

THE SEED NEWSLETTER

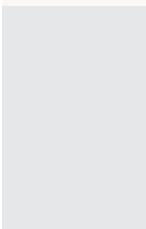


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YOUNG FARMERS' FEDERATION OF UGANDA

Shaping the future of farming.



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Feeding the Cities - Urban Farming

Can Urban Farming be a solution to Food Insecurity & youth economic empowerment in Urban & Peri-urban AREAS?

Gone are the days when farming was profoundly known to be an economic activity for only rural areas, nowadays farming can be practiced in cities/ peri-urban areas in a modern way (with or without soil). Farming in the Cities is termed as urban farming; this can be either crop or livestock. The number of urban farmers and their various activities goes unprecedented thus they find it hard to benefit from certain agricultural development programs. Usually, some farmers do it as a hobby, secondly to beautify compounds but most of the focused urban farmers who are on half and more acres do it to improve their food security and also to have monetary value out of the surplus they produce and through using their farms as demonstration and training sites.

Uganda Micro gardens Initiative is an organization which was formed out of passion for urban farming by the class of 2012-2016 of Agricultural Extension at Makerere. The initiative grew beyond the walls and gates of Makerere University and through Uganda Micro Gardens initiative; Samuel Magezi, a founding member of the organization has reached out to various communities/households with in urban and peri-urban areas, 'I started to offer paid-up services of setting up tailored urban farms/ gardens and provision of agricultural extension. The following are the various areas where I have worked with urban farmers: Masajja, Kasubi,

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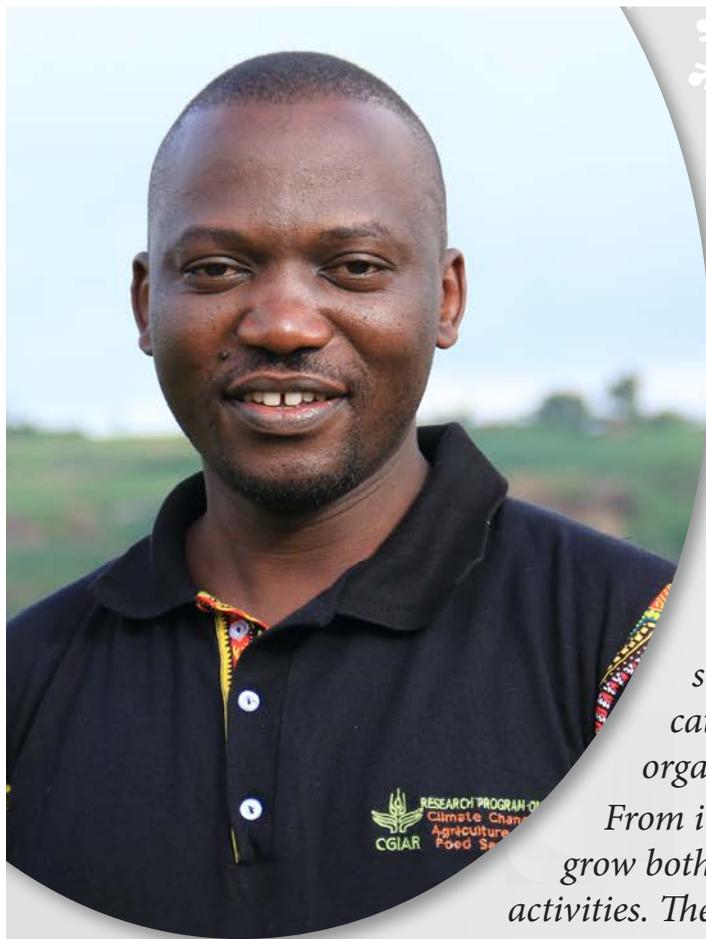
OPPORTUNITIES

1. Youth Agribusiness Tour
2. Young Farmers' International Exchange Program 2020

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CEO, End of Year Message

Dear UNYFA Members, Partners and Friends,

We remain indebted to each and every one who has journeyed with us in mobilizing and empowering youth in agriculture for socio-economic development which has catapulted UNYFA as a leading young farmers organization in the region.

From its inception in 2016, UNYFA has continued to grow both in membership and impact through its activities. The federation through its membership that spans across the country; has for the past three years invested time and knowledge in young farmers through workshops, agribusiness tours, youth agribusiness symposia and most recently, the Young Farmers' International Exchange Program which was launched in August this year. We believe that this program is a platform that will expose young Ugandan farmers to new knowledge in farming; hence providing the young farmers with an advantage to compete globally.

To reach out more to our members, partners and friends, UNYFA started running publications of the Seed Newsletter and the Seed Magazine, both online and print versions. These publications have featured young farmers' stories, Member activities at district level and educational topics in agribusiness.

As we approach the end of this year, I want to thank each one of you for being part of the UNYFA family and take this opportunity to wish you all the best for a safe and happy festive season. We look forward to working with you all in 2020 refreshed after a break and ready to Shape the Future of Farming!

Denis Kabiito
CEO
Young Farmers' Federation of Uganda – UNYFA

*Merry
Christmas*

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

2020





FEMALE LEADERSHIP TRAINING

From the 26-29th August 2019, 3 members of UNYFA participated in a Female Leadership Training organized by Agriterra in Mbarara. The 3 day training was very inclusive where male participants were also in attendance. This comes to show that in leadership, despite the diversity, every one counts and a leader cannot act in isolation. The main objectives of this training were to increase understanding of the importance of women participation in Cooperatives and Organizations and to empower women in Cooperatives and Organizations to be active Board members. Growing up, our parents and guardians raised us to believe that girls were not supposed to climb trees, cooking was for girls and not for boys, cleaning the compound was a role for boys and boys don't cry was a very common warning to boys whenever they got hurt. Our parents and guardians meant well but psychologically, this shaped thought processes and made a belief that these are the gender roles.

Gender is defined as the role of a male or female in society while sex refers to biological differences between males and females. Beyond biological roles, what men do women can do and therefore females should not be excluded from leadership. Because boys always did the more manual work and girls did work that seemed to require less energy, boys were groomed to be the protectors and naturally, boys became the leaders. Fast forward, at 40.1% currently, Norway has the world's highest percentage of women on company boards. In the context of Uganda, the most available data on women is gendered towards their role as procreators because that is what society has believed it to be so. Yes, it is a fact that Uganda has had the highest Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in

the region but women can do more and have done more than that.

Women are approachable, good listeners, great mobilizers and exemplary; these are qualities of good leaders and so it is undeniable that women are leaders but the figures still show that there is a gap. During the training, the participants noted an imbalance in female participation in leadership right from the UNFFE secretariat and Board, UNYFA secretariat and Board, right to the District level and the farmer groups the percentage being at 30% females and 70% males. This does not reflect the percentage of females doing the ground work; 70% females to 30% males.

A lot has been done and a lot can still be done to increase women member participation in leadership and creating an enabling environment for closing the gender gap in leadership Cooperatives and Organizations. Gender role sensitization, having reduced rate or lower share amount for specific target groups like women and youth, Identifying leaders especially men who are supportive in promoting women and introducing appropriate women friendly technologies, products, services like trainings are some of the ideas the participants suggested that could increase women participation in leadership.

With all these amazing ideas and a lot that has already been done to increase women participation in leadership, the most notably, affirmative action, the gender leadership gap still persists. From the training, it was concluded that women can be great leaders but it will take more than having an affirmative action to place women in leadership because leadership is not handed over to a person but it is a role that comes from individual self-drive; it takes self-leadership to be a leader.

OPPORTUNITIES



1. Youth Agribusiness Tours
2. Young Farmers' International Exchange Program 2020



We have different roles and responsibilities but a common vision. Each one of us has to act in their respective positions and make a contribution towards achieving what we envision.

*Magezi Samuel
Programs Officer - UNYFA*



Makerere, Seeta, Mukono, Buddo, Namagoma, Nsangi and Masanafu. 20 households have been impacted and improved their nutrition, fought against food insecurity and showed them away to minimize on daily expenditure on vegetables. Samuel has also volunteered with in Avail Group/Fruits of Faith Farm at Gayaza-Magere, a typical urban farm which offered him more training and endless opportunities to explore urban farming.

Most cities like Kampala in developing countries have great difficulties to cope with this development and are unable to create sufficient formal employment opportunities for the poor. They also have increasing problems with the disposal of urban wastes and waste water and maintaining air and river water quality. With urban farming, there is a chance to keep less or have less land and do more with what we have. Cities and towns are littered with a lot of resources such as plastic bottles, plastic containers and car tyres which can be used for urban farming. This is a complementary strategy to reduce urban poverty and food insecurity and enhance urban environmental management.

Finding nutritious food in the city is quite costly but if one is able to grow their own food, they will be able to spend less on buying the food and at the same time having a surplus to sell and earn an income. Urban agriculture plays an important role in enhancing urban food security since the costs of supplying and distributing food to urban areas based on rural production and imports continue to increase, and do not satisfy the demand, especially of the poorer sectors of the population. Next to food security, urban agriculture contributes to local economic development, poverty alleviation and social inclusion of the urban poor and women in particular, as well as to the greening of the city and the productive reuse of urban wastes.

Urban farming blends farmers into intensified operations where a small piece of land is utilized with innovations and technologies. The focus is always on how a farmer can grow crops/ rare animals



and compete with Farmers on vast land and good economies of scale. This translates into use of good quality varieties of crops and breeds of livestock which can grow very fast and bring in quick returns. In urban farming space is of great importance, it takes diverse practices for instance farmers sometimes consider growing vegetables on verandas/walls in polythene bags, empty tins, sacks or in open field on raised soil beds, they keep bees under ceilings of their homes, do fish farming in raised ponds, utilize the roof tops with leafy vegetable growing, unfinished garages for mushroom production, zero grazing of dairy animals, goats farming, poultry farming and Organic piggery farming. Farmers tend to grow high value crops especially vegetables and herbs to meet certain customer needs (Niche markets), which fetch them good market price. Some urban farmers have raised their bars so high to look beyond the production level of food and focus on branding/ value addition and carryout knowledge transfer (Extension & trainings) whereby the communities around them come and learn/ share experiences.

Interesting facts about urban farming

Vegetables are the most grown plants on urban farms; Vegetables have a short production cycle; some can be harvested within 60 days of planting, so are well suited for urban farming.

Garden plots can be up to 15 times more productive than rural holdings.

An area of just one square meter can provide 20 kg of food a year.

Urban vegetable growers spend less on transport, packaging and storage, and can sell directly through street food stands and market stalls. More income goes to them instead of middlemen.

Urban agriculture provides employment and incomes for poor women and other disadvantaged groups.

Horticulture can generate one job every 100 sqm garden in production, input supply, marketing and value-addition from producer to consumer.

It must be said that urban farming isn't a magical solution for sustainability. Continuing to develop and expand on these innovative farming technologies is going to play an integral role in feeding the ever-expanding population of our planet.

Innovations in urban farming

Hydroponics

Urban farming innovation allows plants to grow without soil or natural light. The technology behind this is called hydroponics.

Hydroponics uses nutrients dissolved in water and blocks of sponge-like material where the roots can grow. This is combined with low-energy artificial LED lights.

Aquaponics

Aquaponics is an urban farming technology that combines raising crops without soil (though hydroponics) with aquaculture in one integrated system.

Aquaponics is a closed-loop system. The system allows fish waste to organically fertilize plants, and plants to clean and filter water for the fish.

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THE 2ND NATIONAL YOUTH IN AGRIBUSINESS SYMPOSIUM

The Youth Symposium is a national platform for young farmers from diverse backgrounds ranging from youth actively engaged in agribusiness or youth who potentially want to join the agricultural sector; the symposium amplifies voices of youth towards farmer-led agro-industrialization development. This year, UNYFA held the 2nd edition of the National Youth in Agribusiness Symposium themed The Role of Youth in Scaling Agricultural Technologies and Innovations; a theme which was derived from the overall 27th Annual Agriculture trade show theme which was 'Agricultural Technologies and innovations for farmer-led agro Industrialization.

Mr. Jurua Jackson, the vice president of UNFFE, who represented the UNFFE president at the symposium said that the symposium is right on the spot to turn the energy of the youth into productive force; he said that youth have the energy, the brains, they can think of new ideas and have new insights. True to form, these innovative youth were at the symposium and they showcased their agriculture technologies and innovations. Fundi Bots, a tech start up that mentors young people in robotics was in attendance and they wowed the audience with their automated irrigation system which was developed by interns who are doing their training with Fundi Bots. Mawa Enterprises showcased their worm farming technology as an alternative protein source and NARO presented the various improved seed species that they have developed.

With an attendance of over 1500 people, the symposium lived up to its expectation of offering a platform for youth to network and share information and creating insights on how to motivate, inspire and encourage school going youth on better livelihoods emanating from agribusiness. Schools in attendance were Jinja College School, Wanyange Girls School and Kira College Butiki. In the schools debate, Wanyange Girls School and Kira College Butiki, showed their vast knowledge of agriculture through the arguments they brought forth. Debating on the motion; can the Youth play a role in scaling agriculture technology and innovation? The main point of argument was that the youth have access to technology but based on how much majority of youth have misused the technology at their exposure; are youth able to play a role in scaling agriculture technology and innovation.

The diversity of participants required an inclusive program for all to be fully engaged so that their ideas are brought to table. At the symposium, besides the debate, the agribusiness quiz was another session that was inclusive of all categories of people, including even those without a background in agribusiness. The

quiz engaged students, youth in agribusiness, agribusiness technocrats and the 'dreamers' (youth not yet engaged in agribusiness).

Having the right people listening at any platform is very important. At the symposium, UNYFA was honoured by the presence of Dr. Kamukama Charles, Senior veterinary doctor and Senior Economist and Planner who represented Mr. Pius Wakabi the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) at the symposium and expressed his gratitude for the willingness of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries for their readiness and willingness to discuss the issue of agricultural financing.

Also present at the symposium was Bank of Uganda and commercial banks who are major stakeholders in the financial sector. The deputy director Agricultural financing from Bank of Uganda talked about the Agriculture Credit Facility which she said is a facility by the central bank to support farmers. This scheme started its operation in October 2010, with the aim of providing medium and long-term financing to projects engaged in agriculture and agro-processing, focusing on commercialization and value addition. Fatuma Namutosi who was panellist said that young people, you need to start doing something and not just wait for opportunities. She was recognised by FAO as a Youth champion in Agriculture because she was running an agribusiness that adds value to pumpkin and she is currently working with over 1000 youth and women. Her message to the youth was "Be prepared"



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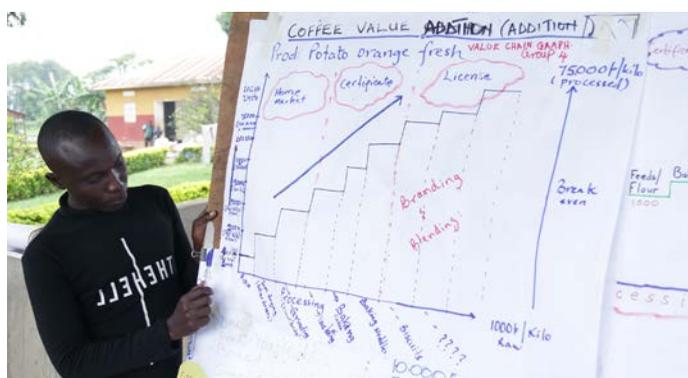
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MARKET LINKAGES TRAINING

Linkages are not just about buying and selling crops. A market linkage is also the route for provision of services including transport, market information, agricultural inputs and business services. These functions all need to be provided by someone somehow in the value chain. Designing a good linkage means working out what the company does, what third party providers do, and what this means for farmers in practice.

Through the process of creating a connection between the farmer and the consumer, a farmer may or may not sell the product as it is. He or she will add value to the product at every level depending on the end consumer the farmer is targeting. Cumulated value addition to a product up to the highest level is a value chain. 17 members of the UNYFA secretariat and DYFA members participated at a training on Market Linkages which took place from the 19-23rd August 2019, were at Mulugiomu Farm in Luwero District had discussions pertaining to the steps taken in adding value to agricultural products right from the farm to when the final consumer gets the product. From washing,

calibration (sorting), Processing, packaging and branding, these are some of the processes a farmer may have to go through during value addition.

Dr. Ralf, who was very excited about the on farm training, noted that for farmers to earn more from their products, they should consider value addition and invest in it. Value addition may increase the cost of production in the short term but when a farmer breaks even, he is able to reap more from his products. This means that beyond selling a product to which value has been added, the machinery and technology one invests in will also be a source of income. Take an example of a farmer who is adding value to pineapples by drying them so the farmer invests in a solar drier. Of course it is wise to invest in large equipment when a farmer has mass production because of the economies of scale (spending less per unit production due to reduced average costs). The solar drier installed can be rented by other farmers which will earn an extra income. As one goes up the ladder of value addition, the consumers become more defined and so a farmer has to meet the set standards such as hygiene, documentation and certification of the product. Dr. Ralf noted that this may be hectic on the side of the farmer but it will open bigger doors to bigger markets and the farmer will be able to command for a better price in the market.

The workshop culminated into discussion and presentations on roles & responsibilities of UNYFA and DYFA in a bid to address the demands, needs & problems of farmers and how UNYFA-DYFA-Farmers support each other. The Trainer guided participants on how to bring out the roles. The outcome of this activity resulted into creation of a work plan of the DYFAs and UNYFA for the last quarter of the year; a work plan tailored specifically to activities of UNYFA with DYFAs.

As one of the participants mentioned during the final recap game, farmers have a lot of expectations from the DYFAs and UNYFA so with the resources and knowledge at hand, former and the latter can do so much to impact young farmers in Uganda and shape a better future of farming.



LAUNCH OF THE YOUNG FARMERS' INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM 2019

'Unless Africa uses modern technology, our farmers' output will remain low and we will remain to feed us' dependant on others
Akinwumi "Akin" Adesina, 2017 World Food Prize Winner

70% of Uganda's working population is employed in agriculture and it is still not able to feed its population of less than 50 million people because the level of mechanization of agriculture is still at 6%. On the August 27th 2019, UNYFA launched the Young Farmers' International Exchange Program; an exchange program that will promote diversified experiential learning for young farmers from Uganda and Germany. The first of its kind for the federation, the program is a partnership between the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and UNYFA with support from the Schorlermer Foundation.

For 3 months, Ugandan farmers will travel to German on a fully paid trip and will be hosted on German farms and likewise, young German farmers will also travel to Uganda, hosted on Ugandan farms for the same period. Germany is one of the most industrialized economies in Europe with less than 1% of the farmer feeding the entire nation. Speaking at the launch, the President of the Uganda Farmers' Federation (UNFEE), Mr. Dick Kamuganga thanked partners for the support given to the farmers and said that it is the young generation that will lead to the success of Africa feed Africa. The UNYFA president, Mr. Okot Geoffrey thanked UNFEE for the support they have given UNYFA from its inception and seeing it grow up to where it is now.

Mr. Phillip, Deputy Director AHA International commended UNYFA for being a model young farmers' organization and a great example to other countries. He mentioned that the exchange is something very special that young farmers are able to share and learn from each other and that it's not only the participants learning but also the host farms learning from the experience. Deputy for the Germany Farmers Association, Mr. Dohme, in his remarks noted that the exchange is an idea to work together by sharing all the challenges and knowledge from all aspects of Agriculture; making it more profitable and normal to work together. He

expressed his gratitude for the support from Uganda and he said that he is looking forward to seeing more Uganda farmers in Germany as the program progresses.

The ceremony was sealed off by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (a binding document for UNYFA and the Germany Framers Association for a longtime partnership) between the UNYFA and the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), signed by the UNYFA President, UNYFA CEO and Deputy Secretary General (Germany Farmers' Association) BMZ.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM WORLD FARMERS' ORGANIZATION NEWS WFO ATTENDING UN SUMMITS WEEK 2019

The UN Summits Week 2019 marked a crucial juncture for evaluating progress on climate goals and SDG implementation. A wide range of significant events took place on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, including the Climate Action Summit on September 23rd, and the SDG Summit on September 24th-25th, to name but a few. A delegation of WFO, led by the President Dr Theo de Jager, brought the farmers' voice in the debate, by taking part in several high-level meetings, workshops and international discussions.

Coldiretti "Village of Ideas": 150 young people together to outline the agriculture of the future

From September 27th to 29th, over 150 young people among entrepreneurs, researchers, students and start-ups gathered in Bologna to join the Coldiretti "Village of Ideas". Organised by Coldiretti Young Farmers in the framework of the wider Coldiretti village, this three-day event focused on the role of the new generations of farmers in outlining the agriculture of the future, not only as food producers but as stewards of natural resources and sustainable development.

MITYANA DYFA

AGRICULTURE IS A BUSINESS

Message to the young farmers and the already progressive farmers in Uganda;

I wish to thank all the young farmers (youth) who have come out and engaged in farming as a business. As it is well known, people above the age of 35 years in Uganda are not considered to be youth any more. However below that age, much is expected out of the energy, knowledge and courageousness someone is having. These days many youths in Uganda, those who did and did not go to school think that the only way one can get money is going abroad (yet this is voluntary slavery).

My friends, I am calling you to join the farming fraternity because there is opportunity for generating money. Take an example of professions like; Lawyers, Doctors, Engineers, Teachers, and politicians like Ministers, Members of parliament, After their office work they end up ordering for, coffee, an egg, beef, milk, fish, chips etc. of which all are products of farming.

I was inspired to engage in active farming after seeing a petroleum engineer looking for milk. This indicated that at which ever profile a person holds, he/she needs a farmer every hour and day.

Let's explore briefly on poultry farming. In a period of 4 ½ month, for a youth who decided to join this enterprise, you are already getting money out of eggs (Layers), you reap out of Broilers at only six weeks, and you are earning money out of kroilers at just 4 months. Here you can

construct the structures using the locally available material at a very low cost. As UNYFA member, I call upon the youth who have not yet joined the agriculture / farming sector, to start now. You just need to start small while thinking big.

In 2016, I went for field study tour organized by UNYFA in the central region, when I came back I started poultry keeping with 50 kroiler birds. I do not regret starting this project; it has brought me from far. In December 2018 I enhanced my project by procuring 300 layer chicks, as I talk now I collect and sell eggs every day. The income I receive from the current laying birds has enabled me to add more stock of 250 layers under the growing stage.

It is out of these field tours / visit that I have learnt a lot of things. Further, I have planted over 300 banana stools and the manure I get from my poultry farm is taken to my banana plantation to fertilize the soils. My prediction is that after a two years period I will be able to earn SHS.600,000/= per month from banana plantation.

All this certifies that agriculture is a business and the only people who can take it on are the youth.

Lukenge Matia

Mityana District Young Farmers' Association



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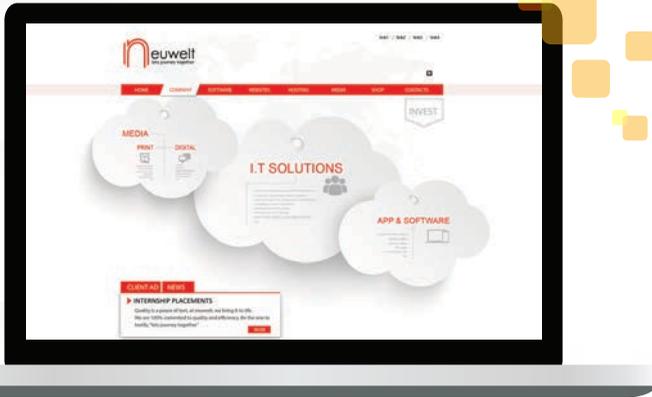
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NOTE

The 6th Youth Agribusiness Tour is in June 2020



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