scale irrigated areas. We were successful as it was a new intervention to the area few years ago.

Find the attachment below

[Aklilu TRB-08-2014.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/discussions/contributions/Aklilu%20TRB-08-2014.pdf)

## Thembani Malapela, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Italy

Dear All,

Thank you to colleagues that have already contributed, we commend you also for addressing and focusing on the objectives and themes highlighted.

Kindly keep the ball on, and share also this with relevant networks in the region

Regards,

Thembani Malapela

Facilitator

## Mamadou Djemory Diabate, MENETFP, Côte d'Ivoire

Original comment in French

 1. Mon expérience en tant que jeune dans lesecteur agricole.

Merci de nous associer aux discussions sur ces thèmes importants. En tant que Educateur dans un collège dans mon pays, j'ai mis en place une coopérative scolaire avec mes élèves. Nous pratiquons l'agriculture en cultivant l'hevea et le manioc.

2. Principal réalisations et réussites.

Nous avons cultivé 5 hectares de pépinières d'hevea, nous allons vendre 3 hectares et garder les 2 hectares restants. Nous avons également récolté 10tonnes de manioc que nous avons vendu.

3. Questions à poser aux experts.

Je demanderais aux experts denous donner des solutions afin de mobiliser des fonds pour élaborer des projets agricoles en faveur des jeunes ?

English translation

1. My experience as a young farmer.

Thank you for involving us in the discussions on these important topics. As a teacher in a middle school in my country, I set up a school cooperative with my students. We practice agriculture by growing hevea and cassava.

2. Main achievements and successes.

We have cultivated 5 hectares of hevea nurseries, we will sell 3 hectares and keep the remaining 2 hectares. We also harvested 10 tons of cassava which we sold.

3. Questions for experts.

I would ask the experts to give us solutions in order to mobilize funds to develop agricultural projects in favour of young people?

## Tang Erasmus Nchuaji, The University of Yaounde I/ Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD, Cameroon), Cameroon

Dear all,

Greetings and kudos to the facilitators and all contributors.

1. Experience as a Youth in the Agriculture Sector:

I have been engaged in maize and rice cultivation and in extending good agricultural practices in farm school sessions for farmer associations in North West (Ndop plain), West (Foumbot area), and Center (Tonga and Nanga Eboko) regions of the Republic of Cameroon. I have from 2013 been engaged in agribusiness for these two crops and market gardening (tomato cultivation). With the IRAD team, we carried out a series of nutrient omission trials and the introduction of mechanical weeders in rice fields. These activities were coordinated by Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice, Cote D'Ivoire) and were simultaneously carried out in her member state countries among which Cameroon, Nigeria, Benin, Ghana, Cote D'Ivoire etc. I studied rice processing (upgrading domestic rice quality) in college and is involved in the training of farmers on the conversion of rice residues to valuable products like briquettes through densification of husks, biscuits production using broken grains, and to mushroom production through sterilization and fermentation of appropriated proportions of husk and bran. My interest in Agriculture stems from childhood, where as a kid I followed the family to our maize, beans, potato and plantain farms which were grown for subsistence. With the objective of helping the family after graduating from college, I had agriculture as the first option. I am filled with passion to get enriched and enrich others with the potential of agriculture to transform lives in rural communities.

2. Major Achievements and Success Stories:

I defended my M.Sc. thesis in 2013 on used of optimum parboiling conditions to produce quality milled rice and have contributed to the training of  over 2000 women and youths on agricultural techniques in the North West, West, and Center regions of Cameroon. Rice and maize yields in farmer fields have increased since the introduction of GAP. Currently partnering with youths in tomato cultivation, where the turn over is really high and fast and the youths though not educated are satisfied.

3. What the Rwanda Youth Conference Should Address:

From my experience and contact with youths interested in agriculture, the Rwanda Youth Conference should consider:

1. Educating youths in rural areas on applied agricultural techniques specific to their region.  Most youths (the workforce) in rural areas have not been to school and have agriculture as the major source of livelihood. They have little income (or none) to venture in agriculture. So for those who try and fail, they are discouraged. Educating them about innovative techniques through practice will contribute to the success and draw more youths.
2. Policy: There is a need to protect youths in agriculture at all levels in the supply chain. Imported products in our domestic markets (the case of rice and wheat products) are dominating local products enormously. The conference committed should table proposals in this regards to policymakers in Africa (AU and other institutions).
3. Loans and follow-up: Drawing banks and financial institutions closer to youths and vice versa.

## Fredrick O Ogutu, Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute, Kenya

1. Experience as a Youth in the Agriculture Sector

I am involved in agribusiness among youths particularly at incubation of youth and women owned SMEs. We offer training, shared processing facility and incubation to enable them have a soft landing.

2. Major Achievements and Success Stories

We have many successful businesses in peanut, spices, fruits and vegetables etc.

3. What the Rwanda Youth Conference

Should Address Agribusiness marketing, role of governments in agribusiness

## Aimé Kazika, YPARD DRC, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Original comment in French

Merci beaucoup pour cette opportunité offerte aux jeunes de participer à cette conférence en ligne. En effet, je suis jeune congolais Dr la RDC passionné du développement agricole depuis bientôt 18 ans. J’ai longtemps travaillé en zones rurales de la RDC dont l’ex province du Bandundu et j’ai aussi travaillé à Kinshasa rural et voyagé au Kongo Central. Je connais bien.la problématique de l’engagement des jeunes dans l’agriculture et le développement agricole dans la partie ouest de la RDC. Mon expérience de terrain est consolidé par des missions et projets auxquels j’ai coordonnés en tant que chef de projet de 2002 à 2010  et puis 2017\_2018 et comme assistant au projet et rédacteur des projets de 2011-2016'.

Depuis novembre 2016 je suis le Représentant pays de Ypard (Jeunes professionnels pour le développement agricole) un réseau dont en juillet 2016 à sa création, nous étions 3 jeunes et à ce jour, nous sommes plus de 93 jeunes professionnels participants aux activités agricoles et plus de 450 interagissant en ligne à travers des échanges et partage d’expérience.

Sur base de mon expérience avec les jeunes, le vrai problème des jeunes africains, c’est le manque de modèle réussi ou de référence à laquelle les jeunes peuvent copier et servir de modèle. Ceci est un vrai problème. Longtemps, on a présenté l’agriculture comme activité de pauvres et des ruraux. Pourtant, Ypard Rdc à travers des visites d’apprentissage, de formations pratiques en agrobusiness et visite des modèles parviennent à drainer des jeunes dans ce secteur longtemps abandonne.  Tout le modèle présenté est copié de l’occident. Pourtant c’est un contexte difficile à dupliquer en Afrique. Les jeunes africains doivent apprendre de leurs pairs africains.

Mais aussi, des politiques n’accompagnent pas des jeunes africains et congolais pour réussir dans l’agriculture. Ceci crée une fracture.

En dernier, il n’existe pas de politiques d’emploi des jeunes ruraux et ceux travaillant dans l’agriculture.

English translation

Thank you very much for this opportunity for young people to participate in this online conference. Indeed, I am a young Congolese Dr. from RDC who has been passionate about agricultural development for almost 18 years. I worked for a long time in rural areas of the DRC including the former province of Bandundu and I also worked in rural Kinshasa and travelled to Kongo Central. I am familiar with the issue of youth engagement in agriculture and agricultural development in the western part of the RDC. My field experience is reinforced by missions and projects that I coordinated as project manager from 2002 to 2010 and then 2017\_2018, and as project assistant and project writer for 2011-2016'.

Since November 2016, I am the Country Representative of Ypard (Young Professionals for Agricultural Development), a network in which, at its creation in July 2016, we were 3 young people. To date, we are more than 93 young professionals participating in agricultural activities and more than 450 interacting online through exchanges and experience sharing.

Based on my experience with young people, the real problem of young Africans is the lack of a successful role model or reference which young people can copy and which can be used as a role model. This is a real problem. For a long time, agriculture was portrayed as an activity of the poor and rural people. However, through apprenticeship visits, practical training in agribusiness and visiting models, Ypard Rdc manages to attract young people in this sector long abandoned. The whole model shown is copied from the West. Yet it is a difficult context to replicate in Africa. Young Africans must learn from their African peers.

But also, policies do not accompany young Africans and Congolese to succeed in agriculture. This creates a fracture. Finally, there are no employment policies for rural youth and those working in agriculture.

## Alfred Adjabeng, Reach Out to Future Leaders Movement, Ghana

I am Alfred Godwin Adjabeng, founder and executive director of Reach Out to Future Leaders Movement, a youth-led non-profit start-up in Ho, Ghana, West Africa.

Our organization’s flagship project School Farms, empowers local community schools to be food secured by helping them grow their own food, through community-driven farms whilst using the same space to gain skills in agriculture through our Agriculture Skills Development Program for Rural Young People (ASDPYP). Since 2014, we have piloted our project in the Northern, Upper West and Volta regions of Ghana, in four (4) schools and have served close to 20000 students.

Rural schools in Ghana are increasingly faced with the challenge of funding school meals due to limited government support, the rise in food cost and market failures. This challenge is affecting school attendance, retention and active teaching and learning activities in schools.

Also, despite the huge arable land in rural areas coupled with the opportunities that the agriculture sector presents in these areas, rural young people continue to migrate to urban areas in pursuit of ‘unexisting’ jobs. Rural young people are the future of food security, yet around the world, few young people see a future for themselves in agriculture or rural areas.

School Farms program recognize the link between education, nutrition and skill development and we are improving access to all. School Farms is a rural community-based school feeding support program that empowers local community schools to grow their own food whilst creating a space to help students gain practical skills and explore opportunities in Agriculture.

Our Agriculture Skills Development Program for Rural Young People empowers rural young people for local agriculture development through our Agro Mentoring, Best Student Farmers and Agriculture Skills Development Handbook initiatives. We are mainstreaming rural young people in agriculture.  According to Ghana's Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the average age of a farmer in Ghana is 55. This is a threat to the future of food security.

In our four years of working with rural young people, we have recognised that until we empower rural young people to add value to agriculture produce, connect them to the urban market, help them adopt sustainable agriculture technologies and increase access to capital, we may be underestimating their potential of promoting local agriculture development. Our school farms program is empowering more rural young people to desire for themselves a career in agriculture.

See the attachment below

[Schoolfarms\_Flyer.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/discussions/contributions/Schoolfarms_Flyer.pdf)

## Aimé Kazika, YPARD DRC, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Original comment in French

Solutions pour les jeunes :

Sur base de l’analyse faite dans mon premier exposé, ici. J’abordé la question des leçons tirées. Solutions innovantes.

1. Leçons tirées

* les jeunes constituent la force motrice dans l’agriculture car ils sont 70% de la main d’ouvre,
* les jeunes peuvent s’engager dans l’agriculture si on leur presente un modèle agricole sexy (concept agriculture sexy) pour attirer les jeunes. Ypard rdc est un modelé et attiré plus de jeunes. 3 jeunes en juillet 2016, 95 jeunes en juillet 2016 et plus de 450 en lignes.
* les jeunes africains peuvent tripler le rendement si on leur accompagnent en formations pratiques à travers des visites ou voyages  d’echanges, et appuyer en fonds de démarrage
* les jeunes peuvent apprendre de leurs pairs africains et devenir des modèles
* intégrer l’usage de web2.0' pour renforcer la coopération et collaboration participative

Solutions:

* cartographier les jeunes amoureux de la terre;
* reformuler le programme universitaire d’agronomie
* renforcer les compétences managériales (soft skills) pour ceux ayant fini les études
* augmenter le budget de l’agriculture et intégrer les jeunes dans le programme agricole

See: [YPARD RDC: Rapport annuel 2017](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/discussions/contributions/rapport%20ypard%20drc%202017.pdf)

2. Success stories.

A) Climate Smart Agriculture: Building community résilience.

Ce projet est une histoire de succès pour les jeunes congolais dans ce sens, il a été récompensé par la Ministre française de l’environnement et de la mer en.2016 parmi les 100 meilleurs projets ou idées dans le cadre du concours  a vote.

En bref:

The CSA Batéké project is a project manage by Young Professionals for Agricultural Development ( Ypard ) in Democratic Republic of Congo ( DRC). It's focused on community resilience, must reach 75 farmers or households with goals to experiment, identify the risks due to the effects of climate change in optic to fight poverty. The Project has to support 50 young in entrepreneurship and in using of modern ICT technologies and drones UVAs for small areas for field data collection and decision making using UAVs, high-definition satellite images, and data collected in a participatory manner from operators’ smart phones. These data can then be combined with traditional assessment methods, enabling officials to speed up the assessment of harvest damage and to estimate yields more accurately. It will also enable farmers living in low-density areas and/or in shortage rainfall to map their crops in order to use precise fertilizer, water and crop protection products and consequently, a better estimate of yields and favourable times to harvest. Finally, Young must revolution agriculture and agriculture helps Young to fight and reduce poverty by training, learning and accessing on knowledge.

B) Cassava project d Eden.Clients, membre de Ypard drc and Country Représentative of Yes green drc. Le présent projet sera installé en R D Congo dans la vile province de Kinshasa, district de Lukunga, Commune de Mont-Ngafula.

Description du projet

Le projet « Cassava project »  est une idée d’entreprise d’une unité de transformation de feuilles de manioc émincées «  SAKA-Nutris ». Le projet consiste à mettre la disposition des consommateurs  des feuilles de manioc, des feuilles de manioc émincées, épicées et fortifiées à l’état frais prêt à préparer.

La capacité de production de l’unité de transformation sera de 130 Kg par jour. Nous envisageons produire 40,56 tonnes au cours de la première année, puis augmenter progressivement dans les années avenirs.

Objectif général

Contribuer à l’éradication de la faim et à la sécurité alimentaire en République de Démocratique du Congo.

Objectifs spécifiques

Mettre sur le marché de Kinshasa et le marché extérieur des feuilles de manioc fraiches émincées et sèches à haute valeur gustative et nutritive ;

Donner une valeur ajoutée aux feuilles de manioc ;

Promouvoir la filière de transformation des feuilles de manioc émincées et sèches.

Impacts du projet

* 3380 ménages atteints mensuellement, soit 40 560 annuellement diversifient leur alimentaire grâce au saka-nutris ;
* Valorisation de la filière manioc.
* Contribution à la création d’emplois ;
* Bénéficiaires directs et indirects
* Les consommateurs de SAKA feuilles ;
* Les producteurs de manioc des communes perurbaines ;
* Les travailleurs de l’unité de fabrication ;
* L’Etat congolais à  travers les impôts et taxes ;
* La banque et l’assurance ;
* Les revendeurs des produits saka-nutiris.

3. Questions aux experts

En matière d’emploi des jeunes:

1. On assiste à un copié collé africain sur l’engouement africain en matière d’entrepreneuriat des jeunes. Pensez vous que les jeunes africains doivent suivre le même modèle entrepreneurial pour sortir de la pauvreté?
2. Pensez vous que la formation universitaire actuelle est en adéquation avec les besoins de jeunes sinon que faut il faire?
3. Pensez vous que la pauvreté de l’Afrique est une cause de la pauvreté des jeunes? Et l’agriculture à lui seule peut sortir le jeune de la pauvreté dans le changement structurel profond?

En matière de politique:

1. On dit que la politique et le politique impactent la vie sociale, ne pensez vs pas qu'il faut changer le politique et la politique au niveau de l’Afrique pour changer la donne?
2. Le Rwanda est devenu un modèle géostratégique...En matière des assises internationale. Ne pensez vs pas que la crise du leadership africain au sommet met en péril les efforts des jeunes?

English translation

Solutions for young people:

Based on the analysis made in my first presentation, I address the issue of lessons learned.. Innovative solutions.

1. Lessons learned

* Young people are the driving force in agriculture because they account for 70% of the workforce
* Young people can get involved in agriculture if they are offered a sexy agricultural model (sexy agriculture concept) to attract young people. Ypard rdc is a model and attracted more young people: 3 young people in July 2016, 95 young people in July 2016 and more than 450 online
* young Africans can triple the return if they are given practical training through visits or exchange trips, and support with start-up funds
* young people can learn from their African peers and become role models
* integrating the use of web2.0' to strengthen cooperation and participative collaboration

Solutions:

* to map the young people who love the land;
* to reformulate the university agronomy program
* to strengthen managerial skills (soft skills) for those who have completed their studies
* to increase the agricultural budget and integrate young people into the agricultural programme

2 Success stories.

A. Climate Smart Agriculture: Building community resilience.

This project is a success story for young Congolese. in this regard, it was awarded by the French Minister of the Environment and the Sea in 2016 among the 100 best projects or ideas in a voting contest. In short, The CSA Batéké project is a project managed by Young Professionals for Agricultural Development ( Ypard) in the Democratic Republic of Congo ("DRC").

In brief:

The CSA Batéké project is a project manage by Young Professionals for Agricultural Development ( Ypard ) in Democratic Republic of Congo ( DRC). It's focused on community resilience, must reach 75 farmers or households with goals to experiment, identify the risks due to the effects of climate change in optic to fight poverty. The Project has to support 50 young in entrepreneurship and in using of modern ICT technologies and drones UVAs for small areas for field data collection and decision making using UAVs, high-definition satellite images, and data collected in a participatory manner from operators’ smart phones. These data can then be combined with traditional assessment methods, enabling officials to speed up the assessment of harvest damage and to estimate yields more accurately. It will also enable farmers living in low-density areas and/or in shortage rainfall to map their crops in order to use precise fertilizer, water and crop protection products and consequently, a better estimate of yields and favourable times to harvest. Finally, Young must revolution agriculture and agriculture helps Young to fight and reduce poverty by training, learning and accessing on knowledge.

Project Description

The "Cassava project" is a business idea of the SAKA-Nutris cassava leaf processing unit. The project consists in providing consumers with fresh cassava leaves, minced, spiced and fortified cassava leaves ready for cooking.

The production capacity of the processing unit will be 130 Kg per day. We plan to produce 40.56 tons in the first year, then gradually increase in the future years.

General objective

To contribute to the eradication of hunger and to food security in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Specific objectives

To provide the Kinshasa market and the external market with fresh sliced and dried cassava leaves with high gustative and nutritional value;

Adding value to cassava leaves;

To promote the processing of sliced and dried cassava leaves.

Project Impacts

* 3380 households reached monthly, that is 40, 560 annually are diversifying their food thanks to saka-nutris
* Enhancement of the cassava sector
* Contribution to job creation
* Direct and indirect beneficiaries
* Consumers of SAKA sheets
* Cassava producers in perurban communes
* The workers of the manufacturing unit
* The Congolese State through taxes and duties ;
* Banking and insurance
* Dealers of saka-nutiris products.

3. Questions for experts

With regard to youth employment:

A. We are witnessing an African copy-paste in the African enthusiasm for youth entrepreneurship. Do you think that young Africans should follow the same entrepreneurial model to get out of poverty?

B. Do you think that the current university training is in line with the needs of young people? If not, what should be done?

C. Do you think that poverty in Africa is a causal factor of youth poverty? And agriculture alone can lift young people out of poverty in profound structural change?

In the political arena:

A. It is said that policy and politics impact social life, don't you think that it is necessary to change policies and politics at the level of Africa to change the deal?

B. Rwanda has become a geostrategic model...In terms of international foundations. Don't you think that the crisis of African leadership at the summit is jeopardizing the efforts of young people?

## Prosper Niyonkuru, Burundi

Dear all,

I can share my experience with how I started to get involved in farming.

Since my childhood, I was very interested in farming for  small animals like chickens and goats so that I complete my parents for my needs like paying schools fees .However, my parents and neighbours discourage me and say that the only way to get to success is going to school  being  graduated and find a job. I agree with them but after my graduation at university, to find a job was not easy for me.

The only way to come out of the situation was turning back to the fatherland and starting to farm. However the challenge we the youth have nowadays is that we hurry up to get money whereas farming requires endurance (to be patient and persistent).

Actually I’m dealing with hen farming and start expending the production of eggs.so, neighbours, friends and relatives especially youth begin little by little to be inspired and changing their mind.

Question to the Experts

What advice would you give to youth, parents, neighbours and relatives who despise getting involved in farming, demonize the farming sector?

What should the governments do for the youth who are engaged in farming sector?

## Jean Pierre Gasana, Rwanda

Dear all,

I am GASANA Jean Pierre from Rwanda the host of conference, greetings to the members and facilitators.

1. Experience in agriculture

Since I was in high schools, I used to help my family in banana production, but it was so tradition and poor. And this created the curiosity in me and asked myself why? After high schools, I studied soil sciences at University of Rwanda College of Agriculture Animal science, and Veterinary Medicine and I improved my family banana production by teach them how to use the Organic amendment and chemical fertilizers, and now the production Improved.

2. Success in Agriculture

I have struggled to overcome the poor banana production which was too poor by start using amendments and fertilizers and the production improved, the eastern province of Rwanda have a hot climate but I have mulched and the production improved.

3. Questions to expert

How Rwanda and Africa in general can overcome to relay on rainfed agriculture?

How the soil of the tropical region can be conserved against the high rain?

Thank you.

## Mkulima Online, Mkulima Online, Kenya

Two challenges facing new farmers:

• Capital to buy inputs, equipment and infrastructure. E.g poultry house construction and capital to buy feeds. E.g capital to buy dairy cow and feeds management.

• Market sourcing a market will be a challenge for new farmers but in time and with resilience one gets to know way through. Alternative online [market platforms](https://mkulima.online/) come in handy.

[Due to a lack of storage and market options, most smallholder farmers will sell their produce at harvest, when prices are at their lowest](https://agra.org/how-stronger-market-access-is-helping-farmers-in-kenya/)

Crop production and livestock management can be learned and the diligent learner will be successful. Disease control and vaccinations need disciplined and timely.

## Houéfa Adido, Blessings Valley, Benin

Original comment in French

Houéfa Flora ADIDO est mon nom. Je suis juriste spécialisée en droit financier et droit bancaire, et passionnée du manger sain d'où la création de mon entreprise Blessings Valley spécialisée en conception et livraison de paniers de légumes et fruits issus de l'agriculture agro-écologique et en fruit carving qui est une nouvelle discipline en Afrique. Nous faisons de la sculpture sur fruits et légumes pour des plateaux et montages de fruits et légumes à prendre en famille ou au cours des événements.

Bonjour à tous et à toutes!! Je suis bilingue mais je préfère m'exprimer en français ici.

1- Expérience en tant que jeune dans le secteur agricole

Avec la maladie de ma mère quand j'étais au cours primaire et les explications du médecin sur la nécessité de manger sain, j'ai été marquée par l'importance de l'agriculture agro-écologique sur la vie des populations. Cela s'est donc fait naturellement quand j'ai voulu créer mon entreprise, je me suis orientée vers l'agro-business. Il s'agit de mettre à la disposition des ménages béninois des fruits et légumes issus de l'agro-écologie. N'ayant pas encore la norme bio au Bénin, avec les producteurs locaux, nous travaillons à cultiver des fruits et légumes de qualité sans engrais chimique et sans pesticides. Nous utilisons ces fruits au sein de Blessings Valley pour faire des coffrets aux ménages et surtout pour faire du fruit carving. Nous sensibilisons aussi la population et offrons des formations sur les méthodes alternatives de cuisson des aliments (sans cube et sans tomate en boîte) afin de garder une meilleure santé. Autrement dit, en maîtrisant la production de nos fruits et légumes, nous protégeons nos clients.

2- Principales réalisations et histoires de réussite

Aujourd'hui, nous avons de plus en plus de personnes qui s'interessent au manger sain. Au début, avant même l'entegistrement de l'entreprise, beaucoup de personnes nous ont découragés sur l'aboutissement de ce projet. Pour la plupart, aucun béninois n'accepterait dépenser un peu plus que ce qu'il ne paie d'habitude pour acheter des légumes et fruits cultivés par nos partenaires et travaillés par nos soins. Aussi, pour le carving, personne ne paierait pour cet art. Aujourd'hui, nous accroissons de plus en plus notre visibilité et nous sposorisons les actions eco-citoyennes (exemple de #ecorunning2) organisées dans notre pays. Mieux, il existe actuellement une pléthore de concurrents dans la production et la livraison de légumes et fruits issus de l'agro-écologie. C'est l'exemple du Centre Songhaï au Bénin qui nous a encouragés et permis d'avancer.

3- Questions que la conférence de la jeunesse rwandaise devrait aborder

a- Comment reconditionner les jeunes africains à l'entreprenariat agricole et non aux emplois salariés? Il s'agit ici de permettre aux jeunes de comprendre qu'ils sont la solution à leur continent. Identifier le problème et trouver une solution de qualité. Pour cela, il faut un reconditionnement. Est ce le système éducatif qu'il faille changer ou...?

b- Comment vulgariser les innovations dans le domaine agricole au sein de tous les pays africains et les rendre accessible aux jeunes entrepreneurs?

c- Comment moderniser l'agriculture en Afrique tout en préservant la santé des populations? Une chose est de moderniser l'agriculture, une autre est de mettre en place des pratiques qui protègent la santé des populations.

English translation

Houéfa Flora ADIDO is my name. I am a lawyer specialized in financial and banking law, and passionate about healthy eating, hence the creation of my company Blessings Valley specializing in the design and delivery of vegetable and fruit baskets from agro-ecological agriculture and fruit carving which is a new discipline in Africa. We carve fruit and vegetables for trays and fruit and vegetable arrangements to take with the family or during events.

Hello to all!! I am bilingual but I prefer to speak French here.

1- Experience as a young person in the agricultural sector

With my mother's illness when I was in primary school and the doctor's explanations about the need to eat healthy, I was marked by the importance of agro-ecological agriculture on people's lives. So it happened naturally when I wanted to create my company, I turned towards agro-business. The aim is to make fruit and vegetables from agro-ecology available to Beninese households. Since we do not yet have the organic standard in Benin, we work with local producers to grow quality fruit and vegetables without chemical fertilizers or pesticides. We use these fruits within Blessings Valley to make boxes for households and especially to make fruit carving. We also raise public awareness and offer training on alternative methods of cooking food (without stock cube and tomato cans) to maintain better health. In other words, by controlling the production of our fruits and vegetables, we protect our customers.

2- Main achievements and success stories

Today, more and more people are interested in healthy eating. At the beginning, even before the company was registered, many people discouraged us about the success of this project. Most Beninese would not spend a little more than they usually pay to buy vegetables and fruit grown by our partners and worked by us. Also, for the carving, no one would pay for this art. Today, our visibility is increasing and we are proposing eco-citizen actions (example of #ecorunning2) organized in our country. Better still, there is currently a plethora of competitors in the production and delivery of vegetables and fruit from agro-ecology. It was the example of the Songhaï Centre in Benin that encouraged us and enabled us to move forward.

3- Issues that the Rwandan Youth Conference should address

a- How can young Africans be re-skilled for agricultural entrepreneurship and not for wage employment? The aim here is to enable young people to understand that they are the solution to their continent. Identifying the problem and finding a good solution. This requires reconditioning. Is it the education system that needs to be changed or...?

b- How to popularize agricultural innovations in all African countries and make them accessible to young entrepreneurs?

c- How to modernize agriculture in Africa while preserving the health of populations? One thing is to modernize agriculture, another is to put in place practices to protect the health of populations.

## Adebayo Depo, Togo

Original comment in French

**1.** En tant que jeune et malgré notre formation en Agronomie, nous sommes aussi confrontés aux mêmes situations et difficultés que les autres. Les erreurs et les problèmes de débutants ont été les mêmes. Le manque de ressources financières et la non disponibilité de la ressource humaine étaient aussi au rendez-vous. Pour moi il s'agit de commencer pas à pas avant de passer à emblaver une grande superficie.

Nous sommes engagés parce que nous croyons aux potentiels de la terre, et dans un contexte de précarité et d'insécurité alimentaire dans lesquels nos pays sont plongés. Le secteur agricole alors devient une solution ultime pour nous relever

**2.** Pour la réalisation nous avions mis en place une plateforme web d'analyse de données pour l'Afrique qui fait actuellement son bout de chemin. (agribusinessdata.com)

Au Bénin, nous avons vu le groupe Rioko qui regroupe plusieurs jeunes et entrepreneurs qui produisent et commercialisent la viande de lapin. Malgré les difficultés ils arrivent à satisfaire la clientèle et aussi à vouloir se réaffirmer à l'international.

**3.** A1. Comment pensez vous que les jeunes doivent faire face aux problèmes de financement agricole?

A2. On nous parle chaque fois de projet innovant, alors que de simple producteurs de volaille et autres n'arrivent pas à desservir à eux seuls leurs communautés, alors qu'on nous demande de projets innovant avant d'être financer. Que faire face à cette situation?

B1. Concernant les médias en ligne du domaine agricole, quel business model devons nous adopter pour survivre?

B2. Le problème d'acquisition de smart phone et mieux encore de connexion internet ne rendent pas difficile l'accès aux innovations numériques à certaines couches?

C1. Selon eux pourquoi malgré tous les efforts de la communauté internationale, des pays et surtout des jeunes, l'Afrique ne d'école toujours pas dans le secteur agricole.

C2. N'est il pas important d'incorporer les cours de développement durable et agricole ainsi que l'entrepreneuriat dans les plus petites classes depuis les cours primaires?

English translation

1. As a young person and despite our training in Agronomy, we are also faced with the same situations and difficulties as others, with the same mistakes and problems as beginners. The lack of financial resources and the non-availability of human resources were also present. In my opinion, this means starting step by step before moving on to a large area.

We are committed, because we believe in the potential of the land, and in a context of precariousness and food insecurity in which our countries are plunged. The agricultural sector then becomes the ultimate solution to lift us up.

2. For the implementation we had set up a web platform for data analysis for Africa that is currently making its way. (agribusinessdata.com)

In Benin, we have the Rioko group which brings together several young people and entrepreneurs who produce and market rabbit meat. In spite of the difficulties, they manage to satisfy their customers and also to reaffirm their international presence.

3. A1. How do you think young people should deal with agricultural financing problems?

A2. We often hear about innovative projects, when simple poultry producers and others cannot alone serve their communities, while we are being asked for innovative projects before being funded. What to do about this situation?

B1. Regarding online agricultural media, what business model do we need to adopt to survive?

B2. The acquisition problem of smartphones and even better, of internet connection do not hinder access to digital innovations at certain layers?

C1. Despite all the efforts of the international community, countries and especially young people, Africa is still not taking off in the agricultural sector.

C2. Isn't it important to incorporate sustainability and agricultural development courses as well as entrepreneurship since primary school for lower classes?

## Ednah Karamagi, AVAP, Uganda

I believe I am not a youth but I respond to the questions basing on my vast relationship with youths ... what I see and what I hear them say...

How would you describe your experience as an Africa youth engaged in the agriculture sector in your country? What motivated you to engage into the agriculture sector?

Youth are reluctant to engage in agriculture. This is because it needs patience, innovation, hard work and a lot more. The city life has bigger attractions to the youth of today. Technology growth, using social media and more is more exciting in the cities than rural areas. Even jobs...one gets a pay at the end of a job or month in relation to waiting for four months to get an earning. Agriculture is a lot more than any other job. It calls for passion, interest, patience, innovation, name it. That said, youth that engage in agriculture are often successful.

What have been your major achievements? Do you have any experience or innovative ways that have helped you in your work that you would want to share? Do you have a success story – either your own or any other that you are aware of - of youth engaged in agriculture in your country? What is the story?

My major achievements in working with the youth is enticing them back to agriculture. There those that have actually settled back to the rural settings. Those in the city, I encourage them to practise urban farming and with time, start investing back in the rural areas either by buying farm land or hiring farm land. I walk along with them in showing them how to reap maximally from the land, starting from doing your financial forecasts, research of the targeted crop to plant and markets and more, even before you break the ground. It’s amazing how they adhere. But to me that makes me happy because they are achieving their city life at the same time farming. We need the youth in farming because they are the farmers of tomorrow.

Yes I have some success stories: Mathias. He lived with his uncle and was often attracted to the computers at our office in Mayuge district. One day I noticed that he was at the computers instead of school, and when I asked, he said that it was due to school fees. As an institution we took on this challenge of his and he obtained a certificate in business administration at a prestigious university in Kampala. When he completed, he was totally drawn to the city life and was looking for a job there. To me, it meant that we were losing yet another farmer to the city life. I enticed him back by giving him a volunteer job at the office, a post he held and upgraded to project office. Today, he manages his own youth farmer’s network in rural mayuge. It has spread to I think four districts in the east. They produce honey, make candles, shampoo, and other products. I am very proud of him and many others that I have pulled back to till the land.

If given an opportunity, what question would you ask the experts at the Rwanda Youth conference on each of the three sub-themes – a). Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship, b). Digital Innovation to Overcome Agriculture Value-Chain Constraints, and c). Future of Work in Rural Economy - of the conference?

a). Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship

How are you repackaging farming to make it more enticing to the youth?

b). Digital Innovation to Overcome Agriculture Value-Chain Constraints

The youth are attracted to digital innovations, and fast tracking ones. Is there any way you are using these to get the youth in rural areas involved as well?

c). Future of Work in Rural Economy ?

There is a huge gap between the rural and urban and especially in regards to farming. What initiatives have been taken to reduce this divide? And especially the ones that make the youth more convinced to stay in the rural areas and till the land?

## Baboucarr Kebbeh, Gambia Youth Chamber of Commerce, Gambia

I came from the Gambia, where more 60% of our population is young people, and Agriculture is leading employer and contributor of our GMDP ( 20-25), However the youth unemployment rate has gone to 38% and youth are not been very interested in the sector. This sector is predominant dominated by women.

In my view and from experience, African Governments, FAO and other partners must invest more in Agriculture, and we must finds ways to make Agriculture SEXY, attractive to youth of our African continent.

Our government have not yet leverage on the youth population of our continent, and this has end to many of our youth losing focus and hope in our leaders.

In my Country, I have led the establishment of first ever Youth Chamber of Commerce in 2016, now has a registered membership of over 200 youth enterprises. We are currently implementing a four year project under the EU and has 7 partner organisation working with Youth in business.

## Alhassan Sesay, Sierra Leone School Green Club (SLSGC), Sierra Leone

We have been in agribusiness in Sierra Leone for over three years in which we grow vegetable, groundnut, Moringa etc. and we are still facing challenges. Low yield of harvest because of limited resources to expand our farming system.

The challenges we are facing as youth in Africa involve in agriculture are numerous and some of them are:

* Access to loan
* Capacity building on agriculture related programs
* Trust from people you are working with
* Access to information on risk management

Alhassan Sesay

## Justin Chisenga, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Italy

Dear All,

Thank you to you all for sharing your stories (and stories of youth that you know) in agriculture and for highlighting the issues/questions that you would what to be considered/addressed at the Rwanda Youth Conference.

I want to hear more about major achievements and success stories by youth in your countries. Here is a question that I have re-phrased to elicit more information:

Do you have (or are you aware of any) youth role models in agriculture in your countries? Who are they? What have they done or are doing to serve as role models to other youth who want to engage in agriculture?

Based on the contributions of the following colleagues, I have questions for them:

**Fredrick O Ogutu (Kenya)** **[contribution 22, Ed.]**: you indicated that your organization has have many successful businesses (by youth that you have trained) in peanut, spices, fruits and vegetables etc. Can you elaborate on one of the success stories or possibly request the youth that you have trained to share their story?

**Mamadou Djemory Diabate (Côte d'Ivoire) [contribution 20, Ed.]:** are you aware of any youth that have graduated from your school or college who have continued in agriculture? Any success stories, in agriculture, among your graduates?

**Aklilu Nigussie (Ethiopia)** **[contribution 18, Ed.]**: are you aware of youth in agriculture that have adopted any of the technologies that you and your colleagues have developed at the Ethiopian Institutes of Agricultural Research? If yes, would say that they are doing well in their work?

**Lazarous Ng`ambi (Zambia) [contribution 16, Ed.]** you say that you want to go into agriculture. What are you currently involved in or doing? Specifically, what do you want to focus on in agriculture?

**Makhosi Mahlangu (Italy) [contribution 14, Ed.]:** you have a very good initiative in place. Are you also planning to engage other youth, especially those in agriculture, in Africa in your activities to also empower them?

**Chonyui Duna (Cameroon) [contribution 9, Ed.]:** based on your experience in agriculture, what would you want the Rwanda Youth Conference to do that would help you and other youth to achieve your/their greatest wish?

**Ernestine Umuhoza (Rwanda) [contribution 5, Ed.]:** in your view, how should youth in Africa be involved in agriculture?

**Baboucarr Kebbeh (Gambia) [contribution 32, Ed.]:** out of the over 200 youth enterprises that are members of the Youth Chamber of Commerce, how many (or percentage) would you say are associated with agriculture?

Regards,

Justin Chisenga

Lead Facilitator

## Celestin Gashayija, Community Integrated Polytechnic, Rwanda

Youth is the Engine in Agriculture as solid solution ending Poverty because youths are energetic, they can produce big quantity of yields and they can cover a big scope hence productivity.

Youths can practice Agriculture activities in the day time and evening time hence high productivity.

Youth can run across the world the practicing Agriculture activities, crop production is the key  for youth to ending poverty.

## Bienvu Polepole, Youth Forward Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo

My recent three years’ experience in the food security industry within the unstable region of eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo through the agro pastoral production has let me understand how sustainable food security in my country is more of youth implication. Although a multitude of Nongovernmental Organization and development Cooperation agencies pretend to bring their response by throwing money and technology to local uneducated farmers, the big gap still have to be covered in terms of how those with enough physical and intellectual capacity, the youth, need to be mentored, get involved, learn and teach each other from their experience, create distribution canals, enhance cooperation and build a sustainable food secure economy. This is the great question I want to address in my country knowing that, with a statistics of Youth approximated to 54%, it is far more an asset than a threat and the policies for food security and nutrition should go in that direction. From my humble participation, I cofounded the Youth Forward Congo Organization gathering youth for agro business promotion in eastern Congo since one year and a half and realize that the very big percent of the youth didn’t undertake any action yet, some who take actions don’t have enough capabilities or mentorship and also those who are supposed to help do it with disinterest or in a disoriented manner (not addressing the real challenge).

Q/ In an environment of cultural diversity and post-conflict, where agriculture is considered a vulnerable and poor people's profession. What can be done to awaken the agricultural entrepreneurial spirit within the youth?

## Justin Loga Zrango, Search Liberia, Liberia

Dear All,

I am Justin from Liberia, I have been very supportive and always eager in the development and the sustainability of my country through agricultural activities and investment as a way forward to durable solution in ending hunger and poverty.

1. My experience as youth in the agriculture sector:

I have realized that the farming age of my country, that is the age group of the farmers, as well as agriculturists in Liberia lies greatly between 40 - 65 or 70 yrs., Which means the youths are not really engage into agriculture And the agriculture sector here is in a dying or falling age or status and in this case there is no vigorous development and continuity in the growth and development of this sector.     The few youths who have realized their potential for the agriculture sector have been striving to thrive this sector, but have not been provided with the opportunity and responsibility (employment) to explore their ideas or abilities into this sector.

Secondly the farming population of my country here lack of entrepreneurial spirit and as the result agriculture has not yet Been realized as a business or trade on occupation making the sector nonindustrial or non beneficent to the social economic livelihood of the country, besides youth empowerment or opportunity through agriculture is also stalled as the effect of that.

Knowing that agriculture is the concrete way to better life and the status of my Country agriculture sector prompted me to go into agriculture to serve as role model and mobilizer to the growth and development of the sector.

2. My major achievements and success stories:

My major achievement is that, as a young boy who was born in an agrarian family and realized that agriculture is the only way to Peaceful and sustainable Life, and envisage to invest in agriculture by manoeuvring to study agriculture and today I have degree and experiences in agriculture which have now given me the opportunities to achieve my vision or Goal for agriculture by positively impacting my society.

3. What the Rwanda Youth Conference should Address:

The Conference should address Youth Capacity Building especially on Best Management Practice (BMP) and using their ability and potential in the sustainability, growth and development of the agriculture sector with the objective of exposing them to Opportunities (employment) and ending hunger and  poverty in Africa through sustainable agriculture.

## K. Philippe Akpaki, Dedras, Benin

Original comment in French

Ma Contribution à la consultation virtuelle

1. Expérience en tant que jeune dans le secteur agricole

Mon expérience en tant que jeune Africain impliqué dans le secteur agricole de mon pays est une riche expérience qui peut être décrit à trois (03) niveaux.

* Issu de parents agriculteurs

Très jeune, j’ai été impliqué dans le secteur agricole grâce à mes parents qui étaient des paysans. Nous avions une vaste plantation où l’on cultive diverses variétés de cultures. Les Week-ends et certains après-midi, nous allions aider nos parents dans les activités champêtres.

* Conseiller des groupements et coopératives de producteurs agricoles

Après mes études universitaires, j’ai commencé à travailler dans une organisation d’appui aux producteurs. J’étais chargé de l’accompagnement des groupements et coopératives de producteurs pour le développement de leur activité. Travailler dans le monde rural et surtout agricole m’a donné une véritable passion de contribuer à lutter contre la pauvreté dans ce secteur. Cela m’a donné l’opportunité de réfléchir aux problèmes rencontrés par les acteurs du secteur agricole et de participer à la conception des solutions et approches pour l’amélioration de la compétitivité du secteur et des conditions de vies des acteurs.

* Acteur de promotion des jeunes dans l’agrobusiness

Le troisième niveau de mon expérience en tant que jeune Africain impliqué dans le secteur agricole a été en tant qu’acteur de promotion des jeunes dans l’agriculture. Au regard des nombreuses potentialités que présentes le secteur agricole pour résorber le problème de chômage des jeunes et aussi pour booster ce secteur, j’ai travaillé à motiver les jeunes à s’intéresser à ce domaine. A travers les conférences, les communications sur les filières porteuses, les visites et la facilitation de l’accès aux services (technique et financiers), plusieurs jeunes aujourd’hui ont un avenir prometteur dans ce secteur. Par la même occasion, j’ai lancé mon projet personnel à travers la mise en place d’une exploitation pour donner l’exemple à d’autres jeunes.

Deux raisons m’ont conduit à m’engager dans le secteur agricole ; la première a été mes parents que j’aidais dans les activités champêtres. Cela m’a permis d’appréhender les difficultés rencontrées dans le secteur et de découvrir les nombreuses opportunités qu’on pouvait saisir. Au fil des années, j’ai appris à regarder et à voir autrement le secteur agricole. La deuxième raison est la passion que j’ai développée pour ce secteur au fil des ans et pour exploiter tout le potentiel que présente ce secteur en termes d’opportunités. Pour moi, le secteur agricole est devenu le domaine où l’on peut travailler et gagner décemment sa vie. Comme dans les autres domaines où l’on enregistre des milliardaires, on peut aussi devenir milliardaire dans le secteur agricole.

2. Principales réalisations et histoires de réussite

A ce jour, j’ai pu capitaliser cinq (05) principales réalisations que sont :

* Avoir accompagné au moins 10 coopératives et groupements de producteurs de plus de 300 membres sur la gestion de leur exploitation agricole.
* Avoir facilité l’accès au financement d’au moins 100 producteurs sur la filière ananas et anacarde
* Avoir accompagné la commercialisation des produits agricoles par la mise en place de mécanisme innovant de multi-acteurs. L’assurance d’un marché d’écoulement des produits facilite l’accès des producteurs aux services techniques et financiers.
* Avoir conseillé des jeunes entrepreneurs agricoles à mieux structurer et développer leur micro entreprise agricole et sensibiliser plus d’un millier de jeunes sur les opportunités du secteur agricole.
* Avoir lancé ma startup dénommé BioAgri Bénin qui promeut l’agriculture durable, respectueuse de l’environnement et résiliente aux changements climatiques.

Des exemples de réussite de jeunes impliqués dans le secteur agricole dans mon pays, il y en a beaucoup dont j’en suis un. Il s’agit des jeunes innovateurs qui proposent des technologies pour améliorer les activités de production et de transformation, des jeunes entrepreneurs qui proposent des produits transformés innovants et des jeunes qui développement des approches et stratégies pour le développement du secteur agricole.

3. Questions que la Conférence de la jeunesse rwandaise devrait aborder

a) Emploi des jeunes et entreprenariat

* Quel est le potentiel de création d’emplois pour les jeunes dans le secteur agricole en Afrique ?
* L’entrepreneuriat est-il la seule solution ou la meilleure solution pour booster l’emploi des jeunes ?
* La façon dont l’entrepreneuriat est promu de nos jours permettra-t-elle de résorber le problème de chômage des jeunes ?
* Pourquoi malgré les opportunités que présente le secteur agricole, l’emploi des jeunes est toujours une problématique ?
* Pour que l’emploi des jeunes dans l’agriculture met fin à la faim et à la pauvreté, quels sont les grandes décisions à prendre à cet effet ?

b). Innovation numérique pour surmonter les contraintes associées aux filières agricoles

* Quels sont les outils numériques déjà disponibles pour surmonter les contraintes associées aux filières agricoles ?
* Et quel mécanisme peut être mis en place pour promouvoir et rendre accessibles les innovations numériques ?

c). Avenir du travail agricole ?

* Au regard de l’évolution de la technologie et des changements climatiques, quel sera l’avenir du travail agricole dans les 10 prochaines années à venir ?
* Quelles sont les solutions à mettre en place pour se préparer à ce changement (avenir) ?

See the attachment below

[Contribution AKPAKI\_Consultation virtuelle\_Youth Employment in Agriculture.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/discussions/contributions/Contribution%20AKPAKI_Consultation%20virtuelle_Youth%20Employment%20in%20Agriculture.pdf)

English translation

My contribution to the online consultation

1. Experience as a youth in the agricultural sector

My experience as a young African involved in my country´s agricultural sector is a valuable experience which can be described at three levels.

* Born of farmer parents

From an early age, I have been involved in the agricultural sector thanks to my parents who were farmers. We had a big plantation where we cultivated different kinds of crops. At week-ends and some afternoons, we used to help our parents on the farm.

* Advisor to agricultural producers' associations and cooperatives

After my university studies, I started to work with an organization providing support to producers. I was in charge of supporting the producers' associations and cooperatives for the development of their activities. Working in the rural world and, in particular, in agriculture has given me a real passion to contribute to fight poverty in this sector. That has given me the opportunity to think about the problems faced by those working in agriculture and to participate in the creation of solutions and approaches to improve competitiveness in the sector and with farmers’ living conditions.

* Participant in the promotion of agro-business among the youth

The third level of my experience as a young African involved in the agricultural sector has been as an actor in the promotion of youth in agriculture. Regarding the many possibilities in the farming sector to absorb youth unemployment and also to boost this sector, I have worked to motivate young people to become interested in this area. Through conferences, communications through supporting networks, visits and by facilitating access to services (technical and financial), many young people today have a promising future in this sector. At the same time, I have launched my personal project by setting up a farm to give an example to other young people.

Two reasons have led me to get involved in the farming sector: the first has been my parents, whom I helped on the farm. That enabled me to learn the difficulties faced by the sector and to discover the many opportunities that one can seize. Through the years, I have learnt to observe and perceive differently the farming sector. The second reason is the passion that I have developed for this sector through the years and to make use of all the potential that the sector presents in terms of opportunities. For me, the farming sector has become the place where one could work and make a good living. As in other areas where one finds billionaires, so one could become a billionaire in the farming sector.

2. Major achievements and success stories

To this day, I have been able to register five main achievements, which are:

* To have supported at least 10 cooperatives and associations of producers and more than 300 members in the management of their farms.
* To have facilitated access to funds for at least 100 producers in the pineapple and cashew nut sector.
* To have supported the marketing of agricultural products by establishing a multi-actors innovative mechanism. The guarantee of a sales market for the products facilitates the producers' access to technical and financial services.
* To have advised young farming entrepreneurs in the improved structure and development of their farming micro-enterprise and to have raised awareness among more than a thousand young people of the opportunities in the agricultural sector.
* To have launched my startup, called BioAgri Benin, which promotes sustainable agriculture, respectful of the environment and resilient to climate changes.

Examples of success of the youth involved in the agricultural sector in my country are many, of which I am one. It is about young innovators who adopt technologies to improve production and transformation activities, young business men and women who propose innovative processed products and young people who develop approaches and strategies for the development of the agricultural sector.

3. What the Rwanda Youth Conference should address

a) Employment of youth and entrepreneurship

* What is the potential for the creation of employment for the youth in the agricultural sector in Africa?
* Is entrepreneurship the only or the best solution to boost employment among the youth?
* Will the way in which entrepreneurship is promoted today permit the reduction of the unemployment problem among the youth?
* Why is it that despite the opportunities offered by the agricultural sector, employment of the youth is still a problem?
* So that employment of the youth in agriculture may put an end to hunger and poverty, what are the main decisions to be taken?

b) Digital innovation to overcome the constraints associated with agricultural networks

* What are the digital tools already available to overcome the constraints associated with farming sectors?
* What mechanism could be established to promote digital innovations and make them accessible?

c) Future of commercial agriculture?

* In relation to the evolution of technology and climate change, what is the future of agricultural endeavor over the next 10 years?
* What are the solutions to be implemented to prepare for this change in the future?

See the attachment below

[Contribution AKPAKI\_Consultation virtuelle\_Youth Employment in Agriculture.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/discussions/contributions/Contribution%20AKPAKI_Consultation%20virtuelle_Youth%20Employment%20in%20Agriculture.pdf)

AKPAKI K. Philippe

Chargé de programme Formation et Emploi des Jeunes

DEDRAS ONG

Parakou, Bénin

## Ngaleu Yves Stephane, Enjeal Nys Agro, Cameroon

Major Achievement and success stories.

I am Yves Stephane NGALEU, from Cameroon and I work with the Cameroon government under the ministry of agriculture and rural development as agriculture chief of post, Extension worker and agriculture advisory service actor in a rural community call NKOLNTSA, based at SA’A, LEKIE, CENTER Region - Cameroon

I am a member of civil society Organisations where I work actively as volunteer to participate in the achievement of the United Nation Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). From these organisations I have achieved exceptional skills on social entrepreneurship, fundraising, etc. that permit me to work more than just a civil servant.

I would like to search my experience when I was just nominated agriculture chief of post and I was working under my sub divisional delegate who have little knowledge on social entrepreneurship, fundraising and on the SDG.

I was nominated to a post having more than 20 big villages with about 22 000 population with 6600 farmers (the largest post of the sub-division) in a rural area with little or no mobile network, thus no internet connection. The only budget that was allocated to me was for transport, no communication, no office materiel etc. the agri-post is not built so there no office. The local population of that community are fully in agriculture but they don’t consider the government agent in the field due to the fact that they were abandoned and neglected by the other chief of post. Their major needs are capacity building, farms equipment, available market and finance

The challenges I had, was to motivate the local population, build their capacity and ameliorate sustainably their farm productivity.

The beginning was not easy because there no office. I had to put in place a strategy that will permit me to touch effectively almost all the villages. I put in place a time table by village, I targeted active and non-active farms group that I started working with them. It was not easy to have most of the members during the working sessions. I then decided to innovated and organise an agriculture seminar.

To best organise this seminar I needed support from partners, from my hierarchy and the mayor. The potential partners were base in the Capital city which is about 72km² from the village, I needed communication network to raise awareness on the event I started by allocating to the capital city where I am still living up to date, I created a blog (my first blog). With some of the local population we identify the main objective of the seminar, which were presented to my hierarchy and rejected by them due to the fact that they have little or no knowledge on social entrepreneurship and fund raising, and they said there is no budget for such a seminar at their level and that I don’t have the necessary capacity to organise such an event. I then put in place an organisation group made up of the local population to carry out the project, their capacity where being reinforce on leadership, management, on event planning and follow up. We identified and contacted some partners. Some of them respond positively by providing farms equipment and input for farmer and educative material for the event. Those who contacted my hierarchy where discouraged and didn’t support us. In other to raise funds for feeding and refreshment, farmers propose a registration fee. I put two month of my salary on to support the organisation of the event.

At the end of the event, we had about 100 farmers impacted, learning materials, pesticides and farm equipment distributed to farmers.

Due to this seminar, farmers now considering me, all villages even those who did take part at the event are asking for a second edition, I now count 2 new farmers organisations, recently on June 2018, one of the groups received a donation from the regional delegate of agriculture.

Here is the link of the report <https://enjealnysagro.wordpress.com/2017/12/11/rapport-du-seminaire-du-poste-agricole-de-saa/>

This is the link for blog <https://enjealnysagro.wordpress.com/>

## Alfred Adjabeng, Reach Out to Future Leaders Movement, Ghana

Most of the times, I hear people say 'make agriculture sexy'. After working with rural young people, mostly rural young farmers, I have realised that in order to encourage more young people into agriculture we need to introduce them to sustainable agriculture tools, smart technologies, connect their farms to urban market.

Modern agriculture sustainable technology makes agriculture sexy!

## Aklilu Nigussie, Ethiopian Institutes of Agricultural Research, Ethiopia

To the question raised by Dr. Justin Chisenga (See comment 34)

Do you have youth role models in agriculture in your countries?

Yes there are but very few in number and their success of degree constrained for different homogeneous and heterogeneous factors that determine the accelerative of achievement to optimum level.

Who are they?

They are public extension or scaling out of technology users [like crop varieties-food crop and cash crop (vegetables and fruit), poultry technologies user-(layer, broilers and dual purpose birds)] in the agro-pastoral communities and mid and highland agro-ecological zones of the country.

What have they done to serve as role models to other youths who want to engage in agriculture?

There is an experience sharing type of technological scaling out system that are implemented as a model system in Ethiopian Institutes of Agricultural Research which is known as organizing farm level field day with different stakeholders participation; with this day they will share all the SWOT of technologies implemented with for food security, income generation, and livelihood. Yet; the system needs other triangulated innovative modalities to encompass many different youth.

If yes, would you say they are doing well in their work?

I could say that with few degree of reservation as there are best ways of making them so productive and efficient with different innovative modalities of agricultural technologies use.

## Mahesh Chander, Indian Veterinary Research Institute, India

Hi all,

This looks one good idea to collect success stories of youth. I have been writing about youth especially on World Youth Skills day-15th July as also on World Youth Day -12th August. I have written a number of blogs for YPARD, GFAR, GFRAS &  AESA, wherein, youth success stories have been shared. Its my pleasure to share my latest blog went online@YPARD today. In this blog, I have shared a success story of a youth whom we trained on vermi-compost making and he has turned an entrepreneur now, selling branded vermimanure. He trains other youths now skilling them on making vermicompost. On World Youth Skills day this year, we organized a small programme at his vermi-compost unit to train 25 boys from his village. Enjoy reading the blog on this experience.

Youth and social media: A leverage for agripreneurship

https://ypard.net/2018-07-31/youth-and-social-media-leverage-agripreneurship

Looking forward to hear interesting stories from across the world,

Thanks & regards,

Mahesh

Mahesh Chander, Head, Division of Extension Education,ICAR- Indian Veterianry Resarch  Institute, Izatnagar (UP) INDIA

## Mahesh Chander, Indian Veterinary Research Institute, India

I guess it would be useful, if I share here my blogs on stories of youth role models, role of Agricultural Extension and advisory services in promoting agripreneurship among rural youth.

<https://ypard.net/testimonials/extension-and-advisory-services-eas-shouldn%E2%80%99t-ignore-youth-anymore>

<https://blog.gfar.net/2017/05/24/mentoring-rural-youth-to-make-agriculture-attractive/>

<https://ypard.net/2017-june-27/young-stylish-and-addicted-growing-herbs>

<https://ypard.net/2016-july-15/15-july-it%E2%80%99s-world-youth-skills-day-today>

<https://ypard.net/2017-july-14/world-youth-skills-day-time-collective-actions>

<https://blog.gfar.net/2016/05/03/agripreneurs-the-emerging-role-models/>

<https://ypard.net/news/day-out-nikki%E2%80%99s-farm%E2%80%94-youth-agripreneur-action>

<https://ypard.net/2017-09-11/make-agriculture-%E2%80%98cool%E2%80%99-youth-8th-gfras-annual-meeting>

## Chonyui Duna, Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network, Cameroon

Question Asked by Justin Chisenga (See comment 34):

Chonyui Duna (Cameroon): based on your experience in agriculture, what would you want the Rwanda Youth Conference to do that would help you and other youth to achieve your/their greatest wish?

Answer:

I want that the Rwanda Youth Conference, should give me support be it financially and or materially that will help me expand my farm (create more space, build up new infrastructure and increase my productivity). This farm will serve as a training/ reference centre for youths who are willing to engage in the field of agriculture. All this will go a long way to reduce unemployment, hunger and poverty in Bamenda (my region) and Cameroon at large.

Thanks

## Baboucarr Kebbeh, Gambia Youth Chamber of Commerce, Gambia

Hello Justin Chisenga (See comment 34),

Follow up to the question to Further ask ''How many of 200 registered members are on Agriculture

For bearly just two years in operations, we have registered 200 enterprises (MSMEs) in Agribusiness, Tourism and ICT.

63% of these are on Agriculture (Poultry farming, Cashew farming, food process, livestock farming etc.)

May I also inform you, that Gambia Youth Chamber of Commerce will be organising the second edition of National Youth Agribusiness and tourism Expo in the Gambia in October, 2018, targeting over 200 Gambian Youth enterprises , and 75% of these participants will be those in Agriculture/ Agribusiness and 25% on Tourism and other sICT services.

We are open for partnership anytime.

## Baboucarr Kebbeh, Gambia Youth Chamber of Commerce, Gambia

The Rwanda Conference should able to address the following youth issues

1. Access to finance---FAO, AU and UN to ensure country's has Budget allocation (Youth Enterprise development fund) for youth in agriculture and Agribusiness

2. Land ownership- Access and own land for Agricultural activities to mainstream in Government development blueprints

3. Ensure good trade facilitation policies of government that will encourage export of products and services.

## Mahesh Chander, Indian Veterinary Research Institute, India

On what is expected from this conference:

We know youth are reluctant to farming, mostly because of poor returns and difficult working conditions. This happens when we are not able to infuse a business element in farming- agriprneurship, value chains, market led production etc. One may look for answers to the following questions:

1. Agriprneurship opportunities and kind of support including handholding available to take agriculture as business not just production but also processing, value addition, branding, marketing etc.

2. Success stories of young agriprneurs- who could establish themselves overcoming the hurdles on their way- role models

3. Coaching/ youth mentoring and follow-ups. Often a short duration training is imparted and they are left to their own. They don’t get opportunities to practice what they were preached.

Videos of successful young farmers could be used to spread positive image of agriculture among youth.

Youth needs to be trained, engaged, employed and retained in agriculture. Hope this conference shows the way how it can be done.

<http://www.fao.org/cfs/home/blog/blog-articles/article/en/c/1042775/>

## Guy Fleury Giramahoro, Burundi Modern Agri, Burundi

Original comment in French

Mon expérience en tant que jeune entrepreneur impliqué dans le secteur agricole peut être décrite comme cela:

J’ai commencé à entreprendre en 2013, un projet d’aviculture, avec des camarades de classe, à la fin de l’école secondaire. Le constat que nous n’allions pas trouver d’emploi après l’école et le désir d’entreprendre une activité génératrice de revenues sont les raisons principales qui nous ont poussé à réaliser un projet. L’idée d’orienter notre projet dans le secteur primaire est venue de mes camarades qui étaient déjà intéressés par l’agriculture et l’élevage. Malheureusement ce projet d’aviculture s’est soldé par un échec parce que nous n’avions pas préparé un plan d’affaire. Ce premier échec ne nous a pas découragés.

Nous avons eu accès à une formation sur l’utilisation du Web 2.0 et des medias sociaux pour le développement, dispensé par le Centre Technique de Coopération Agricole et rurale (CTA).

En 2014, nous avons entrepris un nouveau projet d’élevage de chèvres qui dure jusqu’à aujourd’hui. Nous avons commencé avec 5 chèvres au début jusqu’à avoir plus de 20 chèvres que nous vendons aux cabaretiers. Grace à ce projet nous sommes entrés dans le réseau Jeunes Professionnels pour le développement agricole au Burundi (YPARD). J’ai pu créer un blog et une page Facebook pour la visibilité de nos activités.

L’usage des TIC m’a permis d’intégrer dans des réseaux de jeunes actifs dans le secteur agricole et participer dans des conférences en tant que reporter sur les réseaux sociaux, notamment la Semaine Scientifique Agricole à Kigali, le Forum sur le manioc en Afrique centrale à Yaoundé, et la Formation sur l’éducation vétérinaire à Dakar.

**Questions : 1**. Quelles sont les mesures prises pour limiter l’exode rural des jeunes et encourager la création d’emploi dans les milieux ruraux ?

**Questions : 2**. Comment peut-t-on encourager l’innovation numérique en tenant en considération le défi du faible taux d’électrification en milieu rural ?

**Questions : 3**. L’âge moyen du cultivateur africain est élevé, est-il possible de moderniser l’agriculture avec cet indication ?

English translation

My experience as a young businessman involved in the agricultural sector can be described as follows:

I started a business in 2013, a poultry farming project, with class friends at the end of secondary school. The recognition that we would not find work after finishing school and the desire to have a business activity that provided revenue were the two main reasons that pushed us to carry out the project. The idea of focusing our project on the primary sector came from one of my colleagues who was already interested in agriculture and rearing cattle. Unfortunately, this poultry farming project ended in failure, because we had not prepared a business plan. This first failure did not discourage us.

We had had access to training in the use of web 2.0 and social media for development, offered by the Centre Technique de Coopération Agricole et rural [Technical and rural centre for agricultural cooperation] (CTA).

In 2014, we started a new business rearing goats which is still running today. We started with 5 goats until now we have more than 20, which we sell to inn-keepers. Thanks to this project we joined the network of Jeanes Professionnels pour le développement agricole au Burundi (YPARD) [Young professionals for agricultural development in Burundi]. I was able to create a blog and a Facebook page to make our activities visible.

The use of ICT [information and communication technologies] has allowed me to join the network of young people active in the agricultural sector and to participate in conferences as well as reporting in social media, in particular the Semaine Scientifique Agricole [Agricultural scientific week] in Kigale; the Forum on cassava in Central Africa, in Yaoundé; and the Training on veterinary education, in Dakar.

**Questions: 1**: What are the measures taken to limit the rural exodus of young people and to encourage the creation of employment in rural areas?

**Questions: 2**: How can digital innovation be encouraged taking into consideration the challenge of the low rates of electrification in rural areas?

**Questions: 3**: The average age of the African farmer is high, is it possible to modernize agriculture given this circumstance?

Guy Fleury Giramahoro

Young Profesionnals for Agricultural Development-Burundi /

Youth Agribusiness Incubator-Burundi

## Henry Machina, IAPRI, Zambia

Henry, from Zambia

Youth are a key opportunity that can drive growth in the agriculture sector in African. Yet many of them are reluctant to engage in agriculture. Part of the challenge is that they view agriculture only as 'farming', which they see to be laborious and backward. Educational curricular also help shape this perception. Many of the youth see themselves as 'employees' and not entrepreneurs and employers. The conference needs to address the whole issue of curricular to help shape youth perceptions towards being employers. Further, research plays a key role to discover and monitor these perceptions. As such it’s important to invest in socio-economic research on youth and agriculture and support their engagement in different value chains.

## Frank van Kesteren, INCLUDE knowledge platform, Netherlands

INCLUDE, the knowledge platform on inclusive development policies, brings together African, Dutch and other international stakeholders to translate academic findings into inclusive policy practice. For one of the conferences on productive employment, a theme central to INCLUDE's work, a synthesis report was drafted which reviews the state-of-the-art knowledge on youth employment in Africa. This synthesis report tells you 'What works and why' and elaborates on the continuing importance of agriculture as source of employment.

Read the summary and highlights of the synthesis report via this link: [Highlights of the synthesis report ‘Boosting youth employment in Africa: what works and why?](http://includeplatform.net/downloads/ummary-highlights-synthesis-report-boosting-youth-employment-africa-works/)

Read the full synthesis report: [Synthesis report ‘Boosting youth employment in Africa: What works and why?](http://includeplatform.net/downloads/synthesis-report-boosting-youth-employment-africa-works/)

Furthermore, you can find a report of the conference on boosting youth employment in Africa via [this link](http://includeplatform.net/downloads/report-conference-boosting-youth-employment-africa-works/).

Thank you very much,

Frank van Kesteren

## Paschal Nchunda, Tanzania Agricultural Modernization Association (TAMA), United Republic of Tanzania

My contribution will look at my experience as youth in agriculture. I decided to engage in agriculture even before I completed my first degree, late 2006 - over 12 years ago when I founded a non-profit making organization, Tanzania Agricultural Modernization Association (TAMA), www.tama.or.tz. My impression was to help smallholder farmers have access to good agricultural practices so that they can improve productivity. Many youth whom I motivated to join my journey left me alone. In 2012 I decided to recruit new members in my organization and we started engaging youth in small scale commercial horticulture farming in Bukoba, Tanzania. We managed to have 5 big greenhouses and I managed to draw back the demotivated youth to re-engage in agriculture. Due to weather changes, strong wind completely distorted the greenhouses and we remained with naked farms. Because we had no financial support from any organization, we decided to start from the scratch and jumped to sweet potato production. We have managed to organize more youth in groups and registered them as legal entities. They are now actively engaged in orange fleshed sweet potato production. Recently we have formed a farmer’s owned private company, Wakulima Agri-Food Company Limited whose roles will be to collect sweet potato, process and market the value added products. The challenges facing youth is capital. No banks are ready to lend youth because they lack collaterals. Youth don’t own any fixed assets. They are not targeted by financial institutions. Due to this, youth get despaired to actively engage in agriculture. The good example is, we need to have high quality sweet potato processing machine to process sweet potato into biscuits and chocolates but the capacity to purchase such machines is meagre. Youth are ready to engage in agriculture when there is clear processing and value addition strategies for their farm produce.

## Makhosi Mahlangu, African Food Revolution, Italy

Dr Justin Chisenga (See comment 34)

We are currently involved in a hydroponics project in Angola and designing the project using everyday products like PVC pipes. We will also be collaborating with a German group which intends to fix water problems in Sudan in January 2019. We are also in the process of engaging with various universities to help solve the food situation in Africa. Our main objective is to create Youth Rural Entrepreneurs using basic food production and processing techniques. We are pushing really hard to help youths. We have talked to a young man from Sudan who had a bumper harvest of onions and failed to sell his produce to the market due to various reasons. As the African Food Revolution, we help such individuals by finding the best solution to such an obstacle such as market research, food processing techniques using fermentation & heat and alternative packaging methods. I hope you will have an idea of what we are working on.

Kind regards

Makhosi Mahlangu

## Christy Songola, Catholic Development Commission, Malawi

My experience as a youth in the agriculture sector

Working with a Non-Governmental Organisation in the agriculture sector has given me a great feeling of fulfilment, seeing how I am directly contributing to the livelihoods of communities and the country’s development. However, working on the grassroots, engaging directly with farmers in rural communities, in the sector also makes me feel sad and challenged comparing the current development status of the country with how it was supposed to be looking at the resources that it has and the development potential that the country holds. There are more opportunities in Malawi than the challenges we focus on.

I am engaged in the agriculture sector mainly in two ways; as a commercial farmer and as a young water professional. I was motivated to go into agriculture as a farmer looking at its potential in generating incomes and its significant contribution to wealth creation. As I was contemplating of joining the agricultural sector, whilst evaluating other investment options, I was fascinated by how prominent business people like Steve Masiiwa and many other business tycoons in Malawi highly regard agriculture. Many high profile individuals in the country, including all the country’s presidents, also engage in agriculture as a personal pursuit to financial freedom. This shows the potential that the sector has in creating wealth and improving micro and macro-economic environments.

In a greater way, I engage in agriculture as a water professional working to help smallholder farmers in rural parts of the country increase their production capacities and improve food security as well as their livelihoods. It is quite unjust that more people in the country live in dire poverty and several more go to bed hungry in this land of plenty, full of human and natural resources to take the country from its current state to a better one.

When it comes to the involvement of the youth in agriculture and other development works, there are two conflicting perspectives, which all hold some truth. The first one is where the youths see themselves as vulnerable, unsupported with so many barriers around them that they cannot contribute much to the country’s development. At the same time, elders, and some youths of course, see the untapped and underutilized potential of the youths and their capacity to positively impact the country’s development, primarily agriculture.  In Malawi, the youth make more than 73% of its population, and if as youths we would feel responsible and challenged that our parents and elders’ food will be produced by us, we would make great strides towards food security. At the same time, empowering, supporting and involving this large youth population in policy processes, which is normally characterized by energy, creativity and zeal to build a great future, will help the country optimize the demographic dividend and accelerate its efforts towards achieving food security.

My experience engaging with fellow youths in entrepreneurial circles and in the agricultural sector has shown me that fewer youths are courageous enough to pioneer investments in agriculture and their value chains as they focus more on the challenges they are likely to face due to the country’s business environment and economic situation. The ones that are daring to establish investments in agriculture, face several challenges including challenges in securing finances due to the higher risks associated with agriculture. Youths from rural communities are virtually disconnected and usually lack timely access to market information and complete information on modernized production and value addition technologies.

However, the better part of the story is that there are still some who carry on the entrepreneurial path and with patience and tenacity, they register successes. One of the youths who has been successful is Clara Kamlomo, a social entrepreneur who uses her horticultural skills to train farmers in rural areas on mushroom seed making and cultivation. She also extends the training to other interested individuals who are not able to participate in physical trainings through social media like the whatsapp platform. Through the trainings, she has reached 450 farmers who are now able to produce mushroom seed and cultivate mushrooms, providing their households with protein and mineral rich food. Some participants of the trainings have already scaled up production and are able to supply local markets. Apart from being able to produce mushroom for herself and for sale, Clara has been able to purchase 2.5 acres of land where she will integrate animal husbandry and horticultural production. She is already working on scaling up seed production and cultivation as well as using modern technologies to process and preserve the mushrooms.

Another success story is of Victon, a young man in his early twenties from one of the remote areas in Lilongwe, who upon receiving a training in modern and sustainable agricultural practices at Saint Paul’s Agriculture Training Centre and support from technicians at the school was able to produce high quality onions for the first time. From the marketing skills gained at the training centre, he managed to secure markets in the countries local markets and some chain stores and got his first One million kwacha. He has been able to increase his landholding and upscale production and he is a model amongst many youths within his community.

Some parts of the stories of these youths are quite common; they are all fruits of incubations, workshops and agricultural fairs. I have participated in several of these and my experience is that there is a great inspiration that results from these gatherings.

Despite the wide accepted potential that technological innovations have in transforming the links in the food value chains, very little and slow advancements are being made. Save for a few digital technologies, most technologies are used on advanced commercial farming systems. Development of new digital innovations in agriculture in Malawi is still staggering possibly due to poor collaboration between IT and agriculture experts. Malawi, through its universities and colleges, graduates a lot of youths having various skills in agriculture, information technology and other related disciplines. Having platforms that would integrate various skill sets would improve the situation.

Increased access to cellphones and smart phones has led to improvements in other activities like marketing produce, online trainings on various crop production practices. However, adoption and usage of most other digital innovations in smallholder farming systems are limited by financial constraints, limited network coverage, low computer literacy, limited access to regular internet services and inadequate communication and electricity infrastructure.

Major achievements and success stories

In the agricultural sector, some of my main professional achievements include adding a valuable experience in commercial horticultural production as well as aquaculture farm development skills on top of my water resources engineering skills.

In my first job after college, at Saint Paul’s Agriculture Training Centre, I also launched irrigated agriculture through my skills in irrigation investments planning, and irrigation and drainage systems design and installation and established the project’s fish farm and led it into integrated agriculture. These enhanced the school’s credibility in offering trainings in sustainable agriculture as prior to this, only theoretical trainings were offered.

On my role I have also significantly contributed to the improvement in the participation of communities in long and short trainings in agriculture and their value chains by using my community mobilization skills.

Being part of the team that trains farmers in entrepreneurial focused agricultural production, I have had my share in improving livelihoods of several farmers within the 27 farmers that participated in the 2017 training at Saint Paul’s Agriculture Training Centre.

Questions I would ask the experts at the Rwanda Youth Conference on:

* Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship

Most job openings in private companies and government departments require prior working experience in sectors relevant to the roles, usually to secure individuals competent enough to carry out the tasks required and reduce the probability of risks in investments that come due to incompetency, what strategies does FAO put in place to ensure a good balance between assured competency through some hands on work experience and ensuring employment opportunities for the youths?

What opportunities and platforms are there for young leaders leading startups and spearheading innovative projects to engage more youths and other stakeholders in agriculture, food security and nutrition? What support does FAO provide?

In most developed countries innovation hubs and incubators have proved very useful in promoting entrepreneurial development and innovation, what is FAO’s perspective on this? If it supports the idea of incubators and innovation hubs, how would FAO support the establishment of these in the region?

* Digital innovation to overcome agriculture value chain constraints

New is not always better. How does FAO work on ensuring that the various innovations in agriculture do not end up being a dead-end to progress in the areas the innovations are designed to improve?

One of the constraints to progress in the agriculture sector usually is low adoption to various innovations that come, often due to low cost effectiveness, unwillingness to try out new technologies due to the risks associated and sometimes mere resistance to change. Since most digital innovations are considered costly and their operation complex how best can we ensure that smallholder farmers in the rural areas who produce most of our food have access and easily adopt these new technologies?

Seeing that food is mostly produced in remote areas with limited network coverage, poor computer literacy, and inadequate communication and electricity infrastructure, how does FAO intend to solve implementation challenges in such areas?

In most developing economies like Malawi’s, careers in agriculture are opportunity driven and those youths who happen to get job opportunities usually hold on to their jobs for security although they are usually experienced, exposed and more connected than their counterparts who haven’t been well engaged after their studies. What opportunities and support mechanisms are there for those youths with innovative solutions in engaging other youths to promote the development of agricultural digital innovations but are afraid to quit their jobs and pursue those dreams?

* Future of work in rural economy

See the attachment below

[Youth Employment in Agriculture as a Solution to ending hunger and poverty in Africa.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/discussions/contributions/Youth%20Employment%20in%20Agriculture%20as%20a%20Solution%20to%20ending%20hunger%20and%20poverty%20in%20Africa.pdf)

## Makhosi Mahlangu, African Food Revolution, Italy

Sola Adeniyi is an agro-entrepreneur promoting the involvement of youth in agricultural enterprises in the Ogun State in Nigeria. He plants watermelons, cucumbers, plantain seeds and moringa. These are further processed to produce various products. There is also a 50-acre farm producing pineapples. His passion for farming inspires African youth as he has sacrificed the office for the outdoors, which offers better financial rewards.

According to him, this agriculture can be used to catapult youth out of poverty. The future looks bright for this agro-entrepreneur as he has his sights set on improving and investing in the latest food processing technologies through sustainable production systems. One of the initiatives is the use of renewable energy which is solar energy.

One critical area affecting animal production systems is the production or procurement of quality feed for one’s animals. Adeniyi intends to invest in animal feed processing. The possibility of him working with African Food Revolutions’ feed specialist Prince Chisoro is slowly being cemented. The rewards have not come easy for the farmer. He has had to encounter saline soils, poor understanding of the nutritional requirements of his crops, improper irrigation techniques, disease management and varietal selectional of pineapples. He has worked tirelessly on improving the soil and improving farm management systems.

The farmers’ strategy is to provide safe use of pesticides, hygienic practices and effective marketing. Adeniyi also runs an organisation which is heavily involved in youth farming by running a model farm where skills are delivered to enthusiastic future farmers. One of Adenyis’ projects which is the Highhill Agribusiness Development and Incubation Centre (HABDEC) offers free training on agricultural production to empower Nigerians between 18 and 50. Participants are trained in 4 major crops that are pineapples, potatoes, paw and plantains. HABDEC aims to empower both youth and women. The company intends to release 600 agricultural consultants, producers and advocates. The centre also intends to transform the agribusiness centre into a pre-university were students can do their programs and get themselves certificates. Friends, family and partners have funded the project and through his GoGreen Project, Adeniyi is helping more people to break out of the cycle of poverty, to create better livelihoods.

Natural Nutrient Limited is one of Nigeria ’s private initiatives that incubates rural entrepreneurship by radically redefining agro entrepreneurship. The benefits include exposing business opportunities to youths and retirees, boosting economic benefits for farmers, bringing technology that is bridging the urban-rural divide, and helping reverse urban migration. He is also bringing new resources and valuable networks to agricultural entrepreneurs.

He recently won the Agro Ambassador Award for his involvement in the agro-industry. As the African Food Revolution, we salute the achievements of Adeniyi and as an organisation are helping youth engage and be involved in food production. Together with Sola Adeniyi we hope to work in unison in creating agro-entrepreneurs.

## Fraterne Shyaka, Agriculture processing/manufacturing, Rwanda

My contribution is to transform youth dreams into reality.

My name is SHYAKA Fraterne, Chinese name is 林冲同. I’m graduated this year in agriculture and trained by Dot Rwanda about social innovation and how they can apply  our resources (like skills, technologies, CT etc..) into agriculture profitable business project for changing our community so as to fight against unemployment , poverty ,keep our food security and ending hunger in our community then combining my Passion and value says that " richness is in your hand so never give up" I come out with idea of identifying my project called SOCAF-Project (project which is located in Musanze district/Rwanda with the aim of raising cabbage shelf life by reducing cabbage harvesting loss through the process of fermentation then produce **sauerkraut (as it is one of our product)**.

## Mithare Prasad, KVAFSU, India

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE AS A SOLID SOLUTION TO ENDING HUNGER AND POVERTY IN AFRICA.

* It is one of the important aspects to boost the agriculture and food production to meet the food security, Nutritional security of developing country like Africa. Agriculture is a hard working and scientific time oriented occupation, so youth involvement is one of the most important points to make profit out of this.
* To make a bright future in agro-entrepreneur and improving and investing in the latest crop production, food processing technologies through intensive agriculture practices & sustainable production systems. One of the initiatives is the use of renewable energy to maximum extent. Reduce, Recycling, Reuse concept will be boosting the farm income regularly. In which a youth plays an important role to achieve this concept to greater extent. Besides this the youth involved in working on the root level in rural areas, as directly with farmers in rural communities, it will make challenges easy to farmer to tackle technically by scientific knowledge related to agriculture and allied sciences.
* Our main objective is to create Youth Entrepreneurs in rural areas using scientific food production and processing techniques. By encouraging the youth to come forward to get involved in one or more entrepreneurships will really help youths to make their future career as progressive.
* Train the youth with respect to Capacity building activities like training, workshops, brainstorming sessions, field visits, demonstration, awareness programs, exposure visits, farmers-scientists interactions, animal health camps etc.  Related to agriculture sector, in addition to this they should be trained for following new approaches to fight against climate change related problems to tackle and make some contingency planning to increase the crop production in dry areas. The youth should be involved in new approaches like Village climate risk management committee (VCRMC) in this process we have to identify few of the youth’s as a village leader in each village’s and in VCRMC there are many components are involved like; SEED BANK, FODDER BANK, COUSTAM HIRING (Farm Machineries & Equipments) etc.
* VCRMC are involved in reducing the risk of climate change & its impacts on crop production in dry areas and also help to boost the production & increases income of the farmers per unit area with low input costs. The role of youths in this approach is to transfer the technologies related to agriculture like: Timely sowing operations, Precision farming, recycling of crop residue, mulching with crop residues, rain water harvesting (In-situ & Ex-situ), Use of précised fertilizer/Pesticides, Organic farming with LEISA techniques and demonstrate them to other farmers of the villages.
* Youths of the Africa should Practice Integrated Farming System approach: It play a vital role in minimizing the risk of crop failure due to aberrant weather conditions. Cultivation of crops along with different components like Agro-Forestry, Dairy Farming, Goat/Sheep Farming, Poultry Farming, Aquaculture, Duck Farming, Sericulture and Honey Bee Farming will be a great source of generating continuous income per unit area, which will be a prominent in Youth Employment in Agriculture as a Solid Solution to ending Hunger and Poverty in Africa.
* Government sector & NGO'S should promote and encourage the Rural Employment Guarantee programs in agriculture sector which should give a minimum of 100 days daily wages in a year to farming community so that they earn money for their daily needs along with farming, which will be promising in Youth Employment in Agriculture as a Solid Solution to ending Hunger and Poverty in Africa.
* Promote, encourage the cottage & small scale industries in rural areas which is a huge income generating source in rural areas for eradicating extreme poverty. Examples of Small Scale industries in village level: Bamboo hand crafts, Sericulture (Silk Production), Small Scale Textile industries, Small Scale Fruit pulp manufacturing, dehydrated & frozen vegetables manufacturing, Pickle industry, Dry fruit processing industry, cheese making, Paneer making, ghee & butter making, Ice-cream making, Spices & condiments processing industry, manufacturing Soaps & detergents, manufacturing herbal hair oil, manufacturing handmade chocolates, cookies & biscuits, manufacturing, candles & waxes manufacturing, Pulses processing industries, Disposable plates manufacturing, wooden furniture, Arboriculture etc.
* Climate Resilient Agriculture Practices are adopted to reduce the impact of climate change on agriculture crop production by various measures like: a) Rain water harvesting. b) Development of Micro catchment Area (15-20 sqm) for water harvesting. c) Runoff collection. d) Contour bunding, Graded bunding, compartmental bunding for preventing runoff. e) Inter-cropping & mixed cropping. f) Mulching with crop residues to avoid Evapo-Transpiration losses. g) Spraying of Anti-Transpirants. h) Practicing Broad-Bed-Furrow irrigation & Furrow irrigated raised bed systems for water conservation. i) Planting Shelter-belts / wind break trees species around the field on bunds to prevent the high speed, hot & desiccating winds which destroy the crops to maximum extents. j) Prevent wind and water erosion & Plant the erosion restricting crops like Vitever grass. k) Practice Minimum tillage, Zero tillage & conservation tillage for moisture conservation in dry land areas.
* As the African have huge youth population and have very less opportunity of jobs so self entrepreneurship is one of the excellent solutions to fight against the poverty and reducing the hunger. Food Revolution should take place in Africa to tackle hunger & poverty, for this the youth must be trained for self sustainable & also to produce much more for the rest of the people.
* Government Organizations, Agriculture universities, Research intuitions and NGO should help youth individuals by finding the best solution to tackle the problems & obstacle occur in the following process, such as market facilities for selling their produce to fetch good price, food processing techniques for fruits, vegetables and spices etc. using fermentation & heat and good packaging methods.
* Youth play major role they can drive growth & development in the agriculture sector in Africa. Since many of them are unaware of engage in agriculture activates. The challenge is that they look agriculture only as 'farming', which they seem to be labor & hard work.
* Agriculture educational will also help to shape this perception to greater extent. Further, Agriculture research plays a key role to discover and monitor these perceptions. As it is important to invest in socio-economic research on youth and agriculture and support their engagement in different value chains.
* There are more opportunities in Africa, than the challenges as we focus on. Youth should engage in the agriculture sector as a commercial farmer and as a young professional. As a farmer looking at its potential in generating incomes and its significant contribution to wealth creation.
* Youth engage in agriculture as a professional working to help smallholder farmers in rural parts of the country increase their production capacities and improve food security as well as their livelihoods.

Mithare Prasad

Assistant Professor (Agronomy), Department of ILFC, Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Science University, Bidar, Karnataka (India).

## Brandon Eisler, Nutritional Diversity, Panama

The farm is the perfect place for troubled or poor young people. Not only does it make modern logical perfect sense for the under privileged to grow their own food, but it is in nature where one can heal and it is nature where the dynamics exist to empower, the un-empowered.

For many poor youth, they don't trust the modern world, and the modern world does not trust them. In light of the new unstoppable information that is coming out and to the front lines of life, regarding modern agriculture and it's cancer and sickness causing chemicals, that are killing our most precious of pollinators, microorganisms, and misileums crucial to the planet and all biological life's survival; we need this large army of poor people to go out onto whatever land of whatever ownership, and do permaculture, as the rightful living examples to the next era of human life that moves forward in harmony with the nature in which we come from.

I unofficially adopted for a little over a year an indigenous boy of 13-16 years of age that was completely abandoned by his parents on the Caribbean Island of Colon, Bocas del Toro, Panama, back in 2016. I simply doubled the cost of my food purchases, and gave him space in the house to sleep. The famous community criminal, had a new hope, he had some love, some nice shelter, a situation worth keeping, a leader worth respecting and without being asked, he started jumping in on the work. After that year he knew basic building trade, cement, and was proud of some pretty descent farm work.

I wish I could have done more for him. No doubt he will be a tough guy to learn from in his latter years if he can keep his moral compass pointed right.

Permaculture idealism and depth is truly and continuously amazing. To take under privileged young person onto a farm, is a hugely valuable karmic act for the sponsor, a true miracle to the child, and a miracle for the health and life of our cycle of life. It is a growing field given the information and law suits regarding GMO's, Glyphosates which are advancing into realms of common knowledge. Permacultures are going to be in a steadily increasing demand. A Permaculturist has endless positions of employment in sites across the globe. A great field for young persons to get involved and become experts in.

Structured right with an intelligent well thought out rite of passage, young people can cultivate with a with an unstoppable set of empowerment's on the farm if:

More than fair share is given. In respects to the existing written doctrine of “permaculture” specifically, a very well-conceived social culture with core principles is written. An essential principle of permaculture is known as “fair share,” and that is the long awaited revelation from when we though slavery ended and we would actually give one another sufficient credit for their achievements and part in the end result to give the workers a real fair piece of the take and of the land. I would like to push that idea into a principle titled “more than fair share.” This is likely to be embodied in actuality if the permaculture is done on public land. Permaculture is perfect for public land and can be added to existing forest without any cutting or clearing. Imagine not only sponsoring a youth with a small increase in food cost, and sacrifice of space but allowing him to earn his own land if even ever so small. It will be difficult to sign away the promised take to someone who earned it through clear requirements discussed and contracted ahead of time. If the initial requirements are oriented to see that the apprentice meets certain moral character milestones, the sponsor has surely acquired, a loyal, appreciative and experienced counterpar4t in that area for security, neighborship, occasional assistance and community.

Balanced access to the internet with capable computers and software is available daily for a few hours. Getting away from addictive use of technology. The limit of 3 or four hours per day is important.

Nutritional Diversity diet is administered in the permaculture. A good diet is often not available to youths in urban settings, working on farms is an opportunity to eat a highly nutritious diet.

On the farm, away from modern influence, judgment and poverty (as a construct of the modern city), a poor person almost ceases to be poor, and after a few weeks they all begin to believe in doing amazing things. The idealism includes a very well-conceived social culture as well including the essential article of “fair share.” It is the antithesis of slavery and mandates fair credit to all from the end product for their achievement in its production.

It was in permaculture-like settings such as African and Native American tribal encampments where doctrinal factors such as communal size efficiency of 90 people was the limit for genial, sustainable the tribe at community. In the case of the more documented African policy, the encampment would split at a population size of 180. The would split in half there generations, elder, near elder, apprentice elders, adolescents, young and very young. A lesson which brings my thoughts to point out that, farm recruitment should be just as diverse. For every young person recruited, and older should be and median older next so that work and experience, light and spirit can interchange to balance and support the nurturing of all. Fortunately for this purpose there are plenty of poor people in all age groups.

Permacultures across the globe today are a conclusive scientific result that more nutritious, less toxic food is produced on them v. s. the centrally distributed supermarket store products of today. More valuable, applicable and naturally correct guidance is given on a farm then in modern education. In nature a dynamic education is administered, and one that instils in it is students a very real and responsible duty to nature, whereas seeds are not thrown away, the earth is not polluted, but instead intensely respected and whole new meaning is given to the word morality. Another item now a days largely missing from modern society, especially in the cities.

Police and crime is a big issue especially for the poor person. These Native American, African and other smaller sized communities can offer very effective, tested and alternatives on disciplining or loving the community members, such as 89 gather around 1 and one by one naming out the beautiful things they have seen that person do, realizing mistakes are made and supporting the guidance back to who they truly are.

To work for the cycle of life, rather than self, could effectiously better our products, into better products because we want the best for our communities, and the profit system, wants to have the best profit often times reducing the product quality.

Farmers are inherently dynamic and farm experience much more than the military can be a character benefit to individual poor person that is recommended, should be farming. The problem lies expertise's and specialties. The farmer is a jack of all trades, who can work on a still, electrical, tool repair, plumbing, small motors, big motors, fiberglass, sheet metal, etc. This jack of all trades concept is a doctrinal factor in permaculture, even for plant selections in that multiple use and application elections are best. Maybe everyone in humanity can do every job, or a naturally inclined spectrum of jobs and while doing that job can express a full peak of added benefits for everyone. Everyone for everyone is clearly a step ahead in the evolutionary wait.

While looking at a few surviving wise man texts, the Tibetan Book of the Dead, The Holy Bible, The Art of War or simply a broad enough spectrum of experiential diversity we are warned of our ego growth as a direct pathway to powerful and grievous downfall. We are a deceived and misguided science culture in the mainstream today infatuated with our own missiles and automobiles, and blind to the far more advanced organic science in which we belong. Is ego to blame? Lack of nutrition, or better said, lack of Nutritional Diversity to blame? Is social culture or modern education mis-directing us from our god given riches of a natural and happy life? Each of the issues, quietly and peacefully retreats as time in the rhythm of permaculture and nature unifies with any age of soul. Healing and sanity – even a new crystal clarity replace sickness and confusion in the permaculture setting.

The ultimate permaculture will function optimally when done to public lands or lands unknown. The poor can do this starting with chickens, animals and vegetables today.

The ultimate human condition I believe is nomadic, and is inherently growing experiential and geographical and nutritional, diversity spectrum's much more than the “Pueblo Indian,” although there is an equally important experience about staying in one place a time. What joy would it be to horse back across the continents, with the knowledge of wild foods and the skills to catch wild beast, in the ultimate adventure of freedom.

All youth should spend as much time as possible in nature during their developing years.

## Placidius Rwechungura, GreenApp, United Republic of Tanzania

My name is Placidius Rwechungura from Tanzania.

I once took loan from the bank and I went to invest into farming after hearing from my friends that agriculture pays a lot. I am sorry to say that my money went for nothing and i ended up paying the loan without getting any yields from my farm.

What I want to say here is that, I invested in farm without having any knowledge in the crops i invested. I was supposed to have knowledge and then invest while learning.

Now I have come up with an idea that can help many African youths to engage into farming by using technology. I have developed a mobile app that is also a web based system and does the following.

Help farmers to adapt Climate Smart Agriculture by providing real time personalized crop advisory based on current & forecast weather.

GreenApp (www.greenapp.co.tz) provides accurate weather forecast (Temperature, Humidity, Wind Speed & Direction, and Rainfall etc.) and is unique app as it is user friendly.

It can be viewed, read, and it can herd. By doing so, GreenApp aims to tackle three main objectives:

Sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes; adapting and building resilience to climate change and Reducing and/or removing greenhouse gas emissions, where possible.

GreenApp is strong software as it has videos that are collected from successful farmers and farm experts explaining step by step procedures on how to apply farm inputs and how to go about a certain crop.

The app will also allow people as individuals and registered companies to own online shops which will give them access to sell their products and people will have an option to buy and sell by using Visa, MasterCard and Mobile transfer known as MPESA.

There will also be agro shops which will be selling farm inputs like seeds, fertilizers, chemicals location wise.

There will be live market prices that will be displayed according to the location.

Each and every government will benefit for the information obtained from the App as it is having an AI (Artificial Intelligence) that will be running behind the app by collecting data and doing analysis.

The GreenApp AI will be able to predict the nature of disease affecting the crops and animals by scanning and mapping the available pictures and data and thereafter advise the type of pesticides to be applied and where to get it from.

It will be able to predict that by the coming year a certain country will be in need of buying a certain amount of farm inputs like fertilizers, it will also be able to predict the type of diseases that affects the animals and plants by just taking a photo and submit to the application.

The GreenApp AI will be able to predict the quality of products, the quantity, the market analysis and demand.

GreenApp will link farmers in a nearby location cultivating the same crops to share ideas on how to tackle some challenges and share success.

It will have a social media part whereby farmers will follow successful people and get some updates and learn from them, comment and share the success.

GreenApp will bring together all farm experts online to assist some farmers in case they need assistance and it will link some farmers and herders with insurance companies, banks for financial assistance and insurance companies and law firms.

The application will link farmers and herders with legal advisors location wise for the purpose of helping especially widows ho have a challenge in owning land and any farmer and herder land conflicts.

The App will be used by Banks and Insurance companies to manage and get daily reports from small farmers, middle farmers and nuclear farmers.

## Isaac Woja, PRO Enterprises, South Sudan

I am Isaac Woja from South Sudan.

I love farming because it gives me some pride in seeing that people get satisfied and become happy of my work. This is what motivates me more than the monetary benefits. My experience as a youth farmer in South Sudan is both bitter and sweet. Bitter in that there are huge challenges for one to succeed in farming as a business. There is poor technology right from the varieties, and execution of the production processes which are commonly done manually. The infrastructure in terms of roads and telecommunication network is poor across the country, making it difficult to access the market or even inputs. Of course the wars that have caused massive displacements making it insecure to access some of the potential production sites. Nontheless the sweet version is that, there are huge resources to tap in and make money out of it; land is available in plenty, the market once accessed is too big to satisfy.

My major achievements are that I have pioneered hydroponic fodder for feeding improved breeds of pigs (landraces, Largewhite, camborough and duroc). Now planning to establish a better unit for production of the fodder and also import wheat, being the best compared to maize and sorghum. I have also succeeded in drip irrigation for dry season vegetable production both in a greenhouse and in the open. I did it during the last dry season and am now strategizing for the coming season (Dec - April) for the Juba market when vegetables will be fewer in the market.

If given a chance, I would ask these;

a) How would you bring on board youths that are jobless and are more interested in work that pays them instantly, not like farming that takes months. For example they are more interested in charcoal burning.

b) How would you change the minds of armed youths into farming as a business instead of robberies or raiding livestock

c) In a country like south Sudan where telecommunication and internet is yet underdeveloped, how would you still make good use of the limited available resources

d) How would you make employment through farming as a business sustainable in the rural areas where there are poor infrastructure and lack of financial credit services for financing production activities.

## Dieudonné Edouard SANGO, MediaProd Conseils et Productions, Burkina Faso

Original comment in French

Mon expérience en tant que jeune dans le secteur agricole

En tant jeune, j'ai déjà une expérience énorme dans le secteur agricole.

Ayant longtemps vécu en milieu rural, j'ai acquis une certaine expérience des pratiques agricoles. J'ai appris à semer, à labourer, à sarcler, à pulvériser, à récolter... en gros j'ai une parfaite connaissance des rouages du quotidien d'un paysan familial tant en saison sèche qu'en saison des pluies. Très tôt, j'ai compris que l'agriculture était une porte de sortie pour l'Afrique en cotoyant certains producteurs à succès. Mais hélas, le secteur agricole bénéficie d'une mauvaise réputation auprès des jeunes de mon pays.

Ainsi, en poursuivant mes études, je n'ai pas perdu de vue l'importance que peux avoir l'agriculture dans le développement de mon pays sachant que nous sommes à 80% paysans. Après mes études en journalisme, j'ai rejoint [Agribusiness TV](http://agribusinesstv.info/fr/), une webtélé qui partageait la même vision que moi: redorer l'image de l'agriculture auprès des jeunes. En tant que journaliste, je réalise des reportages sur les jeunes agripreneurs de mon pays afin de non seulement blanchir le secteur agricole mais aussi de susciter l'envie d'entreprendre dans le secteur chez les autres. Egalement, correspondant local de [Commodafrica](http://www.commodafrica.com/), mes productions sont orientées secteur agricole. En un mot, j'ai embrassé avec fierté le metier de journaliste agricole.

Principales réalisations et histoires de réussites

En tant que journaliste agricole à [Agribusiness TV](http://agribusinesstv.info/fr/)et correpondant local de [Commodafrica](http://www.commodafrica.com/), certaines de mes principales réalisations sont les suivantes:

* Histoire de Kevin Doamba et de sa pyramide zoo-hydroponique (<http://agribusinesstv.info/fr/burkina-faso-une-pyramide-pour-des-cultures-hors-sol/>)
* François 1er, créateur de mode éthique burkinabè et son unité de transformation de coton (<http://agribusinesstv.info/fr/burkina-faso-tisser-teindre-et-coudre-le-coton-burkinabe/>)
* Mme Diendéré et son unité de production de jus à base de fruits locaux (<http://agribusinesstv.info/fr/burkina-faso-une-gamme-de-jus-de-fruits-sauvages-locaux/>)
* Couverture d'un atelier sur le financement de l'agriculture familial en Afrique de l'Ouest (<http://agribusinesstv.info/fr/pour-un-meilleur-financement-de-lagriculture-en-afrique-de-louest/>)
* Interview avec Abou Simbel Ouattara, le plus grand entrepreneur avicole du Burkina (<http://www.commodafrica.com/25-04-2018-abou-simbel-ouattara-etre-aviculteur-nest-pas-le-resultat-dun-echec-professionnel>)
* Interview avec le concepteur de la pyramide zoo-hydroponique (<http://www.commodafrica.com/15-05-2018-kevin-doamba-lagriculture-tout-moment-de-lannee-et-en-en-tout-lieu-est-possible-avec-la>)
* Article sur la filière moringa au Burkina (<http://www.commodafrica.com/11-06-2018-la-filiere-du-moringa-reste-construire-au-burkina-faso>)

Pour ce qui concerne les histoires de réussites, il en existe dans mon pays et aussi un peu partout en Afrique que ma rédaction a suivi. Les histoires  englobent producteurs, éleveurs, transformateurs...

Questions que la conférence de la jeunesse rwandaise devrait aborder

Entreprenariat agricole des jeunes, ultime recours pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire, créer des emplois et réduire la pauvreté

Utilisation des drones et pratiques agricoles

Actions des décideurs politiques en faveur du secteur agricole

English translation

My experience as a young person in the agricultural sector

Being a young person, I already have a lot of experience in the agricultural sector.

As I have lived in rural areas for a long time, I have gained some experience in farming practices. I learned how to sow, plough, weed, spray, harvest... basically I have a perfect knowledge of the daily routine of a family farmer both in the dry season and in the rainy season. I understood very early that agriculture was a way out for Africa by working alongside some successful producers. Unfortunately, however, the agricultural sector has a bad reputation among young people in my country.

Thus, while pursuing my studies, I have not forgotten the importance of agriculture in the development of my country knowing that we are about 80 % farmers. After graduating in journalism, I joined Agribusiness TV, a web TV channel that shared my vision: to restore the image of agriculture among young people. In my capacity as a journalist, I report on young farmers in my country in order not only to clear the agricultural sector but also to inspire others to be entrepreneurial in the sector. Also, as a local correspondent of Commodafrica, my productions are oriented towards the agricultural sector. In a nutshell, I proudly embraced the job of agricultural journalist

Key Achievements and Success Stories

As an agricultural journalist with Agribusiness TV and local correspondent for Commodafrica, some of my main achievements are as follows:

* The story of Kevin Doamba and his zoo-hydroponic pyramid (<http://agribusinesstv.info/fr/burkina-faso-une-pyramide-pour-des-cultures-hors-sol/>)
* François 1st, Burkinabe ethnic fashion designer and his cotton processing unit (<http://agribusinesstv.info/fr/burkina-faso-tisser-teindre-et-coudre-le-coton-burkinabe/>)
* Mrs Diendéré and her local fruit juice production unit (<http://agribusinesstv.info/fr/burkina-faso-une-gamme-de-jus-de-fruits-sauvages-locaux/>)
* Coverage of a workshop on financing family farming in West Africa (<http://agribusinesstv.info/fr/pour-un-meilleur-financement-de-lagriculture-en-afrique-de-louest/>)
* Interview of Abou Simbel Ouattara, Burkina Faso's largest poultry entrepreneur (<http://www.commodafrica.com/25-04-2018-abou-simbel-ouattara-etre-aviculteur-nest-pas-le-resultat-dun-echec-professionnel>)
* Interview avec le concepteur de la pyramide zoo-hydroponique (<http://www.commodafrica.com/15-05-2018-kevin-doamba-lagriculture-tout-moment-de-lannee-et-en-en-tout-lieu-est-possible-avec-la>
* Article on the moringa sector in Burkina Faso (<http://www.commodafrica.com/11-06-2018-la-filiere-du-moringa-reste-construire-au-burkina-faso>)

With regard to success stories, I followed some in my country and also throughout Africa.

Issues that should be addressed at the Rwandan Youth Conference

* Youth agricultural entrepreneurship as a last resort to ensure food security, create jobs and reduce poverty
* Use of drones and agricultural practices
* Actions by policy makers in favour of the agricultural sector

## Pierre Habimana, Pohovalued, Rwanda

Pierre Habimana.

Being Rwandan Horticulturist highly experienced regionally and with international production for example Israel horticulture system knowledge, I have to show that fruit and vegetables production is a tangible business. Looking interest this not need high stating investment either is needed for high production and horticulture production give at each stage of value chain good output.

Technically youths are called in this field, there are money from nusery production to the market of the harvested product and intangible one in processing industries and also we can use small stating capital and low technic where some youth still struggling with capital. Youth we have to build a basal and good solid production looking for food security looking fruits and vegetables money quicker harvesting.

## Aiah Emmanuel Gborie, Yormatah Youth, Sierra Leone

Q1) How would you describe your experience as an Africa youth engaged in the agriculture sector in your country ? What motivated you to engage into the agriculture sector

Sierra Leone is blessed with a rich agriculture soil in especially our District Kono. Being rich agricultural as a District can support it citizens with necessaries food if properly invested. Growing as child, agriculture is term as a poor and old man job because only subsistence farming in being  taken in the  country  especially my district which is not enough to support even the household on a yearly  not to talk of the family. As a result of this our parent’s advice to go school and not even pay attention to anything that has to do with agriculture as it the field for the poor people.

What to add to the discouragement in agriculture is the school setting, the teachers also use agricultural work as punishments for those who misbehaved in school. So we the young people growing up see agriculture as a complete slavery for people and no profit.

After my high school, I started looking at all the things we use at home and put more our finances into for the home to look better. I came to learn that 80% of our expenditure at home goes in agriculture materials especially food. In 2013, we formed a team and take survey of the agriculture food items that imported in to our country which is to be grown by we the citizens. We then came to learn that for only our District Kono on a yearly: Rice $ 1 500,000 is imported in to the District poultry products $ 1,000,000 fish $ 800,000 and corn milk and onion $ 700,000 to name but few. Upon that we agreed that for any country to develop its citizen especially youths most embark on mechanize and productive agriculture to improve on the livelihood, employment and develop the economic.

In April 2015 we came together and formed the Yormatah Youth Farmers Association-Kamara, YYFA which AIM; Commitment to sustainable economic empowerment of youths, in the agriculture, food security sector and the use of natural resources to meet the demands of future generations of youths. This as a concerted effort is done through support from stake-holders and partners thereby enhancing development of youths

**VISION:** YYFA sees a positive youth generation emerging as useful adults capacitated to make meaningful contributions to the development aspirations of their communities.

**MAIN FOCUS**: Empowerment of rural youths through sustainable farming related and income generation activities for youths.

Our experiences as Youth Farmers has always being challenging in the area of access to land, finance, improve farming equipment and support from stakeholders, where mining companies are dominating farming to access the facilities. As it is now there is no tractor in the Kono District to encourage for we the farmers to embark on the large mechanize farming.  Our immediate solution to this tractor challenge we are able to mobilize our young members to engage on three hours ploughing of the land as way to achieve target for this years.

Q2. What have been your major achievements? Do you have any experience or innovative ways that have helped you in your work that you would want to share? Do you have a success story – either your own or any other that you are aware of - of youth engaged in agriculture in your country? What is the story?

Our successes over the years as Youth Farmers are as follows:

* Acquiring of 30 acres of land
* Construction of operational office.
* Mini poultry farm funded United Nation Food and Agricultural Organization.
* Fish pound funded United Nation Food and Agricultural Organization.
* Training of other youth farming in the district.
* Yearly vegetable production.

Our innovation in solving communities’ problems in agriculture is through practical way we have started with three young people whom we called community solution volunteers in the SGDs pillar 1, 2 and 13.

The volunteer have help in turning three mini out pits in to fish pound, created local battery cage in poultry, Promoted and development mini out inland swamp into productive agricultural places for rural farmers.

Through our lobby innovative we were able to have found and land from our local authority the paramount chief to support us in building our operational office

See the attachment

[Aiah Gborie.docx](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/discussions/contributions/Aiah%20Gborie_0.docx)

## Ndayisaba Faida Justin, Ryaf, Rwanda

Ndayisaba Faida Justin an intern in Rwanda Youth In Agribusness Forum (RYAF)

I hold my bachelor degree from University of Rwanda College of agriculture animal science and veterinary medicine, I studied crop production, and my experience is to manufacture organic fartilisers from animals and human wastage to solve a big challenges that our country farmers face. So I decide to use my skills and knowledge and put it in practice because after make survey to different farmers they showed me how the yield reduce due to the reduction of organic matter in the soil leading to soil degradation so I plan to do a small business that will expand as the capital will rise and help my country farmers to rise their yield.

## Anastase Nduwayezu, Rwanda

Q1. Experience as a youth in the agriculture sector

* As an African youth engaged in the agriculture sector in my country, the following are my Experience:

After ending my University studies in Department of Crop production in University of Rwanda in college of agriculture , animal sciences and veterinary medicine(CAVM) in July, 2017, I have started my business with a five thousand Rwandan Francs (**5000 Rwf)** of working capital dealing with the cultivation of carrot on a small piece land of about 2 Ares I was given by my parents in the villages/ rural area where I have harvested of about five bags (5) in which I sold them to the price of **15,000Rwf/bagx5=75000Rwf** for the first time,

 For the second time, I have increased the piece of land and use of about five Ares where I have cultivated Sugar beet/ beet roots with **250 mg of seeds cost 8000Rwf** and harvest **10 bags** of the produce and I sold them to the price of approximately equal to **38,000Rwf/bagx10= 380,000Rwf.**

Nowadays, I have extended the size of land from **5 Ares to 1 hectare** and I use to engage others man powers in my daily activities where more than 1 hundred **(100) labors** are always deployed temporally during the cultivation season.

To engage into agriculture sectors the following are my motivation:

* I was born in rural area where my family considered agriculture as priority.
* The success stories of some of the farmers and **RYAF** (Rwanda Youth in Agri-business Forum) leaders E.g. **Jean Baptiste** **Hategekimana and Regis.**
* I studied Agriculture/ Crop production in University and I have considered agriculture as a priority.

Q2. Major Achievements and success stories

* As an African youth engaged in the agriculture sector in my country, the following are my Experience:

I have started my business with a five thousand Rwandan **Francs (5000 Rwf)** of capital dealing with the cultivation of carrot on a small piece land of about **2 Ares** I was given by my parents in the villages/ rural area where I have harvested of about **five bags (5**) in which I sold them to the price **of 15,000Rwf/bagx5=75000Rwf** for the first time,

 For the second time, I have increased the piece of land and use of about five Ares where I have cultivated Sugar beet/ beet roots with 250 mg of seeds **cost 8000Rwf** and harvest 10 bags of the produce and I sold them to the price of approximately equal to **38,000Rwf/bagx10= 380,000Rwf.**

Nowadays, I have extended the size of land from 5 Ares to 1 hectare and I use to engage others man powers in my daily activities where more than 1 hundred (**100) labors** are always deployed temporally during the cultivation season and now I have the ability to collect the produce of horticultural crops e.g. **Beet roots and carrots** from different farmers and carrying them to the market as a strategies to generate an income. My action plan, is to hard work as much as possible as youth considered as an agent of changes in agri-business Forum and improve the ways I use to cultivate and increasing the size of land used to grow those crops, improving the production for both quality and quantity.

Q3) what The Rwanda Youth Conference should address

If given an opportunity, I would ask the following questions to the experts at the Rwanda youth conference on each of three sub themes

A) Youth employment and entrepreneurship

**Question to ask:** What are the contributions of FSN Forum to enhancing youth employment and entrepreneurship and how this forum will impact the different youths engaged in agriculture sector in Africa?

b) Digital innovation to overcome agriculture value chain constraints

**Question to ask:** Explain how the use of Digital innovation by youth will overcome agriculture value chain constraints?

Thank you very much and god be with you all!!

## Xavio Dominique Imbabazi, University of Rwanda-College of Agriculture ,Animal sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Rwanda

Good Morning,

I am Xavio from Rwanda.

Agriculture is one of the most preferred domain from which a big percentage of people in Africa earn a decent wage. It is also a sector that provides food for families. However, this sector faces with a big challenge of traditionalism in a world where modernization is highly needed to feed an ever increasing population. Africa is highly blessed with its big and naturally fertile land which, once wisely exploited can lead to a permanent food security. But, if we look at some techniques such as land preparation, fertilization, irrigation, plant protection, seeding and post harvesting, all of them are poor in almost all countries in Africa.

Researches on this continent don't give results that immediately help farmers improve their lives, this might probably due to a low quality of education. Every year, a big number of graduates are released from different universities but it is shameful how most of them do not want to go to farms but to sit in offices and sign documents as if they are secretaries. Additionally, most of them think of getting jobs instead of thinking of how to creatively start small businesses in agriculture that can contribute to the development of on farm trials and job creation.

All in all, this continent has a lot constraints in agriculture domain, but if we can make our graduates farmers instead of supervisors, we can promote a research based agriculture where we will not feel happy for one step and feel satisfied but keep working hard for more advanced results.

Thank you.

Imbabazi Dominique Xavio,

Engineer in Horticulture from University of Rwanda-College of Agriculture, Animal sciences and Veterinary Medicine.

Expert in vermiculture and vermicomposting

## Ibikunle Olaleru, Onelife Initiative for Human Development/Farming systems Research Program, National Root Crops Research Institute, Umudike, Abia State, Nigeria

I am Olaleru, Ibikunle Funso, From Nigeria,

I hold a first degree in Animal science with postgraduate training in agricultural biochemistry and nutrition which has since formed my area of research interest. My career goal is to apply my knowledge of agricultural biochemistry and nutrition to improving livestock productivity of the rural famers through improved livestock nutrition with the ultimate aim of contributing to income and food security of the rural farmers. Proper alignment of agriculture production systems and prevailing policies to factors influencing food systems is needed to maximize agriculture for economic empowerment particularly in the developing countries. I therefore strongly believe that the Youth Employment in Agriculture as a Solid Solution to ending Hunger and Poverty in Africa will equip me with knowledge and exposure that will enhance my ability to make contribution to unleashing agricultural advantages for economic empowerment of Nigerian farmers. I currently work with a national agricultural research institute in Nigeria (National Roots Crops Research Institute – NRCRI) and also volunteer at Onelife Initiative for Human development, a non-govermental organisation that is youth led and based in Ibadan. At NRCRI, my research focuses on improving the whole farming systems of root and tuber crops farmers through systemic integration of crops and animals.  Over the years we have looked into sustainable incorporation of roots and tuber crop product and by products into livestock diet for optimum income and preservation of the environment. I look forward to sharing my experience with colleagues at the program and also getting a feedback from them. I believe that my experience as a research scientist in farming systems program of NRCRI would enable me to contribute meaningfully to the theme "Youth Employment in Agriculture as a Solid Solution to ending Hunger and Poverty in Africa". After the program, I look forward to applying the experience and knowledge gained in identifying relevant research areas and formulating appropriate extension packages for ICT involvement in agricultural technology to root and tuber crop farmers in the agricultural farming system of Nigeria. One of the first step to achieving this will be my presentation of Institute-wide seminar to share my newly acquired knowledge with fellow scientists and also institutionalizing the gains of the program.

## Rabiah Zuze, Malawi

MY EXPERIENCE AS A YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE, MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND SUCCESS STORY

My name is Rabiah Zuze and I am from Malawi. I am very delighted to be amongst the youths invited to attend the conference on Youth Employment in Agriculture as a Solid Solution to ending hunger and Poverty in Africa: Engaging through Information and Communication Technologies and Entrepreneurship

The idea of engaging myself in agribusiness came in when I was in college, particularly during the time we were introduced to this other course called agricultural-economics. After a month of learning this course, i became motivated to engage myself into agriculture sector. I came to think that i can do something on my own as a business pertaining to my profession of which will also contribute to food security and nutrition in my country when I finish college. I thought of growing maize for sale as my first business venture because our staple food is nsima which is made from maize flour. However I was undecided about my decision because getting a job was my first priority followed by doing farming for commercial purpose implying that getting a job after college was my top most wish.

Nevertheless after completion of my bachelor’s degree in food security and nutrition, jobs were hard to find which was contrary to what I have always expected. With that situation I came back to the idea of growing maize for commercial purpose. However, I dropped the idea of maize production because there was too much competition at that time hence a lot of people were selling maize. However that did not stop my passion at all of becoming engaged in agribusiness .I was still thinking of other ideas pertaining to agriculture. After some months I still couldn’t find a permanent job. Therefore, to make ends meet, I borrowed some money from a friend which added to what I had been saving. The money was enough to start business of rearing hybrid (broiler) chickens. I started with 30 chickens only of which I sold after they reached maturity stage (six weeks). It was at that point when i realized that poultry farming would be the business for me to fulfill my desire of doing something on my own pertaining to my career. I was overwhelmed because I have always wanted to apply what I learnt in class into practice as one way of improving food security and nutrition in my community .Thereafter I reared 50 hybrid chickens but this time around it wasn’t easy because the feed for hybrid chickens became very expensive and I did not have enough money to feed the chickens as per recommended. Unluckily the chickens were also attacked of diseases so I struggled this time around hence I lost 15 chickens due to the attack.

Nevertheless giving up was not my option, despite those challenges I continued doing poultry farming as a business but then I switched to rearing local chickens. After weighing the options of raising hybrid chickens to local chickens I discovered that rearing local chickens was cheaper considering the following; Housing is cheaper, the feed is cheaper hence I use locally available materials to make them on my own, they don’t easily catch diseases, the selling price is much higher compared to hybrid chickens despite the fact that they take time to be fully grown for sale. To compensate the issue of late maturity, i rear improved local breeds that are fast reproducers and resistant to parasites and diseases which give me quick returns on the investment. Farming is really an effective business opportunity hence I have witnessed the goodness of that myself. I now have many customers and I am able to pay myself a salary and contribute to some of the family expenses. I have also used some of the profits from the poultry enterprise to start another business in hair products for women. I have also managed to employ one person who helps me to take care of the livestock together with my mother when I am not around and I look forward to employing more people as the business grows because I would want the business to keep going even if I get a job.

Food is one of the great universals in our lives and one of the things that brings us together. From my experience, surely livestock farming plays a major role as buffers and extenders and they act as protective measures in situations of unforeseen circumstances hence one can sell eggs or even the chickens from the farm for an immediate need. In this context one can buy food hence providing distinct advantages to improve nutrition and increase income from sales. And that makes poultry farming as an agricultural business one of the steps of providing a solid solution to ending poverty and hunger in Africa.

See the attachment

[My Success Story-Rabiah Zuze.docx](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/discussions/contributions/My%20Success%20Story-Rabiah%20Zuze.docx)

## Eugene Sindikubwabo, Rwanda

I am Eugene Sindikubwabo from Rwanda.

About my experience in Rwanda for youth.

Rwanda’s vision for agricultural transformation and development toward food security and attainment of per capita income of $1240 by year 2020 requires working with the youth as “the most energetic segment of the labour force”.

“Government and other partners should continually motivate and keep the youth in the driving seat in agriculture transformation. It is important to help the youth throughout the value chain. The youth also need to work with financial institutions to create more opportunities,” he noted.

Quoting a United Nations Environmental Programme 2015 survey, Africa has the largest population of young people in the world, with 226 million people aged 15 to 24 years old in need of sustainable employment.

“Each year, young people graduate from school seeking to enter the continent’s workforce, often with no success. The continent is facing a double employment crisis due to lack of jobs for the youth and an increase in the number of young people in need of work. Agriculture is the largest sector of employment where such youth have to exploit job opportunities and ensure food security,” he said.

Currently, agriculture contributes one third of the Rwanda’s total GDP while nearly 80 per cent of the population relies on the sector as the main economic activity.

“Considering that the agriculture sector meets 90 per cent of the national food needs and generates more than 70 per cent of the country’s export revenues, the youth should optimally be engaged and motivated in the whole value chain,” said Bucagu.

Figures show that youth in Rwanda constitute about 4.1 million, about 35 per cent of the total population. In urban settings, the youth are estimated at 25 per cent compared to 75 per cent in rural areas where agriculture is mostly undertaken.

“Rwandan government is making tremendous progress by establishing a youth-led umbrella for youthful organisations and individuals engaged in agribusines.

Question

1.c) In a country like Rwanda where telecommunication and internet is yet underdeveloped, how would you still make good use of the limited available resources?

## Patricia Chitanda, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Instute (Smedi), Malawi

**MY EXPERIENCE IN AGRICULTURE AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

My name is Patricia Chitanda from Malawi its a good experience am having in Agriculture now looking way back at school I did not like the subject of Agriculture but now have realized that money is inside Agriculture and its time to dig out the money, that's when I had the opportunity to apply for entrepreneurship in Agribusiness where I chose to venture into animal production Piggery to be specific. I take this as an achievement because Av just started with one (1) pig which I know in no time I will have so much in stock because they litter more at once if u care very well. In Malawi our economy relies on Agriculture so I will contribute to the growth of economy.

## Mathieu Dohounheho, Ong Jevev, Benin

Original comment in French

Mathieu Dohounheho, étudiant béninois vivant au Brésil. Je suis titulaire d'un diplôme professionnel en gestion et production de plantes et de semences de l'Université nationale d'agriculture du Bénin et membre du **MGCY** des **Nations Unies**. Aujourd'hui, je me concentre davantage sur l'eau et l'environnement. Pour moi, l'agriculture a toujours été une passion dès le plus jeune âge. Je suis née et j'ai grandi dans les zones rurales. Au cours des quatre dernières années, j'ai dû beaucoup travailler avec des producteurs de plusieurs localités au Bénin. Pendant ce temps, nous avons expérimenté plusieurs fois avec différents systèmes de culture dans différents domaines et l'un des systèmes (**MAÏS-MUCCUNA**) était plus adapté aux terres pauvres du Bénin. Nous avons utilisé ce dernier système pour notre thèse finale. Le document est là mais personne ne pense plus le vulgariser. Cela signifie qu'il y a mille et un jeunes Africains qui ont des innovations mais ne peuvent pas les réaliser. Nous avons une multitude d’universités et de structures agricoles en Afrique qui forment beaucoup de jeunes, notamment au Bénin comme **UNA** (Université Nationale d’Agriculture du Bénin), **SONGHAÏ** Project mais n’ont pas de bonne politique d’orientation des jeunes titulaires de la licence. Nous tous (les jeunes dans l'agriculture) voulons que les conditions de vie de notre population bien-aimée s'améliorent et que notre monde devienne un nouveau monde sans faim et pauvreté (**ONU ODD 1**) et c'est pourquoi nous avons choisi l'agriculture notre carrière Nous voulons que chaque individu ait suffisamment à manger et, surtout, des aliments de qualité. Donc, ma question peut être résumée comme suit:

- Quelles sont les stratégies que la **FAO** et d'autres parties prenantes ont l'intention de mettre en place pour accompagner certains gouvernements afin qu'à chaque fois que ces jeunes universitaires quittent le système, ils soient directement introduits, en particulier les meilleurs?

- N'est-il pas bon que la **FAO** créée un répertoire ou un blog qui permettra aux structures de supervision agricole d'envoyer les mémoires de ces jeunes universitaires (étudiants et maîtres) chaque année et que vous prendrez les meilleures idées?

English translation

Mathieu Dohounheho, I am a Beninese student living in Brazil. I have a professional degree in plant and seed management and production from the National University of Agriculture of Benin and I am a member of **MGCY** of the **United Nations.** I now focus more on water and the environment. I have always been passionate about farming from a very young age. I was born and raised in rural areas. Over the last four years, I have been working with producers in several localities in Benin. During this period, we experimented several times with different cropping systems in different fields and one of the systems (**MAÏS-MUCCUNA**) was more suitable for the poor lands of Benin. We used this last system for our final thesis. The document exists but nobody thinks to vulgarize it any more. This means that a thousand and one young Africans do have innovations but cannot make them happen. In Africa many universities and agricultural structures train many young people, especially in Benin such as **UNA** (National University of Agriculture of Benin), **SONGHAÏ** Project, but do not have a good orientation policy for young graduates. All of us (young people in agriculture) want to improve the living conditions of our beloved people and make our world a new world without hunger and poverty (**UN SDG 1**) and that is why we have chosen agriculture as our career. We want every individual to have enough to eat and, above all, quality food. So my question can be summarized as follows:

- What strategies do **FAO** and other stakeholders intend to put in place to support some governments so that each time these young academics leave the system, they are directly brought in, especially the best one?

- Wouldn't it be useful for **FAO** to create a directory or blog that would allow agricultural supervisory structures to send the memoirs of these young academics (students and teachers) each year so as to gather the best ideas?

DOHOUNHEHO Mathieu

Étudiant en sciences de l'environnement

São Paulo, Brésil

## Prosper Ruterana, Macadamia – Growers, Rwanda

A University graduate, It was understandable in our culture and though to see him in Agriculture primary production. But I started my agriculture career from second year of secondary school; here we did it as hobby (production of potatoes, small quantity of beans), we didn't have an ambition of producing profitably.

When I was 17, my father proposed me to start to crop Macadamia and learnt about them. It was discouraged to plant a crop of between 4-5 year for first production and he motivated me that It's for future cash in as well as feeding the future people as we increase and the land stay.

As an African youth engaged in Agriculture, I see that agriculture in Rwanda is a potential sector for forging money, but we hindered by limited cropping land, selected semens, conservation of naturally resource, dense population, financial resources (Investment),. We have a big market of agriculture produces but we don't have a good strategies of reaching. Another challenge we face is that market prices is not fixed. It fluctuates every season.

What motivate me to engage in agriculture is to feed my people. If there is no food even the life stop. The primary fuel for human life is food. The second is that as people increase, the food consumption also increase. Today, in Africa most young people look for smart (office) jobs. Agriculture is done by olden, they need someone who will get the heritage of producing for human consumption. Agriculture is my hobby. I will die by doing it.

Today, I have a farm of 97 macadamia trees. I had it before since 2004. I produced little amount of macadamia nuts in 2015. I flied to Israel for agriculture training and I appraised more skills related to archard production and I transferred into my plantation. Fortunately I shifted from 78 Kgs to 400 Kgs within two years, by next year 2019 I believe to harvest 2T. As experience, don't need to achieve more within short time. Enjoy the journey and gain more after. Work hard like slavery and life like King.

a). Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship:

* what do they expect to do to motivate young graduates to engage in agriculture sector?
* How do they assimilate the problem of youth unemployment situation and how they will contribute to alleviate it?
* What can we do to upgrade the agriculture wages?

b) Digital Innovation to Overcome Agriculture Value-Chain Constraints

* I will ask them if they are ready to produce a well and easy manipulated software for value chain that should help farmers to access all necessary information related to their daily activities.

c). Future of Work in Rural Economy - of the conference?

* The contribution of experts to shed down all necessary framework of developing rural areas economically through the agriculture.
* Their contribution to the development of the agriculture of small scale farmers.

Thanks

## Mizero Jean Felix, Nutrition Advisory Council Rwanda Ltd, Rwanda

LET US Take a short look on Nutrition facts OF RWANDANS

Why Rwandan youth as well as all African youth are needed in Agriculture transformation?

"Youth are not delivering back to the community after their studies"

/ Four children out of Ten are stunted /

"It’s a shame for Rwandan youth to live with stunted children within our households"

In My country, Rwanda,   we say Youth as agents of change in agribusiness, youth as the building power of the country.

So through those slogans, it is the task of policy makers, All agriculture actors should  facilitate youth projects and elaborate clear strategies to overcome the above challenges, mainly by

1) Highlighting youth perspectives about the development of the agriculture value chain

2) Engaging youth into the decision panel of agriculture policies

3) Delivering quality education that respond to the community challenges

4) Sustainability of youth projects where ever started instead to achieve food security

Thanks

Mizero Jean Felix

Local food Consultant

CEO and Founder of NUTRITION ADVISORY COUNCIL RWANDA LTD

## Adigun Temitayo, Wheels of Hope Rising Foundation, Nigeria

Youth empowerment through agricultural support and training as been tested in the last few years as the only sustainable solution to unemployment which increase poverty level in Africa and globally. Once we can tap into the potentials odf agriculture as youth we can be able to bring a shift that will end hunger. As organization in Nigeria, we take a proactive action to support fresh graduate to embrace agribusiness.

## Zahra Grana, ICARDA, Morocco

Hello everyone.

I am Zahra GRANA a PhD student from Morocco working on plant genetics and plant genetic resources characterization.

I came from a farming background family. But during my studies also I have noted the importance of this field and how much it needs to be developed in order to increase the food production to fulfill the national food need.

To achieve the goals that will help to develop the agriculture sector, the government is providing financial help to the graduated student. To set up their own agri-business company.

Since we have a family land in cultivated region in Morocoo I was thinking about building a small family company as a start. Especially that my PhD studies helped me to gather a lot of experience about farming. But yet is not sufficient to have a large knowledge about leading a company.

This kind of conference can be very helpful to see the challenges and the difficulties that other people already went through, to have an idea about the financial issues.Even this online discussion was very helpful for me to know a lot of information about the state of the agriculture sector in different countries in Africa.

By setting up my own Agri-business I am not just helping myself, I am also helping the development of my country, and providing new job opportunities. The company can also collaborate with local farmers and share the experiences that can be very useful.

In this context that the expect that workshop could provide us expert advice on entrepreneurship and the needed training, especially integrating digital innovations, which could be helpful to the younger generations.

## Nawsheen Hosenally, Agribusiness TV, Burkina Faso

My name is Nawsheen Hosenally, co-Founder of Agribusiness TV and Managing Director of Agribusiness Shop, based in Burkina Faso. Many thanks to FAO and partners for this online consultation to hear from us. Below are my responses to the questions set for this discussion.

**1. Experience as a Youth in the Agriculture Sector**

**How would you describe your experience as an Africa youth engaged in the agriculture sector in your country? What motivated you to engage into the agriculture sector?**

My first contact with agriculture was at University for my undergraduate degree in Mauritius. Like many other youth, I did not plan to get into this sector or had a vision that I want to be a researcher, extension officer or agripreneur someday – I did not even know about these jobs, since they were not enough promoted or valorized at that time. I just wanted to do something different and chose to study agriculture. My passion for agriculture grew during my practical classes, internships and jobs in different areas: research, extension, sales, marketing, facilitation etc. In the process, I got interested in ICTs and their application in the agricultural sector. I started a blog and was writing about the agricultural sector and my field trips in Mauritius. Then I won essay and blog competitions on youth in agriculture organized by CTA from 2010-2012. From that point, I knew that I have a passion in digital communications in agriculture and have been working in this area in different capacities since my graduation in 2011. My contribution for this consultation is focused on my experience with Agribusiness TV and Agribusiness Shop in Burkina Faso.

Agribusiness TV is a web TV which aims at using videos as a promotion tool to (re)valorise agriculture and make the sector more attractive to youth by showcasing success stories of young agricultural entrepreneurs and their innovations in Africa. The media was launched in May 2016, with the support of CTA. Agribusiness TV is available on its web and mobile applications in English and French versions.

Two years later, we created Agribusiness Shop, a physical and online shop whereby we market locally transformed agricultural products from young entrepreneurs and women associations from Burkina Faso, Benin, Cote d’Ivoire and Mali.

**2. Major Achievements and Success Stories**

What have been your major achievements? Do you have any experience or innovative ways that have helped you in your work that you would want to share? Do you have a success story – either your own or any other that you are aware of - of youth engaged in agriculture in your country? What is the story?

Major achievements for Agribusiness TV:

Production of over 100 videos since its launch from 12 African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mauritius, Niger, Senegal and Togo. Success stories of these entrepreneurs can be viewed on our website (<http://agribusinesstv.info/en/>) or YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/AgribusinessTV>).

The videos produced and disseminated have been viewed over 7 million times.

Our network of young entrepreneurs and youth in agriculture is constantly growing. Currently, we have 174,000 fans on Facebook, 13,000 subscribers on YouTube, and our mobile apps have had over 7,000 downloads.

Agribusiness TV also won several awards and distinctions including the WSIS project prize in the media category organized by ITU in 2017, and the First Prize of the Francophone Media Innovation Award organised by the International Francophone Organisation (OIF), Reporters Without Borders (RSF) and Radio France Internationale (RFI) to “encourage new forms of media” in the Frenchspeaking world.

After 2 years of operation, Agribusiness TV is no more running on grants, but rather working as a service provider in video production on agriculture in Africa.

We have recently partnered with a local TV station in Burkina Faso, whereby a bimonthly TV magazine called “Voir c’est croire” (seeing is believing) will be broadcasted as from October 2018. This will enable us to reach out to youth who are not connected to the Internet from the different countries that have Canal+ cable television channel

Another achievement was been the setting up of Agribusiness Shop through self-funding which is operational since April 2018. The initial products sold in the shop were from entrepreneurs that were showcased in videos produced by Agribusiness TV. The shop represents a new marketing channel for young entrepreneurs and women associations. It also brings locally transformed products closer to the consumers, who before had access to these products only during fairs and expos. Over 60 products are available currently at Agribusiness Shop and we are gradually increasing the number of products and suppliers.

**3. What the Rwanda Youth Conference Should Address**

**If given an opportunity, what question would you ask the experts at the Rwanda Youth conference on each of the three sub-themes –**

**a). Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship,**

With efforts from different stakeholders over the years, the issue of making agriculture more attractive to youth is slowly being addressed. From my own observation and experience, I see every day that youth have an interest to venture in agribusiness/agricultural entrepreneurship, but many of them don’t know where to start from and in which sub-sector to venture. How do we move from awareness raising to actually have enterprises created and upscaled in a sustainable manner? In my opinion, rather than aiming to support many small initiatives to get youth involved in agribusiness, it will be better to identify existing enterprises that have proved to be working and support these entrepreneurs to scale-up their business. In-turn, these entrepreneurs can mentor the new ones venturing in the sector. All these would require good coordination and collaboration among different stakeholders.

**b). Digital Innovation to Overcome Agriculture Value-Chain Constraints**

ICTs have huge potential to make agriculture more productive and profitable. However, over the years, many applications are being or have been developed through hackathons and other competitions, but very few of them are actually able to go beyond break-even point because their business models are flawed. How do we measure success from the ICT4Ag initiatives that currently exist? What should be the indicators? Who are those who are still operating without grants and funds from competitions? How did they make it? When it comes to digital solutions, we have to be careful about sustainability, which is currently a huge problem.

**c). Future of Work in Rural Economy.**

Rural areas have their own reality, but challenges exist even in cities. In entrepreneurship, it’s important to have a good business environment. When deprived from access to good roads, electricity, Internet, and services such as banks, you cannot be competitive on the market. Hence, these must be taken into account when the roadmap is made during the conference.

I'll end by thanking CTA and FAO for inviting Agribusiness TV to the conference. We'll contribute more at the event.

Best
Nawsheen

## Moise Nzanzu, Association des Agriculteurs Sans Frontière, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Original comment in French

Bonjour. Merci de nous avoir consulté dans le cadre de l'atelier en cours porté sur le thème les jeunes dans l'agriculture une solution pour mettre fin à la faim et à la pauvreté en Afrique : mobiliser les jeunes grâce aux technologies de l'information et de la communication et à l'entrepreunariat.

En tant que jeune africain impliqué dans le secteur agricole j'ai  d'abord acquis des connaissances oralement transmises par mes parents qui m'ont permis de commencer de petites activités notamment l'élevage des porcs, des lapins, des poules, des chèvres, et la culture des tomates en serre.

Après mon diplôme d'état je me suis décidé de suivre la faculté des sciences agronomiques afin de rendre mes activités plus professionnelles et rentables. Je suis à présent ingénieur en sciences agronomiques en département de chimie et industries  agricoles à l'institut facultaire des   sciences agronomiques ifa-yangambi/Rdc.J'ai effectué un stage à l'institut national d'études et des recherches agronomiques INERA/Mulungu-Sud Kivu/Rdc. J'ai aussi fait un stage à l'office congolais de contrôle OCC/Goma-Nord Kivu/Rdc et un autre stage au laboratoire de culture des tissus végétaux de la faculté des sciences de l'université de Kisangani-Tshopo Rdc.

Ce qui m'a poussé à m'engager dans le secteur agricole c'est participer à l'autosuffisance alimentaire et à la diversification de l'alimentation; développer des techniques agricoles durables tout en améliorant les rendements ; valoriser les produits agricoles locales pour créer la plus-value dans les zones de production et faciliter la conservation des produits alimentaires. Au-delà de tout c'est créer de l'emploi pour les jeunes comme moi à travers l'agribusiness. Sans oublier que la croissance mondiale de la population exigera plus des producteurs à l'avenir et les jeunes africains n'attendent que des investisseurs pour se mettre en valeur et sortir du cercle vicieux des problèmes de développement rural et de la pauvreté.

En effet, en termes de réalisations et histoires de réussites je peux partager les principales qui sont la myciculture, je vend des champignons comestibles. Il y a aussi la mise en place des jardins potagers et constitution de compost efficace à partir de la récupération des déchets organiques de l'élevage, de récolte et de cuisine. On peut citer aussi la transformation des sésames et des céréales, une farine de bouillie à base de mélange de maïs, riz, éleusine, arachide et soja. Pour la bouillie destinée aux malnutries on enrichit avec la farine des grains d'amarante. Enfin je peux aussi citer l'élevage des poules et des porcs.

L'expérience qui m'a aidé dans mon travail c'est le volontariat et l'auto prise en charge, c'est à dire faire de l'argent pour que les gens achètent chez nous et non demander de l'argent pour acheter chez autrui. Le signe de succès c'est le fait que nous soyons des partenaires de construction d'un changement et d'une transformation dans le renforcement des capacités. Pour réussir je fais participer la famille et des amis de mental engagé et émancipé.

J'ai déjà entendu parler d'autres jeunes à Goma /Nord Kivu/Rdc, certains dans la production animale "KIVU CHICKEN". D'autres s'organisent en association de lutte contre la malnutrition en faisant un mélange de bouillie à base de sept céréales. Ils mettent en place aussi des cultures maraîchères dans des champs aux environs de la ville.

Aux experts de la conférence je dirais que les jeunes sont ouverts à la technologie et à l'innovation pour revitaliser leurs communautés mais il leur manque souvent l'orientation, la formation et le soutien nécessaire et les principales contraintes du marché intérieur sont le manque d'infrastructures de marché, de transport et le manque d'information sur les prix. Qu'est-ce que les experts pensent pour redresser les  politiques nationales de développement par rapport à ces problèmes et pour que les politiques nationales reconnaissent suffisamment le potentiel des jeunes en tant que moteurs de la croissance et du développement et leur offrent assez d'opportunités de mettre à profit leurs compétences.

A propos de l'avenir du travail agricole je sais que la migration des jeunes vers l'étranger à la recherche des opportunités économiques c'est une perte d'une part de notre force de travail. Que pensent les experts sur la production des produits à l'échelle industrielle en Afrique où il y a assez des terres arables cultivables non exploitées. Qu'est-ce que ils pensent pour accompagner les agriculteurs dans le développement pour que leurs activités soient productifs et les conditions de travail favorables.

English translation

Hello. Thank you for consulting us in relation to the current workshop on the subject of Youth Employment in Agriculture as a Solid Solution to ending Hunger and Poverty in Africa: engaging through Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and entrepreneurship.

As a young African involved in the agricultural sector, I initially acquired knowledge by word of mouth from my parents, which allowed me to start with small scale activities, such as rearing pigs, rabbits, chickens, goats and tomatoes under glass.

After my state degree, I decided to continue in the faculty of agricultural sciences, so as to make my activities more professional and profitable. At present, I am an engineer in agricultural sciences in the department of chemical and agricultural industries of the Institut Facultaire des Sciences Agronomiques ifa-yangambi/RDC. I have had a placement at the National Institute of Research and Study in Agronomy at INERA/Mulungu-Sud Kivu/RDC. I have also had a placement at the Congolese office for control OCC/Goma-Nord Kivu/RDC and another placement at the laboratory for vegetable tissue culture of the Faculty of Sciences at the Université de Kisangani-Tshopo (RDC).

What has made me engage in the agricultural sector is being involved in food self-sufficiency and diversification; the development of sustainable agricultural techniques while improving yields; enhancement of local agricultural products to create added-value in the production phases and assist in the conservation of food products. Above all, creating employment for young people, like me, through agro-business. Without forgetting that world population growth will demand more producers in the future and young Africans are just awaiting investors to prove their worth and break out of the vicious circle of rural development problems and poverty.

Indeed, in terms of achievements and success stories, I can share the main ones which are fungiculture, I sell edible mushrooms. There is also the establishment of market gardens and making compost efficiently after recovering the organic waste from animals, harvest and the kitchen. One can also mention the transformation of sesame and cereals, and flour for porridge made of a mixture of maize, rice, millet, peanuts and soya. The porridge used for the malnourished, is enriched with a kind of flour made from amaranth seeds. Finally, I can also mention the rearing of poultry and pigs.

The experience that has helped me in my work is determination and independence that is to say to make money because people buy our products and not to ask for money to buy from others. The sign of success is the fact that we are partners in building change and transformation by strengthening abilities. To succeed, I involved my family and friends with the same committed and liberated outlook.

I have already heard of other young in Goma /Nord Kivu/RDC, some in the production establishment "KIVU CHICKEN." Others have organized an association for the fight against malnutrition by making a mixture of porridge based on seven cereals. They also established market gardens in the fields around the town.

To the experts at the conference I would say that the young are open to technology and innovation to revitalize their communities, but they often lack guidance, training and the necessary support, and the main constraints of the domestic markets are the lack of market infrastructure, transport and the lack of information on pricing. What do the experts think about adjusting the national policies for development in relation to these problems, so that national policies sufficiently recognize the potential of the young as drivers of knowledge and development and offer them enough opportunities to profit from their abilities?

In relation to the future of agricultural work, I know that the migration of young people overseas seeking economic opportunities is a loss of a part of our workforce. What do the experts think about the production of products on an industrial scale in Africa, where there is much arable land still not exploited? What do they think about supporting farmers with development so that their activities are productive and their working conditions favourable?

## Dumisani Kananza, Blue Cloud Limited, Malawi

I am Dumisani Kananza, from Lilongwe Malawi, a Renewable Energy engineer graduate from Mzuzu University with a passion for agribusiness and entrepreneurship and an influencer.

**EXPERIENCE AS A YOUTH IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR**

More than 50% of the population of African countries is below the age of 25. Most of these countries are faced with high youth unemployment levels, poverty and hunger. According to the African Development Bank, 60% of Africans live in rural areas and such areas depend overwhelmingly on agriculture for livelihoods.

In a report by the World Bank, Africa's food market to be worth US $1 trillion in just 15 years to come. Currently, Africa spends about US $60 billion on food imports each year, benefiting producer’s outside the continent. 80% of the farming in Africa is done on subsistence basis and the majority involved are the elderly. We have the largest, most vibrant group of young people yet jobs have to be created for over 250 million of them. Interestingly, Africa has over 60% of the world's arable land and so transforming the agriculture sector and taking it as a business, not just to feed ourselves and families but proving that we indeed are the world's food basket is the solution to ending hunger and poverty and in so doing, creating jobs for the youth.

In Malawi, 85% of the groundnuts is produced by smallholder farmers who are characterized by having limited processing capacity, poor storage facilities and low levels of mechanisation. These farmers also lack access to quality markets that offer better prices for their produce. Apart from that, most of the groundnuts produced have aflatoxin levels above the acceptable value due to lack of knowledge in Good Agriculture Practices and Good Storage Practices amongst the farmers. Since quality and food safety starts from the farm, the high aflatoxin levels are also present in value added products such as groundnut flour and peanut butter in the value chain. In providing a solution, I together with my cofounder did set up a company called Blue Cloud Limited with a focus on value addition to agro produce. The company is 3 years old and we exist to transform the nation's health by providing highly nutritious foods, taking maximum advantage of the country's agro endowments. Our vision is to become a leading producer of highly nutritious foods. As of date, our main product is peanut butter, branded Lian Smooth Peanut Butter. We link with our farmers who are youth and women through the National Smallholder Farmers Association in Malawi (NASFAM), and the association trains the farmers in good agriculture practices and aflatoxin control. We have managed to set up a peanut butter processing factory and we are working on getting the product certified by the Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS).

**MAJOR SUCCESS STORIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

I do consider the successful product development process of coming up with the Lian Peanut Butter brand and product that meets the customers needs as a major success. Our value proposition makes the product standout and the product is doing well on the market, with a lot of traction and a very good customer base. I got featured on the entrepreneur’s page in one of the leading newspapers here in Malawi, The Nation, as a result of my entrepreneurial journey.

In 2016, I got selected and I did attend the Standardization, Quality assurance, Accreditation and Metrology (SQAM) workshop which was organized by SADC and was held in Maseru, Lesotho. This gave me an opportunity to interact with stakeholders and players from the food sectors from other SADC countries and Gabe me a chance to share my views and learn from others. After the workshop, I was selected to attend a training that was offered by the Malawi Bureau of Standards in Food Safety Management Systems based on ISO 22000 and ISO/TS 22002-1 which I successfully completed and got certified. In addition, I also attended a training on Global Food Safety Initiative based on local sourcing for partnerships project, Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) implementation which was organized by the COMESA Business Council. The project train we, agriprenuers in HACCP as a tool in enhancing partnerships with supermarkets and hotels. The knowledge I gained through these trainings has helped me a lot in setting up a factory that complies to the requirements of the Malawi Bureau of Standards.

Another achievement this far is my participation in the Building Bridges Road to Nairobi 2016 Project which aimed at promoting youth led innovative businesses across east and southern Africa. Lian Peanut Butter got selected among the top ten businesses in Malawi and we got a full page feature in the book that was published there after about the entrepreneurs selected, and this got me a feature on the Humans of my world page. The project noted our contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals namely; zero hunger, descent work and economic growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure, reduced inequalities and responsible consumption and production. The ministry of industry, trade and tourism also recognized the work I am doing such that they gave me opportunity to display my product with all expenses paid by them at the international trade fair in Blantyre, Malawi. This experience connected me to more customers and international export Ready markets awaiting the certification of the product.

This year, I successfully completed the Disrupt!Food! Training which focused on training entrepreneurs to re-think, re-shape, innovate and scale the disruptive capacities of their businesses for a more sustainable agri-food system. Through the training, I have learnt how to develop a business plan based on the Business Canvas Model, access to finance and to prepare a pitch and present it to potential investors. This gas enabled me to open a you tube channel where my pitch presentation about Lian Peanut Butter has been uploaded and can be viewed anytime. In December last year, I was voted as the best young entrepreneur of the year for aflatoxin control in peanut butter production and cleanliness at factory premises by the National Association of Small and Medium Enterprises in Malawi (NASME). The association also appointed me as its youth ambassador.

With these achievements, I applied for a Masters Degree in Agribusiness Management at the Rome Business School and I have been offered a place for the October intake, on a partial scholarship basis.

I have also participated in the initial training workshop on the use of the FAO/WHO draft tool to assess national food control systems which was held in Lilongwe, Malawi in November 2017. Ms Catherine Bessy, food safety and quality officer from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations facilitated the training. Currently, I am part of 18 entrepreneurs who got selected by the African Institute of Corporate Citizenship (AICC) here in Malawi for a project called Young Innovative Farmer which focuses on linking upcoming agriprenuers to already established ones to network and learn from them.

Blue Cloud Limited has created jobs for ten youth and women this far. We have a Facebook page for our Lian Peanut Butter product which I run and use to interact with our customers and get feedback as well us promoting the product and boosting sales. I have managed to write two successful matching grant proposals one for the African Development Bank in collaboration with the Ministry of industry, trade and tourism her in Malawi and the other for giz also here in Malawi.

LINKS

Instagram: @dumikananza

Twitter: @dumikananza

**WHAT THE RWANDA YOUTH CONFERENCE SHOULD ADRESS**

In terms of youth employment and entrepreneurship, what systems and mechanisms have been put in place , for example Tech Hubs in ICT where people learn how to code, web development, to to equip the youth in agribusiness with skills and knowledge to take up agriculture and drive significant change in various value chains as a tool for job creation for fellow youth and what other support structures have been developed in order to help them find funding for their ventures and ideas and how to run the ventures as well? Any plans for an Africa youth bank for the continent and in countries which can provide soft loans? How can youth cooperatives enhance entrepreneurship across the continent? What steps are being taking towards industrialization I'm the agriculture sector?

In terms of digital innovation to overcome value chains, my question is what innovations are being created and promoted or need to be created or promoted to enable and enhance the interaction of farmers, processors, regulators and traders, supermarkets in the various value chains in the agriculture sector, what marketing tools and marketing platforms, and linkages  are being used? How can we take advantage of mobile money platforms in enhancing productivity, and access to information, how can we take advantage of drones in farming for pest control, increase in production and product delivery? How can we use ICT in hydroponics as a tool for improving data availability in the agriculture sector?

In terms of the future work in rural economy, my question is what business models are being implemented to improve the profitability of the farming and agribusiness in rural communities, what inclusive models are being adopted and created to fit the rural community set up? What is being done to make these models viable enough in creating jobs and mitigating urban migration among the youth from rural areas? Can we adopt the Spader web doctrine and also run each community as a federal system to promote development?

Thanks for providing this platform that I can share my experiences and views in the agriculture sector and I look forward to taking part in this important meeting. I believe that when my factory is certified, I will be able to create over 100 jobs for young people and provide a market for youth and women farmers I'm the value chain, thereby improving their standard of life.

Kind regards.

## Roland Fomundam, GreenHouse Ventures Ltd, United States of America

**1. Experience as a Youth in the Agriculture Sector**

It has been an amazing experience for me especially being a starter in the field of focus. I am deploying low cost greenhouses in Cameroon. It is the first time it is being done. Up until my presence, Cameroonians did not truly belief greenhouses could do well in Cameroon - it has been the most rewarding experience seeing these beautiful fruits growing through time until harvest. Amazingly, we have turned the use of the greenhouse into a multiuse tool with potential to amerliore several handicaps faced by agriculture in Africa.

And over the years, our exploits with the greenhouses have been record setting from growing crops with extended shelf life, healthier and hence more valuable than outdoor grown crops. We have also been able to use the greenhouses to grow crops year round, gaining in large harvest (on small lots of land compared to outdoor agriculture) consistent in quality and quantity to supply several markets.

Being a youth, born and raised in this communities and being seen trailblazing has been a blessing to me. More so in the areas of agriculture where very few are venturing into nor innovating in the field.

I grew up around farms in Cameroon while living with my aunt Rose and personally witnessed how small-scale farmers were neglected. She worked at least 10 hours a day for 6 days each week cultivating and collecting tomatoes. She spent the 7th day selling a handful at the local market and delivered the remainder to wholesale distributors who knew she was desperate to sell before the tomatoes perished and compensated her with far less than she deserved.

Upon leaving Cameroon, I also witnessed the challenges faced by the government in addressing issues in agriculture. Being raised on the farms and studied at a prestigious University, I realized I had the background to effectively introduce solutions that will change agriculture in Cameroon forever.

I am an entrepreneur by training and in every crisis, I see opportunities. Today, I am capitalizing on these opportunities and positioning myself to lead several operations within Cameroon. I also plan to run for President of the country.

**2. Major Achievements and Success Stories**

The inability of local citizens especially small-scale farmers to grow crops year round is a major challenge especially in developing countries where there are no affordable technologies for indoor farming. This leads to loss of income and productivity during the off-season as well as a hike in market prices for seasonal crops. These farmers tend to over produce during on-seasons but the lack of affordable preservation mechanisms deepens their losses. They are unable to meet up market demands and incur losses in the supply chain, which further exacerbates their socio economic standards.

As a solution, we have customized the affordable greenhouse technology for our communities and enabled small-scale farmers and other producers to become more productive and more profitable.

Using the affordable greenhouse technology, we have established a one-stop shop that develops, deploys and markets the technology to multiple users and also training participants in the process. In so doing, we have emerged as the nation’s premier sustainable agriculture company with a goal to empower the local citizens with the technology, giving them the unique ability to grow crops year round backed by a market platform to package and channel their harvests to target markets. The end result is a healthy environment with a population that has become more productive and more profitable.

So, since inception, GHV has pioneered the exploitation of this technology in Cameroon; customized the technology for every ecological zone and useful for a wide variety of crops; standardized the cultivation of several crops to maximize production and minimize loss; trained many and finally developed a Farm Franchise model which has attracted the masses into greenhouse and sustainable farming. We are also pioneering the development of greenhouse dryers and dehydrators.

Our technology and business model continuous to gain attention and widely accepted in several communities nationwide.

**3. What the Rwanda Youth Conference Should Address**

 The conference should address the following:

a. Access to funding to agrientrepreneurs with viable projects not back by any collateral

b. The development of private agribusiness incubators solely independent of the government

c. The formation of a coalition of agricentrepreneurs throughout the continent for the exchange and sharing of ideas for mutual benefits.

## Policarpo Tamele, Entrepreneurship Developement Agency, Mozambique

In Mozambique, in recent years, there has been interest in young people in the agricultural value chain. Although young people view agriculture as suffering, a nightmare, which has no immediate results, many young people when they finish agricultural training do not follow up with their specialization, preferring more accessible jobs or jobs, such as commerce and finance.

My organization, the Agency for Development and Entrepreneurship, has led to acb in the last 4 years, a work of awareness and promotion and involvement of youth in the agricultural value chain. Instill in young people that agriculture is also a source of employment, employability and self-employment when it is done with proper science and research.

One of the major problems and limitations, there has to be access to financing, since commercial banks require high interest rates. But we are doing policy advocacy work to influence the executive, private sector, to create accessible financial instruments or mechanisms, example Start-up.

There are some initiatives that we are carrying out, such as the implantation of Agro Incubator, rural development and gymnasium and creation of greenhouses.

See the attachment below

[Capa Business Plan.docx](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/discussions/contributions/Capa%20Business%20Plan.docx)

## Sylvester Chabuka, Mtengo Wakumunda Enterprise, Malawi

Dear Sir/Madam

Here is my take on the online discussion.

I am Sylvester Chabuka a young Malawian man of 23 years. My professional journey in Agriculture started last year when I got selected by the Ministry of Agriculture to embark on a 3 months youth Agribusiness and entrepreneurship training at SMEDI in a NEPAD project. But my passion for agriculture can be traced back to my early childhood when I saw our families in the village harvesting surpluses crops but eventually would still experience famine in the late summer due to lack of Agriculture processing or preservation skills. This fact propelled me to sick for a carrier in Agriculture. The major challenges so far have been lack of financial resource to finance my activities and dealing with expectations from the family and peers, as many consider agriculture as the least field a person can engage in, of which am proving wrong.

My major achievements have been the registration of my business, MTENGO WAKUMUNDA ENTERPRISE, (farm price enterprise) and the commencement of production soya porridge flour and Nsima flour.

Through my venture which I started with $20 I have been able to buy a digital scale, a sealing machine and have to female workers helping me in production. On the other hand realizing that no financial support is really available for me I have invested in tomato farming where I am targeting to earn $1,000 as it is the only thing that stands between me and my success in agribusiness. Besides farming tomatoes I am also growing leaf vegetables for family consumption and commercial.

On youth employment I would love to ask "what financial support is available for young agri entrepreneurs?"

Thank you for this wonderful opportunity. I look forward to attending the conference.

Kind Regards

Sylvester Chabuka

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## Eyadema Hamada Hamza, MFR, Comoros

Original comment in French

Le monde entier plus particulièrement  l’Afrique la faim et la pauvreté ont pris le déçue. Les jeunes Africains doivent lutter contre le désastre en touchant le sol. Nous le Comores, nous pensons  solutionner ce problème, en formant des jeunes dans le secteur agricole sur des techniques modernes afin de répondre aux besoins nécessaires pour la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté dans le continent africain. Sur  ce, les jeunes du pays doivent bénéficier des formations : penseriez –vous que la faim et la pauvreté peuvent être éradiqué dans le continent africain ? Pour repondre à cette problématique nous devons étudier ce fléau sur les axes suivants.

 1-expérience en tant que jeune dans le secteur agricole

 a)-Décriez –vous en tant que jeune africain impliqué dans le secteur agricole aux Comores.

b)-ce qui ma poussé à m’engager dans le secteur.

2-Principale réalisations et histoire de réussite

a)-mes principales réalisations.

b)-solutions innovantes  qui mon aidé dans mon travail.

c)-les exemples de réussite

3- penseriez –vous l’insertion, la commercialisation et la conservation des produits agricoles pour lutter contre la faim et la pauvreté ?

Penseriez –vous à l’innovation des techniques agricoles et la pérennisation dans les pays africains ?

Je suis un jeune comorien connu au nom de Eyadema Hamada ; j’ai suivi de formation supérieur au Comores sur l’agriculture et l’élevage plus particulièrement les volailles.je suis venu d’une famille de la brousse qui a connu l’agriculture ancienne.je me suis élevé dans des différents champs pour des cultures différentes. J’ai pratiqué peu à peu avec mes parents les cultures vivrières. Je suis l’ainé d’une famille qui compte 8(huit) enfants ; la vie devenue de plus en plus difficile donc j’ai participé à l’agriculture pour aider ma famille  brève…

Dans notre pays, si on parle d’agriculteur  tous le monde ignore cette personne.les agriculteurs n’ont pas de place dans notre société. Mais cela ne m’a pas empêché d’aller dans un centre de formation. D’abord pour mes parents nous avons mangé les rendements ; nous ne connaissions pas la faim. J’ai pris ma décision de m’engager dans le secteur pour supprimer la pauvreté et cela ça ma aidé de devenir un technicien agricole sur le terrain. J’ai pris les choses en main pour que mes cadets suivent le chemin de l’école et le ciel m’a aidé.

Ce que j’ai réalisé pour sortir dans cette nasse : j’ai choisi la culture maraichère car c’est la culture qui a moins de dépense, consommable dans les hôtels, résistant et les plus rentable. Prenons l’exemple d’un concombre dans vingt mètre carré on peu aller jusqu’à 500kg et les dépense de cette culture sont très minime.

Mes réalisations sur une parcelle de 100m2  j’ai réalise une culture de piments voir les dépenses sur le tableau ci-dessus :



Le rendement de ce tableau durant une année s’est élevé à 1000000 de francs comoriens. Mal grès tout les problèmes de vente, Cette expérience m’a permit d’aider mes proches et mes parents. Avec les techniques innovées, je pense que nous pouvons réduire ou même éradiquer la faim et la pauvreté en Afrique. Mais les problèmes majeurs c’est l’insertion, la commercialisation et la conservation.

Donc le développement d’un pays passe par les mains d’œuvres qualifiés, valoriser l’agriculture et les centre des formations professionnel .les jeunes Africains ne laissent aucun mètre que la main passe.

Conclusion

Plus de 75%de la population comorienne est paysanne dont leur préoccupation majeur est d’améliorer leur revenus malgré les différentes problèmes liés à la production. Pour qu’un jour ses démunis puissent se rassurer des meilleur rendements de leur travail, plusieurs facteurs doivent être pris en considération parmi les quelles une bonne gestion de l’exploitation une excellente connaissance des technique des production ainsi qu’une bonne maitrise des aspects économiques et financiers liés à la production

Recommandations:

1. Appuyer techniquement les producteurs à améliorer la production
2. Appuyer financièrement les producteurs à produire plus
3. Mise en place des centres de conseils agricoles opérationnels dans les différentes régions
4. Arrêter les intrants agricoles importés illégalement
5. Disponibilité des marchés pour écouler les produits à temps

English translation

Throughout the whole world, and in particular in Africa, hunger and poverty have brought disillusionment. Young Africans must fight against disaster concerning the soil. We, in the Comoros, aim to solve this problem, by training the youth in the agricultural sector in modern techniques so as to fulfil  the requirements needed to fight hunger and poverty in the African continent. In this regard, the youth of the country must benefit from training: would you think that hunger and poverty can be eradicated in the African continent? To answer that question we must study this scourge via the following approaches:

 1- Experience as a youth in the agricultural sector

 a) Describe yourself as a young African involved in the agricultural sector in the Comoros.

b) What motivated you to engage in the sector.

2- Major achievements and success stories

a) My main achievements.

b) Innovative solutions that have helped in my work.

c) Examples of success

3- Would you think about insertion, marketing and conservation of agricultural products in the fight against hunger and poverty?

Would you think about innovation of agricultural techniques and for the long term in African countries?

I am a young Comorian, called Eyadema Hamada; I have gone through Higher Education in the Comoros on agriculture and rearing animals, in particular chickens.  I come from a family in the countryside, which practiced the old ways of farming.  I was brought up to use different fields for different crops. I worked  little by little with my parents on basic food crops. I am the eldest in a family of 8 children; life had become more and more difficult therefore in short I started farming  to help my family.

In our country, if one talks about a farmer everyone ignores this person.  Farmers do not have status in our society. But that did not stop me from going to a training centre. In the case of my parents we ate what we produced; we did not go hungry. I took the decision to engage in the sector to eliminate poverty and that helped me to become an agricultural technician in the field. I have taken charge so that my younger siblings can go to school and heaven has helped me.

What I have done to come out of this tangle: I have chosen market gardening  because it is the least expensive way of producing crops, which are consumed in the hotels, are more resistant and the most profitable. Take the example of a cucumber in 20 m2, one can get up to 500kg and the expenditure for this crop is minimal.

My results in a 100m2  plot: I carried out a cultivation of chillies, see the expenditure in the table below:



The productivity of this table for a year has been 1 000 000 Comoros francs. Despite all the sales problems, this experience has allowed me to help my loved ones and my parents. With innovative techniques, I believe that we could reduce or even eradicate hunger and poverty in Africa. But the major problems are insertion, marketing and preservation.

Therefore the development of a country depends on a qualified labor force, the value placed on agriculture and professional training centers.  Young Africans leave no meter of land that can be tilled.

Conclusion

More than 75% of the Comorian population work in farming therefore their main preoccupation is to improve their income, despite the different problems related to production. So that one day these deprived people can be assured of better returns for their work, many factors must be taken into consideration among which good management of the farming activity, an excellent knowledge of production techniques as well as a good training in relation to the economic and financial aspects associated with production.

Recommendations :

Technical support to the producers to improve production.

Financial support to producers to increase production.

Set up centers for agricultural operational advice in the different regions.

Stop the illegal imports of agricultural inputs.

Availability of markets to sell the products in time.

## Solange Nyiraguhirwa, INRA/ICARDA, Morocco

I am SOLANGE NYIRAGUHIRWA from Rwanda. I am doing PhD study in Morocco.

I came from a rural area in Rwanda, where agricultural is practiced with a few knowledge (irrigation mainly from rain, poor knowledge on utilizing fertilize, not enough storage facilities….) But in all, I am glad that my government is putting really visible effort to advance agriculture.

In Africa, the majority of populations are farmers but the export and revenues are low, or in the developed countries few people practice agriculture and the revenues/export are higher.

This conference will help all of us a lot to share knowledge;

The government and all of us should find solutions so that from the price of agriculture products the farmers get the high percentage of revenue. And With so many graduates students in agriculture, we should provide farmers with essentials knowledge on using pesticides, weather information, digital innovation could help us in that.

Lastly, government and others institutions should reinforce startup projects/ as well startup weekend focused on agricultures projects, where youth come together for weekend brainstorming agribusiness projects.

## Malala Onisoa Rakotojaofeno, YPARD, Madagascar

**Original comment in French**

Toute transformation agricole en Afrique passera par la participation des femmes et surtout des jeunes. Les jeunes et les femmes africaines peuvent nourrir le continent et peuvent aussi nourrir le monde.

C'est ainsi que je présente ma participation pour cette consultation dans le but de promouvoir la participation des jeunes dans le monde agricole africain. J'ai déjà participé à l'#AASW6 en 2013 (Ghana), #AFAAS Madagascar en 2014, Initiative on Women and Youth Empowerment in Africa en 2014 (Kenya), #FARA Gender training for enabling gender in AR4D in Africa, Youth and CAADP KIS avec YPARD et FARA en 2014 (Ghana).

**1-Expérience en tant que jeune dans l'agriculture**

Je m'appelle Malala Onisoa RAKOTOJAOFENO et j'ai 32 ans. Je suis une environnementaliste et une économiste de formation et actuellement je suis doctorante à l'Université d'Antananarivo (Madagascar). Je fais partie du réseau YPARD (Young Professionals for Agricultural Development, [www.ypard.net](http://www.ypard.net)) Madagascar dont je suis même la représentante de mon pays depuis Octobre 2015. Mes domaines d'expertise sont : environnement, changement climatique, économie, développement durable et agriculture. Depuis 2011, j'ai également intégrer une association de jeune agriculteur dont je suis devenue actuellement la coordinatrice. Je suis aussi un blogger (<http://agri-climatmadagascar.blogspot.com>) car j'ai participé au Web 2.0 du CTA à Madagascar en 2012.

**2-Principale réalisation et réussite**

En tant que représentante de Ypard à Madagascar, nous avons, en 2016, reçu un financement de Ypard Global. Nos projets de 2016 ont été réalisés grâce à cet financement. Puisque notre association n'a pas encore de fonds pour le fonctionnement, nous avons prévu de ne visiter que 05 écoles et 05 collèges ruraux. Le but de notre projet était de sensibiliser les plus jeunes à opter et de choisir la filière agricole car Madagascar et l’Afrique en général est un continent à vocation agricole. Lorsqu'on a présenté notre projet auprès de l'Ypard Global, il nous en octroyé un financement. Même si on été jeune (création en 2015) et peu d'expérience, il nous a fait confiance. D'Où, nous avons pu visiter plusieurs établissements. On avait visité 10 écoles primaires et 10 écoles secondaires (double de ce qui a été prévu). Il faut donner confiance aux jeunes. Lorsqu'ils ont des objectifs bien définis et précis, il faut les pousser dans leurs projets. Actuellement, quelques collégiens que nous avons visité ont continué leurs études dans le secteur agricole.

**3, a- Emploi des jeunes et entreprenariat**

Ma principale question est comment valoriser la créativité des jeunes dans le secteur agricole car il y effectivement des projets susceptibles de générer des emplois dans le domaine de l'agriculture.

**3, b- Innovations numériques**

Ma question est sur l'acquisition des nouvelles technologies. Comment allons nous uniformiser la capacité des jeunes africains pour acquérir les nouvelles tendances en matière de technologie pour que ca aboutisse à une réelle développement agricole? Nous savons que les jeunes sont très attirés par les nouvelles technologies.

**3, c- Avenir du travail agricole**

Actuellement, "l'inclusion financière" est en vogue. N'est-il pas important d'intégrer cette notion dans le secteur agricole? Nous savons qu'un des principaux contraintes des jeunes est l'accès aux financements et investissement. D'Où, l'inclusion financière chez les jeunes agriculteurs s'avère très importante pour la promotion des emplois dans le secteur agricole.

Any agricultural transformation in Africa will require the participation of women and especially young people. African youth and women can feed the continent and can also feed the world.

This is how I present my contribution for this consultation with the aim of promoting youth participation in African agriculture. I have already participated in #AASW6 in 2013 (Ghana), #AFAAS Madagascar in 2014, Initiative on Women and Youth Empowerment in Africa in 2014 (Kenya), #FARA Gender training for enabling gender in AR4D in Africa, Youth and CAADP KIS with YPARD and FARA in 2014 (Ghana).

English translation

**1- Experience as a youth in agriculture**

My name is Malala Onisoa RAKOTOJAOFENO and I am 32 years old. I am an environmentalist and an economist by background and I am currently a PhD student at the University of Antananarivo (Madagascar). I am a member of the YPARD network (Young Professionals for Agricultural Development, www.ypard.net) Madagascar of which I am even the representative of my country since October 2015. My areas of expertise are as follows: environment, climate change, economy, sustainable development and agriculture. Since 2011, I have also been involved in an association of young farmers, of which I am currently the coordinator. I am also a blogger (http://agri-climatmadagascar.blogspot.com) as I participated in CTA's Web 2.0 in Madagascar in 2012.

2- **Major Achievements and Success Stories**

As Ypard's representative in Madagascar, we received funding from Ypard Global in 2016. Our 2016 projects were made possible thanks to this funding. Ince our association does not yet have funds to operate, we plan to visit only 05 schools and 05 rural colleges. The aim of our project was to raise awareness among the youngest to opt for and choose the agricultural sector because Madagascar and Africa in general is an agriculture-oriented continent. When we presented our project to the Ypard Global, they gave us funding for it. Although we were young (created in 2015) and had little experience, it put its trust in us. Hence, we were able to visit several establishments. We visited 10 elementary schools and 10 high schools (twice the number planned). Young people must be given confidence. When they have well-defined and precise objectives, they must be encouraged in their projects. Currently, some college students we visited have pursued their studies in the agricultural sector.

**3.a - Youth employment and entrepreneurship**

My main question is how to enhance the creativity of young people in the agricultural sector since there are indeed projects that can generate jobs in the agricultural sector.

**3.b - Digital innovations**

My question has to do with the acquisition of new technologies. How are we going to uniformize the capacity of young Africans to master new trends in technology so that they lead to real agricultural development? We know that young people are very attracted to new technologies.

**3.c - Future of agricultural work**

Today, the concept of "financial inclusion" is trendy. Wouldn't it be important to integrate this concept into the agricultural sector? We know that one of the main constraints for young people is accessing finance and investment. Financial inclusion among young farmers is therefore very important for promoting jobs in the agricultural sector.

## Jonathan Musau, The Public Place, Kenya

**1. Experience as a Youth in the Agriculture Sector**

• How would you describe your experience as an Africa youth engaged in the agriculture sector in your country? What motivated you to engage into the agriculture sector?

• Having been born and brought up in a humble background were even a single meal was never a guarantee, I engaged on farming activities to support some of my needs as farming was the only source of income then back in the village.

• Although it wasn’t an awesome thing as I used the old way of doing it i.e tilling the land by use of hoe, watering with a bucket at times spraying using tree branches it was a difficult affair.

• However I must say I was motivated by the incomes ,satisfaction of taking care of myself and supporting my parents were possible and also the ready market that had been created by the EU markets with horticulture companies picking horticulture items two days in a week and paying in cash.

**2. Major Achievements and Success Stories**

• What have been your major achievements? Do you have any experience or innovative ways that have helped you in your work that you would want to share? Do you have a success story – either your own or any other that you are aware of - of youth engaged in agriculture in your country? What is the story?

• The horticulture companies would a times reject some our farm products or fail to pick them due to bad weather and roads, as young people we had to look for a way out so that we don’t lose our products. We first researched how the products are used in Europe by engaging those who knew how, I also engaged a chef from our village who took me to his place of work to learn how they prepare them. On learning I realised the importance of food storage, safety and preparation. On-going home we devised methods of preserving including building grass thatched houses on top to slow growth and wait for the market days. We also opened a shop were we used to cook and teach locals how to cook the rejects instead of throwing them. I made enough money to take myself to college to pursue the same carrier of cooking which I do to date, have been able to travel around the world doing what I didn’t plan for cooking but which came from farming interest.

**3. What the Rwanda Youth Conference Should Address**

• If given an opportunity, what question would you ask the experts at the Rwanda Youth conference on each of the three sub-themes – a). Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship, b). Digital Innovation to Overcome Agriculture Value-Chain Constraints, and c). Future of Work in Rural Economy - of the conference?

• The forum should an address one major problem which is the market. If we can get an assured market I can probably assure you that the youth would be willing to join agri business for income purposes. But why would they engage in an activity that doesn’t assure results.

• Use of social media especially by consumers and big spenders should be increased as that is what mostly used by the youths. Also public participation forums for youths to enlighten them of new markets, new innovations and markets should regularly be organized

• Future of the rural economy will virtually depend on the growth of urban centres and opening of more horticultural companies.

## Chartine Murekensi

1. Agriculture is a source of living, we need farmers every day. I like agriculture, experience is what I saw on other farmers that I practically do

My motivation as a youth in agriculture is I want to serve the world with my products.

2. I harvested cabbages of more than five kilograms and in our country it’s rare to find,

Innovation ways is that I’m thinking of add value on onions so that they can stored for long terms in case of disasters or pests

I know someone called Gerard started on small scale agriculture now he owns a big famous agriculture industry.

3. I would like to choose digital innovation to overcome agriculture value chain.

## Franck Makoye, Day-Enterprise, Congo

**Original comment in French**

**1. Expérience en tant que jeune dans le secteur agricole**

En Afrique et particulièrement au Congo notre pays, la production agricole est à son plus bas niveau, l’agrobusiness est pratiquement inexistante, les méthodes de production sont vieilles et inadéquates aux problèmes dont nous faisons face, ceux qui produisent ont du mal à écouler leur produits pour des raisons diverses….

Partant de tous ces constats et dans le soucis d’y apporter une solution, nous avons tous fait le choix de cette idée plutôt que d’autres parce que, bien que d’autres pensent que l’équation agricole en Afrique est complexe et que le secteur agricole est un secteur de pauvres à reléguer au passé, un modèle « has been » de réussite, nous sommes sûr que c’est un secteur d’avenir et porteur de croissance. Il n’y a qu’à voir la part du secteur agricole dans les pays qui font des bonnes performances en matière de progrès et de développement en Afrique. On note une résurgence importante de l’agriculture dans les économies émergentes comme le Nigéria, le Ghana, le Rwanda, etc.

Les débuts de cette belle aventure DAY-ENTERPRISE n’ont pas été facile car nous avions fait face aux mêmes difficultés comme tout entrepreneur africain : le manque de capitaux adéquats ainsi le manque de soutien des acteurs économiques de notre pays.

Déterminés, nous avions démarré avec les moyens de base. Il nous a donc fallu participer à plusieurs concours pour obtenir des fonds et mieux mener ce projet. 19.000euros nous ont été octroyé suite à notre prix du concours Startupper organisé par Total-Congo. Depuis, nous avions revus notre modèle économique grâce à Ariès Investissements (un cabinet de conseil et de levée de fond pour les jeunes entrepreneurs au Congo), aussi grâce à plus de 300 agriculteurs dont nous commercialisons leurs produits. Aujourd’hui nous réalisons 120.000 euros de CA qui effectivement infinie, du aux multiples contraintes rencontrés sur le tas.

Nous pensons donc que les moyens arrivent au prix de l’effort et de la détermination, le résultat en est que le corolaire.

**2. Principales réalisations et histoires de réussite**

Innovation dans les services

DAY ENTERPRISE, l’entreprise d’agrobusiness dont je suis co-fondateur, met en place des systèmes de production qui intègrent tous les contours liés à la production (moyens de production et systèmes de cultures et d’élevages modernes et innovantes) jusqu’à la commercialisation (allant des vendeurs détaillants des marchés, des hôtels et restaurants, des entreprises jusqu’aux ménages).

Un écosystème qui garantit le rendement et l’écoulement des produits des agriculteurs et d’éleveurs, tout en proposant aux consommateurs une diversité des produits agricoles de haute qualité aux meilleurs prix, accessibles sur tous les circuits de distribution : marchés centraux et supermarchés, alimentation des quartiers et épiceries, , stations-services, livraisons à domicile, e-commerce y compris ( à travers notre application mobile).

Au niveau de l’entreprise nous promouvons la culture du bio et prodiguons des conseils santé a partir des vertus des fruits et légumes par le biais d’un de notre service baptisé Day Care.

Réalisation à ce jour

DAY-Enterprise a pu réaliser un Chiffre d’affaires de 122.700 dollars en 2017, l’objectif de cette année est de dépasser les 300.000 dollars. Ceci n’est que le résultat de ventes à deux grands hôtels, 50 ménages, 10 stations-services Total-Congo. Les 300 producteurs de la périphérie sont satisfaits de nos conseils et nous proposent d’investir dans leurs plantations. Les ménages ont vu leurs budgets en consommation des fruits et légumes réduits et ont amélioré leurs santés à travers la qualité des produits livrés et nos conseils. Total-Congo, PEFACO HOTEL-CONGO, ATLANTIC PALACE Pointe noire, ont amélioré leurs revenus suite à notre offre de prix et service, standard sur toute l’année malgré les contresaisons de production.

**3. Questions que la Conférence de la jeunesse rwandaise devrait aborder**

Comment y remédier au manque de capitaux tout en sachant que la majorité des agropreneurs (le terme que nous utilisons dans notre startup pour désigner les entrepreneurs dans le secteur agricole) avec des projets très innovants et financièrement rentables se voient exiger des garantis par leur partenaire banquier pour accéder à un crédit, et que le gouvernement de leur pays font le sourd d’oreille à leurs doléances?

English translation

**1- Experience as a youth in agriculture**

In Africa and particularly in Congo our country, agricultural production is at its lowest level, agribusiness is practically non-existent, production methods are outdated and inadequate in facing the problems we face, the producers have a hard time selling their products for various reasons…

On the basis of all these observations and with a view to finding a solution, we have all chosen this idea over others because, although some believe that the agricultural equation in Africa is complex and that the agricultural sector is a sector of poor people that should be relegated to the past, a "has been" model of success, we are convinced that it is a sector of the future and a vector of growth. We only need to look at the share of the agricultural sector in countries that are performing well in terms of progress and development in Africa. There is a significant resurgence of agriculture in emerging economies such as Nigeria, Ghana, Rwanda, etc.

The beginnings of this beautiful adventure - DAY-ENTERPRISE - were not easy because we were facing the same difficulties as any African entrepreneur: the lack of adequate capital and the lack of support from our country's economic players.

We were determined and started with the basic means. We therefore had to participate in several tenders to obtain funds and to improve the management of this project. 19,000 euros were awarded to us after we won the Startupper contest organized by Total-Congo. Since then, we have revised our business model thanks to Ariès Investissements (a consulting and fundraising firm for young entrepreneurs in Congo), and also thanks to the more than 300 farmers whose products we commercialize. Today we generate 120,000 euros in turnover which is indeed unbelievable, due to the many constraints encountered on the field.

We therefore believe that the means come with a lot of effort and determination, the result is only a corollary.

**2- Major Achievements and Success Stories**

Innovation in services

DAY ENTERPRISE, the agribusiness company of which I am a co-founder, sets up production systems that integrate all production-related aspects (modern and innovative means of production and crop and livestock systems) all the way to marketing (from retail vendors in markets, hotels and restaurants, businesses to households).

An ecosystem that guarantees the yield and sale of farmers' and breeders' products, while offering consumers a diversity of high-quality agricultural products at the best prices, accessibles through all distribution channels: central markets and supermarkets, convenience and grocery stores, service stations, home deliveries, e-commerce including ( through our mobile application).

At the corporate level we promote organic farming and provide health advice based on the benefits of fruit and vegetables through one of our services called Day Care.

Achievements to date

DAY-Enterprise has achieved a turnover of 122,700 dollars in 2017, this year's objective is to exceed 300,000 dollars. Ceci n’est que le résultat de ventes à deux grands hôtels, 50 ménages, 10 stations-services Total-Congo. The 300 producers of the suburbs are satisfied with our advices and propose us to invest in their plantations. Households have reduced their fruit and vegetable consumption budgets and have improved their state of health thanks to the quality of the products delivered and our advice. Total-Congo, PEFACO HOTEL-CONGO, ATLANTIC PALACE Pointe noire, have increased their revenues as a result of our price and service offer, which is valid throughout the year despite counter production seasons.

**3. Issues to be addressed by the Rwandan Youth Conference**

How to deal with the lack of capital knowing that the majority of agropreneurs (the term we use in our startup to designate entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector) with very innovative and financially profitable projects are required to have collaterals by their banker partner to access credit, and that the government of their country overlooks their complaints?

## Moussa Diouf, Agro-Expert Farming, Senegal

**Original comment in French**

**1. Expérience en tant que jeune dans le secteur agricole**

Je m’appelle Moussa Diouf, j’habite au Sénégal, En tant que fils de paysan je suis passionné depuis plusieurs années par l’horticulture plus précisément par le maraichage. A cet époque mes parents ne maitrisaient pas les techniques de production maraichère, ce qui m’a conduit à me spécialisé dans un master en horticulture. Dans cette formation j’ai appris toutes les techniques de la production horticoles sur les bases de l’agro écologie c’est-à-dire l’agriculture durable et raisonnée. Titulaire d’un master 2 dans ce domaine à l’université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, j’ai opté de me lancé dans l’entreprenariat agricole dans la mesure où les diplômés de notre pays rencontrent beaucoup de difficulté pour l’insertion professionnel après les études mais aussi pour lutter contre l’émigration clandestines des jeunes en créant un emploi.

**2. Principales réalisations et histoires de réussite**

Dans le but de promouvoir l’agro-écologie et l’utilisation des pratiques agricoles durables, j’ai contribué à la réalisation d’une étude comparative de l’effet de différents types de matière organiques (fumier de bœuf, fumier de volaille, fumier de cheval et le compost) sur la tomate. Cette étude avait pour objectif de connaitre les doses optimales d’utilisation de chaque matière organique. Je suis le président et fondateur de l’entreprise AGRO-EXPERT. J’organise chaque moi des formations sur les techniques de production maraichère pour le renforcement des capacités des producteurs ou toutes personnes voulant se lancer dans l’agriculture. Mon objectif est d’inciter les jeunes à retourner vers l’agriculture en leur donnant les techniques nécessaires et leur accompagner dans la réalisation de leur projet agricole. La plus grande réussite pour moi c’est le fait de parvenir à partager mon expérience avec les jeunes en leur formant dans l’agriculture. La plupart de ces gens ont aujourd’hui réussi à monter leur propre exploitation.

3. Questions que la Conférence de la jeunesse rwandaise devrait aborder

Quelles stratégies financières à mettre en place pour accompagner les jeunes porteurs de projet agricoles, car on sait que la plus grande difficulté aujourd’hui pour les jeunes est le problème de financement pour réaliser leur projet

Comment mettre en place des applications mobiles avec ou sans internet pour permettre aux agriculteurs à accéder aux informations recherchées par les instituts dédiée à l’agriculture, comme les itinéraires techniques de production.

Comment sensibiliser les agriculteurs à adopter les pratiques agro-écologiques pour une production agricole durable respectueuse de l’environnement.

<https://www.facebook.com/DIOUF505/> voici le lien de notre page fecebook pour une illustration de nos activités

English translation

**1. 1- Experience as a youth in agriculture**

My name is Moussa Diouf, I live in Senegal. As a farmer's son I have been passionate for horticulture for several years, more precisely for market gardening. At that time my parents did not manage the techniques of market gardening, which led me to specialise in a master's degree in horticulture. In this formation I learned all the techniques of the horticultural production on the basis of agroecology i.e. sustainable and reasoned agriculture. I hold a Master 2 degree in this field from the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, and I have decided to embark on agricultural entrepreneurship since the graduates of our country have great difficulty in finding work after their studies ,but also in order to fight illegal emigration of young people by creating jobs.

**2. 2- Major Achievements and Success Stories**

In order to promote agro-ecology and the use of sustainable agricultural practices, I participated in a comparative study of the effect of different types of organic matter ( cattle manure, poultry manure, horse manure and compost) on tomatoes. The objective of this study was to determine the optimal doses for the use of each organic material. I am the CEO and founder of AGRO-EXPERT. Every month I organize training courses on market gardening techniques to build the capacities of producers or anyone who wants to start farming. My objective is to encourage young people to go back to agriculture by giving them the necessary techniques and accompanying them in the implementation of their agricultural project. The greatest accomplishment for me is to be able to share my experience with young people by training them in agriculture. Most of them have now succeeded in setting up their own farms.

**3. Issues to be addressed by the Rwandan Youth Conference**

What financial strategies should be put in place to support young agricultural project leaders, since we know that the greatest difficulty today for young people is the funding necessary to implement their project.

How to set up mobile applications with or without Internet to allow farmers to access information needed by institutes dedicated to agriculture, such as technical production pathways.

How to raise awareness among farmers to adopt agro-ecological practices for sustainable agricultural production respectful of the environment.

[https://www.facebook.com/DIOUF505/](https://www.facebook.com/DIOUF505/%20) here is the link to our facebook page to illustrate our activities

## Justin Chisenga, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Italy

Dear All,

Thank you all for your contributions to this online consultation, a pre-event to the regional conference on Youth Employment in Agriculture as a Solid Solution to ending Hunger and Poverty in Africa” to take place on 20-21 August, in Kigali, Rwanda.

The consultation is now closed. The next steps are as follows:

1. The facilitators and the experts supporting the consultation will review your contributions to glean the issues and questions to be fed into the regional conference process in Kigali.
2. A summary report of the consultation will be prepared and shared with you all on this same platform.

After the Kigali conference, we will arrange to follow-up with some of you, to hear more about and document your stories/successes.

Again, thank you all for the contributions.

Regards,

Justin Chisenga

Lead Facilitator

## Kelvin Mupeta, Farmers Market, Zambia

**1. Experience as a Youth in the Agriculture Sector**

How would you describe your experience as an Africa youth engaged in the agriculture sector in your country? What motivated you to engage into the agriculture sector?

ANSWER:

* I would describe my experience as both exciting and challenging. Exciting because I have always had a passion for agriculture. Though raised up in an urban area, my parents owned a farm and we always grew our own maize for our staple food, nshima. This motivated me to develop interest in agriculture, such that when I went to the University of Zambia, I chose to do Agricultural Economics, a decision I will never regret! I can simply say, I love working in the agriculture sector.
* However, my experience working as a young economist has been challenging/troubling so to say, in the sense that I notice lack of cohesion between experts and policy makers in driving the agriculture agenda forward. I have noticed here in Zambia, that experts make sound proposals, elaborate findings, for example, the Indaba Agriculture Policy Research Institute (IAPRI) in Zambia is a premier agriculture research institute but most of its work and recommendations are rarely if at all being adopted or considered by policy markers. That has been a source of worry as a young professional. I am of the view that we need to close this gap if Africa is to develop it's agriculture sector and create employment for the youths. R&D outputs ought to be appreciated in policy formulation.

**2. Major Achievements and Success Stories**

What have been your major achievements? Do you have any experience or innovative ways that have helped you in your work that you would want to share? Do you have a success story – either your own or any other that you are aware of - of youth engaged in agriculture in your country? What is the story?

ANSWER

* Major achievement for me is developing the Farmers Market Zambia, an online trading portal linking farmers and buyers/traders ([www.farmersmarketzambia.com](http://www.farmersmarketzambia.com/)). This was motivated upon noticing the lack of appreciation for R&D, I then decided to move away from simply working in research and use the findings from research to develop something tangible. I am happy to state that after presenting the initiative to government, the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry (MCTI) has since endorsed the project, and they have so far been organising stakeholders meeting to discuss the implementation of our project, and they have also been recommending us to donors for possible funding. Many other stakeholders such ILO, SIDA have also shown interest in the project and we are happy that colleagues from ILO recommended us for this Kigali Conference!
* Farmers Market Zambia is a registered non-profit organisation whose main objective is to improve the Agriculture Value Chain Information System in Zambia, by using advances in ICTs. With this platform, we hope to address challenges of market failure, poor market price discoveries and poor market/business linkages especially for small holder farmers and farmers on the government's e-voucher system by providing a One-Stop Online Agriculture Market Centre.
* This initiative upon full operationalisation will create 26 jobs for full time youths, with numerous employments for youths who will participate in the agriculture value chain thanks to this ICT based market system that will allow them to work as traders, suppliers or indeed as producers-knowing they can use the platform to find markets. And we hope the many youths in the region will also benefit from this platform.

**3. What the Rwanda Youth Conference Should Address**

If given an opportunity, what question would you ask the experts at the Rwanda Youth conference on each of the three sub-themes – a). Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship, b). Digital Innovation to Overcome Agriculture Value-Chain Constraints, and c). Future of Work in Rural Economy - of the conference?

ANSWER

1. What can be done to help policy makers appreciate work of agriculture experts especially those engaged in research? Huge amounts of money is been spent to gather data by the research institutions but little seems to be done regarding recommendations from there. Are there deliberate policies/frameworks that can be developed so that research papers/findings do not simply gather dust? How else can we create employment for youths if policy makers are turning a blind eye to findings from research works?
2. Cyber crime is a threat to use of ICT in agriculture. How can/will Africa combat cyber crime in order to use ICT initiatives to help us overcome agriculture value chain constraints?
3. The biggest constraint for developing rural economies in Africa is high levels of illiteracy. How can the various stakeholders help to overcome this challenge of high levels of illiteracy in rural areas in order to achieve development of rural economies? In other words, how can we make advances in ICT be appreciated in rural agriculture economies?

Thank you.

Kelvin Mupeta,

Farmers Market Zambia.

## Valens Ntawiha, Rwanda

1) After ending my study in 2014 ,I was trained in Israel in vegetables and fruits production, and after coming in my country Rwanda I started to work on myself where i grow bitter melon and passion fruits .and I help farmers in banana production in my village.

I was motivated by:

* my willing because that i like agriculture (no farmer ….no life)
* facilities provided by my government (fertilizers, tools for irrigation ,etc)

2) My major achievement is mainly based on growing new crop in my country (bitter melon) where I was searching the market myself.

My innovation is that I use bamboos and metallic wires for staking as I will show you in photos.

3) If I will have opportunity I will ask on youth employment and Entrepreneurship where I will ask experts ….on how should we change mind of some youths ignoring to be engaged in agriculture sector?