



Youth-led Sustainable Agriculture for Urban Food Systems in East Africa

WORKSHOP REPORT

25th to 29th March 2019

Mbale, Uganda



rikolto
VECO

What will we eat tomorrow?

Youth-led Sustainable Agriculture for Urban Food Systems in East Africa
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Workshop Report

1. Context

The world is increasingly becoming urban. Half of the world population now lives in the cities and 70% will do so by 2050. The bulk of this increase will happen in countries in Africa. With a high percentage of all food produced already destined for consumption in cities, processes of urbanization are creating both challenges and opportunities. From the perspective of farming, classic practices are also changing too due to a combination of socio-economic factors such as shifting consumer and market preferences, access to new tools, digitalization, and constraints on land and water resources as well as decreasing interest in farming by youth. Effective and efficient solutions are needed at local level, combining city region scale¹ to increase sustainable agriculture practices, safeguard natural resources and ensure viable opportunities for the next generation of farmers and agri-entrepreneurs. A key goal must be to increase capacities of young progressive farmers in sustainable agriculture practices that can lead to sustainable development.

In East Africa, particularly Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda almost 20% population are youth between the ages of 15 and 24 and most are from rural background. FAO with Rikolto² and YPARD³ organized a 5-day workshop for this community to facilitate an open space for young farmers to interact, learn sustainable agriculture practices for production of different crops in select value chains that are closely linked to urban markets. The workshop was held in Mbale, Uganda from 25th to 29th March 2019. Participants included 40 young professionals involved in agricultural activities in Uganda, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Rwanda (Annex 2). A needs assessment of the 40 participants' expectations was conducted and three main learning objectives were identified (Annex3)

2. Objectives

The objective of the East African Regional Workshop on "*Youth-led Sustainable Agriculture for Urban Food Systems in East Africa*" was to strengthen capacities of youth farmers in sustainable agriculture, enhance rural and urban linkages and contribute to sustainable urban food systems. The workshop focused on capacity building and peer-to-peer knowledge exchange among and by young farmers from the region. The training and learning event facilitated an open the space for young farmers to interact, learn best practices, mostly focused on production practices, innovations and value chains closely linked to urban markets.

¹ A city region is defined here as: "as larger urban centre or conglomeration of smaller urban centers and the surrounding and interspersed peri-urban and rural hinterland".

² Rikolto is an international NGO working with family farms and cities worldwide including in Africa. www.rikolto.org

³ Young Professional for Agricultural Development (YPARD) - an international movement of young professionals in agriculture. www.ypard.net

3. Workshop highlights and main areas of exchange

Mr. Edward Tanyima, National Coordinator for decent Rural Youth Employment in Uganda, gave opening remarks on behalf of the FAOR-Uganda, Mr. Antonio Querido. Mr. Tanyima presented some figures on the urbanization and youth unemployment situation in the country, including the related challenges and opportunities linked to these two processes. He briefly presented FAO's work on youth employment in Uganda which has helped the Country in developing the National Strategy for Youth Employment in Agriculture⁴.

The guest of honor, Mathias Kasamba, the Chairperson of the agriculture, tourism and natural resources committee at the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), said every effort should be made to involve the youth in sustainable agriculture so as to improve food security and enhance income in the region. He urged the youth not to be complainants and passionate idlers, but to plan, develop their passion and set targets for an opportunity to live productive lives.

Ms. Michela Carucci presented the FAO's Framework for the Urban Food Agenda⁵ which serves as a corporate strategy to address emerging calls from countries to food insecurity and malnutrition across the rural-urban continuum. She noted that countries in Africa are already experiencing unprecedented levels of urban population growth and with almost 80% of all food that is produced already consumed within urban areas, fostering resilient and economically prosperous food systems, integrated across landscapes and based on multi-stakeholder and multi-level collaboration, will be key to supporting more sustainable urbanization processes. The provision of a wide range of ecosystem services and goods including food, timber, freshwater and labour, that place social equity, climate resilience and regional economic development at the centre of urban and territorial policies will be essential. Investment in food system architecture and related soft infrastructure is also crucial to facilitate food flows and to strengthen rural-urban linkages. In this scenario, youth-led entrepreneurship in sustainable agriculture and food system-related jobs across the rural-urban spectrum will be pivotal to accelerate the transition towards sustainable development. This calls for bold leadership and innovation, both social and technological, by the new generation of farmers and agripreneurs; this includes actions to reduce and reuse waste in their businesses, the promotion of nutritious-sensitive short supply chains and the smart use of natural resources and marketing tools to engage the communities.

Mbale municipality Mayor, Zandya Mafabi, appealed to the youth to take every opportunity to benefit from government programmes for those engaged in agriculture. He additionally called on government to provide more processing and value-addition equipment to the youth to curb losses during post-harvest handling.

Mr. Paul Mwambu, the Commissioner Crop Inspection in the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, closed the workshop on Friday 29th March, on behalf of the State Minister of Agriculture. He saw the regional workshop on 'farming sustainably' as being timely in building partnerships with young farmers, learn best practices and enhance their skills in a bid to penetrate high end markets.

⁴ <http://www.fao.org/rural-employment/resources/detail/en/c/1069622/>

⁵ <http://www.fao.org/3/ca3151en/CA3151EN.pdf>



“Excessive use of chemicals is greatly affecting Uganda’s exports for high end markets. We need to increase sustainable farming practices”

4. The Learning outcome sessions

Session 1 and 2 were facilitated by Umran Kaggwa (UFVEPA) who had a very lively interaction with the youth as to whether they have sustainable practices as agri-entrepreneurs. He stretched agronomy, environmental aspects and linked these to end-markets promoting a holistic approach for being and remaining sustainable as agribusinesses.

Session 3 was facilitated by Paul Gita (UFVEPA) who teased the youth as to whether they actually had businesses or passions to whom the said business was serving. This was the most engaging session as the youth had to reflect on their businesses or ideas coupled with practical business definitions, with a peer review of each one’s business.

Session 4 : three young successful Ugandan agri-entrepreneurs as well as a financial experts mentor, inspire and advise the youth with an idea, at entry, mid-level and beyond. They elaborated on how to start small with what they have, operate prudently, network and collaborate to build a social data bank as well as form partnerships to ease access to capital for expansion and growth.



Joel Cherop
Entrepreneur
- One Acre
Model



Rachael Amase
Entrepreneur -
Fresh Chilli
Export



Joyce Kyalema
Entrepreneur -
Pumpkin Processing

Session 5 was a demonstration of Good Agricultural Practices as well as sustainability from the field.

On –the –field training was conducted by affiliated local experts of Rikolto. The training focused on best practices in production and other steps along the value chain closely linked to local market demand. The 40 participants had also the opportunity to critically discuss and reflect on the sustainability aspects related to input management, production systems and the overall long-term sustainability of the farms visited, through working group exercises. The three farms visited were:

- TAABU Cooperative, located in Bulambuli District. At TAABU Cooperative, youth offer services in shelling and spraying. Mr. Nashibembe William of TAABU Cooperative revealed that this initiative started in the year 2000 with 30 members (23 female and 7 male) and was registered as Community Based Organization in 2013. The entity is now registered as cooperative and has 2.518 members. Mr. William added that 400 of the members are youth between the ages of 18 to 35 years. The cooperative owns 10 acres of land whereas several farmers also farm individually. TAABU produces and stores grain seeds including improved maize and soybeans. The stores in this facility were built by Rikolto in 2018 with support from Food Trade Programme (DFID) to support farmers’ bulking system and marketing among the farmer groups in the community.
- Maikut Farm located in Kapchorwa District. The participants had the possibility to visit the farm of Isaac Malinga, the young owner of Maikut Farm who was nominated Uganda’s Best Farmer 2017. Isaac is a graduate of Petroleum Engineering who decided to quit his job in Cairo to start farming. In 2015, he began farming French beans and Cowpeas on the slopes of Kaplak in Uganda’s eastern district of Kapchorwa. Maikut Farm currently operates 40 Ha under horticulture production: French beans, Snow peas, Sugar snaps, Chilies and Hot pepper for export, plus onions, cabbage, potatoes and wheat as rotational crops grown for sale on the local market.
- Sabine Cooperative Kapchorwa District. At Sabine Cooperative women and youth are engaged in horticulture production (cabbage, chili and spring onions) and chili value addition. Sabine Cooperative is part of a consortium of cooperatives operating in the districts. The cooperative was supported by Rikolto in improving their production and water management practices, including business management and marketing support to access local markets.



The hosts and the participants brainstormed especially on the lessons learnt from each other and how to tackle common challenges. Participants practically experienced at the fields the demonstration of crop diversification, crop rotation, irrigation, minimal and optimized on-farm chemical use, quality assurance practices, and better storage facilities. Participants also learnt about the unique farmer initiatives for example resource mobilization, collective bulking and marketing, value addition and packaging, saving and loans groups, and cooperative governance. Participants noted the common challenges they share with the hosts including excessive use of chemicals, lack of genuine local seeds, difficulty of maintaining quality of products, lack of skills and knowledge for some farmers.

Participants provided some recommendations to the hosts including:

- Need to train small holder farmers on quality management;
- Use natural and organic pest control to avoid excess spraying with chemicals;
- Embrace local varieties which adopt well to the soil and climate conditions;
- Use drip irrigation instead of sprinkler to maximize water efficiency and reduce disease spread;
- Networking and partnerships should be linked to different farmer groups;
- Initiate mobile irrigation to assist other farmers;
- Need to develop technology based application for village savings and loan association and;
- Encourage more people especially young people to get actively involved in agriculture to increase regional agricultural production.

The session was considered as a very valuable enriching learning opportunity.

Ms. Michela Carucci opened the 4th day with an introduction of FAO's work on short supply chains and Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS)⁶ which is a low-cost, locally based system of quality assurance with a strong emphasis on social control and knowledge building. This system is based on the active participation of farmers, consumers and local authorities: they come together in order to make decisions, visit farms, support each other and check that farmers are producing according to a set of agreed standards. To this extend, PGS supports farmers to improve their practices towards sustainability and to exchange knowledge with each other. The session benefited from the experience of Ms. Julie Matovu – CEO of the Fresh veggies Participatory Guarantee System (FV-PGS) which is an organic production and marketing initiative operating in the rural areas of Kampala in Uganda. The initiative was set up by a community network of smallholder farmers in autonomous groups in Wakiso district working under a common production and marketing model for organic fruit and vegetables. The FV-PGS initiative has later extended its influence to other regions of Buikwe, Bushenyi and Mukono. FV-PGS promotes continuous updates in sustainable practices through on-farm training and meetings, which have contributed to building farmers' capacities in understanding the implications and benefits of organic practices. The collective sales scheme offers safe and quality products, sustainable household incomes, as well as regular deliveries to consumers. Consumers have been important actors in the integrated approach of FV-PGS.



Session 7 - ICT & Agriculture: The resourcefulness of digital technologies for sustainable urban food systems; ICT technologies and their role in agriculture – best practices

Session 7 reviewed the farming cycle of the participants to understand one's context before providing any relevant ICT solutions. 5 ways in which ICT can tackle challenges in agriculture were reviewed based on 'ictworks.org' which aided the participants to identify potential home-based solutions based on farmers information needs That are on the market in their respective countries. It was noted that none of the participants could identify with the case studies presented from the 'eTransform Africa' journal supported by World bank and AfdB. This was presented by Caroline Kahamutima from Rikolto.

Session 8 and 9 – Peer-to-peer knowledge sharing

Sessions 8 and 9 were fully dedicated to peer-to-peer knowledge exchange and joint action planning among YPARD members. Groups were formed before the workshop and action-oriented discussions and peer-to-peer

⁶ <http://www.fao.org/3/CA2295EN/ca2295en.pdf>

knowledge sharing started before the workshop via an ad hoc 'WhatsApp' group discussion facilitated by YPARD. Participants shared about what they do, experiences, challenges and opportunities. Every day of the workshop, the participants guided by YPARD captured 'learning' experiences in group sessions which summarily fed into action planning in **session 9**.

In an effort to advance discussions during the workshop towards actions, developing action plans that are informed by the workshop content was included as part of the workshop activities. The development of these action plans was also identified as one of the workshop outcomes. **Annex 4**, is the condensed version of action plans highlighting the objectives of the plans developed.

5. Conclusion and way forward

Certificates of participation was awarded to all participants at the closing of the learning workshop. The notable highlights were the on-the-field training with the focus on good agriculture practices for sustainable production, Knowledge exchange and opportunity for networking and mutual learning between young farmer agri-entrepreneurs (mentors) and farmer organizations for strengthening urban and peri-urban agriculture production systems in a sustainable manner. In addition, partnerships and linkages, GAP and being in an environmentally sustainable business, were found to be very useful topics. This was also highlighted in the evaluation of the workshop.

The partnership facilitated by FAO between Rikolto and YPARD was effective in mobilizing interest and enthusiastic collaboration and open possibilities for future. Some proposals were made for viable sub-regional projects on rural-urban food systems taking young farmers and their needs into consideration. These are as follows:

- sub-regional projects should be able to strengthen sustainable agriculture led business capacities of rural youth and link them up to peri-urban and urban quality-conscious buyers
- innovations around value-addition is another project area that can be explored due to the limited technical know-how, yet the raw materials are in abundance
- cross-border/regional trade linkages can be enhanced by organized youth eager to meet market volumes in the right quality and on time
- projects around inclusivity of rural youth into segments of the value-chains and their access to finance can be attractive to private sector and lenders
- link the initiatives and ideas that emerge from this workshop to different on-going or new programs that put youth in the driver's seat of setting up actions

Annex 1: Agenda & List of participants

Workshop Program

DAY 1 - 25th March			
Time	Program Item	Presenter	Facilitator
8:00am – 9:00am	Registration	ALL	Rikolto
9:00am –10:00am	Prayer & Welcome Objectives of the workshop & Introduction of the teams	Rikolto, Caroline Kahamutima YPARD, Paul Zaake UFVEPA, Hasifah Tushabe FAO, Edward	FAO, Michela Carucci
10:00am – 10:30am	Opening Remarks	Guest 1-Hon. Kasamba Mathias Guest 2 - His lordship Zandya Mafabi - Mbale Mayor	
TEA BREAK (10:30 – 11:00AM)			
Session 1 - Sustainable Agriculture in an Urbanizing World			
11:00am – 11:30pm	Urban Food Action Agenda – Why is it important to act now?	FAO, Michela Carucci	FAO
11:30 - 12:00pm	Sustainable Food and Agriculture and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	FAO	
12:00 -12:45pm	Discussion		Rikolto
LUNCH BREAK (12:45 – 1:45 PM)			
1:45pm – 2:30pm	Overview of what sustainable agricultural production is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is it important? • How can we make agriculture sustainable? 	UFVEPA, Umran Kagwa	Rikolto
Session 2: Multifunctionality and ecosystem services in sustainable agriculture for urban and surrounding region			
2:30 – 3.30pm	Environmental sustainability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water management - Biodiversity - Soil fertility 	UFVEPA, Umran Kagwa	
3:30pm – 4:40pm	Case Studies with Groups discussions		
4:40pm – 5:00pm	DAY 1 debriefing & takeaways		
TEA BREAK, INTERACTIONS & DEPARTURE (5:00pm – 5:30pm)			
DAY 2 26th March			

Session 3 – Sustainable Agriculture and Urban Markets: Understanding the segments in the grains and horticulture value chains for selected crops attractive to the youth			
Time	Program Item	Presenter	Facilitator
8:00am – 9:00am	Registration	ALL	Rikolto
9:00am – 9:15am	Recap of DAY 1	Rikolto	
9:15am – 10:00am	Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) in East Africa – Horticulture and grains production	UFVEPA – Paul Gitta Rikolto	
10:00 – 10:45am	Best practices on post-harvest handling & storage, processing and marketing	UFVEPA – Paul Gitta Rikolto	
TEA BREAK (10:45 – 11:15AM)			
11:15am – 12:00pm	Tools for business support services and analysis along the value chains e.g. finance, transport et.al.	UFVEPA – Paul Gitta Rikolto	Rikolto
12:00 -1:30	Groups exercise – focus on nutritious food for urban markets		
LUNCH BREAK & INTERACTIONS (1:30pm – 2:30pm)			
Session 4 – Sustainable Agriculture and Urban Markets: Understanding urban demands for rural-urban synergies			
2:30pm – 4:40pm	Link to market demand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to analyze the existing demand/urban consumer • value addition in a competitive market 	UIRI & USIA – Panel of discussants (private sector actors)	YPARD
4:40pm – 5:00pm	DAY 2 brief & takeaways		
TEA BREAK, INTERACTIONS & DEPARTURE (5:00pm – 5:30pm)			

DAY 3 – 27th March				
Session 5 – Sustainable Agriculture in Practice: Three case studies				
Time		Presenter	Facilitator	Program It
8:00am – 9:00am	Registration	ALL	Rikolto	
9:00am – 9:15am	Recap of DAY 2	Rikolto		
9:30am – 12:00pm	A visit to TAABU cooperative where youth offers shelling and spraying services; are they able to make money? A look at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective bulking & marketing • Access to finance • Post-harvest handling 	TAABU Cooperative		

	Quality control		
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Travel to Kapchorwa		
LUNCH BREAK & INTERACTIONS (1:00pm – 2:00pm)			
2:00pm – 4:45pm	A visit to a model youth farmer in Kapchorwa engaged in an array of horticulture products. What is his motivation?	Mr. Cherop Francis	Rikolto
Youth in Horticulture as a business: processing and value addition, what it takes.	A visit to Sabiny Cooperative engaged in chilli value addition	Sabiny Cooperative	
4:45pm – 6:00pm	Travel to Mbale		

DAY 4 28th March			
Session 6 - Short food supply chains: typologies, modalities and new opportunities for rural-urban synergies			
Time	Program Item	Presenter	Facilitator
8:00am – 9:00am	Registration	ALL	Rikolto
9:00am – 9:15am	Recap of DAY 3	FAO	
9:15am – 9:45am	Short food supplies – how they work and which are the benefits	FAO	
9:45 – 10:15am	The Freshveggies Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) – a successful case study	Julie Matovu, Freshveggies PGS tbc	
10:15 – 10:45AM	Discussion		
TEA BREAK (10:45 – 11:15AM)			
Session 7 - ICT & Agriculture: Understanding the resourcefulness of digital technologies for sustainable urban food systems			
11:15am – 12:00pm	ICT technologies and their role in agriculture – best practices	Rikolto	Rikolto
12:00 – 1:15pm	Case Studies in digital technologies with Group discussions	Rikolto	
LUNCH BREAK & INTERACTIONS (1:15pm – 2:15pm)			
Session 8 – Peer-to-peer knowledge sharing			
2:15pm – 4:40pm	Sharing experiences from participants	Panel of discussants (YPARD participants)	Rikolto
4:40pm – 5:00pm	DAY 4 brief & takeaways		
TEA BREAK, INTERACTIONS & DEPARTURE (5:00pm – 5:30pm)			

DAY 5: 29th March			
Session 8 – Way Forward: Action planning, Partnerships and Investment			
Time	Program Item	Presenter	Facilitator

8:00am – 9:00am	Registration	ALL	YPARD
9:00am – 9:15am	Recap of DAY 4	YPARD	
9:15am – 10:45am	Way forward: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roundtable discussions on lessons learnt • Action plan summary 	Rikolto and FAO	
TEA BREAK (10:45 – 11:15AM)			
11:15am – 1:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training Evaluation • Communications Team – PR session; Group photos, individual et al 	ALL	Rikolto
LUNCH BREAK, INTERACTIONS & DEPARTURE (1:00pm – 2:00pm)			
2:00pm – 7:00pm	Travel to Kampala		Rikolto

Annex 2 - Participants

First name	Other names	Last name	Gender	Nationality	Email
Zepher	Kisambira	Ntende	Male	Uganda	zxepher@gmail.com
Laureene		Reeves Ndagire	Female	Uganda	laureene.reevesndagire@gmail.com
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Annex 3 : A pre workshop needs assessment

Participants' expectations was conducted and three main learning objectives were identified as below :

A: Learn, gain knowledge and share experiences & best practices

1. learn and share best agricultural practices to improve yields, new trends in farming and agribusiness, knowledge on farming other crops which ensure food security
2. gain knowledge, skills and expertise of developing sustainable food and agriculture
3. to share ideas and experience thereby making it a very informative workshop
4. learn about plant protection (pest and diseases, organic pesticides)
5. learn about sustainable farming in the face of climate change and addressing post-harvest losses for smallholder farmers, while creating jobs in our communities

6. learn new agricultural practices, interact, share opportunities, increase capacity in sustainable farming practices
7. share agribusiness experience and learn from others; this knowledge will help address solutions to different challenges faced respectively

B: Interact, network, create linkages and form business partnerships

1. form connections that will open market opportunities and collaborations
2. interact and learn the strategies that can be employed to attract more youth to agriculture
3. explore linkages between rural and urban settings; share information and solutions to challenges facing urban farmers
4. increase networks with agricultural practitioners and value chain stakeholders in Uganda and other countries (for long-term partnerships)
5. increase skills on processing and marketing, value addition, entrepreneurship, leadership
6. interact with other youths from other countries and share experiences, challenges and opportunities in agriculture and youth empowerment in general
7. identify business partners for sourcing farm produce from our business, learn and share best practices
8. interact with fellow youth, learn from each other to improve project implementation back home

C: Capacity building in agribusiness skills, mentorship

1. acquire agribusiness experience and know how African entrepreneurs solve escalating challenges. Meet business mentors and agribusiness startups to learn more about the business.
2. knowledge and skills in farming, get inspiration and social capital
3. build capacity on agribusiness, networking and learning how others are over-coming challenges
4. knowledge on how to improve business in profitability and sustainability, meet successful people for inspiration and ideas, share experience and get others perspective, understanding agricultural challenges in the EA.

Annex 4: Action Plans

Action plans to integrate GAP in agricultural initiatives across East Africa

In consideration of the well-established linkages between youth innovations and improvement in agricultural sector in African, youths from Uganda, Kenya, DRC, Tanzania and Rwanda converged at Uganda from 25th – 29th March 2019 for a training and knowledge sharing workshop.

In an effort to advance deliberations during the workshop towards actions, developing action plans that are informed by the workshop content was included as part of the workshop activities. The participants worked together in self-identified groups to develop action plans – 8 in total. These plans either focused on a set of protocols that they could follow as a group to enhance their initiatives or on new initiatives that combine group interests.

Each action plan is comprised of a title (what and for whom); a problem statement (why it is worth pursuing); the objectives; site of implementation; the how – including activities, timeline and responsible person; partnership and resources needed. These plans were framed by each group during the workshop with the expectation that this will be developed further and implemented.

Below is the condensed version of 8 action plans highlighting the objectives of the plans developed (in their draft form).

Action Plan I: East Africa farmers call center for marketing and technical information

Many farmers across East Africa do not have a reliable platform that is easily accessible, and which provides real-time one-on-one communication on market-related skills, knowledge, and trends. The goal is to establish a reliable, efficient, and effective regional platform that will enable farmers from across East Africa to get real-time training and updates through an integrated communication system/call center. The call centers will be staffed by well-trained care agents, IT personnel, and marketing experts to link farmers to well-researched information. Every farmer, regardless of their location and access to internet, will call in and ask their questions, send SMS, or contact the call center through our online platforms. Traders, manufacturers, and exporters will find this call center very instrumental in helping them assess the demand for their inputs and link directly to producers. The initiative shall make money through caller subscriptions, advertisements by partners, and farmer cluster formations which shall buy our monthly bundles. The first call centers shall be established in Kenya (Nairobi), Tanzania (Dodoma), and Uganda (Kampala), with a view to expand to other regions. This initiative by YPARD members looks forward to partner with telecom companies, FAO, World Bank, UNDP, Research institutions, private companies and other development practitioners. The initiative is going to be officially launched on 1st June 2019.

Action Plan II: Mechanization and marketing conglomerate (GELAROY team)

This initiative highlights the importance of collaboration towards enhancing mechanization of agricultural production, value addition and marketing. As a conglomerate, youths will enjoy a high negotiation for mechanization of agricultural production and value addition using recommended sustainable agricultural practices. Youth initiatives which are under the conglomerate will have uniform packaging, labeling, pricing and collaborate in marketing. By June 2019, mapping will be done to identify farmers to participate in the conglomerate. Before end of September, equipment for production and value addition will be procured and installed. The initiative will provide market access to 100,000 youth smallholder farmers and Conglomerate members in East Africa.

Action Plan III: Boosting food and/or nutrition security and mitigating climate change in East Africa

This regional innovative project is aimed at boosting food & nutrition security and mitigates climate change through promoting the planting of fruit and agro-forestry tree species. The issue is that many countries across East Africa are experiencing rising temperatures, unpredictable rainfall patterns, and an increasing number of extreme weather events such as floods and prolonged droughts. Climate change is having far-reaching consequences not only for the agricultural sector but also for the management of natural resources as well as the food security situation for the growing urban and rural population. Adoption of climate change mitigation, climate-smart and ecologically sustainable production methods is key to improving the productivity of the existing food production and supply systems. The aims of the project include: 1) To sensitize communities about the adverse effects of climate change on food security and income enhancement and the mitigation measures;

2) To promote planting of fruits and agro-forestry plant species in homesteads, farms of small and large scale farmers in rural and urban centers of East Africa; 3) To promote food & nutrition security and incomes through provision of fruits to rural and urban communities and fodder for livestock; 4) To mitigate climate change through promoting planting of fruits and agro-forestry trees. The project will work with other youths in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda. Together with partners, the project team will mobilize for land, human resource, funds, and tree seeds or seedlings.

Action Plan IV: East African Youth Organic Farming Hub (EAYOFH)

East African Youth Organic Farming Hub team propose to set up an online hub of organic farming practices for East African horticulture farmers but with long term vision to start a factory that produces a suite of organic farming inputs such as organic fertilizer, pesticides, and fungicides. This will address the general problem affecting small farmers in East Africa being the impact climate change is having on farming. Small farmers in East Africa lack access to and knowledge of use of organic farming inputs including organic fertilizers and organic pesticides. Use of organic inputs will assist to mitigate against climate change effects such as diminishing water for irrigation and production of food using organic methods to access better markets. The goal is to promote the use of organic farming practices by smallholder horticulture farmers within Uganda, Rwanda and Kenya. The team seeks USD 115,000 to make this innovative a reality.

Action Plan V: MULIMI MARKET

There is insufficient access to market and market information of agricultural products both regional and international. MULIMI MARKET team will establish an online marketing platform to enhance access to sustainable markets for agricultural produce regionally and internationally. MULIMI MARKET will specifically achieve the following: 1) To access market information of agricultural produce for buyers and producers; 2) To access market of agricultural produce in the region and internationally; 3) To create a platform allowing interaction of buyers with producers of agricultural produce. MULIMI MARKET will have branches in Uganda, Kenya, DRC, Tanzania and Rwanda and later scale up to other countries globally.

Action Plan VI: Accelerating Youth-led Agricultural Productivity and Access to Information in East African Region.

With the current changing social and economic factors in the Eastern Africa Agriculture, young farmers are facing decreased interest in agriculture production processes and access to information. This initiative seeks to partner as a liaison between Young East African farmers and the EAC to achieve the following specific objectives: 1) To advance collaborations between young EA farmers and government authorities in EA Agriculture policy system; 2) To centralize development agenda of young East African farmers and development partners within the EA Regions, for example FAO and USAID. The team seeks USD 20,000 to make this idea a reality.

Action Plan VII: Small Holder Farmers Seed Bank in East Africa

There is lack of quality seeds in market and high cost of seeds. The aim is to improve the quality and increase the availability of seed to smallholder farmers. The initiative will increase the productivity to smallholder farmers by distributing drought resistant seedling. The initiative will do the following activities together with partners: 1) Train farmers in good agricultural practices; 2) Distribute quality seedlings to farmers; 3) Train farmers on production of quality seeds (local and improve varieties); 4) Establish smallholder farmer seed banks

(SFSB); and 5) Marketing of seeds to different farmers. The team seeks USD 110, 500 to implement this initiative in Uganda, Kenya, DRC, Tanzania and Rwanda.

Action Plan VIII: ELGON One Acre Demo & Training Farm

There is limited access to best agricultural practices & non-competitive quality produce from small farmers. This initiative will establish a Training and Information Centre on organic & efficient resource use for Youth & Women. The aims of this initiative will include: 1) Development of an efficient model of farming practices for small producers; 2) Demonstration and promotion of climate smart agriculture practices using modern irrigation to produce against seasons and master the market demand; 3) Disseminate agriculture information timely to the smallholder farmers through call center, training farmers, specific crop production hand-outs manual, messaging SMS. Uganda, Tanzania, DRC and Rwanda are selected sites for the pilot. USD 50,000 is sought to establish each demonstration farm.

Annex 5: Workshop Evaluation

An evaluation of the entire **5-day** training experience was captured on the last day (see detailed excel sheet and summary comments attached). A summary of the 37 evaluation forms received showed that 96% of the participants agree that:

- the workshop objectives were met
- the facilitators were engaging
- the presentation materials were relevant
- the content of the presentations was organized and easy to follow
- the facilitators were well prepared and able to answer any question
- the workshop length was appropriate
- the pace of the workshop was appropriate to the content and attendees
- the exercises/activities were helpful and relevant
- the venue was appropriate for the workshop

Only 4% disagreed mostly around the length of the workshop not being appropriate.

Summary findings of what was useful to the participants highlighted the field visits, the ability to engage with practitioners and mentors, the capacity building around business incubation, set-up and marketing, as well as mentorship. In addition, partnerships and linkages, GAP and being in an environmentally sustainable business, were found to be very useful topics.

Participants in the future would like to have some other topics included, however, these are too diverse to have a sizeable sample interested in similar areas.