



**FRESH & YOUNG
BRAINS DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE**

REPORT OF THE 1st NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS MEETING ON Y-FARM CAMPAIGN. April 2 2014, FBIN OFFICE, ABUJA



BACKGROUND

The agricultural system in Nigeria needs to be sustained to provide for current needs without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their needs. Sustainable agriculture is the management and conservation of natural resource base, and a reorientation technical and institutional change to ensure the attainment and continued satisfaction of human needs for present and future generation. There are many sub-sectors in agriculture that can be sustained. The way to sustain these sectors is through the involvement of young people to adopt agriculture as a livelihood and sustaining it in a long term.

It is no longer news that the youth are the future of the agricultural sector especially in Nigeria with a growing population and decrease in agricultural productivity, compounded with the high rural urban migration in search of white collar jobs by the active youth population who out of pressure and high demand for sustainable livelihood have abandoned farming in search for quicker means of making a living. With the difficulty in accessing land for farming or funding for interested young farmers, sustainable food production and supply are threatened. Young farmers play an important role in ensuring food security for the present and future generations but they face many challenges. Coupled with this, there has been insufficient emphasis and action on youth unemployment and under-employment. This has led to unrest and increased crime rate in the country. To this end, the need to engage the government and relevant authorities in ways and strategies for mainstreaming the Youth in Agriculture in Nigeria becomes a necessity thus the birth of the Youth Farm campaign, also called the Y-Farm campaign.

The Y-Farm campaign addresses the need and benefits for youth involvement in sustainable farming. The campaign is focused on amplifying youth voice (especially young farmers' voice) to promote Sustainable Agriculture among the younger generation.

AIM

To provide a platform to mainstream youth into Agric development and promote public investments in Agriculture

METHODOLOGY

The methodology adopted included: Use of Print and Electronic Media, multimedia presentations, working group sessions, Twitter conferencing, live-streaming, Presentations and Interactive sessions.

TARGET AUDIENCE/PARTICIPANTS

The event drew over 36 participants from Youth organizations, Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Civil Society Organizations, Development Partners and the Media.

ACCREDITATION OF PARTICIPANTS:



Registration commenced at 11:30am. On arrival, guests were registered at the point of entry.

NATIONAL ANTHEM & PRAYER:



The meeting commenced at exactly 12:30pm with the reciting of the National Anthem and the National Prayer by participants. This session was coordinated by Mr. Lincoln Maife

GENERAL INTRODUCTIONS



Mr. Maife Lincoln Owolabi, the program officer, Green Economy & Sustainable Development department of FBIN, opened the floor for discussions as he conducted the general introductions of all in attendance.

OPENING REMARKS;



Barr. Nkiruka Nnaemego CEO/Founder of Fresh & Young Brains Development Initiative (FBIN) officially welcomed the participants and special guests to the event. She intimated participants on the aim of the meeting. She introduced FBIN and her various Agric projects. She informed participants about the GROWversation Den and our weekly GROW tweet series which kicked off in September 2013 aimed at reaching out to young people and farmers to get them interested in agriculture as a source of livelihood and gainful employment.

GOODWILL MESSAGES:

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE: Engr. A.G. Abubakar - representative of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development said he was excited to be at the meeting. He shared felicitation from the Hon. Minister. He said the ministry is actively involved in short term training of youths in agriculture(livestock, fisheries etc), use, fabrication and repair of agric equipments after which they are given starter packs to kick start their small businesses. This is done by the department of agric extension as he emphasizes that agriculture is one of the major ways out of poverty and a way of reducing unemployment in Nigeria. He used the medium to encourage the youths to take advantage of such opportunities. He thanked the team for inviting the ministry to the program and hoped that the relationship will continue.



OXFAM; represented by Miss Rachael Idiaghe said issues concerning agriculture cannot be overstressed and she has double interest in the campaign as a Nigerian youth, saying everything we see around comes from agriculture. She expressed excitement about the Y Farm campaign and hoped to see results at the end of program.



ONE.org/YPAED: Miss Mercy Evhiawarien representing her organization said they are committed to ending hunger in Nigeria and raising the profile of Nigeria in agriculture while emphasizing the unique role Agriculture plays in economic development. She said she was excited to be in these gathering since it's a youth led project on sustainable agriculture.



HBF: Mr. Jonathan Alege said HBF is interested in seeing the final draft of the Campaign document and hoped that the Y farm campaign can proffer solutions to certain national issue affecting Nigeria youths involvement in agriculture.



PRESENTATION OF THE Y FARM CAMPAIGN

This was presented by Mr. Richard Okobiah, Mr Augustine Ngadi and Mr. Lincoln Maife – FBIN Team Members. Mr Richard gave an overview of the Y-Farm campaign saying that it is a project aimed at mainstreaming youth into agriculture and orientating them into seeing agriculture as a sustainable means of livelihood thus combating poverty and unemployment that has eaten deep into the nation's economy.



Mr Lincoln Maife, FBIN Programme Manager talked about the Campaign strategies such as social media, print and electronic media, fund raising strategies, Agropreneurship strategies, familiarization and advocacy visits, festival, etc that will be used in achieving the objectives of Y Farm campaign



GENERAL DISCUSSIONS

Oluchi Okpechi: a representative of Community Life Project applauded the YFarm project but queried its practicality. She also suggested engaging the NYSC members in agribusiness

Mr Yusuf Ishaku Goje: indicated that agriculture is a culture but not a business and emphasized that youth attitude towards agriculture plays a major role in agribusiness and development. He advised that youth should not be confined to graduates but also to non-graduates. He gave an insight on the intense development of urban migration and advised on agric rural development.

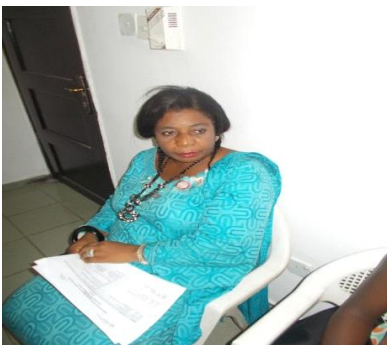
Mr Vincent Daniel: a representative of Center for LSD asked if the project involves providing land for the youth who want to go into agric. He suggested that the campaign should encourage youth to other aspects of agriculture like agribusiness and not just agriculture.

Mr Jonathan Alege: from HBF said he honestly don't think the toolkit is a good idea saying what we need to do first is attack youth mentality and use the model farm as a key campaign tool.

Engr. A.G. Abubakar: responded to a question asked by one of the participants concerning the land use Act in Nigeria and how it affects the involvement of youths in agriculture. He said land is a critical issue and that Governors of the various states had been directed to make provisions for arable land to youths who show interest in agriculture.



Women Farmers Association: Mrs Lizzy Igbine expressed appreciation to the FBIN team members for coming up with an idea like this. She also spoke about the land issue saying that some lands should specifically be dedicated for agriculture so that more youths can get themselves involved. She also emphasized some critical issues concerning of funding for farmers.



Mr Mustapha Hassan; a representative of the Nigerian Agricultural Insurance Corporation said many of the farmers are ignorant of what the insurance scheme is all about saying there are many benefits a farmer stands to gain from insuring their farm.



Mr Omoruyi Aigbe, a member of the FBIN Advisory Board said we need to change the way we think because agric has gone beyond just a cultural thing, and we need to stop hiding under the guise that we have no money to farm. He emphasized that the major capital we need to start a business is our integrity. He talked about the need for critical monitoring to ensure that this project achieve what it purports to achieve.



The major issues raised were access to land, talks about the Maputo declaration, and funding for young farmers

WORKING GROUP SESSION

Technical Team: The team worked on technical aspect of YFarm Campaign. They were encouraged to merge with Fund Raising Team for consolidation of YFarm activities and budget. The Technical team evolved an online support for Y-farm project, accessibility of land and good storage system also there is consideration for non educated by exhibiting pictogram tables, these are all enablement on Y-farm project goal.



The next meeting is scheduled to hold on 10th April, 2014

Media Team: focused on promotionals, article writing which can also involve electronic media, e-messaging which can promote the image of Yfarm campaign. The team intends to work with celebrities to propel positive ripple effects. Other activities include documentaries, mobile application which could involve designation of unique tools.



The next meeting is scheduled to hold on 9th April, 2014

Agropreneurship Team: mainly focused on the strategies of venue and the pre-event planning. Participants will be allowed to present their skills, agricultural techniques and products. This would help in publicity and possible link with the investors. The team hinted heavily on celebrating youth who are into farming business and possibly showering them with prizes for participation. Also they hinted on involving local celebrities who have access to the youth populace. The next meeting was scheduled to hold on 17th April, 2014



Fundraising Strategy Team: focused on funding plans and came up with six potential sources where funds can be raised. They suggested organizing a fundraising gala night for all strata of people. They also talked about handing out fundraising forms to friends and relations to raise funds for the Y-farm project.

Next meeting date is 28th April, 2014



PLENARY

Participants converged after the group discussions. Group leaders presented the modifications made by their various groups to the general group for finalization and adoption. There were further deliberations and amendments as the general house made meaningful inputs and comments.



VOTE OF THANKS

This session was coordinated by Mr Richard Okobiah, FBIN Agric Program Officer. He used the opportunity to thank everyone in attendance for their time and input towards the Y-Farm project.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Next meeting holds on Monday April 28th, 2014 from 12pm – 3pm at FBIN Office

NATIONAL ANTHEM/ PRAYER

The event came to a close at 4:35 pm. The session was coordinated by Mr Alfred Onubedo - FBIN team member.

Report Compiled by:

Kevwe Dafe – FBIN

Okoroafor Ikechukwu – FBIN

OUTCOME



The meeting held successfully, deliberations were made, presentations, group discussions, contributions from different participants, Pictures were taken. The event was aired on National Print and Electronic Media (BenTV, Galaxy TV, Nigerian Pilot Newspaper and NAN).

PUBLICATIONS

The Y-Farm campaign was covered by various media houses and published in Page 10 of the Nigerian Pilot on the 4th of April 2014 and titled 'NGO promotes Agriculture among Youths'

ANNEX 1

ATTENDANCE

FIRST NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER MEETING on Y-FARM CAMPAIGN,

2th April, 2014 Abuja

Participants List

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