

## THE SEED NEWSLETTER





YOUNG FARMERS' Shaping the future of farming.







## **Biogas; Renewable Energy Options**

Biogas is a type of biofuel that is naturally produced from the decomposition of organic waste. When organic matter, such as food scraps and animal waste break down in an anaerobic environment (an environment absent of oxygen) they release a blend of gases, primarily methane and carbon dioxide. These gases can be used for cooking and for lighting purposes and another product from the process is organic manure which is used as fertilizer for plants..

Biogas is a renewable energy source which has drawn interest from government and development partners who have taken interest in renewable energy by investing in renewable energies such as solar energy, wind power, briquettes and biogas. In April this year, the energy Ministry opened up Uganda's first biogas and renewable energy technologies demonstration site at Ndejje University in Luwero District.

Endowed with vast natural resources, human practices like deforestation should not wipe out the wealth we have as a nation because we have cheaper and better alternatives.

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FEDERATION OF UGANDA

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**CALL FOR ADVERTISEMENT** in the FORTH ISSUE OF THE SEED NEWS LETTER AND MAGAZINE

For Bookings contact us on: +256 782 730029 | +256 706 322431 To supply clean cooking energy to communities, manage waste and check on greenhouse emissions to increase agricultural productivity is my duty as a young farmer and biogas engineer.

> Eng. wandera joseph biogas engineer





Having all households using renewable energy by 2030 is the main focus of the United Nations Sustainable Energy for All Programme and achieving this goal will take collective effort.

Joseph Wandera Edwards, a graduate of Agriculture and Rural innovations from Makerere University and the Youngest Biogas Engineer in Uganda (By Merit) has been making a mark in the renewable energy sector, more specifically in the biogas industry in Uganda for more than ten years. He has always had a passion for biogas. His father Eng. Christopher Kato who is an Agriculture Engineer and also a biogas engineer inspired Joseph to join the industry right from his early years. Joseph who hails from Kawanda in Wakiso district has 17 siblings and he says that they have always had to fend for themselves because of their big family size. He saw his father construct biogas systems and naturally, he picked interest and started engaging in biogas systems construction just after primary school.

Joseph had his first training in biogas construction in 2006, sponsored by Renewable Energy Options Limited, in his primary seven vacation. After this course, Joseph discovered the vast opportunities and the potential of the in the biogas industry. Since that time, he has constructed over 200 household biogas systems and more than 30 institution sized digesters in schools, hostels, barracks and factory estates and he has also trained a number of youths in biogas technologies.



Joseph says that biogas has been in existence for centuries but in Uganda, the concept is not yet widely accepted because of the cultural bottlenecks and stereotypes.

He says the good news is that government has embraced biogas technologies and is encouraging people to take in up both in schools and at home because biogas cuts a lot of energy related expenses. Biogas is a cheap and safe source of cooking alternative. On top of providing electricity and fuel, biogas is eco-friendly because it uses organic plant and animal waste, it reduces soil and water pollution unlike fossil fuel. Biogas generation also produces purely organic fertilizer.

As a renewable energy source, biogas is a simple and low-cost technology and system that can be exploited to create bio-energy which can greatly contribute to reducing greenhouse gases as they have the possibility of reducing the need to use fossil fuels.

By providing a non-polluting energy source which is also renewable, the earth is being kept clean of harmful emissions. Women who most times have to move long distances looking for firewood for cooking, do not only save time but stand a lower chance of suffering from respiratory disease because of the zero smoke, biogas gas use will also reduce on the health hazards other biomass sources of energy have.

Joseph hopes that more people will adopt biogas as an alternative clean energy source because other energy

sources like firewood has greatly degraded the environment. Uganda currently has less than 200 trained biogas specialists; Wandera Joseph hopes that more youth get trained as biogas specialists. The government and development partners have an opportunity to make a contribution to the biogas industry in Uganda through offering capacity building by investing in training of more biogas specialists. This will enable Uganda to compete at a global level.



### The Young Farmers International Exchange Program

The young Farmers Federation of Uganda (UNYFA) is organizing an international exchange program with the Schorlermer Foundation of the Germany Farmers' Association. This internship is for all young farmers in Uganda who would want to have exposure and further understanding of global farms and food systems especially in Germany. UNYFA is to select 10 young farmers or agriculture scholars to participate in this farmer exchange program. 10 young German Farmers will also come and will be hosted on Ugandan farms to learn about tropical agriculture. The qualifying Ugandan participants will have an all-expenses paid three months stay in Germany by Schorlermer Shiftung with special support from BMZ.

#### Dates: October 2019 – January 2020

#### Responsibility of intern/exchange farmer

- Acquire knowledge in agriculture through hands on experience
- Get involved in the daily activities on the host farm
- Share experiences with host farm

#### How to apply for Young Farmers international exchange program 2019?

Kindly pick application forms from UNYFA head office Plot 27 Nakasero Road, Kampala or follow the link or QR code below . All application materials, including letters of recommendation, must be submitted through the application portal or submitted to UNYFA head office Plot 27 Nakasero Road, Kampala on or before 05<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

#### Selection criteria;

The Internship Program selection process is highly competitive. Applicants are encouraged to submit a thorough application that illustrates their qualifications, character, and commitment to agriculture.

Selection as a Trainees/Interns is based on the following criteria

- A commitment to agriculture
- Demonstrated leadership in the community
- Must be Willing to return to Uganda after the 3 months training period in Germany



#### Eligibility

Applicants must be a Ugandan citizen, must be between 12-39 years of age, and must meet at least one of the following criteria to apply:

- Must be a practicing farmer or a scholar of agriculture
- Must possess a Ugandan passport
- Application fee of 50 Euros (250,000/=).

Pay to Young Farmers' Federation of Uganda -Multipurpose Account 07187690015. Bank of Africa, Kampala Road Branch.

#### **Application Deadline:**

The last date to apply for Young Farmers' Exchange Program 2019 to Germany is 05<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

#### Application Links



https://forms.gle/kqGbZX44ELBJso1w9



YOUNG FARMERS' FEDERATION OF UGANDA

## THE 5<sup>TH</sup> YOUTH AGRIBUSINESS TOUR

Peer to peer Learning through Experience Sharing & Exposure



THEME: Be Bold for Agricultural Change, Champions keep playing until they get it right



## SECRETARIAT



### AHA BUSINESS TRAINING

Education and training as a vital thematic area for growth and development of not only staff but also members of the Young Farmer's Federation of Uganda. April was a month of back to back training which was kick-started by the business training at the farmers' conference hall by Dr.Ralf, a trainer from AHA international. The training emphasized the need for building viable revenue streams from UNYFA activities and by the close of the training, the participants had come up with a number of innovative ways to generate revenue for the organization. The deliverables from the training were incorporated into the annual UNYFA work plan and so far, progress has been noticed based on what was learned from the training.



### COACHING AND LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

20 members and staff of UNYFA recently participated in a three-day Coaching and Leadership Workshop. This 3-day workshop was facilitated by Consultea, a training consultancy firm. The workshop entailed understanding how to apply situational leadership in various circumstances using coaching skills.

To give a sneak peek into the details of the workshop; active listening, expertise, skillful questioning, deeper analysis, sticking to the coachee's agenda, timing and having the right coaching model are some of the skills set a good coach requires in their tool box.

## THE YOUTH AGRIBUSINESS TOUR

UNYFA organizes annual agribusiness Tours biannually and this trip is meant to expose and offer on-farm learning experience to young farmers and young people who want to just know more about agriculture. From the 24th -28th July 2019, over 20 young farmers traversed farms in central and Eastern regions of Uganda starting from Avail Farm and Bulamu farm in the central region on the first day of the tour. Having so much to learn and very little time to take it all in at the same time, the tour participants intimated that all young farmers need to get the opportunity to be part of the Youth Agribusiness Tour.

Kenneth, one of the participants from Kanungu District Young Farmers' Federation noted the tor was amazing and inspirational and he pointed out that opportunities are for the organized today. The general observation on the first day of the tour was that it doesn't matter how small you start, if you focus your efforts on what you believe in, your growth will be unlimited.

Day two of the visit was full of adventure as we traveled to Ham Animal Breeding Farm in Kayunga and just opposite Ham Animal Breeding Farm was our next destination in Buyende, an animal farm of a member of Buyende DYFA. Though it was just across, it took us two hours to get to the farm and thereafter, we made our way to Jinja, at the source of the Nile for a fun-filled camping experience.

Football is a game loved by many across the world; the Love for the beautiful game did not exclude the young farmers on the agribusiness tour. We had time to compete in an early morning football march at the source of the Nile, a game which brought out the competitor in each one of us. In the capable hands of the referee, Mr. Kabiito Denis, we had a fair game and the best team worn.

Then there was the best part of the trip, Sipi falls. Kapchorwa district which is prominent for Irish potatoes production is synonymous with Sipi falls because of the beauty and uniqueness it exudes. We hiked through the forests, the rains, and the mud to get to the falls which radiated so much beauty. Such moments surely brings out the child in us because nature has its ways; it's just how it works.

We wrapped up the tour by visiting Chebet farm, a farm owned by a young exporter of horticulture products after an enlightening two hours at Sebei Farmers' SACCO. The Seven Farmers' SACCO is a story of belief, resilience, and excellence; from experience he got during an agribusiness tour in Nakuru, Philip, the CEO of Sebei Farmers' SACCO realized that it was possible for farmers to get better financial services because farmers have been underserved by banks. In less than 4 years, the SACCO has grown from 32 to over 2000 members and they have been able to improve their services by incorporating technology. Philip says that is possible for every DYFA to do the same, all they need is to get the right knowledge and the right team. Sebei Farmers' SACCO plans to extend their services to benefit farmers beyond the Sebei region.

'It's was worthwhile and I wouldn't hesitate to recommend others' is what the president of UNYFA had to say about the youth agribusiness tour. The next tour is scheduled for the last week of November. Make your bookings now as we traverse Uganda and beyond to experience and learn the best farming practices.

## FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT TRAINING IN MBARARA

For any organization to accomplish its objectives, effective and efficient management of money is very key. Managing money or what is known as financial management is an intergral part of overall management and not limited to one staff in the organization because every department in an organization requires money to function effectively. Literacy in financial management is therefore also not limited to the accountant or the CEO





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As a young woman in Agriprenuership, it is not easy to share with courage personal challenges faced while in agricultural employment to fellow youth in particular. There is always fear that one might get discouraged from pursuing a career in the field of agriculture after listening or reading about the bad experiences young people in agriprenuership are facing. However, recent research carried out by Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa(FARA) shows that the more young people get to know all possible challenges in the agricultural business, the more they are better braced to overcome them with ease. This approach is the way to go in order to get resilient youth in agriprenuership.

I am a member of UNYFA since the year 2017. I am a beneficiary of all the programs conducted by the association which includes but to mention a few;

### **Dianah Nannono;** A Zero Hunger Champion

entrepreneurial training aimed at equipping professional youth with refresher skills for better productivity in agriculture. In September 2018, UNYFA advertised the essay competition opportunity by FARA in which I participated by writing about my 5 years experience in Agriprenuership. In my article entitled "Building a true agriprenuer" I emphasized the challenges I met and how I overcame them after the exposure training I received in a short course in Israel with a recommendation by UNYFA initiative.

My article qualified among the top 35 essays out of the best 150 essays from participants all over Africa. It is the reason I was invited by FARA to engage other youth in agriprenuership by capitalizing my experience through sharing it with fellow youth and youth led non-government organization leaders. This amazingly happened in a workshop: "Strategic Engagement and Capacity Development of Youth in Agri-preneurship For Technology Adoption" which occured from 2nd to 4th of May 2019 at FARA Secretariat Accra, Ghana. I got the opportunity to connect with fellow winning youth from other 23 African countries. Listening and talking about our experiences resulted in complying and documenting our articles to be used by agricultural researchers in providing information which can be used to transform agricultural innovation in Africa for more youth engagement.

I also got the rare opportunity to tour Accra's biggest Makola market for Agricultural produce, visited the Greenwich meridian site in Tema and commercial harbor along the Atlantic ocean. Thank you UNYFA for always helping youth get platforms to help each other through knowledge sharing while enjoying life as agriculturists.

#### **OPPORTUNITIES**



#### Young Farmers' Exchange Program

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Application Deadline: 06th September 2019



## UNYFA CEO AT THE WORLD FARMERS' ORGANIZATION GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Luxembourg is a small and wealthy country located South of Germany. With an economy which is mostly service oriented, only about 2-3% of the economy is agro-based but agriculture in Luxembourg has productivity bigger than Uganda's. This nation hosted the World Farmers' Organization General Assembly with over 400 participants from around the world and 70 international speakers for the 2019 edition of General Assembly, one of whom was the CEO of UNYFA.

WFO's mission is to represent and advocate on behalf of farmers in global policy fora and create the conditions for the adoption of policies aimed to improve the economic environment and livelihood of producers, their families, and rural communities.

Here are some of the key events that took place during the general assembly;

## GLOBAL LAUNCH OF THE UN DECADE OF FAMILY FARMING (2019-2028)

From May 27th to 29th, a delegation of the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO) joined the Global Launch Event of UN Decade of Family Farming (UNDFF) to reiterate WFO's openness and commitment to work with all the fellow farmers' organizations and other relevant stakeholders to develop and implement policies to support family farmers, putting forward collective and coherent actions that can be taken during the next ten years.

The UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 aims to shed new light on what it means to be a family farmer in a rapidly changing world and highlights more than ever before the important role family farms play in eradicating hunger and shaping our future of food. Family farms contribute largely to large companies in the US, being transformed from family farms to Farming Companies. Families own farms for generations and these farms are renewed from generation to generation.

During the state of Nation address 2019, the President of Uganda emphasized the need for adoption of a shareholding system of inheritance where land is not fragmented among heirs but heirs are given shares off the land. In this way land can be developed and built into a more sustainable business. http://www.wfo-oma.org/sito/wfo\_news/global-launch-of-the-undecade-of-family-farming-2019-2028

#### IN BRIEF AT THE WORLD FARMERS' GENERAL ASSEMBLY;

Climakers; In May 2018, the General Assembly of the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO), adopted a new agenda to enhance the position of the farmers in the global political discussion on climate change. This initiative was born under the name of Farmers Driven Climate Change Agenda and through it, WFO intends to promote a completely reverted paradigm applying an authentic bottom-up approach, where farmers gain a leading role in the global political processes on climate change and agriculture.

This renewed agenda is based on the best practices that farmers are already implementing as practical solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation and is intended to be farmer-driven, science-based and result oriented. Within the context of the WFO General Assembly, the Climakers' members gathered for the second time on May 20th 2019, to discuss the progress made by the alliance and agree on the next steps.

Theo De Jager - a second term as WFO President: On May 21st in Luxembourg the WFO General Assembly unanimously reappointed Dr. Theo de Jager as President for the biennium 2019-2021.

Farmers' Route; Farmers' leaders from WFO Member Organisations across the globe have given their seal of approval for the "Farmers' Route Declaration", a statement that promotes a real "farmers driven approach" to tackle global challenges, highlighting the path that the farmers of the world are already building and following to achieve a more sustainable future for all humankind

http://www.wfo-oma.org/sito/wfo\_news/navigating-towards-a-m ore-sustainable-future-for-all-the-farmers-route-has-been-set/2019

#### SEBEI FARMERS SACCO; TRANFORMING THE LIVES OF SMALL HOLDER FARMERS

Sebei farmers Savings and Credit Cooperative was founded in 2015 by 31 members spearheaded by Kwemboi Phelix Siya who as a Young Farmer, saw a great need to bring farmers together into a cooperative and serve their financial, marketing, and training needs among others. The SACCO seeks to empower rural communities for sustainable development through provision of financial services mainly to farmers, market linkages and other agricultural development services.

The SACCO has since grown from 31 to 2,696 members in a space of 4 years and is operational in 3 districts of Kapchorwa, Kween and Bulambuli with some members in Namalu sub county of Nakapiripirit District. The youth led SACCO whose leadership is spear headed BY Mr. Kwemboi Felix who is 32 years old is run by a 100% youth management and 70% youth board. This is evidence that the youth have the potential to create positive change in their communities.

The SACCO has acquired a robust cloud based digital MIS and migrated from paper work involving Pass books and Ledger cards. The SACCO MIS has allowed the SACCO to be able to store all members' records digitally under separate accounts for each member, perform accounting roles, and general reports and analytics in Loans, finance, Membership and transactions. Recently, The SACCO integrated Mobile Banking with MTN allowing members to deposit to and Withdraw from their accounts using their phones. This service is enabling its members to be able to conveniently interact with their SACCO without traveling to the Branch office. Very soon, a digital lending platform will be integrated to allow members request for small loans, approve them and disburse to them without the need for paper work.

In a bid to serve members better and to create more streams of income, The SACCO has diversified its products from the initial Loans and Savings only to now include the following; Savings products, Credit products, Bank Agency, Crop Insurance, Mobile Banking, Market Linkages for produce and Motorcycle sales.

Sebei Farmers SACCO has cemented its position as the leading cooperative championing for the socio-economic prosperity of the people of Sebei; Young Farmer Organizations can pick a leaf and learn from the work that Sebei Farmers SACCO is doing and replicate it in their areas of operation.



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## Young Farmers' Associations & Members



Subscribing District Young Farmers' Associations		Engaged but not yet subscribing members	
		DICTRICTO	
CENTRAL REGION 1. Masaka	EASTERN REGION	DISTRICTS 1. Luweero	
2. Sembabule	1. Iganga 2. Jinja	2. Mbarara	
3. Nakasongola	3. Busia	3. Bushenyi	
4. Rakai	4. Budaka	4. Mukono	
5. Mityana	5. Bududa	5. Wakiso	
6. Mubende	6. Bushika Youth	6. Tororo	
7. Kayunga	Integrated	7. Mbale	
8. Kakuuto CDP	Initiative.	8. Kasese	
9. Kibinge Youth	miniarive.	9. Hoima	
Council.	FAR EASTERN	10. Wakiso	
Couricii.	REGION	11.Kiboga	
WESTERN REGION	1. Soroti	12.Yumbe	
1. Masindi	2. Paliisa	13.Sironko	
2. Kabarole	3. Sebei Farmers'	14. Amuru	
3. Isingiro	Cooperative		
4. Bunyangabo	4. Kumi	SCHOOLS/	
5. Kiryandongo	H. Kum	INSTITUTIONS	
6. Kanungu	WEST NILE REGION	1. Gayaza High School Namilyango	
o. Rananga	1. Arua	College	
NORTHERN REGION	2. Zombo	2. Kiira College Butiki	
1. Gulu	3. Nebbi	3. Bukalasa Agricultural College.	
2. Nwoya	4. Maracha	4. Ndegeya Core PTC	
3. Kitgum	Maracha	5. Sesse Farm Institute	
4. Apac		5. Sesse runninskiede	
5. Lira		YOUTH INITIATIVES	
6. Oyam		1. Fruits of Faith Farm	
er oyum		2. Cambrall Rabbit Farm	
		3. Ebenezer Demonstration Farm	
		4. Eco Uganda Apiary Farm.	

- 5. Young Farmers of Kibinge Coffee Cooperative.
- 6. Rukiiga SAACO.

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## NOTE


TAKE NOTES



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