
2018 Annual Report

YPARD's Year in Review





YPARD Global coordination unit
Young Professionals for Agricultural Development

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Our top 10 achievements for 2018



A successful planning meeting culminating to a YPARD strategic plan for 2018-2021.



Signing of the Memorandum of understanding between the founding organizations of the Youth in Landscapes initiative during the 2018 Global Landscapes Forum in Bonn.



YPARD Asia and Pacific partnership with the CIMMYT on the Maize Innovator Awards.



Capacity development opportunities lead by national chapters around the world.



Publishing of the YPARD mentoring toolkit with funding from the GFAR collective action.



Increasing advocacy roles of members at global, regional and national levels.



Young professionals contributions to discussions on curriculum reforms in ag with multiple stakeholders.



Continued youth engagement at global events, including Global Landscapes Forum 2018, CFS 45, FAO youth event among others.



Continued representation of YPARD members in the advisory committees at global, regional and national organizations.



Promotion of agriculture among youth through social media, campaigns and events.



2018 was a strategic year at YPARD that saw a lot of changes to the network's strategic orientation with particular reference to the strategic planning meeting. Within the four year (2014-2018) timeframe of the Business plan, YPARD has had some amazing successes but also continue to face some recurring challenges. The year in particular saw the network revise its strategic focus with some exceptional outcomes as follows;

14 new team members joined the YPARD team including twelve new country representatives and two communications focal points. Additionally, national teams – Netherlands, RDC, Nepal, Nigeria and Peru – increasingly organized YPARD Cafés or other gatherings to discuss key national issues that are in the interest of YPARD.

The strategic planning meeting held in the YPARD Europe coordination unit

With the YPARD business plan 2014-2018 coming to a close, in the spring of 2018, YPARD held a strategic

planning workshop in Prague to chart a path forward for the network in the coming years. The three days discussions culminated in a draft which as refined to the current strategic plan which constitutes new vision and mission and values.

Signing of the MOU between YIL and GLF in 2018

with the aim of working towards the mutual agenda of strengthening the activities of young people in the landscape sectors.

Successful development of the mentoring toolkit

as part of a GFAR Collective Action funded by the Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAR) and the European Union. The toolkit is a how-to guide that synthesizes a decade of learnings and resources from hundreds of agriculture and forestry mentoring programs implemented by Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD), the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) and African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD).

Discussions on youth involvement, empowerment strategies and activities

In 2018, the network input played a crucial role in elaborating stronger stakeholder strategies for youth in the sector including those in the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, South African National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery (DAFF) just to cite a few.

Promoting agriculture among the youth through visits to the schools and universities across the world with the aim of sharing the information on YPARD and youth in agriculture and showcase of YPARD activities in different mediums. Additionally, YPARD members and representatives took part in various celebration days aiming at promoting YPARD and its activities.

Youth sitting in management roles

With the aim of inclusion of young people in managerial and decision making bodies, new organisations representation in 2018 include the UN Youth

Advisory Board, National Technical Committee for the Development and Implementation Plan of S3A in Ghana among others.

Meaningful youth inclusion in global policy debates

through ensuring deliberate YPARD members participation to key events both at the global Regional and national levels. In 2018 these included, Committee on World Food Security (CFS) 45, Global Landscapes Forum 2018 and the 9th BCFN International Forum on Food and Nutrition.

YPARD as a key influencer in the strategic direction of youth engagement in sustainable food systems

CONTRIBUTING TO EVIDENCE BASED RESEARCH AND EFFECTIVE YOUTH STRATEGIES

Youth in Landscapes Initiative case study

In the context of complex intergenerational challenges such as climate change and sustainable development, it is increasingly important for scientists and policy-makers to actively engage with and support the meaningful participation of youth in policy and decision-making.

In 2018, three YPARD members, published a study to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the Youth in Landscapes Initiative in supporting the active participation and leadership development of youth (aged 18–30 years old) participants at the 2014 Global Landscapes Forum (GLF). Results show a high demand for youth participation with 34% of GLF conference delegates having expressed interest to attend the Youth Session; over 22% of GLF session organisers having requested youth to take on leadership roles, and the youth program itself received over 770 applications for the ‘facilitator’ and ‘pitcher’ leadership positions.

Read: [Towards meaningful youth participation in science-policy processes: a case study of the Youth in Landscapes Initiative](#)

Youth in Agricultural Cooperatives: Challenges and opportunities

The research study on youth in agricultural cooperatives was published in 2018. The research – a partnership between the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), Centre for Development Innovation (CDI) and the Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD) and the Food & Business Knowledge Platform – aimed at exploring youth’s perspectives and needs for engaging in agricultural cooperatives.

The case studies presented in this report are analyzed from a gendered perspective, highlighting

the social differences amongst young women and young men, which are critical in determining how easily and under what conditions key resources, such as knowledge, land, and finance, can be accessed.

Read: [Youth in Agricultural Cooperatives: Challenges and opportunities](#)

Maize-Asia Youth Innovators Awards winners

In partnership with the CGIAR Research Program on Maize (MAIZE), YPARD Asia and Pacific took part in the Maize-Asia Youth Innovators Awards in a bid to recognize the contributions of innovative young women and men who can inspire fellow young people to get involved with maize-based research, change agency and farming. YPARD member, Dinesh Panday was one of the recipient of the awards. The program plans to scale up the awards in other continents while still focusing on young people.

Read: [YPARD Member part of the 2018 Maize-Asia Youth Innovators Awards winners](#)

Parthenium Awareness Program and Research Database

YPARD Pakistan collaborated with CABI UK, UKAID, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherland and Pakistan Agriculture Ministry to develop and manage a Parthenium Awareness Program and Research Database. In that regard, YPARD-Pak has launched a Parthenium program across the country with an awareness creation objective.

YPARD Pakistan Agri Research and Farm Support Program

has encouraged many young people to understand the profession of agriculture for food security and nutrition and most importantly for economic growth. The chapter has realized the core issue of young generations in the country and by recognizing the root cause have implemented a program to get the resources for job searching/training and mentoring program according to the requirement of both employee and employer to cooperate with each

other and facilitating them to get chance to learn under the dynamic supervision of the professionals/field experts in the industry.

YPARD’S ADVISORY ROLE

YPARD continued its engagement and contribution towards youth focused discussions, youth involvement, empowerment activities globally, regionally and nationally. Of particular focus in 2018 YPARD advisory roles included;

YPARD Director, Courtney Paisley, shared insights on youth and migration in line with the **Chicago Council on Global Affairs** blog series ahead of the 2018 Global Food Security Symposium.

Read: [Migration is not a one-way street](#)

In November 2018, YPARD South Africa was invited by the **South African National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery (DAFF)** to take part in the Reference Group Consultative Workshop on the Draft National Policy on Comprehensive Producer Development Support held at Sefala building in Pretoria. YPARD South Africa is involved in providing inputs into the South African Draft National Policy on Comprehensive Producer Development Support (CPDS), which will be tabled at the South African Parliament for adoption as a national policy. The anticipation is that the South African Parliament will adopt the policy in April 2019 and as such YPARD will provide inputs into key programmes that should be rolled out in South Africa aligned to the policy.

★ SPECIAL NATIONAL HIGHLIGHT

Family farming organizations have prioritized youth during the IYFF-2014 and with greater emphasis in the IYFF +10. The youth and family farming study carried out by the World Rural Forum (WRF) draws upon the basis of a questionnaire sent to members of the WRF network and the YPARD network, aims

to continue brainstorming ideas in the debate and creation of strategies to link young people (men and women) to family farming, especially in the framework of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028).

The main objective of this study is to describe the current situation and contribute to setting out a common position on youth development in family farming. The conclusions reached will, therefore, be taken into account in the policy lobbying on behalf of young people in the IYFF+10 campaign

Read: [Young people and family farming](#)

YOUTH IN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

In line with YPARD ensuring and increasing representation of young people in agricultural development management committees around the world, **2018 brought with it new representation of YPARD members and chapters**. This has enabled youth to confidently engage with these organizations and others. These management committees include;

UN Youth Advisory Board (UNYAB) in the Philippines

A YPARD Phippine’s member was elected as a member of the UN Youth Advisory Board (UNYAB) in the Philippines and is the liaison for the sector of agriculture, forestry and natural resources in the UNYAB.

National Technical Committee for the Development and Implementation Plan of S3A in Ghana

YPARD Nigeria representative serves as the youth organization representative on National Technical Committee for the Development and Implementation Plan of S3A in Ghana.

Rome Based agencies Youth Council

Through Nuffield International of the Private Sector Mechanism, the YPARD Philippines Country

YPARD as a key influencer in the strategic direction of youth engagement in sustainable food systems

representative was invited to participate in the 45th Session of the UN Committee on World Food Security at FAO Headquarters. The YPARD Philippines representative works closely with the International Agri-Food Network (IAFN) to coordinate on behalf of YPARD Global in helping establish a Youth Council that aims to influence policies of the three (3) UN Rome-based Agencies (FAO, WFP, IFAD).

European Federation for IT in Agriculture, Food and Environment

YPARD Hungary representative, Monika Varga, is the board member of European Federation for IT in Agriculture, Food and Environment through which she shares information about the most important progress, events, news with the community. She participated in the scientific board of EFITA2019.

Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAR) Steering Committee

Tech4Agri is an initiative by the YPARD Trinidad and Tobago representative who sits on the GFAR Steering Committee as the Youth Representative. In 2018, the representative together with the YPARD Communications manager took part in the 33rd GFAR Steering Committee representing the youth interests at both global and local levels.

The European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD)

YPARD Serbia member Ivana Radic was elected to take a sit in the EFARD committee as the youth representative.

YPARD-Pak Academic Council is based in Karachi, by establishing the coordination desk in each institutions and universities and bridging the network with reputable organizations and industries to open the door for young people. The Academic Council is responsible for defining the strategic and operational frameworks common to the YPARD-Pak member organizations to facilitate the fresh graduate in enhancing the professional skills.

The Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS)

YPARD Philippines representative coordinates the GFRAS Youth Working Group and co-facilitated two webinars, along with 2 online meetings and the launch of the Youth Working Group during the 9th GFRAS Annual Meeting in South Korea.

MEANINGFUL YOUTH INCLUSION IN GLOBAL POLICY DEBATES

YPARD is bringing strong youth delegations to key conferences who take active roles in global strategic discussions and bring the outcomes far beyond the conference floor. Some notable mentions from 2018 include;

FAO Youth as drivers of innovation side event

During the FAO International Symposium on ag innovation for family farmers an interactive session with youth was organized in collaboration with Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD). It allowed for the youth to identify and convey key messages on the role of innovation in agriculture in shaping their future and meeting their aspirations. The event also provided a platform for young people including 4 YPARD members to highlight their successes, concerns and drivers of innovation and contribute with their inputs to the outcomes of the Symposium. The key messages from this session were reported during the final Plenary of the symposium to ensure that the voices of youth are taken into consideration.

Read: [Join the FAO/YPARD youth interactive event](#)

Launch meeting of the CGIAR Research Program on Grain Legumes and Dryland Cereals (GLDC)

YPARD director took part in the launch meeting of the CGIAR Research Program on Grain Legumes and Dryland Cereals (GLDC) from February 14th to 16th 2018. Over 130 participants from 25 countries gathered in Addis Ababa to confirm partners and

priorities of GLDC with the first approach taken being that of better understand the realities of youth in dryland systems.

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Read: [Dryland agrifood, youth research and the CGIAR Research Program on Grain Legumes and Dryland Cereals](#)

Global Landscapes Forum Bonn 2018

The Global Landscapes Forum is the largest exchange platform on sustainable landscapes in the world in recent years. The 2018 forum attracted more than 2000 stakeholders, including youth, from across different sectors, regions and disciplines allowing participants to share knowledge with policy makers and each other in the pursuit of new and green development pathways in landscapes. These include detailed discussions, a series of short talks, the innovative solutions for landscapes, thematic pavilions and a “share fair” showcasing the newest innovations in sustainable land-use solutions. YPARD director took part in the Forum on behalf of YPARD.

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Read: [Youth from everywhere to Bonn in 2018: #ThinkLandscape](#)

Chicago Council on Global Affairs 2018 Global Food and Security Symposium

YPARD steering committee member, Sithembile Ndema Mwamakamba, made a case for youth in agriculture in line with the upcoming Chicago Council on Global Affairs 2018 Global Food and Security Symposium.

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Read: [How can African youth transform the agricultural sector?](#)

UNFAO Committee on World Food Security session 45

In the sidelines of the CFS 45, A youth side event dubbed “Agriculture is not cool ?! Think again. Closing the generation gap” was organized by the Swiss National FAO Committee (CNS-FAO), the Young

Professionals for Agricultural Development (YARD), the World Famers’ Organization (WFO), the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG). The discussants highlighted their experiences in engaging youth for responsible agricultural investments in agriculture. Among the recurring ones were; Access to finance, credit, inputs and insurance. YPARD director stressed on youth empowerment and mentorship as an avenue to ensuring inclusion of young people in the broader policy conversation.

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Read: [Closing the Generation Gap, Investment and Youth](#)

9th GFRAS Annual Meeting in South Korea

The 9th Annual Meeting of the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) took place from 22-25 October 2018 in Jeonju, Korea under the theme Addressing Challenges and Seizing Opportunities: Developing Effective Partnerships in RAS. Four YPARD members (Jim Cano, Alpha Sennon, Pius Lukakome, Nestor Ngouambe) took part in the event in different capacities as either panelists or speakers and co-facilitated the youth event GFRAS Youth Working Group Launch titled Engaging Youth in and for Rural Advisory Services in Agricultural Innovations Systems. The side event was organized around three main axes: the status of youth engagement in RAS; challenges and opportunities in engaging youth in RAS and the facilitating role the YWG could have; and identifying success stories advocating the needs for stronger youth engagement in RAS.

9th Barilla Center for Food and Nutrition Foundation (BCFN) International Forum on Food and Nutrition

The International Forum on Food and Nutrition (9th edition) organized by Barilla Center for Food and Nutrition (BCFN) brought together the sustainability expert speakers from all over the world, providing a stage for discussion and engaging the youth, media

YPARD as a key influencer in the strategic direction of youth engagement in sustainable food systems

to share the good practices needed to generate the real change required for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations' 2030 Agenda.

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Read: [International Forum on Food and Nutrition \(9th edition\)](#)

YOUTH INCLUSION IN REGIONAL AND NATIONAL POLICY DEBATES

YPARD's youth involvement in strategic discussions continued both on a regional and a national level.

Some of the notable **REGIONAL EVENTS** where YPARD regional Coordination units members took part in include;

Global Landscapes Forum Nairobi

YPARD Africa coordinator joined other youth 60 youth participants from a dozen African countries gathered at the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) in Nairobi for the Scaling up Youth Action to Restore Africa's Degraded Lands. The session offered practical training on the science that underpins restoration and how to approach it. Together with other young leaders and elder leaders gathered in Nairobi at Global Landscape Forum to spark and sustain conversations on sustainability and climate resilient landscapes. They were able to meet and interact with multiple potential partners.

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Read: [Restoring hope through the landscape and making restoration possible and Beyond selfies: African youth vow to restore the continent's landscapes](#)

Tropical and subtropical agriculture, natural resource management and rural development (Tropentag) 2018

On September 16th (one day prior to the official opening of Tropentag conference), YPARD Europe held an interactive workshop at the Tropentag 2018 conference on Sharing information and connecting

early career scientist. The objective of the workshop was to empower young researchers and professionals dealing with research by facilitating linkages and transfer of knowledge with high level and experienced scientists, so that they can build the research and action that will give answers to fight against inequalities and shape a better future for all.

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Read: [YPARD at Tropentag 2018 - Sharing information and connecting early career scientist](#)

NATIONAL EVENTS where YPARD members took part in include;

2nd Nepal Youth Agriculture Entrepreneurship Symposium

In partnership with 4-H Nepal (Head, heart, hands, health), YPARD Nepal took part in the 2nd Nepal Youth Agriculture Entrepreneurship Symposium from 20th-21st May, 2018 at Nepal Tourism Board Bhrikutimandap, Kathmandu. The challenges and opportunities of agricultural entrepreneurship, federalism, sustainable development goals and climate change were discussed along with motivational sessions from the specialists and entrepreneurs. Future farmer campaign was also launched and it promises to be the sustainable step towards entrepreneurship.

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Read: [Of youth, agriculture and entrepreneurship: Finding the nexus](#)

BNFB workshop and CAADP partnership platform in Libreville, Gabon, April 21-24 2018

Recognising the crucial role women and youth play in both the production and post-production stages of the agricultural values chain, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), International Potato Centre (CIP), Building Nutritious Food Basket (BNFB) Project and other partners organized a pre-meeting workshop and a side event titled Integrating women and youth in the agricultural value chain for increased productivity, jobs, income and food and nutrition

security: The role of advocacy. The workshop and side events were held as part of activities for the 14th Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development (CAADP) Partnership Platform meeting held in Libreville, Gabon recently. YPARD Nigeria advocated for mentorship and business accelerator platform to assist youths along the value chains. The 14th Programme CAADP Partnership Platform provides space and platform for all CAADP partners, National Governments, African Agriculture (Malabo Declaration and CAADP Results Framework) and the Africa Union Agenda 2063, as well as the work on the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals for results-oriented dialogue on strengthening accountability mechanisms within the context of agricultural transformation and development and accelerating the Implementation of National Agricultural Investment Plans to Achieve the Malabo goals & targets.

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Read: [Promoting youth agripreneurship in Africa](#)

Post-harvest congress and Exhibition, Abuja, September 17-21, 2018

Due to the impact of post-harvest losses on the productivity, profitability and sustainability of African agriculture, renowned participants gathered to attend the epoch making event tagged West and Central Africa Post-Harvest Congress and Exhibition (WCAPHCE) in Abuja, Nigeria from 17th to 21st September 2018. Also, professionals in the industry utilized exhibition stands at the event to showcase their exploits in the area of curbing postharvest losses in the agricultural sector as this presents both challenges and huge opportunities for advancement. There were panel sessions, plenary discussions/ break-out sessions, technical presentations and exhibitions proffering solutions and forming synergies to work for sustainable African agriculture. These presented an opportunity for YPARD Nigeria to advocate for a holistic youth engagement in championing the control of post-harvest losses since young persons are vital actors for the sustainability of agricultural initiatives.

Nutrition Olympiad-2018

Under the theme Youth empowerment and nutrition for a healthy nation, the Bangladesh Institute of ICT in Development (BIID) and the Meeting the Under-nutrition Challenge MUCH project, implemented by FAO in collaboration with Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU), Ministry of Food organized the Nutrition Olympiad 2018. The event which was sponsored by USAID and EU and aimed at building a national platform for youth and other relevant stakeholders for knowledge sharing and to demonstrate the potential of youth in nutrition activities towards improving diets and addressing malnutrition. As a youth networking platform, YPARD Bangladesh joined the event as one of the partners in the Asia region.

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Read: [YPARD Bangladesh participates in Nutrition Olympiad 2018](#)

In the same breadth, YPARD Nepal participated through a poster presentation on Food wasted and Nutritional importance of indigenous vegetables and fruits in April 2018, leading to greater networking opportunity with the policy makers.

UNLEASH-2018

The UNLEASH-2018 edition in Singapore hosted a thousand talents from one hundred and eight different countries. People from different cultures, including a YPARD Nepal member, came together to discuss and generate ideas on the sustainable development Goals.

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Read: [UNLEASH 2018: An innovative lab for development ideas](#)

Homegarden for Recovery and Resilience (HG4RR) International Expert Network meeting

Two YPARD members from YPARD Bangladesh and two YPARD Nepal members were some of the participants in Homegarden for Recovery and Resilience (HG4RR) International Expert Network meeting, December, 2018, Kathmandu, Nepal.

YPARD as a key influencer in the strategic direction of youth engagement in sustainable food systems

The main objective of HG4RR was to establish an international network of experts (researchers and practitioners from South and East Asia and Europe) to advance knowledge on topics related to home gardens, resilience, food security, and interventions.

Runway II: Shape Tank, Global Shapers

The country representative of YPARD Bangladesh spoke at Runway II: Shape Tank, Global Shapers (powered by World Economic Forum) for Empowering Youth-led Social Impact projects in Beijing, December, 2018 YPARD and its role in youth empowerment. The event aimed at convening a half-day open-style conference of young leaders from across the city to highlight youth-led social impact projects.

Rural development and agriculture: young entrepreneurs

YPARD Serbia has made a connection with “Jovanjica” so that young farmers and students – members of YPARD Serbia benefit from organic farming as “Jovanjica” has been striving to do.

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Read: [YPARD Serbia: Exploring the views – organic farmers](#)

13th Asian Maize Conference

A YPARD Bangladesh member attended the 13th Asian Maize Conference: Surmounting future challenges. The event aimed at inspiring young minds and showcasing innovations regarding the increment on maize-based agri-products and research.

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Read: [13th Asian Maize Conference: Surmounting future challenges](#)

The Feed Nigeria Summit 2018

The Summit provides an opportunity for participants to come together to discuss and present ways to attain and ensure sustainable growth, enhance productivity, collaboration and foster partnerships to boost the sector. The highlight of the two-day event was the youth and gender plenary session on taking

ownership via a New Narrative which had YPARD Nigeria’s Partnerships and Fundraising Officer, Mr. Tokurah Majid representing the Country representative Eric Nyikwagh. The summit was an opportunity to engage participants in the youth narrative to engagement within the sector and introduce the YPARD network to participants at the event for engagement and collaborations.

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Read: [A brighter future: Youth engagement along agricultural value chains](#)

8th National Conference on Food Science and Technology

The 8th National Conference on Food Science and Technology was successfully held in 22- 23 June 2018 in Kathmandu under the theme Food Science and Technology for Food & Nutrition Security and Agro-entrepreneurship Development. It was organized by Nepal Food Scientists and Technologists Association and co-organized by CAFODAT, Central Campus of Technology and Department of Food Technology and Quality Control (DFTQC). YPARD Nepal was the communication partner for the conference and it was promoted as #fcon18 in social media sites.

West and Central Africa Post-Harvest Congress and Exhibition (WCAPHCE) in Abuja, Nigeria

The event brought together an array of stakeholders from academia, research, development sector, processors, business organizations, youth networks, farmer associations all aimed at addressing the menace of post-harvest loss in the agricultural economy of the West and Central Africa Regions under the theme Upscaling Post-Harvest Activities in West and Central Africa. The congress created a platform where researchers, policy-makers, and practitioners in the agricultural sector converged, brainstormed and forged practical, lasting solutions to the variegated realities occasioning Post-Harvest Losses in the agricultural value chain.

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Read: [Impact of value addition on African agriculture](#)

SDG-Conference: Towards Zero Hunger – Partnerships for impact

The conference brought together key stakeholders to discuss their views and contributions for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to take action towards reaching the targets and partnerships especially on the SDG2 and SDG17. YPARD Communication focal point Maya participated in the SDG conference in Wageningen, where she gave a presentation on factors facilitating youths’ engagement in agribusiness.

National Youth Forum Solomon Islands

YPARD Solomon Islands representative was invited to speak on two occasions during the National Youth Forum organised by United Nation Peace Building Fund in Solomon Islands as regards resource management and the role of young people in our society. The country representative took this opportunity to introduce YPARD to a large crowd of Solomon Islands young generation.

Youth and agripreneurship: FoodFirst conference

The Food & Business Knowledge Platform (F&BKP), AgriProFocus and the Young Expert Programmes (YEP Agrofood and YEP Water) organized a workshop in line with the conference, focusing on youth entrepreneurship in agricultural transformation. The goal was to inspire and engage the audience, putting forward stimulating and thought provoking statements and showcasing young changemakers and their work in being the solution for agrofood challenges. Maya Turolla was part of a panel presenting her findings from the PhD research on youth engagement in agribusiness in Uganda.

3rd African food festival and FBIN 10th anniversary and agriculture financing colloquium

In order to mainstream Nigerian youths in agricultural policy and development, the first national colloquium on public finance for youths and women in agriculture was organised by the Fresh and Young Brains Development Initiative (FYBI). The event brainstormed

on strategies to include youth actions in agricultural policy making as a key solution to solving the challenges of youths in agriculture. The event which had in attendance members from the private sector, government agencies, Civil society Organizations (CSOs), YPARD Nigeria and other development partners was held on the 26th and 27th of November 2018 at the cyprian Ekwensi Arts and culture centre, Abuja. The panelists recommended that for youths to be involved in policy decisions to drive meaningful development in agriculture, youths on their part should deliberately create platforms, build networks and partnerships to advocate that youth voices be heard in policy decisions and youths should drive the implementation process. Youth leaders also called on the federal Government to make special budgetary provisions for youths in agriculture as opposed to the current practice of tying the budget to youths and women. On the other hand representatives from government organisations pledge their support for youth inclusiveness in agriculture policy making and funding for youth-led agriculture ventures but stated that the actions should be youth driven.

Young farmers in Serbia and EU

YPARD Serbia took part in the young farmers in Serbia and EU at the Fairy of agriculture in Novi Sad (North Serbia). The event provided a platform for exchanging information and introduction to challenges young farmers associations from Hungary, Croatia and Czech face and sharing what they succeeded in the last year for young farmers population. In the future, the chapter seeks to create linkages and make European agricultural reality closer for young farmers.

Farming’s 2nd agro-investment summit

YPARD Nigeria Country representative was a panelist at the African Farming’s 2nd agro-investment summit in Abuja from November 20-21, 2018. The investment summit provided a dynamic setting for delegates to debate, network and share knowledge and experiences on emerging trends in the agro-industry.

YPARD as a key influencer in the strategic direction of youth engagement in sustainable food systems

There was an array of keynote speakers and panelists who were agricultural experts, CEOs, high-level stakeholders and senior decision makers. YPARD Nigeria representative gave a presentation titled developing the next generation of agripreneurs. He said youth need to be supported for them to create jobs, generate wealth, ensure food security and reduce poverty.

European Federation for IT in Agriculture, Food and Environment

YPARD Hungary representative, Monika Varga participated in the scientific board of EFITA2019 deliberating on the event plans.

YOUTH VOICES IN ONLINE AGRICULTURE COALITIONS

YPARD continued its partnership with the **World Farmers Organization (WFO)**, **Farming First** (a coalition of more than 180 organizations) and the **Thought For Food Academy & Summit (TFF)** enabling young professionals of YPARD to engage with these networks via article contributions and online discussions. Other online networks include;

Youth In Landscapes Initiative (YIL):

YIL is a partnership coordinated by the Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD), the International Forestry Students Association (IFSA) and the Global Agroecology Alliance (GAEA). Together, these organisations represent over 50,000 young people working and studying within sectors including agriculture, forestry and agroecology. YIL has become a global movement of young people committed to living and breathing the landscapes philosophy: collaboration, diversity, and collective action. It aims to unite and empower youth aged 18-35 years, from diverse backgrounds around the world to have a public voice, and to create positive change for the sustainability of their landscapes and community livelihoods. YIL aims to achieve this mission by providing a platform to connect, educate and inspire passionate young

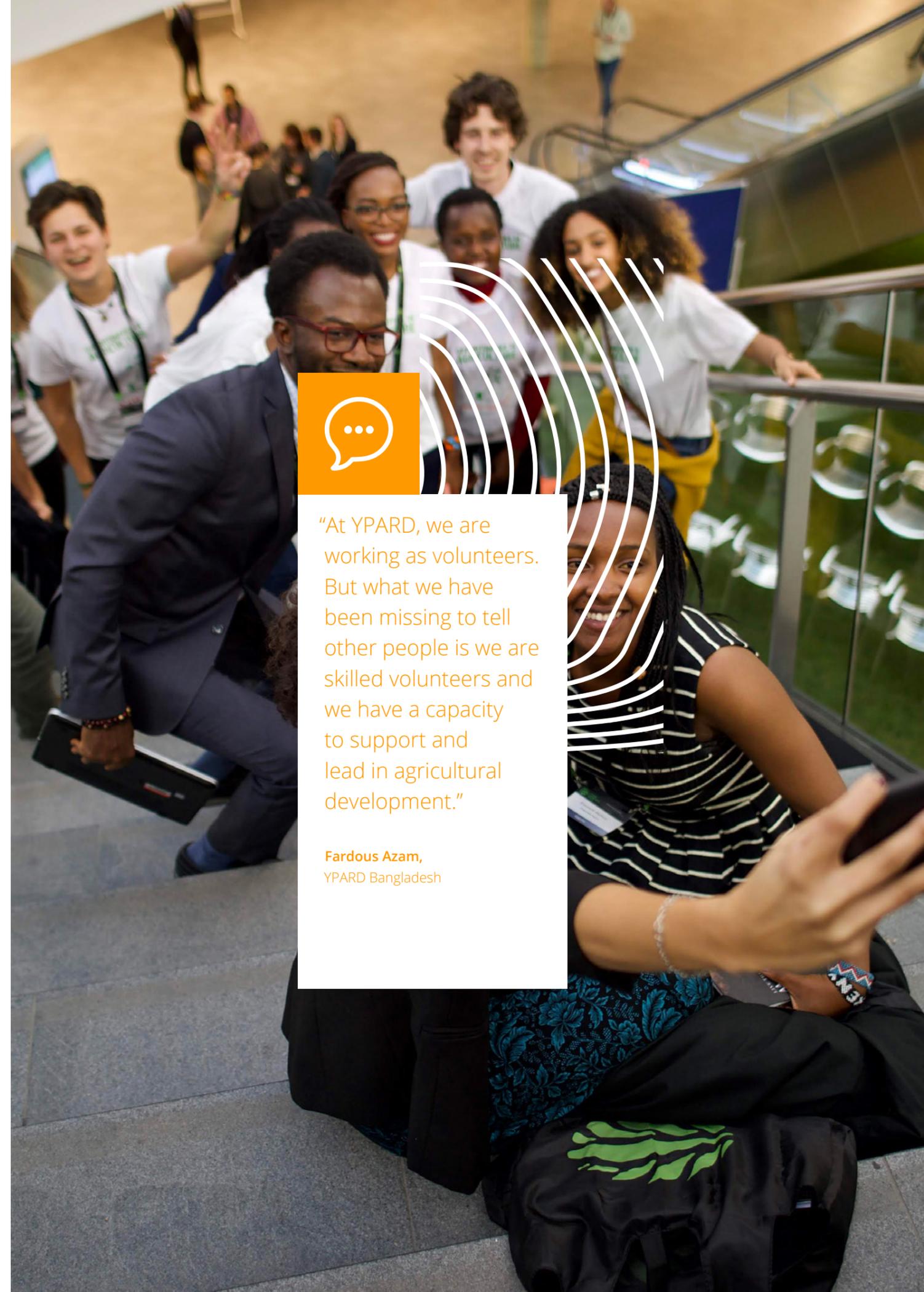
individuals, youth organisations, and youth supporters. In 2018 the initiative signed an MOU with GLF with the aim of working towards the mutual agenda of strengthening the activities of young people in the landscape sectors.

In 2018, under YPARD Italy coordination, Giulia Martino, YPARD Italy member and Msc student at University of Foggia contributed to the January issue of the World Farmers' Organization farm letter on [Use of innovative technologies for a smart livestock farming](#). The farmletter issues seemed to seize afterwards due to some governance changes at WFO.

14th Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development (CAADP) Partnership Platform meeting

Recognizing the crucial role women and youth play in both the production and post-production stages of the agricultural values chain, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), International Potato Centre (CIP), Building Nutritious Food Basket (BNFB) Project and other partners organized a pre-meeting workshop and a side event titled Integrating women and youth in the agricultural value chain for increased productivity, jobs, income and food and nutrition security: The role of advocacy.

Read: [Promoting youth agripreneurship in Africa](#)



“At YPARD, we are working as volunteers. But what we have been missing to tell other people is we are skilled volunteers and we have a capacity to support and lead in agricultural development.”

Fardous Azam,
YPARD Bangladesh

Promoting agriculture

FORESIGHT: ENABLING YOUNG PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND AND INFLUENCE CHANGE

Foresight4Food workshop

YPARD director took part in the second Foresight4Food workshop held in Montpellier and hosted by the Montpellier University of Excellence (MUSE) with support from ACIAR, GFAR, CIRAD and the University of Oxford. The event aimed at developing a clear strategy for how food systems foresight could better meet the needs of policy, business, and civil society at different scales. It also examined key dimensions of food systems change and different approaches to foresight.

Read: [Foresight4food: 3 lessons for better fishing](#)

#Foresight4Ag: Empowering rural communities to determine their own futures

Three YPARD members participated in a foresight training workshop on futures of agricultural research and innovation in Africa held from 10-18 February 2018 in Accra. GFAR Secretariat co-organized and co-resourced with the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) to conceive and implement the foundation for an Africa Foresight Academy. The participants brainstormed on the forces and drivers shaping the futures of agricultural research and innovations, their interactions or mutual influences, and building scenarios based on the states of the most influential forces they have identified.

Read: [#Foresight4Ag: Empowering rural communities to determine their own futures](#)

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS SHAPING AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

The network members continued their contribution to discussions on curricula reforms in agriculture with relevant stakeholders among them;

01. YPARD Philippines partnered with student organizations in the University of the Philippines Los Baños to organize a Climate-Smart Ag Forum.

02. YPARD Pakistan established a YPARD-Pak Academic Council with an aim of ensuring integration of agriculture among high school students. Leading YPARDians of this Program are: Ms. Shahla Salah, Mr. Faizan, Mr. Musharaf, Mr. Abdul Razzaq, Ms. Aiman and Ms. Sobia

03. YPARD Europe (within the SIMPLE project) attended a career festival at Royal University of Agriculture in Phnom Penh, Cambodia and organized a booth where the YPARD Europe coordinator was revising CVs of students who intend to enter an international labour market.

ENGAGING WITH STUDENTS

In 2018, YPARD representatives made great strides in engaging with young students through **constant and deliberate sharing of information in universities across the world to encourage them to join and take up careers in the agricultural sector**. Some key activities include;

01. YPARD Africa regional representative interacted with students of Presbyterian University College, University of Cape Coast, Evangelical Presbyterian University College, Kwadaso Agric College and Ohawu Agric College on agriculture and enrolling them on YPARD platform.

02. A back to farm campaign was held in four secondary school students in Delta state. **YPARD Nigeria** Delta Revamped Young Farmers clubs in four schools in July 2018 to promote agriculture among high school students.

03. In early August 2018, the biggest humanitarian foundation in Serbia Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation

partnered with the **YPARD Serbian** country representative with a mission to improve young farmer's position in the country. Ana and Vlade Divac foundation have recognized the meaning and importance of young people engagement in agriculture and as such created an agricultural fund for young families and high school students.

Read: [YPARD Serbia: Creating partnerships to better the position of young farmers](#)

04. YPARD Bangladesh organized a seminar on Motivating Youths in Agrarian Development in Bangladesh at Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University in which 150 participants attended the seminar.

05. YPARD Asia and Pacific organized a seminar for students in CAAS on Youth leadership in Agriculture and Experience from Africa presented by Dr. Yemi Akinbamijo, Executive Director of FARA and YPARD in Africa by Kofi Kisiedu Acquaye, YPARD Africa Regional Coordinator at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, October, 2018.

06. YPARD Nigeria partnered to host the first ever leadership boot camp on agriculture for high school prefects held in Kaduna state from October 25th-30th, 2018. The program was Hosted by Children and Young People Living for Peace NGO in collaboration with YPARD Kaduna state chapter. This innovative Agric Leadership training was a success. The students were trained on modern agricultural practices and equipped with leadership tips to become agro-ambassadors in their respective schools.

07. YPARD Phillipine Country Representative spoke at the Career Talks Roadshow organized by the Central Bicol State University of Agriculture (CBSUA). Approximately 300 people were in attendance ranging from high school students, to university students, faculty and staff, as well as research institutions in the region.

08. YPARD Hungary supported young professionals at participating in mobility programs by providing service for them to find appropriate institutions/farms for their compulsory internship. Four slots were secured from ERASMUS Credit Mobility program in collaboration with Kaposvar University.

09. The Kano state YPARD coordinating team visited the Faculty of Agriculture, Kano University of Science and Technology to introduce **YPARD Nigeria** and were given a warm welcome by the head of department and other lecturers of the department with promise of support to YPARD activities in the coming year.

AGRICULTURE IN SOCIETY: USING TRADITIONAL AND NEW MEDIA

YPARD members continued their **promotion of agriculture as a viable career in both traditional and modern mediums**. In 2018, YPARD members were featured in;

INTERVIEWS

The promotional interviews disseminated through radio and blogs included;

 **[e-AGRICULTURE]** Making agriculture attractive for the African Youth by **e-Agriculture** team who interviewed the new YPARD Director Yemi Adeyeye on a number of issues affecting the youth in agriculture especially in the context of Africa.

 **[UNEP]** In line with the International Day for Biological Diversity, celebrating 25 years of action for biodiversity today, the UNEP Young Champions of the Earth interviewed YPARD Uganda representative and asked him why biodiversity is important - and how youth can contribute.

 **[TV]** YPARD Enugu state chapter partnered with Enugu state broadcasting cooperation to produce

Promoting agriculture

various agriculture training videos aimed at encouraging young people to venture into agriculture. The impact has been significant as each broadcast reached over 100,000 audiences. Many youths followed up with our YPARD representatives to deepen their commitment to agriculture by joining YPARD and starting their volunteering activities with farms around to boost their expertise and network.

 **[TV]** YPARD Serbia was featured in the national Agro TV in the show Naše dobro (Our good) talking about what is YPARD, which are the main problems young farmers face, as well as about what they contribute to agriculture.

PUBLICATIONS

 **[PAPER]** Youth and rural advisory services publication by GFRAS. The paper discusses how Rural Advisory Services (RAS) can become more directly relevant and be tailored to the circumstances of young people today.

 **[PAPER]** The Youth In Landscapes initiative case study published on Elementa that sought to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the Youth in Landscapes Initiative in supporting the active participation and leadership dev. of youth (18–30 years old) participants at the 2014 Global Landscapes Forum.

E-DISCUSSIONS

 **[ONLINE DISCUSSION]** Youth employment in agriculture as a solid solution to ending hunger and poverty in Africa, which was held by the FAO Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN Forum) from 16 July to 10 August 2018. The discussion was organized to gather views in advance of the regional conference Youth Employment in Agriculture as a Solid Solution to Ending Hunger and Poverty in Africa: Engaging through Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Entrepreneurship from the 20-21 August in Kigali, Rwanda.

 **[ONLINE DISCUSSION]** The sustaining the impact of capacity development initiatives for African youth in agriculture discussion was organized under the Regional Initiative on Sustainable Production Intensification and Value Chain Development in Africa of the FAO Regional Office for Africa (RAF), in partnership with the Capacity Development Unit (DPSC) of the Partnerships and South-South Cooperation Division (DPS) of FAO, the Songhai Centre, the African Agribusiness Incubators Network (AAIN), the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) and the Young Professionals' Platform for Agricultural Research for Development (YPARD). The aim of the e-discussion was to solicit opinions on capacity development sustainability initiatives for young agripreneurs in Africa and to contribute to identifying challenges and opportunities related to sustaining the impact of all interventions (existing and future ones) aimed at developing capacities and engaging youth in agriculture.

 **[TWITTER CHAT]** YPARD Europe and YPARD Italy continued their collaboration with BCFN Alumni Foundation through their participation at Twitter chat/webinar sessions as attendees enabling ultimately the representative to join the 9th BCFN International Forum on Food and Nutrition.

CELEBRATION DAYS: YOUTH-IN-AGRICULTURE JOIN THE MOVEMENTS

Celebrations include **YPARD participation in festivals, fairs and special events directly related to ag and sustainable development or focused on ICTs** as a powerful means to get youth more interested in the sector. 2018 Promotional days included:

World Food Day 2018

The Kano State Chapter of YPARD Nigeria in commemorating the world food day, organized a symposium with the theme Roles of Small Agri-Food Production System in Attainment of Food Security

and Zero Hunger in Nigeria. The event held at the Kano State University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Wudil, Kano State Nigeria had well experienced resource persons on in attendance who spoke on salient topics that had direct contribution to food security and ending hunger. Jamilu Attahir, a YPARD member spoke extensively on the interconnectivity between poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

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Read: [Scaling-up small agri-food production system for zero hunger](#)

Global Milk day

MoreMeatMoreMilk Initiative for Development NGO in collaboration with YPARD Nigeria joined hands via the Global Dairy Platform to celebrate the World Milk Day in Nigeria a day set aside to recognize the importance of milk as a global food. The one day celebration event brought together Secondary school and Tertiary Institution students, dairy farmers, women, animal science students, animal scientists and dairy supporters from all across Nigeria, under the theme Value Dairy treats. A public lecture titled Why Dairy Treat? was delivered by Dr. Mrs. Akinyemi at the event which held on June 1st 2018 at Department of Animal Science, University of Ibadan, Ibadan.

Fair of Andean Flavors and Knowledge

YPARD Peru carried out a project that sought to bring together the urban and rural youth. The fair was attended by 35 people who competed for the best salty dish, the best sweet dish and the most innovative dish. There were three winners in the first two categories (salty and sweet) and a single winner in the third category.

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Read: [Young people revaluing rural gastronomy](#)

Kathmandu Food Fair

YPARD Nepal participated in the fair as one of the information dissemination centers with a team of six members – Abhishek Khadka, Rabin Shrestha, Anushuya Guragain, Sushma Chettri, Isha Dongol



“I am glad to know we have such an organization (YPARD China) in China. Now I know where I should direct my students to.”

Dr. Wang Qingyin, the Former Director General of Institute of Yellow River Fishery Sciences.

Promoting agriculture

and Shrestha involved in the management and planning of the event. By the end of the fair, a total number of three hundred and forty-seven people had registered in the visitor's profiles and were informed about the background of the network as well as the YPARD Nepal chapter.

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Read: [YPARD Nepal participates in Kathmandu Food Fair](#)

Young Farmers Day

YPARD South Africa partnered with AFASA (African Farmers Association of South Africa) to roll out the Young Farmers Day. The event was held at the Glen Agricultural College in Bloemfontein, Free State Province, South Africa. The aim of the event was to highlight and showcase the good work that has been done by AFASA Youth and associated partners, such as the CAYC and YPARD, in the advancement of emerging farmers within the Free State Province. YPARD South Africa presented a high level overview of the organization, including strategies and plans that will be rolled out in 2018/2019 financial years. The event was supported by 15 local businesses, including banks and attended by at least 150 young aspiring and emerging farmers from across the Free State Province.

International Day for Biological Diversity

To mark International Day for Biological Diversity, celebrating 25 years of action for biodiversity today, the UNEP Young Champions of the Earth interviewed YPARD Uganda representative on why biodiversity is important and how youth can contribute.

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Read: [Celebrating action for biodiversity: Q&A with a pioneering young conservationist](#)

World Youth Skills Day

Mahesh Chander, a researcher with ICAR organized a training on vermin-composting for twenty-five rural youth by scientists of ICAR- Indian Veterinary Research Institute and a young entrepreneur – Mr Prateek Bajaj.

Once trained on vermicompost production, Prateek has turned a successful entrepreneur now. He markets vermicompost with a brand of his own.

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Read: [Youth and social media: A leverage for agripreneurship](#)

YPARD Nigeria agricultural summit

Building on the existing structure of YPARD to promote agriculture among youth, YPARD Nigeria organized an agricultural summit on the 21st of April 2018 in Delta state, Nigeria with the theme Opportunities in agriculture. The theme was phrased out of the inscription on the YPARD customized shirt, Opportunities in agriculture; you'd be surprised! The one-day summit which had in attendance thirty-three young people started with a presentation on what YPARD is all about and its role in promoting agriculture among young people.

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Read: [Tapping into agricultural opportunities](#)

YPARD1000 memorial day

YPARD Nepal has been partnering with some of the registered organizations as well as academic organizations and in line with that, they celebrated YPARD1000 a memorial day for 1000 registered members in YPARD.

GENDER IN AGRICULTURE

YPARD continues to play an active role in engaging with young women in the agricultural sector and looking to work with young female leaders as role models. In 2018, young women representation included;

Women represent **30.1% of YPARD Community** against 31.3% in 2017.

Women represent **49% of the YPARD Team in 2018** inclusive of country representatives, regional coordinators, coordination unit, and steering committee.

Women are given equal chances for opportunities and encouraged to apply.

YPARD Ghana was a key part of **Miss Agriculture Ghana 2018** aimed at encouraging and supporting young women to take up Agribusiness as a profitable venture. A YPARD member Afriyie Acquah emerged as the winner of the pageant.

The case studies from the youth in cooperatives research study done by KIT, CDI, YPARD Uganda and the Food & Business Knowledge Platform were analyzed from a gendered perspective, highlighting the social differences amongst young women and young men, which are critical in determining how easily and under what conditions key resources, such as knowledge, land, and finance, can be accessed.

YPARD Ukraine representative was a panelist in the FAO and ITC Regional workshop on the WTO (World Trade Organization) instruments in the interest of [Agribusiness and on export promotion](#).

YPARD Nigeria partnered with CATO foods to host the 'She-agric initiative' –a capacity building program for women in agriculture held in 3 states- Lagos, Oyo and Ekiti in August 2018. SHE-AGRIC initiative is a name that pictured women both young and old either in rural or urban areas and agriculture as it exists in a merger – She (Women) Agric (Agriculture). This is an initiative that was sprouted out of the passion for agriculture and women in agriculture, particularly with the concerns about the increasing rate of unemployment among women, gender inequality and sexual harassment facing women. The initiative is passionate about educating and empowering SHE youths and adult women through agriculture, agribusiness, agricultural value chain and post-harvest processing that are sustainable and profitable. SHE AGRIC has established partnership with YPARD Nigeria to strengthen the SHE agricultural champions in research and professional development. The SHE-AGRIC training workshops held in three states of

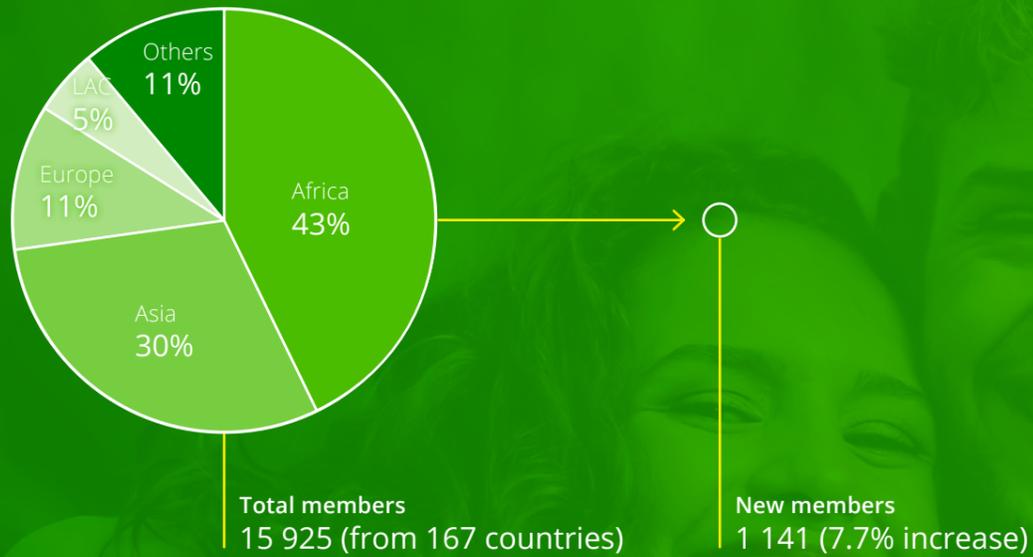
Lagos, Oyo and Ekiti respectively within August 2018. The SHE AGRIC initiative will continue to encourage, educate and empower young women between the age of 18 and 35years to participate in sustainable and profitable agriculture so they can exploit the great opportunities that exist in agriculture and its business prospects.

Agriculture & Food Security program in YPARD Pakistan continue to be based on a holistic approach, which empowers women and men living in rural villages to become the agents of their own development and make sustainable progress in overcoming hunger and poverty.

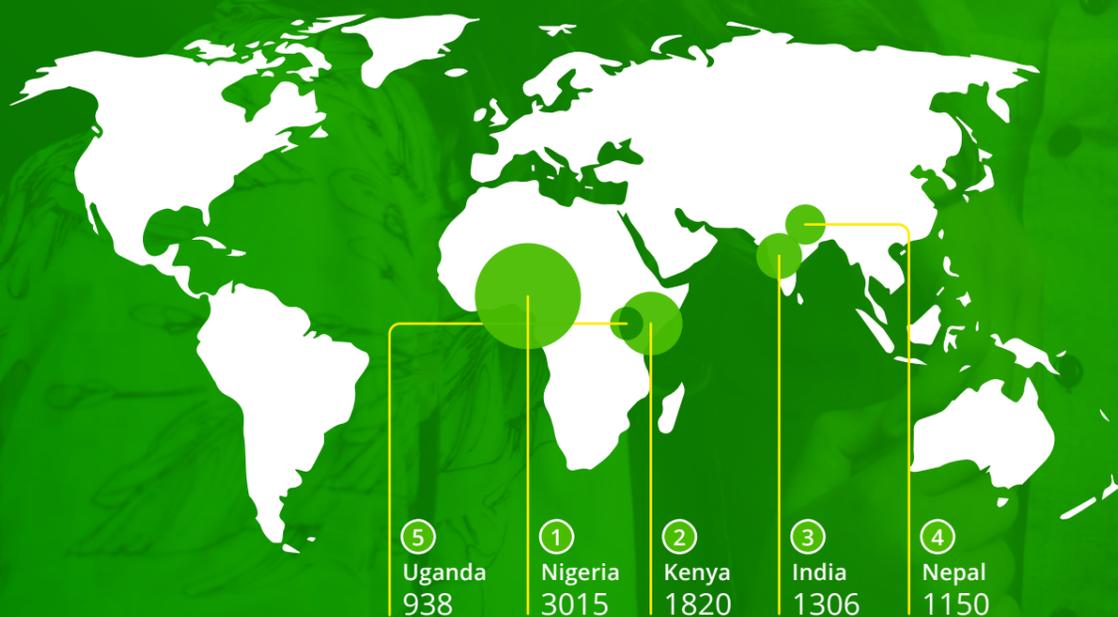
Exchanging information and connecting people

YPARD MEMBERSHIP

REGISTERED MEMBERS BY DECEMBER 2018



TOP 5 COUNTRY MEMBERSHIPS



TOP REASONS TO JOIN YPARD:

- 1 Increase my professional network
- 2 Support the idea of promoting youth engagement in agricultural development
- 3 Find capacity development opportunities

YPARD IS MOST VALUABLE FOR:

- ✓ Promoting agriculture among young people
- ✓ Capacity development information
- ✓ Funding opportunities

* Based on the members' annual survey

Exchanging information and connecting people

ONSITE MEMBER ACTIVITIES

At YPARD, the Face to face meetings are key to boosting membership, information sharing and developing collective actions on a national level albeit working with a limited budget. These meetings have over time focused on the aspects of connecting people and fostering collaboration. In 2018 YPARD constituents held onsite meetings as thus;

YPARD strategic meeting that brought together 24 network members of the network, including the YPARD SDC focal point, the Steering Committee, the Global Coordination Unit, the Regional Coordinators to deliberate on the network's next strategic focus.

Read: [Where next for the YPARD network?](#)

YPARD China jointly hosted the speed networking activities with Australia-China Youth Association with the aim of connecting young generations from Australia and China, introducing the work that YPARD is advocating and appeal more people to join YPARD and improve the presence of YPARD China.

2nd YPARD Asia and Pacific conference

The YPARD regional unit in Asia and Pacific (AP) organized **2nd YPARD AP Conference** on July 21-22, 2018 at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), Beijing, China. The objectives of the conference was to share regional and national updates, review of existing regional development plan, and draft of new regional development plan based on the upcoming 2018-2022 strategic Plan. In addition, communication and fund-raising training, donor mapping, and budget planning and discussion were included in the two days conference agenda.

YPARD Nepal saw an increase in its membership base by 300 members through web registration and approximately 700 members were directly engaged in programme hosted or co-hosted or partnered in different activities.

YPARD Bangladesh total number of registered members and FaceBook group members increased 125 and 1000, respectively in 2018.

YPARD Pakistan is sharing information through social media and WhatsApp by inviting all the stakeholders to share their opinion and raise the ideas for better implementations on each matter.

★ SPECIAL NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

NETWORKING EVENTS

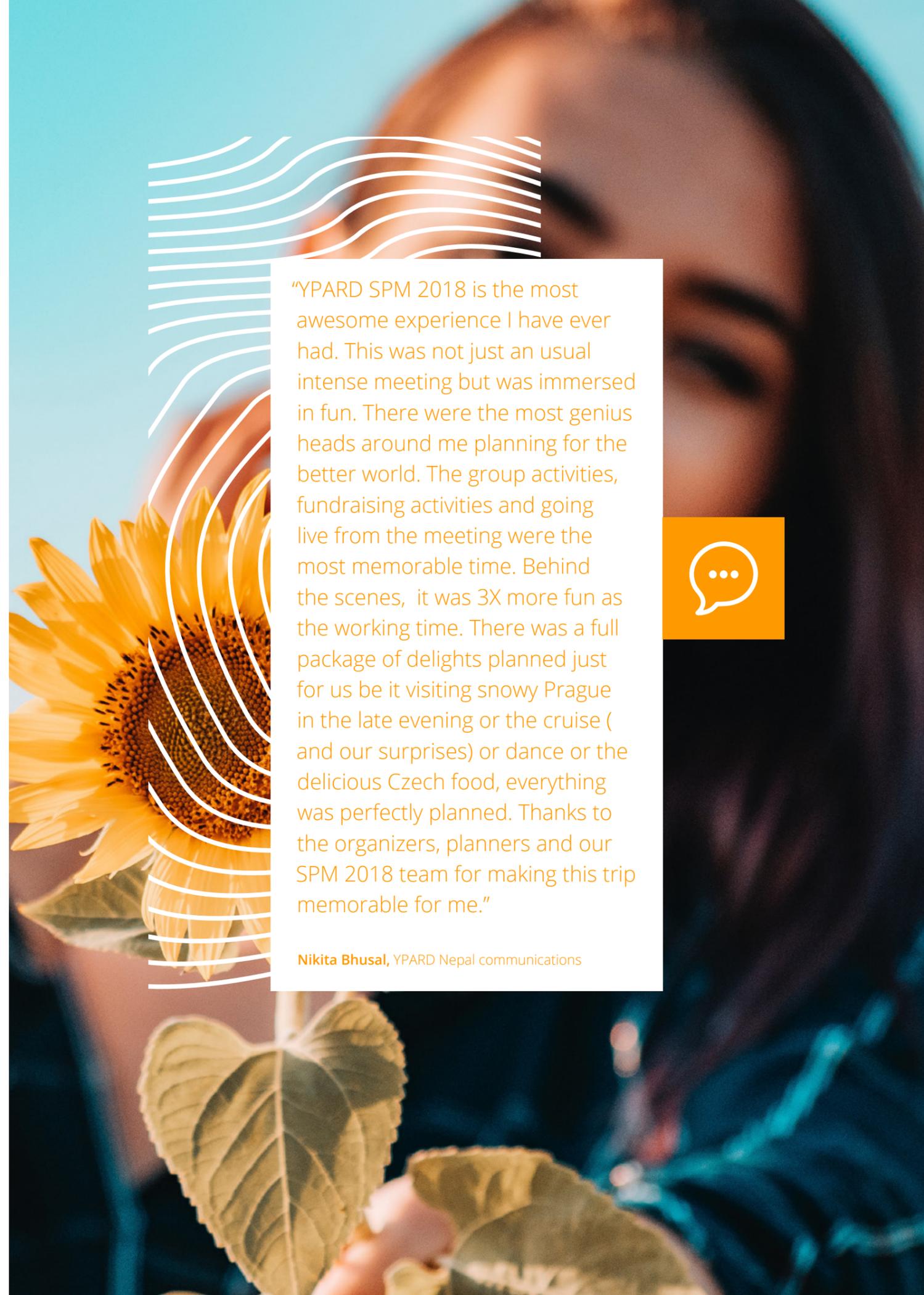
YPARD Asia and Pacific Photo Contest

The YPARD Asia and Pacific office held a photo contest with the objective to promote YPARD activities in AP region; engage YPARD members through cash reward and appreciation; and include the best 15 photographs in YPARD AP's promotional video (video project will be completed in 2019). They received limited submission but were able to award two submissions only to the winners Deepak Ghimire and Nikita Bhusal with \$100 USD cash prize.

ONSITE THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS AND CO-CREATION

YPARD Serbia meetings

In the past few months YPARD Serbia has been trying to promote agriculture among young people and share concerns about challenges young farmers face each day. YPARD Serbia considered exchange of information as the most important activity to the chapter at the moment.



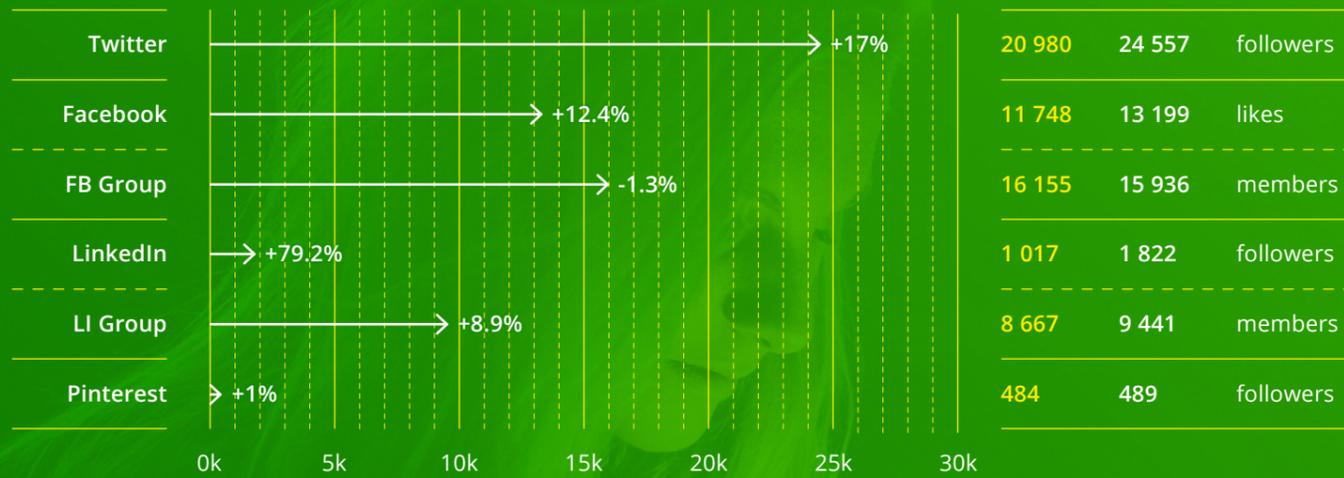
"YPARD SPM 2018 is the most awesome experience I have ever had. This was not just an usual intense meeting but was immersed in fun. There were the most genius heads around me planning for the better world. The group activities, fundraising activities and going live from the meeting were the most memorable time. Behind the scenes, it was 3X more fun as the working time. There was a full package of delights planned just for us be it visiting snowy Prague in the late evening or the cruise (and our surprises) or dance or the delicious Czech food, everything was perfectly planned. Thanks to the organizers, planners and our SPM 2018 team for making this trip memorable for me."

Nikita Bhusal, YPARD Nepal communications

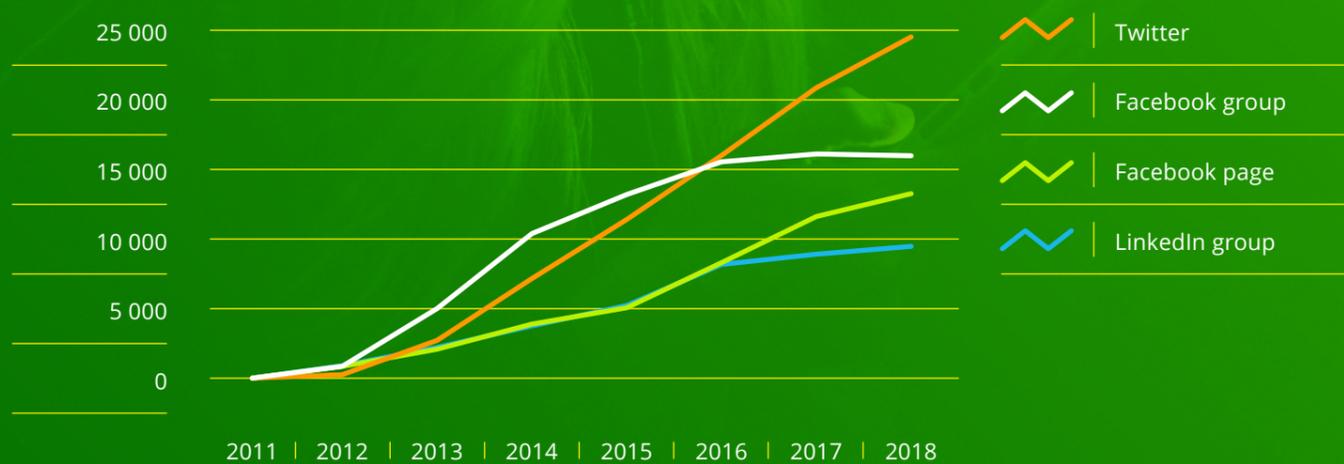


Exchanging information and connecting people

Channels YPARD members go "social"



Members Social media evolution



ONLINE INFORMATION SERVICES

The graphics on the left show the members' increase on main YPARD Social media channels: Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn, since 2011. These channels are central to boosting the community feeling and information sharing.

YPARD provides daily information on jobs, funding opportunities, blogposts and news items in the young professionals in the agriculture sector.

In 2018, over **712 items were published on the website in the 4 YPARD languages.**

WEBSITE VISITS

296 803 total visits in 2018
(8.23% increase)

86.4 % new visitors on total visits

24 734 visits a month

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

15 895 members subscribed to the newsletter

21.3% increase in newsletter subscriptions in 2018

YPARD regional and country chapters info sharing

YPARD regional and national chapters are increasingly embracing online channels to share information, opportunities and agricultural related subjects, webinars, online discussion, blog posts and articles with members and also encourage interactions among members.

Most used channels are **Facebook, Twitter** and **WhatsApp** groups. LinkedIn group is mostly used by the YPARD Europe coordination unit.

Based on the 2018 annual survey to the YPARD members, **new YPARD members indicated that they had heard about YPARD through:**

1. Google or other search engine

2. a friend/contact

3. YPARD representative/team member

4. Facebook

This demonstrates the power and motivation of the community in mobilizing their peers to become part of the movement and the value of communications and networking in YPARD.

Enable young people in agriculture shape sustainable food systems

THE YPARD STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

With the YPARD business plan 2014-2018 coming to a close, in the spring of 2017 the Global Coordination Unit commissioned the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) to re-examine and report on YPARD overall evolutions and performance and to provide recommendations regarding priorities for future actions. A couple of recommendations were suggested and formed the baseline for YPARD next move.

Internalizing diversity at YPARD, at the end of 2017, YPARD launched a call for YPARD Visionaries to attend the YPARD Strategic meeting from March 5th-9th 2018 at the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CULS).

Eight network members were competitively selected from a list of 38 applicants and they joined the YPARD SDC focal point person, the Steering Committee, the Global Coordination Unit, the Regional Coordinators and other partners for a four-day intensive strategic planning and fundraising session.

The participants had interactive and focused discussions geared towards creating a new strategy spanning from 2018-2022 with notable outputs as; the change of scope from young professionals in agricultural development to young professionals in food systems; the revision of the mission and vision to be in line with the changing times; the articulation of the values the network works within; revision of YPARD aims and objectives for 2018-2021; and redefining how the governance structures at YPARD work.

This is documented in the YPARD strategic plan which will chart the direction of the network in the next four years in line with ensuring YPARD maintains its space in the youth and agriculture space.

– Read: [Announcing the YPARD visionaries for the 2018 Strategic Planning Meeting](#)

YPARD MENTORING PROGRAM

GLOBAL

YPARD continued with the follow up and documentation of the mentees under the MasterCard funded [The Young Africa Works youth program](#).

Here are some of the updates from the mentees [Alesia: Discovering the latest version of me through mentorship](#), [Jabulani: The key to career success for youth transformation](#) and [Pilirani: Stepping out boldly into the bright future](#).

NATIONALLY LED ON-THE-GROUND MENTORING PROGRAM

YPARD Philippines youth-in-agriculture mentoring program

This YPARD Philippines' first mentoring program was conceived as a year-long scheme that aimed to bring together students and young professionals in agriculture to match them with agriculture experts from various subfields that YPARD Philippines focuses on in its youth-in-agriculture agenda: academy, research, extension, business and policy/governance. Throughout the program, mentors met and interacted with the mentees to share their knowledge and experiences, and to link their mentees to relevant networks in their field of expertise.

– Read: [Philippines youth-in-agriculture mentoring program](#)

Additionally, the mentorship program provided an avenue for the initiation and the development of the **Mentoring Toolkit** spearheaded by former YPARD Global Mentoring Coordinator, Michelle Kovacevic.

Grooming Leaders for Agriculture

YPARD Nigeria in partnership with The Green Generation Initiative, Nigerian Women in Agricultural Research and Development (NIWARD), Protect

Ozone, Agribusiness Academy continued its implementation of the [Grooming Leaders for Agriculture](#) mentorship program. The GLA is a YPARD Nigeria led-agricultural incubator empowering the youth to reach their highest career goals through education, hands-on training, mentoring, leadership and entrepreneurship. The program is achieving this by leveraging on the skills and experiences of mentors who are already experienced in the agricultural field to motivate and mentor the younger generation.

On 16th February 2018, YPARD Nigeria organized the Mentoring Orientation Workshop (MOW) at Ibadan, Nigeria in partnership with YPARD Nigeria, AGRIBUSINESS ACADEMY, PROJECT OZONE and NIWARD, which was aimed at creating an opportunity for the mentors and mentees to meet and discuss their mentoring journey, brainstorm on possible future career paths for the mentees and to create a road map for what is expected throughout the mentoring period. 38 participants attended and comprised of GLA mentors, mentees and other invited guests.

The main goal of the workshop was to train mentors and mentees on the GLA program as well as create a road map as to what is expected from them during the mentoring year. It was an exciting and impactful event which saw professionals from the agricultural sector in business, research and academia share their enlightening inputs to the success of the workshop.

Living Territories conference onsite mentoring program

YPARD Serbia and YPARD France representatives convened an on-site mentoring program along with the Living Territories conference in Montpellier. The objective was to ensure that young researchers mainly from the South were empowered after attending this conference through strong linkages that would be built between the North and South.

– Read: [What is mentoring about?](#)

★ SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT

The YPARD Mentoring Toolkit

The *Coordinating a mentoring program: A toolkit for forestry, landscapes and other sectors* is a how-to guide that synthesises a decade of learnings and resources from hundreds of agriculture and forestry mentoring programs implemented by Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD), the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) and African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD).

– Read: [Coordinating a mentoring program: a toolkit for agriculture, forestry, landscapes and other sectors](#)

TRAININGS

YPARD constituents partnered with several organizations across the globe in building the capacity of the members. The trainings focused on building the capacity of the members in the following areas:

Fundraising:

The YPARD strategic planning meeting had a one and a half day session dedicated to successful fundraising techniques. The participants were empowered on the how and the why of fundraising and how to improve their fundraising pitches generally.

Agricultural opportunities:

YPARD South Africa collaborated with the Afrika Leadership Development Institute (LeadAfrika) and also partnered with a woman-based non-profit organization Phenomenal Women to facilitate a two-day workshop with the intention of exposing key opportunities for young people, and specifically women, to take advantage of within the sector. The workshop that took place in Bloemfontein, Free State Province from the 17th-18th of August 2019 was well attended and had 30 participants that were motivated to start their farming and agricultural enterprises.



“The experience at the Grooming Leaders for Agriculture (GLA) was wonderful and overwhelming. In times like this when the world is in dire need of sustainable agriculture impacts, practical training obtained on organic farming, environmental conservation strategies, safe agricultural practices, leadership styles and many more are unique in pushing for a successful and sustainable agriculture. The training has been of immense benefit to me and I plan to explore the trainings to help raise the next generation of young leaders for agricultural development”

Akinmuyiwa Victor, 24-year old beneficiary volunteer of Grooming Leaders for Agriculture (GLA)

Social media in agriculture:

YPARD Nigeria as part of its commitment to continue to train each batch of the Go – Greeners under the one-month free agribusiness boot camp program, [trained the 4th batch of the initiative on the use of social media as an ICT tool for promoting agribusinesses](#). The GoGreen Africa Initiative is a Pan African campaign with the goal of transforming the agricultural landscape on the continent. The initiative aims to deliver one million agribusiness entrepreneurs across Africa by the year 2025 through the provision of an integrated learning, skills acquisition and mentorship platform.

Sustainability of Agriculture /Agri Industry:

YPARD Pakistan in collaboration with the advisory committee (PARC & SAGP), central committee (YPARD Pakistan core members) organized training session across the country on agricultural sustainability by involving the agriculture extensions and other stakeholders.

Fish Farming:

YPARD fish farm visit and training activities were organised by the Oyo State Chapter of YPARD Nigeria in conjunction with Asher Farms and Errms farms in Moniya Ibadan Nigeria. The events and training sessions were facilitated by Remi Agun of Asher Farms and had in attendance 28 people. The event commenced with a presentation on the new YPARD mission and objectives which was anchored by Miss. Adekoya Adetomi Olamide. She particularly highlighted how YPARD facilitates meetings between young professionals, noting the advantages of such meetings and capacity building resources available for members within the network. The event climaxed when Mr. Showemimo Akinbowale took the center stage to teach on how he raises fish on his farm. With slides, pictures and practical demonstrations he showed the different rearing systems used to cultivate fish in Nigeria, gave further tips on starting a successful fish farm in Nigeria and expatiated on the pro's and Cons of each of the rearing systems.

Halting deforestation:

Three YPARD members ([Tokelo Shai](#), [Lilit Musinyan](#) and [Cristina Conea](#)) joined other 50 young leaders across the globe for 1 day Youth training (Feb 19) + 3-day International Conference on Deforestation (Feb 20-22) run by a coalition of international organizations. Throughout the Capacity Development Workshop Youth delegates worked on global proposals to halt deforestation. Ideas ranged from experimental urban jungles, to mainstreaming deforestation through comedy and art and music for collective awareness. The Youth Proposals to halt deforestation contributed to the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017 – 2030 and were presented at the 13th Session of the UN Forum on Forests this May. Additionally, the selected Youth delegate's prepared online content for the [IFSA short course on Halting Deforestation](#).

Organic agriculture:

YPARD Armenia communications office participated in an organic agriculture training funded by the Building Organic Agriculture in Armenia (BOAA) project. The 11-day training aimed at introducing the participatory curriculum development experiences and the innovative and transdisciplinary teaching methodologies to teaching staff, as well as revealing organic agriculture in Austria at its best through excursions to organic farms and vineyards and through face-to-face meetings with organic certification body representative and soil lab operators.

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Read: [Organic agriculture training at BOKU University](#)

Export opportunities in agriculture:

25 YPARD members took part in a training on understanding the export opportunities in agriculture held in Jos, Plateau state in partnership with NEPC and Ajaoko Agritech held on 17th March 2018 with the workshop theme Understanding the Export Potentials in Agriculture held on March 17, 2018. YPARD members were trained on how to identify and explore the export potential in agriculture.

Enable young people in agriculture shape sustainable food systems

The training was carried out in collaboration with the Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC) and Ajaoko Agritech Limited. One of the highlights of the training is the presence of the YPARD National Representative who was available and gives a presentation on the role of YPARD in promoting African Agriculture.

Conservation:

Campaigning for Conservation (C4C) training offered conservation skills to twenty-six Farming for Biodiversity Campaigners across Kenya and Nepal. The training objectives were to learn about the theory and practice of social marketing and Behavior Change Continuum concepts and develop related campaign materials that included: billboard, a campaign song, a sermon sheet and a puppet show. Two YPARD members were a beneficiary of this program.

Read: [Campaigning for conservation](#) and [YPARD Nepal participates in campaigning for conservation workshop](#)

Exploring Investment Opportunities in Agriculture:

The training was carried out in collaboration with Ajaoko Agritech Limited and where different agricultural opportunities in Plateau State were discussed and how to explore them. A total of 30 young people were in attendance. During the course of the training, the participants were divided into three groups to brainstorm and come out with ways the informal agricultural value chain can be integrated in the formal agricultural value chain.

Entrepreneurship:

In 2018, YPARD RDC increased its activities in the building the capacities of its members by organizing 5 training courses and 3 field visits particularly on the economic profitability of market gardening and food crops, on web2.0 and agribusiness and finally on entrepreneurship and leadership. These trainings were provided by YPARD DRC experts. The objective was to equip young people with the necessary skills to ensure their entrepreneurial activities. In addition, 4 members

of YPARD DRC were recommended to participate in training courses provided by other partners, including Leadership Academia and Hopeland Congo. In total, nearly 145 young people were trained.

Responsible Agriculture Investment:

Four YPARD members from Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa participated in a capacity assessment workshop entitled Strengthening Capacities of Youth to Carry Out and Benefit from Responsible Agriculture Investment in the SADC Region from 20th to 22nd March 2018. ITOCA (Information Training & Outreach Centre for Africa) organized the workshop in partnership with FAO. The three-day event was held to support the implementation of FAO's umbrella programme Supporting Responsible Investments in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI Umbrella Programme) and was co-facilitated with FAO. Based on the report of the workshop, YPARD South Africa found that there was a need to establish a series of new coordination mechanisms, which would aim to achieve the following: increase access to land, Increase access to finance and increase access markets for youth. In respect to the former, the coordination mechanism should be led by Parliament and include NYDA, the Land Bank and the National Agriculture Market Council (NAMC). Mechanisms to coordinate and enhance access to markets and finance should be led by the Agricultural Development Agency, which YPARD South Africa will lobby for the establishment thereof during the 2019/2020 financial year.

Agribusiness branding:

10 young agripreneurs took part in the maximizing Google for Effective Agribusiness Branding. The major activity involved the practical training session on how young Agripreneurs can maximize google for to build an agribusiness brand that has a voice.

Leadership training:

Aimé Kazika, YPARD DRC Representative, attended the National Farmers Leadership Center (NFLC) in

Uganda for leadership training; Mind set change and agricultural technologies gathering 21 Congolese experts to manage the National Center for Agricultural Extension (CNVA), a project funded by KOICA - Korean International Organization and Cooperation Agency in collaboration with the Congolese Government.

PARTHENIUM Eradication:

In October 2018, CABI UK and CABI Pakistan with the other stakeholders organized a PARTHENIUM Eradication Workshop in Islamabad. YPARD Pakistan, being a youth organization, was invited to share the experiences of their field work to reduce the Parthenium in crop areas by enhancing the farmers knowledge about the health hazard effects of this weeds not only for humans but also for livestock. Parthenium regions at risk are advised to prepare a contingency plan for the monitoring, eradication and containment of this pest as well as to initiate monitoring activities.

Agribusiness:

The Teso Entrepreneurship Forum was organized by Matunda Hub, a young social enterprise based in Soroti aimed at supporting rural and urban youth in developing successful agribusinesses through agribusiness incubation, capacity building, mentoring, coaching and providing access to relevant value chain stakeholders and financial capital.

Read: [Boosting business opportunities in Eastern Uganda](#)

E-commerce for Poverty Alleviation:

YPARD China jointly organized and supported YPARD members in Asia and Pacific to join international trainings and workshops, such as APEC Workshop on E-commerce for Poverty Alleviation, CICA Modern Agriculture and Value Chain, "Belt and Road" Agricultural Policy Training and Workshop and 2nd International Agricultural Conference of Center for International Agricultural Research. Several national chapters were invited to China to attend the workshops and trainings.

African Agricultural Transformation:

The African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) program held its Capacity Development and Technology Outreach Stakeholders Inception workshop in Accra with attendance from ten YPARD country representatives. The workshop allowed the parties present to identify the activities to be implemented by December 2018, prepare the work plan as well as monitoring and evaluation. This project was funded entirely by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and is in line with its Feed Africa strategy.

Read: [YPARD RDC présent à TAAT CDTO Inception Meeting](#) and [Feeding Africa through the TAAT CDTO Program with the youth](#) and [Africa path to agricultural renaissance](#).

Training of trainers (TOT):

The CDTO TAAT training of trainers on establishment of IPs as technology outreach instruments for scaling technologies on TAAT commodities took place in Nigeria being one of the first set of countries to benefit from TAAT-CDTO services in the first year. The workshop started on the 19th to 22nd of November, 2018 at CHIDA International Hotel, Garki, Abuja bringing various stakeholders in agriculture across Nigeria. Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa and its constituent bodies – (CORAF/WECARD, ASARECA, CCARDESA, NAASRO), AFAAS, CGIAR centers, ARCN, NIFAAS, NEARLS, national partners, technology custodians and value chain organization (AfricaRice Center, IITA, ICRISAT, ILRI, AATF, ICARDA, Worldfish, CIAT, CIP, ICIPE, CIMMYT and AWARD), YPARD, AGRA, private sectors, Agribusiness incubators and service providers (national partners and consultants). YPARD Nigeria representative was in attendance.

Youth Leadership:

More than three hundred representatives from fifty-four countries gathered in Beijing to attend the 3rd Asian-African Youth Festival 2018 held in Beijing, China from 12 to 16 September, 2018. The program was aimed to promote the Bandung spirit of

Enable young people in agriculture shape sustainable food systems

solidarity, friendship, cooperation, enhance comprehension and collaboration between Asian and African Youth.

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Read: [One Asian Youth Leadership Forum: A union of continents](#)

Agricultural extension:

15 crop producing districts of Sindh and 21 from Punjab conducted a field survey along with field demonstration training program for enhancing skills of young women and men farmers to obtain the sizeable production with all the nutrition values (collaboration with CABI Plantwise clinic, SAGP and Agriculture Extensions). Due to limited resources and funding, YPARD-Pakistan purposefully selected the 10 young farmers to attend the workshop and training in each district. This program helped to overcome the yield declining stress and rising of malnutrition in remote areas.

Business opportunities:

YPARD Nigeria hosted 33 members to a capacity building and training workshop on agribusiness themed [harnessing business opportunities](#) in Delta state on 21st April 2018. Areas of discussion included poultry production, fish farming, heliculture, grasscutter farming, vegetable farming, tips on writing a bankable business plan, food processing and value addition. YPARD Nigeria held sensitization and capacity building workshop on exploring **investment opportunities in agriculture for 30 young professionals** in Plateau state. It was the first of its kind in the North central region for YPARD held on 17th February 2018 where twenty young people were trained on how to recognize and maximize the economic potential in Nigerian agriculture.

AGVOCACY FOR YOUTH CAPACITY BUILDING

YPARD continued advocating for stronger youth capacity development at all levels. These include;

YPARD AP Liaison officer and Bangladesh representative joined a Panel Lecture on Youth for Better Bonding to Meet the Needs for Future Agriculture at **One Asia Leadership Forum** and 3rd Asia-Africa Youth Festival, Beijing. More than 300 international youths attended the three-days event. The YPARD Bangladesh representative also attended as a Panelist at Webinar on 'Youth and a changing climate: Engaging young people in climate-smart agriculture' organized by CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), October 2018.

Motivating and Attracting Youth in Agriculture:

The three day National Conference was held by Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and Young Professionals in Agricultural Research for Development (YPARD) at NASC, New Delhi from 28-30 August, 2018. The Conference provided an opportunity to all stakeholders to interact and discuss various options and avenues for not only attracting youth to agriculture but even motivating them towards entrepreneurship in agriculture and allied fields. Senior research, development and policy related officials/managers from national and regional organizations, NGOs, the private sector, education and training institutions, and other members of civil society will be invited to discuss ways to Motivate and Attract Youth to Agriculture (MAYA).

YPARD Solomon Islands, supported a youth in agriculture association called the **Malaita Youth in Business Association** and won one of the awards in the Pacific Agri-Innovation Challenge. The competition was part of the "Promoting Nutrition Food Systems in the Pacific Islands (Inno4AgPacific) to "Strengthen the capacity of the Pacific Island governments, farmers and private sector organizations, and sub-regional institutions to develop strategies and programmes,

a project by [CTA, International Fund for Agriculture Development](#) and [Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization](#).

GFAR AARINENA workshop:

YPARD-Egypt participated in a workshop co-organized by the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East & North Africa (AARINENA) and the Global Forum for Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAR) in Hammamet, Tunisia, under the theme Transforming AARINENA's Capacity as a Multi-Stakeholder Futuristic Regional Forum for Research and Innovation for Development Tunisia. The workshop brought together around forty participants representing AARINENA's agricultural research institutions and major stakeholders who worked extensively during the two days of the workshop to develop a strategy for the transformation of AARINENA through exploring future scenarios for the NENA region; diagnosing the current environment and situation of research and innovation in the region in light of the global trends; and assessing the different stakeholders needs and societal and global expectations from AARINENA.

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Read: [YPARD Egypt participates in AARINENA and GFAR workshop](#)

YPARD Pakistan organized a **Youth Leadership Program** with the goal of mobilizing and gearing up young, energetic and ambitious students/professionals and women farmers towards a field where there is much potential, capacity and growth for YPs in agricultural research and development.

AGCO agribusiness qualification:

YPARD Nigeria communication focal person, John Agboola and YPARD Kenya member, Grace Wanene were selected for the AGCO agribusiness qualification scholarship among other 20 participants. The AAQ was initiated by AGCO as a direct response to broaden knowledge, attract and develop young talent in the crucial agribusiness sector of Africa.

The management skills the 20 students will gain will help in making a difference in African agriculture and help in tackling the current recruitment challenges the industry is facing.

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Read: [AGCO agribusiness qualification for young africans in agribusiness](#)

Online discussion: Sustaining the impact of capacity development initiatives for African youth in agriculture:

The online discussion was organized under the Regional Initiative on Sustainable Production Intensification and Value Chain Development in Africa of the FAO Regional Office for Africa (RAF), in partnership with the Capacity Development Unit (DPSC) of the Partnerships and South-South Cooperation Division (DPS) of FAO, the Songhai Centre, the African Agribusiness Incubators Network (AAIN), the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) and the Young Professionals' Platform for Agricultural Research for Development (YPARD). The aim was to solicit opinions on capacity development sustainability initiatives for young agripreneurs in Africa, and to contribute to identifying challenges and opportunities related to sustaining the impact of all interventions (existing and future ones) aimed at developing capacities and engaging youth in agriculture.

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Read: [Sustaining the impact of capacity development initiatives for African youth in agriculture](#)

YPARD Ghana and the eCapacities™ platform:

YPARD Ghana signed a letter of cooperation with the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) for domestication, data population and local management of the eCapacities™ platform. The primary objective of the eCapacities™ platform is to contribute to Level 3 of the post-Malabo CAADP Results Framework on strengthening systemic capacity for effective execution and delivery of results, specifically through enhanced knowledge support and skills development for agriculture through improved science

Enable young people in agriculture shape sustainable food systems

and technology (S&T), education and training, peer learning, analytical capacity, and strategic thinking.

Read: [Domesticating the eCapacities Africa Platform in Ghana](#)

Convergence Globale des luttes de la terre et de l'eau (CGLTE-TOGO):

YPARD-Togo in its dynamic partnership with civil society organizations in Togo, worked last year with the Global Convergence of the struggles of the land and water (CGLTE-TOGO), on access issues to land, food sovereignty to lead to advocacy at the government level. Access to land is an important asset for agricultural development, as YPARD is a youth platform, they seek to ensure young people's access to land through advocacy with Togolese civil society organizations. The chapter is looking forward to participate in the validation of the advocacy document on agricultural policies in Togo.

Global Cassava partnership:

The fourth edition took place in Cotonou from June 11th to 15th, 2018, on the Marina Hotel, bringing together nearly 450 participants from Africa, Asia, Europe, America, and Oceania, from various scientific worlds, senior or junior researchers, producers, transformers. Nearly 250 young scientists have been sponsored through the Travel Grants to attend GCP21 including YPARD RDC. The RDC representative did a poster presentation on The role and experience of YPARD DRC in cassava production. He also made connections and advocacy via the AfDB, IITA, CIRAD, GCP21 to involve young people in the different projects realized in Africa and elsewhere. YPARD Nigeria was also present with its two members of Abuja.

Read: [YPARD Benin: Global Cassava Partnership for the 21st century: un rendez-vous du manioc](#)

YPARD Nepal symposium abstract book:

YPARD Nepal identified the need for youth's capacity building activities to focus on recent graduates. To

address this issue, YPARD Nepal organized an event - YPARD Student Research Symposium (promoted as #YPARDSymposium) on November 8, 2018 at Hotel Shangri-La, Kathmandu, Nepal. The Symposium was designed to provide an opportunity for Nepalese undergraduate and graduate students to present their existing and emerging research work among university students and faculty members, researchers, young agripreneurs. It was also aiming to encourage students for the expansion of their professional network and leadership skills.

Commercial Agriculture Youth Chamber (CAYC):

YPARD South Africa partnered in many activities with the Commercial Agriculture Youth Chamber (CAYC), an agri-youth focused NPC (Sec 21). The partnership was established to create a platform for aspirant and emerging farmers to access information, capacity building and support programmes, including access to financial and human resources to ensure the sustainability of the young farmers and professionals within the agri-business industry.

Pacific Agrihack lab 2018:

Malaita Youth In Business Association (MYIBA) scooped one of the three awards during the Pacific Agrihack lab 2018 in Tonga on 5th December 2018. MYIBA was represented by Mr Watson Cyrus and Mr Hika Joseph, YPARD Solomon Islands representative where they competed with fifteen finalists across the Pacific. The competition was part of the "Promoting Nutrition Food Systems in the Pacific Islands (Inno4AgPacific) to; "Strengthen the capacity of the Pacific Island governments, farmers and private sector organizations, and sub-regional institutions to develop strategies and programmes.

Read: [YPARD Solomon Islands shines at the Pacific Agrihack competition](#)

Young farmers in Serbia and EU:

YPARD Serbia country representative in exploring potentials for partnerships with associations and

organizations with similar cause as YPARD's, took part in the third International conference on Young farmers in Serbia and EU organized by the Serbian association of young farmers. At the conference Jannes Maes, president of the Serbian, Czech, Hungarian and Croatian young's farmers association and president of CEJA (European Council of Young Farmers) gave a speech on the challenges young farmers face in every country and that the voice of youth in agriculture needs to be heard.

Read: [Propelling the voice of youth - Young farmers in Serbia and EU](#)

FAO and ITC event Regional workshop on the WTO (World Trade Organization) instruments in the interest of Agribusiness and on export promotion:

The YPARD Ukraine country representative was part of the panellists at the recent FAO, ITC and WTO regional workshop on building inclusive value chains in light of small-holder producers.

Supporting Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems national level capacity assessments workshops:

With support from the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture, FAO has been applying and refining the capacity identification tool at three workshops with youth, their organizations, government representatives and others. The workshops took place in Uganda, Côte d'Ivoire and the Southern African Development Community (the latter with participants from diverse countries including Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa). Several of the workshop participants were also YPARD members, such as Gebhard Eshuma from Namibia who has written about his experience.

Read: [Ensuring that investments by and for youth in agriculture will come of age](#) and [Youth and responsible agricultural investments within agricultural food systems](#)

YPARD Phillipine was invited twice to speak on the development of a [youth-in-agriculture roadmap by 4H Philippines](#) and also to talk about using social media to strengthen agri youth organizations.

Youth in Landscapes:

Forty youth participants with varying forms and levels of engagement in landscape issues joined the 2-day workshop from 29th – 30th November 2018 in Bonn. The workshop focused on topics including deliberations about what constitute landscape leadership, developing facilitation and public speaking skills and how to pitch an idea.



"QMy key takeaway from this meeting was the power of a strategic planning process that is well designed and facilitated and has a good representation of voices in the room from all levels and regions of an organization as big and diverse as YPARD. The discussions we had were deep and wide-ranging and the decisions we made about where YPARD needs to go in the next three years were really inspiring for me personally. I really look forward to seeing how the country plans take inspiration from YPARD's refreshed vision, mission and aims to better serve youth in agriculture on the ground."

Michelle Kovacevic, YPARD mentoring coordinator



Innovative and supportive global team

As a network that grows and evolves, 2018 saw some new changes at YPARD both at the global, regional and national levels.

NEW MEMBERS IN THE YPARD TEAM

2018 marked changes in the YPARD Global team as **director, Courtney Paisley** and **Mentoring coordinator, Michelle Kovacevic** exited the organization. **Myriam Perez** took over but due to some institutional hiccups, she couldn't continue and towards the end of the year, **Yemi Adeyeye** took over the role of the YPARD director.

Read: [Farewell to Courtney Paisley, To an unsung disruptive leader](#) and [Passing on the YPARD mantle](#)

We welcomed **14 new team members**: twelve new country representatives, and two national communications focal points. These are representatives for YPARD [Moldova](#), [Nigeria](#), [Nepal](#), [France](#), [Switzerland](#), [South Africa](#), [Peru](#), [Solomon Islands](#) and [Serbia](#); and the communications focal points from YPARD [Netherlands](#) and [Nepal](#).

YPARD'S RESPONSE TO THE 2017 EXTERNAL REVIEW

After the 2017 YPARD external review, the Global Coordination Unit reached out to the network members to solicit their feedback on the external review. [This document](#) is a compilation of the feedback provided by the national chapters and global coordination unit on the 2017 YPARD external review. We reflect on those components which resonate with us as well as those areas which we feel require additional effort on our side.

THE YPARD STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2021

With the YPARD business plan 2014-2018 coming to a close, in the spring of 2018, YPARD held a strategic

planning workshop in Prague to chart a path forward for the network in the coming years. The 3 days discussions culminated in a draft which was later refined to the current [strategic plan](#).

BUILDING THE YPARD TEAM'S CAPACITY

Cognizant that networks need some element of capacity building even in limited finances the case of YPARD, the network members have embraced new forms of capacity building that works best for their national members. In particular;

In the spirit of transparency and inclusivity, **YPARD Nepal carried out online elections** to select new country representatives. A call for expression of interest was published and shared with members.

A new management office of YPARD China was established with a new representative at it. The hosting organization of YPARD China, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), has been a strong support for the development of YPARD China. CAAS is the main financier for inviting country representatives to visit China and attend various conferences. In the future, YPARD China will continue working with CAAS closely to enhance the power and influence of YPARD on youth in agriculture in China.

In May and December 2018, the YPARD Uganda country representative approached and had physical meetings with International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) team about hosting YPARD Uganda and hopefully even other country chapters. Fortunately, the Regional Director at CIAT in Nairobi was in agreement we now have to put more effort to formalise this and make this happen which may see many other country chapters getting hosted by CIAT in Africa.

Marc Ghislaine Bappa, who is part of the GFRAS Youth Working Group (YWG) **organised two webinar**

sessions on: Youth-led RAS strategies: what now, where to in policy and advocacy within RAS; Youth engagement in Policy and Advocacy for RAS: opportunities, youth successes, lessons learned and way forward. More than 150 potential participants registered, close to ninety confirmed their participation and brought on board at most 50 attendees in each of these online participatory and discussion sessions (highest number of presence came from the western African and southeast region of the globe). Highly skilled and professional experts such as Hlami Ngwenya, Nestor Ngouambe, Natalie Ernst and much more were the speakers invited to share their insights and experiences on these topics. As a follow-up of these two webinars was the official launching of the global network of Youth in RAS at the 2018 GFRAS annual meeting that was held in South Korea. Furthermore, at country level, YPARD Congo rapidly made use of the recommendations raised in these sessions.

In June 2018, YPARD Uganda country representative together with some other country representatives actively participated in the regional online meeting.

YPARD Nigeria Kano: the team developed a strategy for membership drive that **boosted the interest of about one hundred and sixty students from universities and other institutions who registered their membership on ypard.net**, while the formation of YPARD team with the coordination of YPARD Northwest regional representative was an achievement worth mentioning as a governance success during the year in review.

YPARD Nigeria appointed as a member of YPARD Africa steering committee to map out action plan for YPARD Africa operations, attract funding and partnerships.

YPARD Nepal and **YPARD Serbia** country representative leaving the office and creating the space for new representatives.

Establishment of YPARD Ghana Working group which is made up of the Country Representative, Programme coordinators and regional representatives.

NATIONAL TEAMS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Our national teams increasingly organize YPARD Cafés or other gatherings to discuss key youth issues and how to take action. Some of the chapters that held gatherings include;

YPARD Nigeria Café: Young agripreneurs in agribusiness:

Following the success of the 2017 YPARD Nigeria Café, the **2018 café** was another opportunity for members as they exchanged perspectives on agriculture and agribusiness. Under the theme Enabling the Business of Agriculture – the Youth Perspective YPARD Nigeria held a Lagos Café in the AfriNolly Creative Hub Studio Space in Ikeja, Lagos for members to interact with one another as well as network on possible opportunities for collaboration and partnerships in advancing agribusinesses growth.

The café, known as YPARD Café remains an exciting moment for YPARD members to interact with one another as well as network on possible opportunities for collaboration and partnerships in advancing agribusinesses growth. Following the success of the 2017 YPARD Nigeria Café, the 2018 café was another opportunity for members as they exchanged perspectives on agriculture and agribusiness. About 78 participants attended the café.

A follow up to this engagement was the featuring of YPARD Nigeria as a panellist on the Feed Nigeria summit on food security in Abuja in July 2018. YPARD Nigeria has entered into partnership with AgroNigeria and Afrinolly to host agri-tainment initiatives aimed at promoting youth interest in agriculture using the power of the media.

Innovative and supportive global team

YPARD Chela: An expression of YPARD Café the Peruvian way:

YPARD Peru held a [cafe session](#) with the main objective of bringing together young people interested in the topics the chapter addresses such as rural and agricultural development.

YPARD Netherlands agri(re)solutions: Starting 2018 with the right foot:

The core group of YPARDians in the Netherlands wanted to come together to hear about these [agri\(re\)solutions](#) and share ideas on how YPARD can help local youth make their resolutions concrete.

Osun connect:

YPARD Nigeria hosted 15 members to a networking platform on agriculture themed [Osun connect](#) in Osun state with the aim to proffer possible solutions to the challenges faced by young farmers and other agricultural professionals. The meeting was able to identify the different bottlenecks facing the progress of agriculture and food security attainment among young people. These include lack of information; incidence of people withholding information that can be of benefit to agribusiness start-ups; little or no access to technological equipment; lack of funds, poor road network; unstable market for agricultural produce; long chain of middlemen; and lack of farmer's organization that could possibly aid in advocating for better operational conditions for both young and local farmers. In the field of agricultural promotion, YPARD DRC carried out several activities in 2018 that had a positive impact in raising awareness among young people. These are three learning and inspiration visits. One of which was on cassava cultivation and profitability, the second on market gardening management and the third on integrated farm management. These three activities have been very successful in both participation and knowledge acquisition. The first visit took place at the market-gardening site in Tshuenge with 15 young people, the second at the Batéké plateau at the Ibi Village site with 45 young people and the third at

the SUKRAAN farm with 52 people. In addition to these three visits, the local representations of Goma, Kisantu, Kwango and Bukavu also emphasized the promotion of agriculture by organizing planning meetings and learning visits. That's the reason why the impact of YPARD DRC was in the increase members of the YPARD RDC network.

YPARD launched in North-West Nigeria:

For a proper enlightenment and engagement of young professionals, the YPARD Nigeria chapter in conjunction with the Students' Representative Council of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria, put together a day symposium on 7th April 2018 with the theme [Youth in the Nigerian Agriculture](#). The symposium was held at the assembly hall of the university. Ayodeji Rauf, the YPARD representative for North-West Nigeria at the event explained the importance of YPARD being a strong movement and a potent platform that is already leading positive disruptions, transforming agriculture, and championing a new cause for agricultural innovations and development in the over one hundred and sixty-eight countries. He further stated that many young professionals and stakeholders should ride on the wings of YPARD- the wide network of professionals to achieve their dreams of having thriving careers and businesses in the agriculture value chain and agribusiness.

The Business of Agriculture: the youth perspective:

Third edition of YPARD Nigeria cafés was held in Abuja on 30th June 2018 at Abuja. The YPARD Café themed – [Enabling the business of Agriculture](#) – The Youth Perspective in aimed at fostering interactions with YPARDians in Abuja and possibly within the North-Central Region as young agribusiness experts and social entrepreneurs committed to agricultural and rural development were present to share their experiences and business secrets specifically on how they are trying to involve more young people in business of agriculture and transforming the agricultural sector. This café provided an avenue to showcase what YPARD is all about, both at the

global level and in Nigeria and will also enable young agricultural professionals to familiarize with each other; share information on research, projects and personal discoveries and exploits within agriculture. This is also going to be a medium for the YPARD national coordinating team to identify the real needs of the young professionals and disseminate information about YPARD activities, partners, opportunities, events and funding.

YPARD Nepal café: Climate smart ag in Nepal:

Developing countries like Nepal need locally adaptable strategies and resource efficient innovations to cope with climate change which are affordable, adaptable and accessible to the most targeted population. Having realized this need, YPARD Nepal brought youths together for a discussion, aiming at generating innovative ideas on agricultural practices for adapting with changing climate. The Café had twenty-five young agriculture students in attendance on climate-smart agriculture at the premises of Agriculture and Forestry University.

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Read: [YPARD Café: A conversation on climate smart agriculture in Nepal](#)

YPARD RDC: 2018: a year of advocacy:

22 YPARD RDC members including 6 women took part in the chapter evaluation process in Kinshasa, DRC. The evaluation focussed on the activities carried out during the first half of 2018 allowing each member to understand the activities carried out.

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Read: [Une année plein d'espoir en YPARD DRC](#)

YPARD Asia and Pacific partnered with Australia-China Youth Association (ACYA) in a professional networking event in Beijing on Leadership Development and Company tour at Asia Agribusiness Consultancy (ACC).



“The youth can leverage networks such as YPARD to build successful careers and businesses along the value chains in agriculture”

Loveth Mile, at YPARD Café Abuja on June 30th 2018.

Long term sustainability of YPARD

GLOBAL LEVEL

⊕ SDC continued its support for YPARD in 2018 with a new segment of the funding going to the strategic planning meeting. Older supporters- GFAR, GLF, CIMMYT and FAO continued their support for YPARD.

⚠ While funding remains a bottleneck for YPARD, the network is making strides to diversify its funding sources in the coming years.

SOME REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SUCCESS STORIES ON DIVERSIFIED FUNDING IN 2018

⊕ YPARD Philippines received **55,000 USD** for the mentoring program and some YPARD Philippines activities for 2018 from GFAR. They have received first tranche already with two more tranches to be received later on in 2018.

⊕ YPARD Nepal has recently made an agreement with NEFOSTA and joint fundraising will be done as NEFOSTA is registered organization which was registered 28 years ago.

⊕ YPARD China partnered with the China Social Entrepreneur Foundation, a potential donor, on the it's YouChange program on e-commerce for poverty alleviation project. They aim to jointly appeal to more young people to engage in poverty reduction in their hometown by providing them training and support on e-commerce.

⊕ YPARD South Africa has engaged with two State Agencies and two Government Departments to partner financially with YPARD with regards to the operationalization of the chapter and to jointly roll out strategic workshops to capacitate youth in agriculture within the Province on programmes implemented by the Free State Provincial Government within South Africa, namely: the Free State Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD – Free

State Province); the Free State Provincial Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTE – Free State Province); the National Empowerment Fund (Free State Regional Office) and the Land Bank (Free State Regional Office). The above stakeholders are currently reviewing the request by YPARD South Africa and will provide feedback during the 2019/2020 financial years.

⊕ YPARD Nepal received cash contribution of \$170 from registration of programme as well as from other registered organization. The MoU between DFTQC is on the process where YPARD can work in policy level formulation.

⊕ YPARD Bangladesh received In-kind support and venue from Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University for seminar; In kind support from Asian Youth Council to attend 3rd Asia-Africa Youth festival; One project proposal was submitted with partners (GWA) on 'Training of Youths and School gardening (under review); Full funding (Travel, accommodation and meal) was received to attend '13th Asian Maize Conference and Expert Consultation on "Maize for Food, Feed, Nutrition, and Environmental Security', October 2018, Ludhiana, India from CIMMYT; Full funding was received on attend workshop and meeting on 'Homegarden for Recovery and Resilience (HG4RR) International Expert Network' project, December, 2018, Kathmandu, Nepal.

⊕ YPARD Nigeria is exploring funding and partnership opportunities with AgroNigeria, Afrinolly, International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) Ibadan, FARA, CDTO-TAAT project, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) Abuja, FADAMA III in FY2019.

⊕ YPARD DRC initiated contacts with IITA DRC, SOS Faim Belgium, CIP, INERA and PEJAB / BAD where we believe that the 2018 contacts will bear fruit. As usual, all the activities were carried out thanks to the contributions of YPARD DRC members.



“Education is the most powerful weapon which causes consistent changes and development in the world. YPARDians are one of them and a key influencer in empowering young women and men to get the direction and place a brick in sustainable growth – they are our future leaders.”

Dr. Manzoor Soomro, President ECOSF, IBSE Proponent, VP at Belt & Road International Science Education, Member ISTIC GB, AETDEW Council, IAP SEP GC & Chair PSF.30th 2018.

Challenges and lessons learned

GLOBAL LEVEL

One of the primary challenges at YPARD is finding donors who can help supplement the network activities at all levels. This in turn puts a strain on the human resources at the Global level where the network activities keep growing while the staffing stays constant.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS

Challenges faced at the regional and national levels can be categorized into **hosting arrangements, time and volunteerism, geographical location** and **financial** as thus:

FUNDRAISING/FINANCIAL

⚠ 2018 was an exciting but challenging one. **We had limitations on fundraising and partnerships partly because we have not registered YPARD Nigeria chapter as a legal entity.** One major area of focus was to include rural youths and students as major stakeholders in our programming and activities. One strategy we adopted was aligning our activities towards contributing to Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and sustainable food systems.

⚠ **YPARD Philippines still has not established local chapters** as it is very hard to coordinate with other areas or even visit them to hold a café due to the archipelagic landscape of the country. Additionally, there are no funds to support the travels even within near distances to hold YPARD cafés.

⚠ Challenges faced include lack of funds to support offline programmes. **There was no funds to initiate programmes** for other organizations to support. The **network is not registered nationally** therefore it restricts engagements and deeper commitment to partners to enhance fund raising to push the youth agenda in agriculture forward.

TIME AND VOLUNTEERSHIP

⚠ Time and work commitments as most interim YPARD working group are employed and have other commitments.

⚠ **It is still hard to maintain momentum given the voluntary nature of the work of YPARD.** Even after establishing an Executive Committee and creating a National Working Group, there is still little incentive to get people's excitement and initiative to start projects for YPARD.

LEGAL STATUS

⚠ The issues related to the **legal status of the national chapters is faced in Sri Lanka and Solomon Islands.**

⚠ **YPARD Pakistan on being unregistered organization** is one of the big issues for YPARD-Pak to work without any stress and get the complete recognition being the main organizer of the projects/events. Without having a hosting organization sometimes low funds are the major causes in declining the interest of very young members in managing YPARD tasks appropriately. Also it causes to get the rejection of proposal paper at the very last step to avail an opportunity for a project funding from international platform. Risk is another factor for YPARD-Pak because of country's rules & regulation changes to manage the strict policy for all. BUT overall YPARD-Pak team is learning from our work and experiences to participate with member organization to accomplish the mission of YPARD.

GOVERNANCE

⚠ **YPARD was conceptualized as a non-formal network with a big mandate**, which is flawed in my opinion. We have to reflect on this conceptual framework. Its unintended consequence is to slow down progress on the very mandate for which YPARD

was created. We need a new approach that can enable YPARD Uganda to be fit for purpose and meet the needs of the members. The demands on young people in agriculture are huge and we need increased funding, a minimum critical mass, to change the game for the young generation.

PARTNERSHIPS

⚠ Geographical Location and for instance, **Solomon Islands has its islands scattered everywhere, and bringing YPARD to them will take time.** YPARD AP in addressing this will be creating more partnerships with organizations that are on the ground and social media.

⚠ **In YPARD China experience, private sectors are more eager to cooperate with the network** therefore the linkage should be deepened and expanded in the future.

⚠ Country chapters have **difficulties in expanding the network influence at national level** as they lack the mechanisms that allow them to reintroduce themselves. The GCU will continue advocating for the YPARD chapters and linking them to global organizations that have a focus on the young people in particular regions.

ADVOCACY

⚠ There is still the challenge that YPARD can be used only for lip service of development projects and programs, where they invite YPARD "to represent the youth", but there is no participation in the program/project design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

RESOURCES

⚠ **Lack of access to resources** (e.g. office space, laptop, printer, internet) for some national chapters

makes it hard for them to carry out mobilization activities on the ground. In the coming year, the chapters will seek partnerships that are complimentary and allow for them to cover some of the related costs. This will also allow the chapters to have some resources locally that could be used to print YPARD promotional materials like Flyer, banners ...etc

⚠ **Access to training of YPARD volunteers** both at the global and national level. Suggestions to have a pool of volunteers who can assist with the translation of YPARD materials from English to French, Spanish and Chinese.

With the new strategic plan in place, YPARD will set out to operationalize and bring to effect a lot of the strategic elements highlighted in the strategic plan. Additionally, in 2019 YPARD will seek to renew its governance structure as entails the Steering Committee and the advisory group and ensuring that there's equal representation among the network organs in all these strategic structures.



GLOBAL LEVEL

We will continue strengthening our engagement with the regional and national chapters as well as initiating and collaborating on a couple of projects as they come. The focus is to strengthen the national chapters as much as possible so that the GUC can only play a coordinating role.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS

Members have identified activities and the focus they would love to stay put on. Some of these include;

MENTORSHIP

Mentorship program in the YPARD Philippines.

Mobilizing our YPARD members for sustainable food systems have had a significant positive impact in the lives of our members. Although, we had challenges with mobilizing resources, getting meeting space and accessing funding for projects. We are focusing more on building the ideals of mentorship and volunteerism among young people so we can build the capacity of our members to become change agents in Nigeria and beyond.

MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Continuous follow up with CIMMYT to set up MAIZE Youth Task Force.

Getting more involvement from the public sector or the government support systems.

YPARD South Africa is in the process of identifying areas of collaboration, including mainstreaming and institutionalizing the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Programme (CAADP) of the African Union (AU) under the banner of NEPAD (New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development). They are also seeking to engage other institutions like FAO and FARNPAN to ensure effective communication flow of opportunities within the African continent and to align such opportunities to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG-2 #zerohunger) and the AU Agenda 2063 regarding food security on the continent.

NEW PROGRAM INITIATIVES

To initiate a program under Asia and Pacific Unit to organize it yearly in each member country as per

the present requirement of the environment. Theme should be pursued from 17th SDGs for each year.

YPARD Netherlands representative Ingrid has been seconded to develop and implement a youth strategy for a project called Communal Approach for the agricultural markets in Benin, financed by the Dutch Embassy. 250 young agripreneurs and 2000 young farmers identified and trained in 2019

YPARD South Africa will focus on three main areas within the next 2019/2020 financial year, namely – access to finance, access to information and access to markets. This will be done in an effort to solicit strategic partnership with key role players within the South African Agricultural Industry. We believe in the concept of collaborative leadership and creating an inclusive approach to mainstreaming youth participation in the sector and as such, ensuring the sustainability of the agriculture sector in South Africa.

YPARD Ghana will organize an Agribusiness Innovation Forum with its partners to bring out the innovative solutions that young people are implementing within the agricultural system in the country. We hope to organize a technology fair and facilitate the re-establishment of Agribusiness Incubation Centers on Agricultural Universities and Colleges in the country to help student get exposed to practical agribusiness.

FUNDRAISING

Diversification of funding sources at the national and regional levels.

YPARD DRC rejoiced with the year 2018 despite many financial challenges. YPARD DRC was able to carry out several activities as planned at the beginning of 2018. It mobilized locally the resources that made it possible to reach a realization rate of 70%. YPARD DRC has made the sites of Kongo Central, Goma and Lubumbashi operational after Bukavu and Mbuji Mayi. The year has been also a success thanks to

FOSCAR DRC that is YPARD DRC. Up to date, all activities are funded by its members who are mobilizing to support the annual action plan. Support by YPARD Global, YPARD Africa and other partners remains important to meet the challenges. Official recognition by the supervisory authorities is a short-term approach and will facilitate access to finance.

GOVERNANCE

YPARD Nigeria will restructure national team- North west chapters launched. Kick-start YPARD in three northern states of Kano, Kebbi and Kaduna respectively as an addition to the existence of YPARD Nigeria to expand opportunities to youths via YPARD. A northern regional representative and three local representatives were appointed to manage YPARD activities in the Northern region of Nigeria

NETWORKING

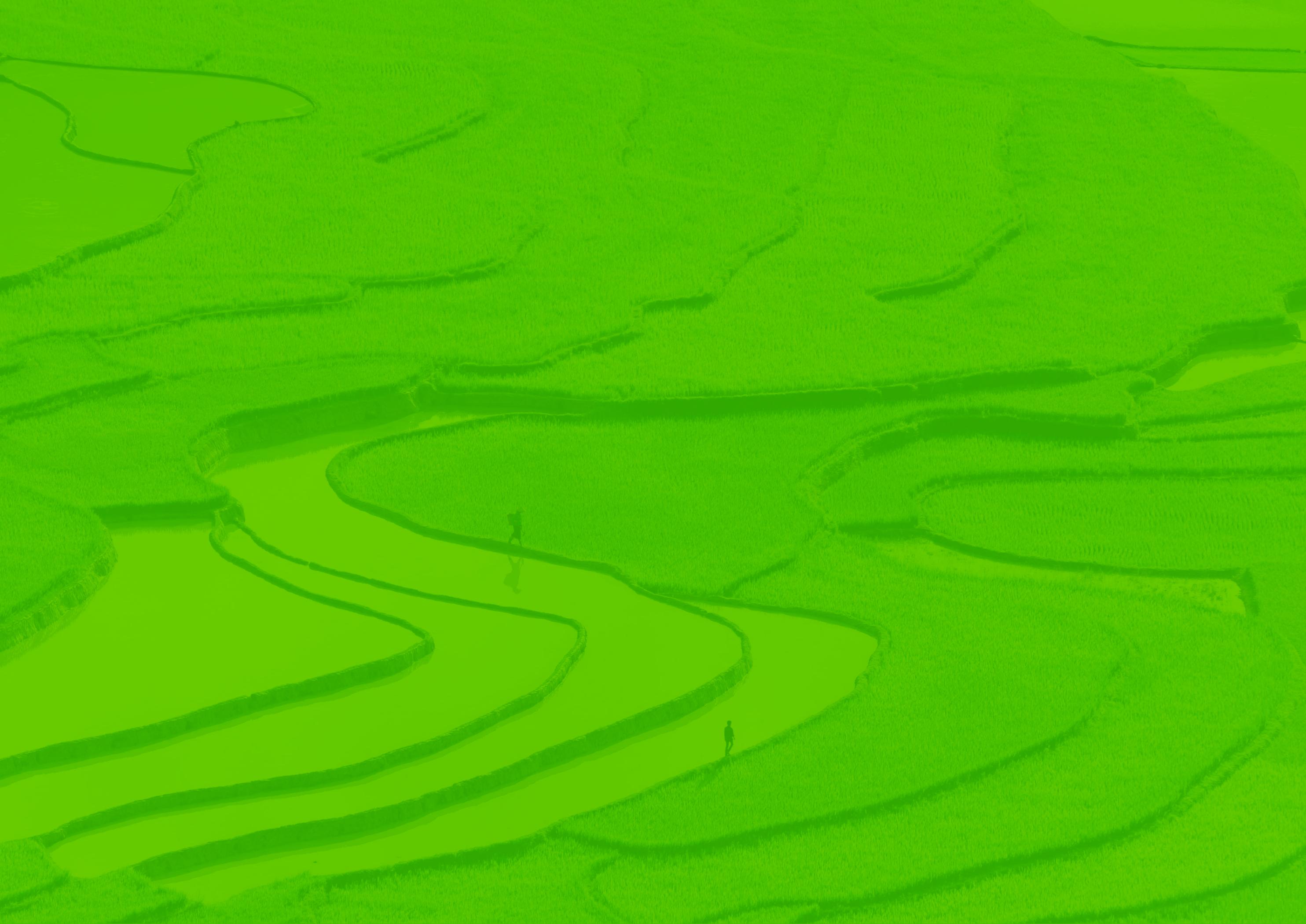
Discussion in progress to find scope of e-discussion with FSN forum on Homegarding.

Exchanging information about young farmers necessities, publishing texts on more followed agricultural websites, potential participation on manifestation or stands about young farmers matter

MONITORING AND EVALUATION GUIDELINES

Development of formal monitoring and evaluation tool kit is needed at the Regional and National levels.

Follow-up: development of an M & E tool to measure the performance of young agri-preneurs and young farmers.



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