

A content-driven approach

YPARD areas of focus for 2014-2018

The YPARD External Review 2013 has suggested that YPARD must pursue more a content-driven agenda. It is expected that by narrowing YPARD's focus in a few key areas, it will be better able to focus on those issues. It will also provide donors and partners a better understanding of how YPARD can fit into existing programmes. This will better enable YPARD to integrate youth into the system. However, we continue to recognize that youth as a standalone issue requires more research and support and is still the main priority for YPARD.

These areas for a content driven approach are:

Foresight: Youth must play a key role in foresight activities, as they must take the lead in shaping their future. YPARD plans to contribute the youth perspective to the current GFAR work in this area and expand to other partners.

Agricultural curriculum reform: YPARD has been active in identifying the skills and competencies required among young professionals within the agricultural development field. Such information and input from young professionals is critical for a comprehensive perspective and real reform so that future young professionals meet the demands of the sector. YPARD will continue to support youth input and guidance in the development of new programs.

Agribusiness and entrepreneurship: YPs within the YPARD network have expressed an interest in gaining further skills in entrepreneurship and gaining greater exposure to agribusiness networks. Skills development in social entrepreneurship in collaboration with partners will become an area of focus for YPARD, to enable job creation among young people. Both large and small agribusiness will also be sought, providing skills and networking over a range of industries.

Youth focused capacity development: Ensuring that capacity development activities, both institutional and otherwise is well informed by and targets the needs of young professionals. This includes working with young professionals in locally relevant contexts to find those skills and competencies that are required to be successful in the agricultural sector and bringing these to the attention of the capacity development community. YPARD is a



member of the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) and as such, is tasked with bringing in the youth perspective for capacity development initiatives, worldwide.

Climate Change: This area touches on all disciplines in the agricultural sector. As landscapes, and practices change, young people will need to be adaptable and innovative to a changing sector. Agricultural systems must also be resilient and young people must be supported in taking the lead in creating more robust, resilient food systems. Activities in partnership with CCAFS the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security, will touch on this area.

Food security: While this is a very broad area, young people are keen in making a difference in food security and will be key players in ensuring a food secure future. YPARD's partnership with FSN, the Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition, will touch on this.

Gender: The YPARD network is 70% men, which we believe reflects the realities of a male-dominated sector. YPARD endeavours to provide equal opportunities to young men and women and specifically target young women to become more engaged in the sector. YPARD's role in the GAP, Gender in Agriculture Partnership, initiative also supports this.

Information and Knowledge management including ICTs; YPARD is keen on sharing information with young professionals and promoting the sharing of information among YPs. Furthermore links with organizations involved in ICTs is also an area where YPARD members have expressed interest. Experiences with CIARD has allowed YPARD to take part in this process.

Additional areas of focus may be selected based on opportunities that emerge, or changing contexts which require youth input. These should be agreed within YPARD. Two such topics for 2014 include:

International year of family farming, due to the UN official year on this and the opportunities within the discussions that are taking place. YPARD will continue to add to this important discussion beyond 2014, keeping the focus on youth in place.

Forestry: to expand the membership base and make tangible links with important connections in the natural resources sector. The opportunity to coordinate social media at the Forests Asia Summit 2014.

Special days: blogs or activities may be selected to highlight special days/events such as world water week, etc.