



YOUNG FARMERS'
FEDERATION OF UGANDA

Plot 27 Nakasero Road
P.O. Box 35926 , Kampala., Uganda
Tel: +256 774 532 670
Email: unyfa2016@gmail.com | info@unyfa.org
Website: www.unyfa.org

THE SEED NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor

Kabiito Denis

Deputy Editor

Okot Geoffery

Editorial Team

Magezi Samuel, Wandera

Joseph, Namata Samalie



EDITORIAL



I greet you all in Jesus' name. On behalf of the Young Farmers Federation of Uganda. I would like give Special thanks to AHA International and DBV for funding the formation and development of UNYFA, Secondly, the Uganda National Farmers Federation for playing a motherly role towards the formation and sustenance of this Association; UNYFA Secretariat especially the CEO for their hard work and lastly to all other development partners, government agencies and friends who in one way or the other contributed to our existence.

I therefore call upon all the stakeholders to join our hands in supporting the young Farmers as we shape the future of farming in Uganda.

At Global level, UN estimates that there will be 9 billion planet inhabitants by 2050. At continent level, the same global body estimates that Africa will be inhabited by over 25 percent of this global population. At national level, Uganda adds at least a million young persons every year to its population. These statistics present both challenges and opportunities to the young generation.

I therefore call upon all the stakeholders to join our hands in supporting the young Farmers as we shape the future of farming in Uganda.



Mr. Okot Geoffrey
President UNYFA



The UNYFA Secretariat is pleased to present to you its new product, the Newsletter, a quarterly young farmers' journal that will inform, entertain and educate all the youth interested in Agribusiness. There is no greater strength than in an informed and exposed society. Youth are not homogeneous group, therefore as we engage in the agriculture sector where we want them to get involved, we need to know them (who they are), have them involved and act or implement with them. Often times, we relax or even leave others who even don't know our issues to speak or act on our behalf. But let me tell all the youth and even other stakeholders; "If you do not want people who have no clue about your business to make decisions for

you, you need to get involved now and then, because if you take no action, someone else will do it for you. Young Farmers Federation of Uganda, formerly called Uganda National Young Farmers' Association is taking root as the umbrella body for youth in all Uganda National Farmers Federation (UNFFE) structure. UNFFE is the biggest apex body of farmers in Uganda.

I hope the continuous update through our Newsletter will inform us all on how suitable it is to establish UNYFA for all the Ugandan Agro-based youth but also highlight to duty bearers, government, stakeholders, and partners the successes, challenges and potentials within the youth Agribusiness Society. Enjoy the reading.

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Mr. Kabiito Denis
Chief Executive Officer UNYFA

OVERVIEW

WHY YOUTH IN AGRIBUSINESS IS KEY FOR UGANDA.

Uganda has a population of approximately 34.9 million. With every Ugandan woman on average producing 6 children throughout her reproductive period, the country presents a scenario of the youngest and most rapidly growing of today's world (World Bank, 2011). Close to half (48.7 percent) of Uganda's population constitutes majority of the dependent population (under 15 years).

Compared to the region's under 15 years population (43.2 percent) and the world's under 15 years population (26.8 percent), Uganda's young population is evidently higher. The high fertility rate, the young and youthful population and the elderly present a developmental challenge which is the dependency burden where few people have to provide for a huge population which is not employed. Uganda's population continues to grow currently at rate of 3.2 percent and is way higher than the region's average population growth.

If Uganda is to realize development, the youths need to be involved in development programs so as to reduce the dependency syndrome and to transform the youth groups into a productive force. In many of our farmer groups or farmers based organizations, it has been realized that youth are sometimes

integrated in their activities but have peculiar interests that may need particular attention in their development processes.

With that in mind there is need to provide a platform for these youth where they can express their particular interests and forge a way forward. The advantage of this is that youth have the propensity to move with the changing dynamics of the world and are capable of formulating or becoming strong leaders of farmer based organization's in the near future.

Federation of Uganda formerly called Uganda National Young Farmers' Association (UNYFA) is an initiative of Uganda National Farmers' Federation started in 2016, with the main objective of improving livelihoods of youth in Uganda through well-established structures which foster building of vibrant team of young farmers to fit into the national farmers' union (UNFFE). UNYFA It was launched in June 2017 as a duly incorporated member-based organization with a registration number 80020000478713 under section 18(3) of Companies Act 2012.

UNYFA envisages its existence as the strongest Young Farmers' organization in Uganda, with plans and strategies across the country and working along UNFFE structure right from grass root to the apex (Parish to National level). The organization operates countrywide covering all regions through District Young Farmers Associations currently in 45 districts, targeting agro-based youth in rural areas, schools/tertiary institutions and youth out of school in the age bracket of 12-39 years of age.

OUR VISION:

A holistically transformed youth in agriculture for sustainable economy.

MISSION:

To mobilize & empower youth in agriculture for social-economic development.

KEY DEVELOPMENT AREAS:**PROFESSIONALIZATION:**

UNYFA undertakes a social process of development that brings about high integrity and appropriate organizational competence.

ADVOCACY:

UNYFA seeks to ensure that young farmers are able to have their voice heard on issues that are important to them; Defend and safeguard their rights and Have their views and wishes genuinely considered when decisions are being made about their lives by duty bearers.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

With the different levels of capacities existing among young farmers, we consider education and training as a key area of

development to enable us effect Knowledge building and evaluation; enrich on our technical & social /soft skills but also enhance trainer's competency.

NETWORKING:

The Young Farmers Federation of Uganda builds strong relationships in order to survive, thrive, and gain allies in advocacy, capacity building, exposure and fundraising but also to seek for recognition.

SERVICES:

Farmer organizations are judged by the nature and type of services they deliver to their members. For any membership organization to stay strong, members should accrue value from it through the services obtained. It's therefore important for UNYFA to provide tailor made services to its members

PARTNERS



In its project, **AHA / DBV** focus on strengthening of Farmer Organizations in developing countries. AHA, with the financial support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has only recently started their activity in Uganda.

The Akademie supports its partners by offering an exchange with German association experts, holding workshops and training courses and supporting targeted organisational development. Dialogue is held with potential partner organisations to establish concrete requirements. Development measures are chosen to suit individual needs. The focus is always on empowering the organisation to develop and implement targeted solutions on its own.



UNFFE is the largest farmers' organization in Uganda. It brings together 98 member associations including 78 district farmers associations and 20 Agro-business organizations and agro-based service providers. Its activities and programs are countrywide in reach and target directly the grassroots based farming communities. It has over

2,000,000 individual farming households as its members, of which at least 40% are women. UNFFE being our patron has provided the young farmers mentorship, space and technical backstopping to build a strong young farmers structure across Uganda.

NEWEST PARTNERS



swisscontact

Swisscontact was established in 1959 as an independent organization by notable figures from the worlds of commerce and science in Switzerland and has close ties with the private sector; its vision is to make a sustained, effective contribution towards the reduction of economic disparities in an increasingly complex, globalized world. The mission of Swisscontact is to promote economic, social and ecological development. In Uganda, Swisscontact is implementing different projects in Skills development, Enterprise promotion and inclusive finance. Projects follow a market systems approach, fostering partnership and collaboration among different actors in the ecosystem, to increase income opportunities for targeted beneficiaries through strengthened relationships and networks. UNYFA and Swisscontact are in agreement to build the capacity of agro-based youth in Central, Eastern and Western part of Uganda and facilitate peer to peer learning.



Prosperity in rural Africa depends

on making agriculture work better, using natural resources well, and creating stronger markets for what farmers produce. Farm Africa is a leading INGO specializing in growing agriculture, protecting the environment and developing businesses in rural Africa. Farm Africa and UNYFA are working together to establish Kanungu District Young Farmers Association with focus on:

1. Establishment of parish-level young farmers groups
2. Promotion of Coffee production among youth and link youth groups to cooperatives
3. Help young farmers access extension support from coffee cooperatives supported by Farm Africa
4. Provision of young farmers in Kanungu district with a collective voice and support them to advocate for change
5. To increase the number of young people who are employed or self-employed in Kanungu district's coffee sector

OTHER DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS ON BOARD



EVENTS



UNYFA GRAND LAUNCH (28TH JUNE 2017)

The launch event involved over 100 distinguished guests from within and out of the country namely: AHA International; UNYFA coordination team, District Young Farmers' Associations (DYFAs) & Executive committees; UNFFE executives; DFAs, MAAIF, EPRC Makerere University, Media, Development partners involved in youthlivelihoods projects like, AgriProfocus, CURAD, Young Farmers Champions, Restless Development Uganda and international Agri-agencies like; Agriterra, Trias, We-effect, USAID, Action AID, BMZ, GIZ,

IITA, and Farm Africa. Presentations, speeches, panel discussion on the theme "Agriculture & the future- Role of Youth in the Green Gold", cultural dance entertainment, cake cutting, media interviews and tree planting made our day colorful.

The Chef Guest was Mr. Deus (MAAIF Commissioner for Agriculture Investments) who gave a speech and commended UNFFE for establishing UNYFA and this also streamlined our visibility in the country.



The Young Farmers' Agricultural tour is a farmer to farmer 5 days residential excursion that happens twice every year being organized by the Young Farmers' Federation of Uganda (UNYFA).

The tour brings together young farmers from different regions of Uganda and outside to gain exposure to various value chains and farming cultures, experience sharing, knowledge/skills transfer & learning, and exploring fun in farming. This activity also benefits the young farmers' organization in terms of increased visibility in all areas that we visit; contribute to membership mobilization, creates networks and linkages between participants and other stakeholders in the agriculture sector.

It is on record that youth have learnt new technologies, made contacts improved their ways of engaging in agribusiness as a result of the previous two young farmers' agricultural tours (June, 2018 and November, 2017) organized by UNYFA. The excursions convened 100 young farmers in a composition of individual farmers, District Young Farmers' Associations and youth from other agro-based organizations. Therefore it is due to this success that UNYFA is organizing another Young Farmers'

Agricultural Tour in the month of November 2018 dubbed "Challenges bleed ideas for our Rise" and it will be the third excursion ever since this service started in 2017.

UNYFA YOUNG FARMERS' FEDERATION OF UGANDA (UNYFA) Formerly Uganda National Young Farmers' Association

YOUTH AGRICULTURAL TOUR 2017

"Peer to Peer Experience Sharing & Exposure"

THEME: Empowering Youth in the "Green Gold" sector for Sustainable Social-Economic Development.

Date: 04th -08th November 2017

Participation Fee: 250,000 UGX

ACTIVITIES

1. Agro-tourism - Agripreneurs Field Visits
2. Youth in Agribusiness Experience Sharing
3. Agricultural Value Chain Discovery Networking
4. Explore Cultures/ Fun (Sports: Boat cruise, Swimming and beach Soccer)
5. Wild Life viewing (Game park adventure)
6. Personal Reflection.

Call or send an email to: UNYFA Secretariat
Phone: +256 788612853 / +256 703818552 / +256 703818552
+256 703818552
+256 703818552
Email: unyfa2017@gmail.com

This covers:
Kampala - Mukono-Gayaza-Masaka-Mityana-Mityana-Obote Farms
Fruits of Faith Farm (Period Unken farm), Poultry Farmers' Park, Passion Fruit Farm, Dairy Fish Farm, Bread Irrigation Farm, Apple Farm, Nanyondo sand beach.

UNYFA YOUNG FARMERS' FEDERATION OF UGANDA (UNYFA) Formerly Uganda National Young Farmers' Association

YOUTH AGRIBUSINESS TOUR 2018

"Peer to Peer learning through experience sharing & Exposure"

THEME: Empowering Youth in the "Green Gold" sector for Sustainable Social-Economic Development.

Date: 12th - 15th June 2018

Participation Fee: 250,000 UGX

ACTIVITIES

1. Field visits to youth Agripreneurs: On-farm training and experience sharing.
2. Agricultural value chain discovery: with focus on fast income generating agribusinesses
3. Urban/ Peri-urban farming: High value crops & animal and niche marketing.
4. Farming in Youth Groups/Associations/cooperatives: Information sharing, Advocacy, Networking.
5. Explore cultures/fun (e.g. cultural night/ campfire, Sports: Beach soccer, swimming and Boat cruise).
6. Wildlife viewing (game park adventure).

Call or send an email to: UNYFA Secretariat
Email: unyfa2018@gmail.com
Tel: +256 774 532 670 | +256 788 612 852
Tel: +256 704 424 767 | +256 703 818 552

UNYFA YOUNG FARMERS' FEDERATION OF UGANDA

UNYFA AGRICULTURAL TOUR v.3

Peer to Peer learning through Experience Sharing & Exposure

26th - 30th Nov 2018

ROUTE

Kampala ← Gayaza
Entebbe > Gayaza
Zirobwe > Luweero
Nakasongola > Mityana
Gomba > Sembabule
Masaka > Kalangala
← Kampala

ACTIVITIES:

- Farm visits to both seasoned farmers and youth Agripreneurs.
- On Farm training and experience sharing.
- Exploring Culture and having Fun.

FEE UGX 250,000

THEME: "Challenges bleed ideas for our Rise in Agribusiness"

PARTICIPANTS:
One Acre farming Model- Dr. Emma Naluyima | Passion fruit value chain- Young Farmer Mike |
Hot pepper growing and marketing- Seasoned farmer | Goat and Cattle Production- Sembeguya Estates Farm. | Dairy farming value chain & pasture/animal feeds production. | Coffee + Pineapple growing, Bee keeping and Poultry farming. | Aquaculture: Fish farming. | Fun: Beach soccer, swimming, camp fire and Team building exercises.

Partners

Call or Send us an email now:
Tel: +256 774 532 670 | +256 788 612 853
Tel: +256 704 424 767 | +256 703 818 552
Email: unyfa2016@gmail.com | info@unyfa.org

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

UNYFA AGM 2018 was conducted from 8th to 9th of August 2018 at the Farmers Conference Hall – Kampala Uganda and it marked the second AGM since UNYFA's inception- year 2016. It congregated 100 delegates (Young Farmers Leaders) from all regions of Uganda that participated fully in activities such as: listening to Speeches from both UNFFE and UNYFA President, Presentation of UNYFA Strategic Plan; Panel discussions; Presentation of reports; Young farmers' Statutory Session and Drafting of UNYFA 2018-2019 Activities.

The theme for UNYFA AGM 2018 was: "Building the voice of youth in agribusiness through strong Platforms & streamlined structures owned by Youth".

The key resolutions from the AGM were:

a) To pass out the five year (2019-2023) UNYFA strategic plan this will help us in galvanizing all youth structures in Uganda.

b) To amplify the young farmers' voice, there is need to develop a clear communication strategy that will streamline all the channels and feedback mechanisms we need.

c) It is observed that there is less involvement of female youth in UNYFA activities and organizational as whole. This may be due to illiteracy levels, cultural and issues.

Therefore the assembly agreed to find strategies of encouraging the participation of more female youth in our organizational issues and also farming activities.

d) During the time for the assembly, many youth farmers were in losses since the maize price and other commodities were at its lowest, farmers were having losses averaging between 60-70%.

The assembly unanimously agreed to engage government through all available channels possible on the issue of funding

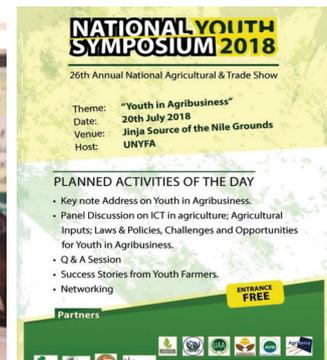
farmer associations instead of commercial agents to curb and cap the maize prices for the betterment of the farmers.

e) In November 2017, the government passed the "National Strategy for Youth employment in Agriculture". This policy was formulated with some special inputs from UNYFA too, therefore the assembly resolved to have this policy broken down by UNYFA board and Management to simpler languages that can be understood by the members since Advocacy campaigns will be based on this new policy.

f) The members urged their Board and Management to embark on bringing n board likeminded organizations and individuals to partner or sponsor organizational activities aimed at effecting youth in agribusiness development and for the sustainability of the organization.

g) Finally, the AGM agreed with its Board and Management for starting up the fundraising campaign for UNYFA home (the young farmers' demonstration site) and urged members, development partners and well-wishers to participate as we shape the future of farming in Uganda.

THE NATIONAL YOUTH SYMPOSIUM JULY, 2018



The National Youth Symposium 2018 took place on 20th July 2018 at Jinja - Eastern Uganda, during the 26th National Agriculture and Trade show. It was organized by the Young Farmers' Federation of Uganda (UNYFA) mandated by Uganda National Farmers' Federation (UNFFE). UNYFA in partnership with various organizations such as AVSI/Sky Foundation; NUCAFE; AgriProfocus; AKORION; CURAD; Uganda Agribusiness Alliance; We Farm and Schools performed the symposium successfully.

The National Youth Symposium was dubbed under the theme; **"Youth in Agribusiness: for income generation and job creation"** which fed into the theme for the entire show **"Fostering Agricultural value chains Innovations for farmer led food security, house hold income and job creation"**

The purpose for the National Youth Symposium was to bring on table challenges and opportunities presented to small and medium Enterprise(SMEs), Non-Government Organizations(NGOs), Civil Society Organization (CSOs),schools, Youths and other Agro related partners in knowledge management, fundraising, marketing, pest management, disease

control; as well as sharing experience from the successful Agro-entrepreneurs and policy related engagements. The specific objectives of the symposium were:-

- To provide space for youth to share information and network with other stakeholders in agribusiness.
- To unlock the underlying business opportunities for youth in agribusiness sector.
- To motivate school going youth and out of school youth to take up agriculture as a career but also as a business
- To provide a platform for the youth to showcase their successful agribusiness initiatives.

The National Youth Symposium culminated with a series of activities that were performed by: influential persons in Ugandan agribusiness sector, scholars from agro-based schools, Agripreneurs shared their success stories but also organizations presented their models of operation.

Participants: the symposium convened over 150 number of participants coming from various civil society organizations; Farmer organizations; Government; scholars from different schools/universities; media, private sector and development partners.

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Plot 18 Martyr's Way Ntinda
P.O. Box 27255
Kampala - Uganda

Tel: +256 392905789
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Email info@origroup.net
www.origroup.net



Seed Drill Planter

DIVINE VEGETABLE FARM



Divine vegetable Farm is an innovative agricultural initiative engaged in the growing of various organic vegetables both for commercial and home consumption purposes. I began growing various types of vegetables at my back yard using suck mounds as gardens since I have inadequate land.

A sack mound is a small vegetable garden next to the house made from a sack for example a charcoal sack. It is a simple technique to use for those with small plots of land and rentals has various merits like;

- Lots of vegetables in a small space.
- All the year around.
- Next to the house.
- Almost no weeding.

I use organic manure that helps them mature in a period of one to three months, mostly Liquid manure is a food for plants made from animal droppings. It contains food for plants and feeds them safely hence has the following merits like;

- Is a free fertilizer.
- Is easy to make.
- Increases yields.

Most grown vegetables include; Beetroots, Leeks, Spring onion, Lettuce, Okra, Spinaches, Sukuma wiki, Zucchini, Zucchini blossoms, Parsley, Parsley roots, Celery, Coriander, Radices, Rosemary, Thyme, lemon grass and Broccoli



Located at Njara road, Fort portal behind presidential lodge
Email: moreennyakato@yahoo.com
Tel: 0775269133



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OUR AUTHORIZED IMPORTER:



STAHLCO HOLDINGS

+256 772 506 390
+256 771 656 183
+256 783 166 709
106/107 Ggaba Road
Opp. Kabalagala Police Station
rolandschopf.stahlco@yahoo.com
www.stihl.com

STIHL Marketing East Africa
Head Office - Kenya:
patrick.okello@stihl.co.ke



YOUNG FARMERS' FEDERATION OF UGANDA

Plot 27 Nakasero Road

P.O. Box 35926 , Kampala., Uganda

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Email: unyfa2016@gmail.com | info@unyfa.org

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