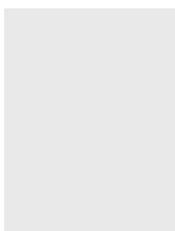
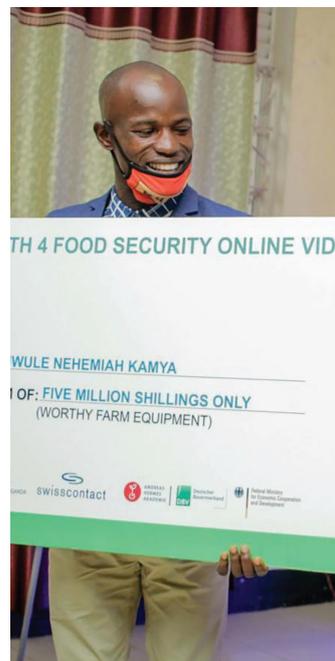


THE SEED NEWSLETTER



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Youth4Food security online competition

On the 4th July 2020, UNYFA together with its partners, Swiss Contact, DBV and AHA awarded the 6 innovative and resilient young farmers after emerging winners of the inaugural online video competition themed “Youth4FoodSecurity. This competition aimed at actively empowering youth into farming to ensure production of quality food for their communities and also inspiring other young farmers in agriculture to keep going despite the hardships caused by the covid-19 pandemic.

To participate in the competition, young farmers were required to record short videos of their farming innovation. These videos were then uploaded on our social media pages for public voting and later the top ten videos were further scrutinized to come up with the winners. There was a high level of competitiveness exhibited by both the participants and the online audience, and better still, the impact of the videos went over an above what was anticipated. By watching these videos, many youth were very inspired. One of the notable viewers was a ten year old young farmer who after watching the videos, insisted on coming for the award ceremony to meet the farmers. He was inspired by how Buwule Nehemiah, the

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OPPORTUNITIES

1. International Young Farmers' Exchange Program
2. Internship at the Young Farmers' Federation of Uganda Coordination Office
3. Young Farmers' Champion

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eventual winner of the competition was able to do so much on a small piece of land.

The benefits the winners of the competition on top of the prize (farm equipment) are; video training which was open to all participants in the video competition. The participants were taken through the basics of making a quality video using a mobile smart phone by the Creative Director of E-Pictures Media, Mr. Walusimbi Emmanuei and of course, awarded Certificates of participation. Other benefits the winners

are set to enjoy are being featured in the Seed Newsletter and the Seed Magazine whereas their documentary(video) will be featured on the UNYFA and partners' YouTube channels. websites.

Buwule Nehemiah Kanya > Winner Horticulture farmer

Anyone obsessed with his craft will be richly rewarded. My prize from this competition goes out to young farmers. We shall use it to improve the farm and create more innovations for youth to learn from.



Ssekubulwa Cyprian
 > 1st Runner-Up
 Horticulture farmer

Agriculture is the way to go and youth should not fear to start with what they have however small it may be and progress to the next level.



Birungi Eva Grace
 > 2nd Runner-Up
 Poultry farmer and waste management expert

At my Passion farm, our vision is to empower women and youth and through our innovations, promote food security.



Laura Nakigozi
 > 3rd Runner-Up
 Poultry farmer

Believe in yourself. Surround yourself with like minded people, because through this you open your mind to achievable possibilities.



Ssemayengo Joseph
 > 4th Runner-Up
 Vegetable Farmer

Believe in yourself, do what you are passionate about, don't bother about what others expect from you. Seek advice, make your own goals, start small, learn from failures and above all, Fear God.



Nabasirye Sandra
 > Tomato Farmer
 Winner of the Popular vote on social media

Thank you UNYFA for this opportunity for us youth to showcase our work. I urge all the young people to engage in Agriculture for sustainable development.



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SECRETARIAT

UNYFA staff Online workshop; Preparing for change of leadership

The first of its kind for the UNYFA staff, on the 25th July, 2020 we had a zoom workshop. As we embrace the new normal, this was quite intriguing for us since we all had mixed feelings about having a full day workshop online. We kept wondering how this would go - could we sit the whole day and watch some speak to us on video, would the connection be stable, what of the energizers were some of the questions that ran through our minds.

The aspects that we were trained in were ways of conducting a successful fund-raising campaign. We went ahead to draft a budget and draw a plan to assess the practicability. This opened our minds to various possibilities as we delve into the fund raising campaign for the UNYFA home. Election of competent leaders.

As we draw closer to the AGM, its not the usual preparation and this time not because of COVID-19. Its the season for the young farmer to elect new leadership from the sub-county levels to the national level. Member management and was another area covered during the training as well and this enlightened us of effective ways of supporting members to identify and elect their leaders.

At the end of this workshop, it turned out to be more inter-

esting than we had anticipated and we were able to note that the pros out weighed the cons since we were able to have in attendance at the workshop staff who were in the field and also our partner engagement from Bonn in Germany.

Work@Home; My experience



» Sam

Ahhhh! Fun, multitasking, baby sitting, cooking, typing...Interesting though. I got a new experience of work. Working at home was officially acknowledged!



» Samalie

A good experience for me. I had much time to do all my work and I had to be indoors the whole time. It was destructing at some point because of all that goes on at home.



» **Harbert**

Working at home was terrible. It was difficult to draw the line between work hours and personal time. Weekends were just like week days.



» **Denis**

It was interesting but tricky. I had to make specific time tables for work.



» **Joseph**

Very hectic. I have a farm at home and so during the lock-down, they all left because they could not keep commuting and I had to do all the work on the farm by myself. The internet connection was also not very good which was a challenging as regards to accomplishing office tasks.



» **Hartwel**

It was not easy. Lock-down found me upcountry; the electricity supply was inconsistent, the internet connection was poor and to make matters worse, my computer broke down and I had no means of fixing it since movement was restricted. This made working at home extremely challenging for me.



» **Anasta**

I did not have much to do since most of my tasks required me to be in office.



Juliana

Working at home opened my mind to new possibilities.

My internship experience at UNYFA

UNYFA focuses on empowering the youth all over Uganda who have the passion for agriculture and have taken up agriculture as a business. As a way to give back to the public, this year we opened up an internship program for students offering different agricultural courses at various institutions of learning.



» **Kiguli Shaffic**
**Bsc. Agribusiness Innovation
 And Management**
Bugema University

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to secretariat and board members for the great opportunity of being part of UNYFA as an intern. I would like to extend my great sincere appreciation for the support from the secretariat throughout the entire program. With much passion, I wish to implore the mighty administrative team of the organization for the selfless endeavors you have injected to ensure that the organization maintains its holistic approach of transforming youth in agriculture and also for the maximum cooperation and courage among the organization members towards interns. Working with UNYFA has been fruitful and has greatly impacted me through hands on skills and boosted my working experience as an Agribusiness student from Bugema University. Through the membership survey that was aimed at updating the organization data base, I was able to participate in data collection and I interacted with a number of youth farmers from different districts dealing in different value chains and new agricultural innovations. Interacting with the farmers and also sharing information and hands on farming

experiences was a good insight for me. Personally, I achieved a lot of skills and experience through a wide range of activities such as zoom meetings, Youth4Food security online competition, farmer field visits, organization meetings, farm succession programs these enriched my confidence level in the agricultural expertise which inspired me to start up a poultry project. The regional farmer field visits also gave me a platform of touring the different parts of Uganda and also connecting with new youth farmers from different DYFA (District Young Farmer Associations). Lastly, I want to thank young farmers across Uganda for being part of the UNYFA family with the aim of Shaping the Future of Farming.

May God bless you all.



» **Asasira Betty**
Bsc. in Agricultural Science and
Land use Management
Makerere University

As most people call us students, we are farmers learning more about farming at the farmer's college of Makerere University where I subscribe as a soil scientist and land manager. My name is AKANSASIIRA BETTY, a second year student pursuing BSc. Land use and management at the Collage of agriculture and environmental sciences at Makerere University.

With a lot of excitement having received a call from UNYFA that I had been offered a placement as an intern. It is a great pleasure and opportunity as an agricultural scholar to do my internship with the young farmer's federation of Uganda (UNYFA). The year 2020, the internship program commenced and this is when I happened to take up and become one of the pioneers of the internship program since the start of the organization.

UNYFA has exposed me to various platforms each with learning and sharing opportunities for the short time I have spent in the organization. Impressed with the heartfelt reception of the secretariat team. I was anxious and could not wait to start my activities with the organization since I felt at home irrespective of being an agricultural scholar intern.

The internship window is small however, capitalizing on the various activities of the organization under the various projects and my self-initiative, openness and willingness to learn, knowledge, experiences and skills have been shared

and learnt and these have impacted my life on how I perceive farming but also at various levels of personal growth and development. Key lessons have been made and some of them included; professional working skills as well as a greater awareness of my field of study as a soil scientist and land manager. I have gained self-confidence having subjected myself to the rigors and responsibilities of the work place as opposed to the peace of the university library and lecture rooms.

Additionally, I have been exposed to various farming communities during the organization activities and this has greatly improved my network. It was mainly through the field visits to meet the different district young farmers associations, youth initiatives and other stakeholders in the eastern, western and central regions of Uganda which has exposed me to my client base as a soil science scholar. During the field visits, I have been able to share my expertise with farmers to also impact farmers by providing information and practices that can be adopted by them to improve the productivity on farms.

Being a national member based organization, UNYFA works exposed me to people from different districts and cultures about their experiences, knowledge and skills in the different agricultural value chains they participated in and this made me appreciate my country even more for I had not traversed the country before.

Team work is one of the organizations core values. Exhibited in all the activities of the organization to ensure that youth are transformed holistically though farming. I have experienced the power of working together and appreciated that more can be done and achieved with everyone's efforts since members leverage on each others strengths and contributions. Communication and inter-personal skills have also been enhanced so I am in position to communicate clearly both in writing, orally, often making quick points in the cut and thrust of meetings as well as working with different people at all levels. Problem-solving and decision making that has enabled me develop the working skills of doing several projects simultaneously as well as being able to work on my own initiatives being IT literate.

Working with UNYFA, has really impacted my personal and professional life and trust me if my career journey God willing lands me the organization again, I would love to serve the farming community as a member.

Lastly, I am so much privileged working with UNYFA It has been of great pleasure and importance to me for the time spent at the organization. Special thanks to the secretariat team, for the efforts to ensure my career objectives are attained as we shape the future of farming.



IYFEP webinar series

Farmers and the new normal: Challenges and opportunities



The COVID-19 pandemic has created for us a lot of room to think outside the box for almost all our activities. The International exchange program was one of the programs which was greatly affected due to restricted movements. In April 2020, the 2nd cohort had to travel to Germany and then the third in July 2020 but since the airports were closed, this was not possible. To keep the participants engaged, we kick started the International Young Farmers' Exchange Program webinar series and the first was on 30th July 2020, The panel was rich with expertise and experience; the German Farmers' Association President, Werner Schwarz, FAO, Youth Coordinator for Uganda, Mr. Edward Tanyima and UNYFA Central region Chairperson, Mr. Ssemwanga Richard.

Mr. Werner gave an insight on how the pandemic has affected agriculture in Europe in terms of restricted movement. He said that DBV had countered this through registration of farmers through an online platform especially for seasonal workers and this eased the restrictions on movement.

Still on how the effects of the pandemic, Mr. Tanyima highlighted ways how FAO in partnership with the government is working towards devising means of adjusting to the new normal through embracing online platforms for communication, training and marketing for the agriculture sector. He also emphasized that fact that the economy has been grossly affected and therefore, key stakeholders had been engaged to support youth in agriculture for example the Agriculture Credit Facility by Bank of Uganda.

From a young farmer and young farmers' leader perspective, Ssemwanga Richard gave an insight into the realities of the effects of the pandemic, both positive and negative. On the good side, the pandemic forced a number of people especially youth to move back to their villages and this increased food production. On the other hand, restricted movements led to reduced market access and access to inputs hence farmers had to resort to subsistence farming. The general feel from this webinar was that the farming community across the world is adjusting to and embracing the changes.

UNYFA featured at the GIZ Online Session on Youth and Land at the Global Landscape Forum

What are the main challenges young farmers face in terms of land access?

Young people are often excluded from access to land due to economic and cultural constraints, increased land fragmentation or discriminatory customary practices. Hence, the unemployment and emigration rates remain high among young people in many rural areas worldwide. However, secure access to land is the basic prerequisite for sustainable rural development and integrated management of landscapes. Therefore, measures to secure and strengthen access to land must take greater account of the needs, challenges and potentials of the young generation of future farmers. In order for youths to actively participate in rural economies, more investment in skills development through training and access to inputs, technology, finance, markets and land is necessary. Furthermore, there is need for enhanced partnership, coordination and synergies among different stakeholders to facilitate the mainstreaming of youths land rights components in agricultural value chains and land governance programs to foster its positive effect on youth empowerment and employ-ability.

Mawejje Harbert, a Seasonal Farmer of legumes in Mityana Central Uganda, Soil scientist, and an Agronomist by Profession and also Project Manager of Farm Succession Gen-X at Young Farmers Federation of Uganda was one of the youth voices featured at this online conference on 4th June 2020, . With a Bachelor's of Science in Agricultural Land Use and Management from Makerere University. Passionate about Youth-led Agricultural Sector Powered with creative innovations and Sustainable use of the land resource. In his pre-recorded video that was played during the conference, Harbert emphasized the issue of land tenure systems which many youth do not understand hence affecting their access to land.

The Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) is the world's largest knowledge-led platform on integrated land use, dedicated to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Agreement. The Forum takes a holistic approach to create sustainable landscapes that are productive, prosperous, equitable and resilient and considers five cohesive themes of food and livelihood initiatives, landscape restoration, rights, finance and measuring progress.



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DYFA MEMBERS

Farmers' stories #COVID-19 Response



» **Ariaka Vincent, Maracha**

"We are looking at all our work plans, visions and targets for 2020 seemingly impossible to get back on track" Only essential sectors are open, fortunately Agriculture is one of the most vital sectors that must remain open at whatsoever cost to

produce the biofuel that will be running humanity as we look for the cure to this global pandemic and a vaccine to prevent a repeat of such as pandemic.

How we are responding and what we are doing;
"Many people are in their gardens"



» **Kalyango Hillary, Buyende**

"Me am in the garden. We farmers don't get locked down. Young farmers tomorrow we are going to work, we are not closing our workplaces, our clients may die of hunger"



» **Agaba Kenneth, Kanungu**

"Current situation that is disturbing the world now, where transport is down, no more gatherings, farmers are not accessing extension service due to total lockdown, we are "



» **Matia Lukenge, Mityana**

"Instead of sitting home, I decided to go in the garden since we still have to feed even though the virus is on. I kept my family members at home and I normally move alone to the farm. I have so far planted 45 banana suckers in the last two

days. The biggest challenge is riding at a high speed in fear for the curfew time. Young Farmers, this is period for us to know our stake in the country in this trying moment"



» **Ddungu Peter, Sembabule**

"This is the most scary thing that ever happened in our lives, all humanity has all over a sudden come to a stand still. COVID-19 has created a Chinese wall between the Young farmers and the service providers"



» **Okiring Julius, Pallisa**

"As young farmers, we have recorded a history in our lives. Today in Uganda, it has been realized that without food, the population is at risk. This means there is a ready market for agricultural products whether with added value or not.

Almost everyone who had the chance to run to the village is now automatically a farmer. This has seen the numbers of farmers rise and hence I expect high yields of food crops due to the high number of farmers"



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What next.....

May 5th, 2020, our CEO joined a panel of experts to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on young leaders in agriculture during the National Youth Working Group organized by Restless Development. The webinar themed; COVID-19: Challenges and opportunities in agriculture sector for youth leaders. Yikiru Justine of Dynamic Uganda and NAADS Executive Director, Samuel Mugasi were also part of the panel.

Kabiito Denis, the UNYFA CEO gave a general overview of challenges youth in agriculture face before expounding more on the amplification of the challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. He highlighted the fact that the underlying risk now and after COVID-19 is that production chains are disrupted, and SMEs that youth are engaged in threatened. Without food there is no exit from the pandemic, including farmers in all the strategies for realigning the economy of the country is needed. He also mentioned that farmers and farmer organizations need to find resilience and innovation (find business models to adapt) such as increasing direct farmer to consumer channels, diversification, value addition and storage, local sourcing of components and raw materials, integration of transportation logistics in production cycles/ on farms, digitization and automation and expanding market share and rethinking on how to gain new markets.

Call to Action

The farmers need support from without.

1. The pandemic policy should integrate food system resilience into their response. It's not only a health risk but also a food security risk.
2. Need for financial support, insurance and assets in that line.
3. Establishment and facilitation of partnerships that help farmers (access to big buyers, government tenders etc.)
4. Policies that prioritize resilience, entrepreneurship and innovation.
5. Align agriculture training to business resilience, online markets and health risks.
6. Grants and loans to agri-food SMEs and some tax exemptions.

Netiquette is short for "Internet etiquette." Just like etiquette is a code of polite behavior in society, netiquette is a code of good behavior on the Internet.

OPPORTUNITIES



Internship at the Young Farmers' Federation of Uganda Coordination Office

Get an opportunity to get practical hands on experience working in a farmer organization. Through this internship, you will be exposed to working in farmer communities and also with international interns.

Young Farmers' Champion

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International Young Farmers' Exchange Program

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