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# 2016 Annual Report

YPARD's Year in Review

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**YPARD Global coordination unit**  
Young Professionals for Agricultural Development

Hosted by GFAR Secretariat  
c/o Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
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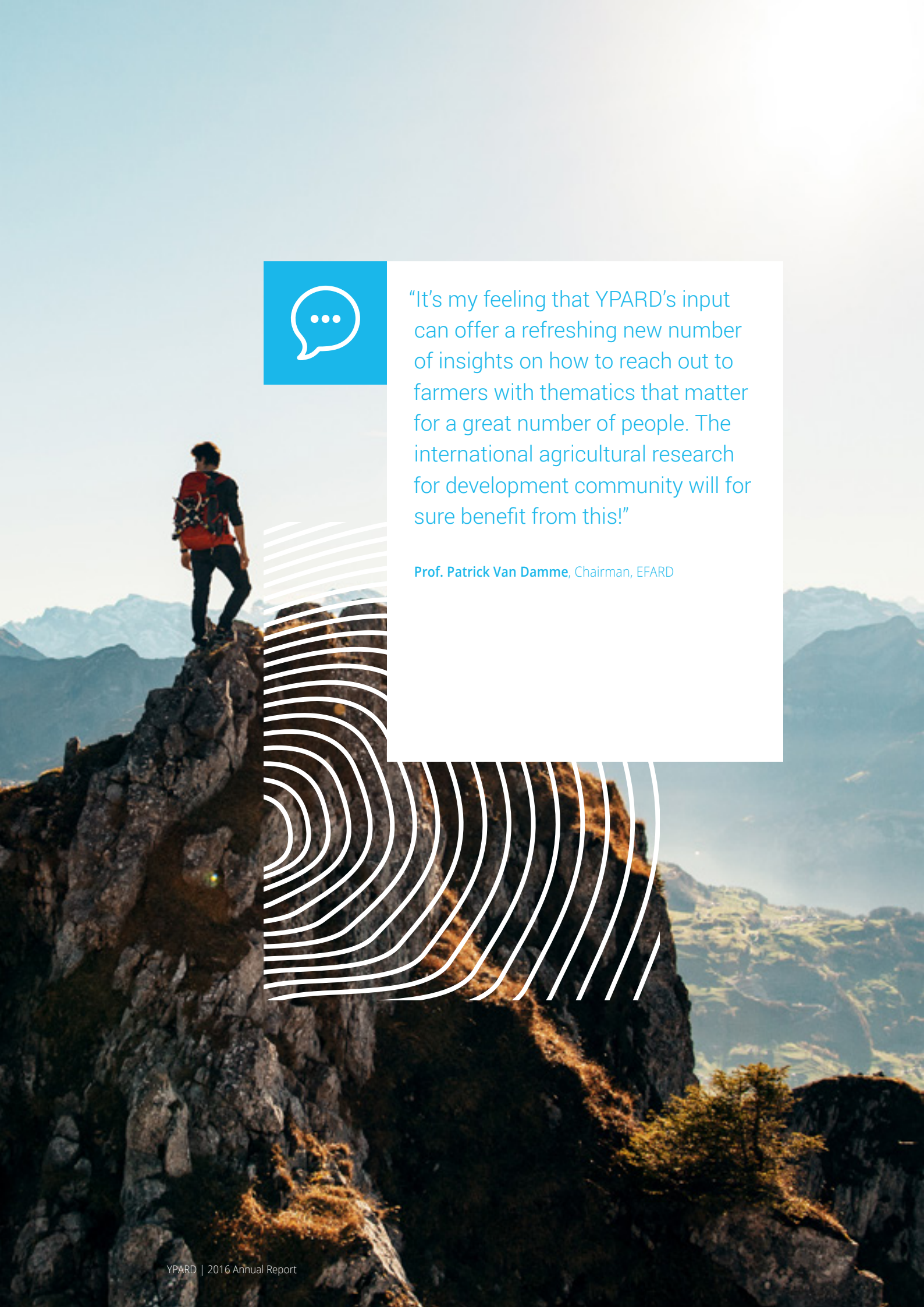


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"It's my feeling that YPARD's input can offer a refreshing new number of insights on how to reach out to farmers with thematics that matter for a great number of people. The international agricultural research for development community will for sure benefit from this!"

Prof. Patrick Van Damme, Chairman, EFARD



Vibrant YPARD 10 year's celebrations around the world (online and onsite)



A new YPARD Mediterranean chapter



New country brand pages on the YPARD website



Youth capacity development opportunities organized by the national teams around the world



Successful mentoring program pilot phase, incl. 4 models and local programs



Research on "Youth in Drylands' Systems" and its promotional campaign



Young professionals contributions to discussions on curricula reforms in agriculture with multiple stakeholders



Meaningful youth engagement at seven global events, including GCARD3, FAO, IFAD and Global Landscapes Forum 2016



YPARD's advisory role to global, regional and national organizations for stronger support to the youth



Promotion of agriculture among youth through campaigns, events and various innovative media





2016 was a year that saw a truly engaged and dynamic network working together as a movement for change.

**We worked together towards a number of successes in this seminal year among them;**

**YPARD celebrated its 10 years anniversary.**

The network came together to launch some vibrant YPARD 10 years [celebrations all around the world](#) and shared pictures of innovative YPARD 10 years birthday [cakes](#). Exciting communications materials demonstrated how far YPARD has come through the [infographic and official 10 year video](#) as well as the [14 #YPARD10years testimonial videos](#). Through celebrating YPARD, we promote agriculture as a career path and we work on engaging young people in agriculture as a community.

**A stronger YPARD team on national and regional levels.**

We welcomed new team members: ten new country representatives, a [regional coordination unit for Europe](#), and four interns in the [Global](#), [African](#) and [European](#) unit to boost the information services and communications in English, French and Spanish.

A [series of five international hangouts](#) enabled national teams to learn and exchange with other teams on topics such as communications, team building, negotiations, fundraising and the next phase of the mentoring program. National teams – including Peru, Togo, Uzbekistan, and India – increasingly organized **YPARD Cafés and similar gatherings** to discuss and deliberate on youth's challenges and how to take action.

[New country pages](#) on the YPARD website launched to serve as dedicated national chapter pages for unique national connections and information sharing. A new [YPARD Mediterranean chapter](#) was created by Mediterranean youth and is connected to stakeholders in the region for stronger youth input in regional development.

**Capacity development opportunities organized by national teams** around the world that empower members on [agripreneurship](#) in the Democratic Republic of Congo; [social media](#) (ICT4AG) in Trinidad and Tobago; [grant application writing](#) in Nepal and [communications and finance](#) in Togo. Increasingly, our members apply the knowledge they have gained through YPARD opportunities to train their peers. Examples include [Nepal](#), Trinidad and Tobago and [the Philippines](#). This is true impact of the network!

**Four successful pilot mentoring programs completed**, including the [face to face program](#) in Kenya; an online women in business program; the [Youth In Landscapes conference mentoring](#) and the [YAP: Young Agripreneur Program](#) including seed funding. This inspired national chapters to innovate and develop locally relevant programs, most notably in Croatia and in Nepal: [Edumala](#).

**Research on "Youth in Dryland Systems" new study shed light on the challenges and aspirations of youth in dryland areas.** The study will be available in early 2017 and meanwhile, a campaign was launched on World Youth Skills Day and included a [\[VIDEO\] - What are the realities, aspirations and challenges of rural youth in dryland areas?](#); An opinion piece by Malak Tleis, YPARD Lebanon representative [Would you be a farmer in drylands if you had the choice?](#); a story by Abdelali Ouhri, a young Moroccan [A day in the life of a young apple farmer in Morocco](#) and a message by Richard Thomas, Director of the CGIAR Research Program on Dryland Systems [Skills for Youth in Drylands](#).

**Meaningful Youth engagement at seven global events**

There was strong youth involvement at GFAR's third Global Conference for Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD3). Young people played a pivotal role throughout the [GCARD3 process](#) including the eight national /regional consultations and the event itself. YPARD worked with the [GCARD3 Global event planning team](#) to give youth leading roles as plenary speakers and catalysts as well as engaging

other youth offsite through social reporting. In addition, the Young Agripreneurs Project (YAP) was launched at the event kicking off the mentoring program with an empowering workshop tailored to the [six YAPPers](#).

–  
*Read: [Mainstreaming youth at the GCARD3 Global Event](#)*

YPARD contributed to five **FAO and IFAD events**, and was key in disseminating messages beyond the conference room. The IFAD event was represented by the Special Youth [Agtalks](#) while the FAO events included the [agri-biotech symposium](#), the [food systems event](#), FAO discussions on ["Youth Feeding the Future: Addressing the challenges faced by rural youth aged 15 to 17"](#) and the [CFS43 43rd Committee on World Food Security](#). The youth in landscapes initiative, co-founded by YPARD to boost multi-sectoral collaboration among the youth, together with other stakeholders, organized its fourth annual program at the 2016 Global Landscapes Forum (GLF). The 2016 GLF was held in Marrakesh, Morocco, at the sideline of the COP22 and set the basis for meaningful engagement of youth at the GLF.

–  
*Read: [Interconnection: a youth response to rural-urban and international migration](#)*

**YPARD's advisory role to organizations for stronger support to the youth.** YPARD members took part in discussions with [CIMMYT](#), World Farmers Organization (WFO), The [ENABLE](#) program of African Development Bank Group (AfDB) and Youth Action for Agriculture Development (YAAD) in Malawi just to cite a few. Generally, YPARD members provided inputs on their respective youth involvement activities and empowerment strategy.

**Contribution to discussions on curricula reforms in agricultural education.** Three key discussions took place this year among young professionals with relevant stakeholders. At Tropentag, young professionals explored how educational programs can help to support a youth-led

vision of agricultural development: [Enough of: "youth – this is what we want from you"](#). With GCHERA, a global university consortia and other partners of GFAR on the relevance of agricultural education: [Student Leadership and Transformative Changes to Meet the Challenges of the 21st Century](#). During the launching of the SIMPLE (Support of International Platform Merging Labour and Education) project with inputs from YPARD Europe: [YPARD Europe says present at the SIMPLE project kickoff meeting in Prague](#)

**Promotion of agriculture among the youth** remains a key focus at YPARD, through [campaigns](#), captivating videos/[vlog series](#), [storytelling contests](#), the [showcase](#) of young professionals in agriculture and our [participation in TV programs](#), [radios](#), and features on [magazines](#). Additionally, this includes participation in festivals, fairs and the organization of school visits and special events. The latter includes the [International Youth Day 2016](#) on eradicating Poverty and Achieving Sustainable Consumption and Production, the [World Youth Skills Day E- forum](#), the [International Women's Day 2016](#), the [International Year of Pulses](#) and many other activities to promote the use of ICTs and social media.





"I got involved with YPARD roughly 4 months ago. One of the most amazing qualities and sides of YPARD is how easily it connects people with both diverse culture and academic background without any physical contact.

It was a big surprise for me how I could feel really close and attached to fellow YPARDians without ever seeing them in person. I think every YPARDian can back me up on this. Within this short time YPARD has become a family to me.

The enthusiasm, inspiration and opportunities you get from YPARD is real!"

**Anudari Enkhtur**, YPARD Mongolia



YPARD celebrated 10 years with a portrayal of key milestones and achievements through a year-long series of festivities both online and on the ground. These were featured in our [special YPARD 10 years page](#) in English, French and Spanish, our monthly wrap-ups and two 'best of' summaries: [part 1](#) and [part 2](#).

Our [infographic and official 10 years video](#) led our members and partners through YPARD's progress in enhancing youth participation in the sector while [YPARD's special testimonial blog series](#) and [testimonial videos](#) and even a [song\(!\)](#) gave a sense of how YPARD members and supporters benefit from being part of the network.

YPARD 10 years onsite celebrations were organized at global, regional and national level. The global event was held during the [GCARD3 Global event](#), the African celebration at the [7<sup>th</sup> African agriculture science week \(AASW7\)](#), the European event at the [3<sup>rd</sup> International Tropical Biodiversity Conservation Conference \(TBCC\)](#) in Prague, Czech Republic and the Asian event at the [International Agronomy Congress](#) in India.

National level celebrations were held in [Cameroon](#), [Nepal](#) and [Nigeria](#) around conferences or capacity development activities. Other chapters baked cakes and shared their pictures and [celebrations all around the world](#).

Through celebrating YPARD, we promote agriculture as a career path and work on engaging young people in agriculture as a community.

## HOW BEING PART OF YPARD MAKES A CHANGE IN MY LIFE!

**Madan Poudel** (Nepal) narrates how he benefits from being part of the YPARD Community while contributing to supporting the network of young professionals in agriculture in Nepal and beyond.

After his internship with YPARD and a training on technical online communications, Madan went back to Nepal and

developed a series of initiatives to promote agriculture among the youth and build the capacity of his peers.

–  
*Read: [YPARD and the art of paying it forward](#).*

**Gipsy Bocanegra** (Colombia), shares how her role as the former coordinator for YPARD Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) led her to further focus her studies on youth in agriculture empowerment.

–  
*Read: [YPARD: The Youth Platform That Changed My Professional Career](#).*

**Krystin Nanlal Khetia** (Trinidad & Tobago) tells us how her outlook and image about agriculture and youth's role has positively changed since she joined the YPARD online social media team in 2012.

–  
*Read: [YPARD Helped Transform my Image of what Agriculture is all about!](#)*

**Machteld Schoonenberg** (Netherlands) talks about her career progression within YPARD, from getting interested with YPARD, to internships, national representation and beyond.

–  
*Read: [YPARD and Me: A Fairy Tale and a Timeline](#).*

# Creating linkages between young people and policymakers



## CONTRIBUTING TO EVIDENCE BASED RESEARCH AND EFFECTIVE YOUTH STRATEGIES

### Research on “Youth in Drylands’ Systems”

This study sheds light on the challenges and aspirations of youth in dryland areas to inform the design of tailored, youth-supportive programs. The study will be available in early 2017 and meanwhile, in line with it, a campaign was launched on World Youth Skills Day and included a [\[VIDEO\] - What are the realities, aspirations and challenges of rural youth in dryland areas?](#) (Also available in French); an opinion piece by Malak Tleis, YPARD Lebanon representative: [Would you be a farmer in drylands if you had the choice?](#); A young Moroccan's story: [A day in the life of a young apple farmer in Morocco](#) and a message by Richard Thomas, Director of the CGIAR Research Program on Dryland Systems: [Skills for Youth in Drylands](#).

### YPARD's advisory role

YPARD contributed to discussions on youth involvement, empowerment strategies and activities. The network's input played a crucial role in elaborating stronger stakeholder strategies for youth in the sector. For instance, World Farmers Organization (WFO) young farmer's manifesto will inform WFO's overall renewed strategy. Additional inputs were provided to CIMMYT, The ENABLE program of African Development Bank Group (AfDB), Youth Action for Agriculture Development (YAAD) in Malawi, [Coldiretti](#) in Italy, APEC Wisdom agriculture of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) in China, the Ministry of Water and Energy in Cameroon, DAFF Agribusiness Start-up project in Serbia, the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries and the intergovernmental Forum (IGF) in Kenya to cite a few.

## YOUTH IN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

YPARD has increased its youth representation in eight agricultural development management committees around the world. In so doing, it brings youth-specific challenges, opportunities and visions into key decision making. These management committees include;

### Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR)

YPARD was selected to represent youth at the global level in GFAR's renewed steering committee and is tasked with providing input into GFAR's operation and strategy from its constituents.

### Foro de las Americas para la Investigación y Desarrollo Tecnológico Agropecuario (FORAGRO)

YPARD LAC regional coordinator participated in the Sixteenth Annual Meeting of FORAGRO's Executive Committee to enhance the visibility of YPARD among key entities in the region and explore common areas of interest for youth in agriculture in the region.

### EFARD - The European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development

YPARD has been a member of the European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD)'s Management Team since 2014. During the EFARD's 2016 Annual Business and Technical meeting in Prague, five YPARD delegates from Central and Eastern Europe were invited to engage with and share their ideas with 43 attendees from Europe and Africa. YPARD members presented their work, mostly in rural areas, and its impact (jobs, improved livelihoods, increase earnings), while emphasizing the role and importance of working with young professionals. The showcasing of experiences revealed similar challenges being faced between Eastern/Central Europe and Africa such as resilience, postharvest losses linked with food waste and consumption of unhealthy food.

### The European Federation for Information Technology in Agriculture, Food and the Environment (EFITA)

The YPARD Hungary Representative sits on the Scientific Committee of EFITA which facilitates and improves the interaction between researchers and IT developers in European agriculture. It also establishes the network of individuals and organizations working in the field.

### Agricultural Council of Kenya (AgCK)

YPARD Kenya is a representative organization in the steering committee of the newly formed Agricultural Council of Kenya (AgCK). AgCK is a non-state actors' platform which

feeds into the CAADP Non-State Coalition agenda at the continental level.

### The Hungarian Association for Agricultural Informatics (HAAI)

YPARD Hungary represents youth at the monthly board meetings of HAAI which focuses on the development of information in society and the support of online communication in agriculture. The Association includes stakeholders such as government, private companies, international organizations, researchers and young experts.

### The Swiss Forum for International Agricultural Research (SFIAR)

YPARD Switzerland has a representative position at SFIAR. SFIAR aims to share information between the stakeholders in agricultural research for development (ARD) in Switzerland, playing an advocacy role at both national and international levels and thus contributing to shape political decisions about ARD.

### Coalition for Agriculture Modernization, Philippines (CAMP)

YPARD Philippines has officially become the youth arm of the Coalition for Agriculture Modernization in the Philippines (CAMP). The coalition is made of directors who are national scientists in the country.

## MEANINGFUL YOUTH INCLUSION IN GLOBAL POLICY DEBATES

YPARD is bringing strong youth delegations to key conferences who take active roles in global strategic discussions and bring the outcomes far beyond the conference floor. These include;

### GCARD3

Youth involvement in GFAR's third Global Conference for Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD3)'s discussions was strong throughout the GCARD3 process and YPARD members took part in eight national /regional consultations and the global event itself.

The [GCARD3 Global event](#) pioneered a stronger involvement of youth in global agricultural discussions by giving them leading roles as speakers and engaging those offsite through social reporting.

The team was solicited to contribute with their ideas and opinions. In addition, the Young Agripreneur Program (YAP) was launched at the event, kicking off the YPARD mentoring program with an empowering workshop tailored to the [six YAPpers](#).

Read: [Mainstreaming youth at the GCARD3 Global Event](#).

### FAO and IFAD events

YPARD contributed to five FAO and IFAD youth-tailored events thus actively bringing the conversation beyond the conference room. The IFAD event was represented by the Special Youth [Agtalks](#) while the FAO events included the [agri-biotech symposium](#), the [food systems event](#) the discussions on “[Youth Feeding the Future: Addressing the challenges faced by rural youth aged 15 to 17](#)”, and the [CFS43: Committee on World Food Security](#).

### Youth In Landscapes initiative

The Youth In Landscapes initiative, co-founded by YPARD to boost multi-sectoral collaboration among stakeholders, organized its fourth annual program at the 2016 Global Landscapes Forum (GLF). The 2016 GLF event was held in Marrakesh, Morocco, at the sideline of the COP22. This year, the Youth In Landscapes' session explored migration through a series of personal stories delivered by people who either have experienced migration, have been longing to migrate, or have worked in the area of migration. It set the basis for meaningful engagement of the youth at the GLF.

Read more at [Interconnection: a youth response to rural-urban and international migration as well as check the YIL2016 landing page: Disconnection to Interconnection: The role of youth in shifting perceptions and presenting solutions to rural-urban migration](#)



# Creating linkages between young people and policymakers



## Key impact of youth inclusion in strategic discussions

Youth were heard by multiple development and policy stakeholders through GFAR, FAO, IFAD and GLF platforms. Youth in Landscapes' (YIL) 2016 co-coordinator delivered a closing plenary speech on behalf of the YIL Community during the GLF 2016.

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Read the [transcript](#) and watch the speech on YouTube: [We are well beyond just talking: Youth closing keynote speech](#)

YPARD's partnerships from local to global stakeholders. At a global level, YPARD is strengthening youth partnership with GLF organizers through the Youth In Landscapes initiative. Additionally, GCARD3 Global event was instrumental in strengthening the collaboration between [YPARD and Coldiretti Giovani impresa](#) young Italian farmers. YPARD is now taking this to national level in Italy as Coldiretti is a platform known and used by Italian farmers to be more connected with the worldwide agricultural network. Some of Coldiretti's young farmers are now part of the YPARD Italy chapter. More so, young people involvement in international ventures boosts their recognition at the national level. Take for example, the two YPARD delegates from the Philippines who were invited to a national television news channel show after attending the GCARD3 global event.

More young people engaged all around the world through social media and social reporting.

[Collaborative design of sustainable development programs among hundreds of young people](#). Discover the achievements and lessons learned from YIL in the 2015 evaluation report: [Evaluating the Youth in Landscapes Initiative: A leading example of genuine intergenerational collaboration](#).

Hundreds of [empowered young people](#) who replicate what they have learned and train their peers thanks to onsite and [online training](#).

One hundred impact stories by our alumni inspire others to join YPARD. For instance, our 50 [Young Innovators shared their experience with the youth-in-landscapes](#), its impact

and how it contributes to their vision of being active leaders of change for sustainable development.

## YOUTH INCLUSION IN NATIONAL AND REGIONAL POLICY DEBATES

YPARD's youth involvement in strategic discussions is expanding significantly on both regional and national levels. The 10 events featured below were organized by international organizations and the ministries of the respective regions and countries.

### YPARD in the Mediterranean

A new [YPARD Mediterranean chapter](#) was driven by youth and connected to stakeholders in the region. The team took part in discussions with current and emerging partners and initiatives leading towards a series of high level regional 2016-2018 Dialogues and a set of actions for better livelihoods in the region and pushing for a stronger youth role.

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Read: [Mediterranean Youth aims at fighting marginalization with agriculture](#). An additional meeting in October 2016, focused on progress and the way forward. Read: [Working together in the rural areas of the Mediterranean](#).

### CAADP Partners Platform youth session

YPARD Kenya and African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC) partnered to convene a session in Accra Ghana during this year's CAADP Partners Platform in April 2016. This was the sole youth session for the entire three day meeting under the sponsorship of the Africa Union.

–  
Read: [Financing Youth in Agriculture](#).

### Vijverberg sessions: "Youth-inclusiveness in agricultural transformation"

Vijverberg sessions engage in a cross sector dialogue and critically reflect on - and contribute to - European policies regarding global issues and international relations. YPARD Netherland was invited to the session on "Youth-inclusiveness in agricultural transformation" providing inputs drawn from YPARD and presented a pitch on the

YPARD mentoring program. Dynamic discussions led to invitations for follow-up sessions in 2017.

### The Food and Business Knowledge Platform (F&BKP)

YPARD Netherlands' representation and participation in F&BKP's network and stakeholder workshop on youth in agriculture resulted in a connection to about 15 different Dutch and international ARD related organizations. Follow on activities included the development of a Community of Practice on Youth and Agriculture in the Netherlands which will convene in 2017.

### Asian Development Bank's youth agenda

YPARD Philippines was invited by the Asian Development Bank to represent youth in two of their activities this year. The first was in the [2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Irrigation Forum](#) and the second in the Food Security Forum. Follow up and collaboration with YPARD Philippines and the whole of YPARD Asia & Pacific across ADB's programs and projects is ongoing.

### Participation in agricultural development events

The Zimbabwe Youth Agripreneurship Summit 2016: YPARD Zimbabwe took part in the Zimbabwe Youth Agripreneurship Summit 2016 an event organized by the Zimbabwe Farmers Union at ZESA Training Centre in Harare, Zimbabwe.

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Read: [Outcomes of the Zimbabwe Youth Agripreneurship Summit 2016](#).

YPARD China joined the launch ceremony of Liang Shuming Rural Construction Center of the Shunyi Base and shared YPARD's work in assisting Young Professionals in agricultural development.

### YPARD Nepal joined the High Level Policy Dialogue on Investment in Agricultural Research for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

–  
Read: ["The Flashpoints" – Lightning up agriculture in Nepal](#).

YPARD India attended the National Dialogue on ["Innovative Extension Systems for Farmers' Empowerment and Welfare"](#) at NASC Complex New Delhi, India.

YPARD Philippines represented the youth at the **Inanglupa Movement in the Philippines**, a national workshop chaired by Dr. William Dar, former Director General of ICRISAT.

YPARD Iran presented a paper for the International Conference on **Agribusiness, agricultural education and science** in Ukraine which aimed at facilitating the exchange of ideas related to the real needs of agribusiness, agricultural education and science in the context of Ukrainian legislation to the EU.

## YOUTH VOICES IN ONLINE AGRICULTURE COALITIONS

YPARD carries on its partnership with the World Farmers Organization (40 000 subscribers) and Farming First (a coalition of more than 180 organizations) enabling young professionals of YPARD to engage with these networks via article contributions and online discussions.

### Special National Highlight

YPARD Iran contributed to the [Organic Magazine](#) (June 2016) and an article on YPARD Iran's work on [Agroecological Innovation by Iranian Youths](#) was featured on International Society of Organic Agricultural Research (ISO FAR). The focus was on exploring the potential of young professionals in an association, for sharing innovative ideas worldwide and empowering youth to become more engaged.



# Access to capacity development



## YPARD MENTORING PROGRAM

The successful pilot mentoring program included four models: the [face to face program](#) in Kenya, an online program for women in business, the [Youth in Landscapes' conference mentoring](#) and the Young Agripreneur Program (YAP), which included a component of seed funding. In addition to these organized by the global coordination unit, national representatives developed locally relevant programs, most notably in Nepal, Croatia, DRC and Peru.

**Face to Face** – 15 Youth Recognized for their efforts towards Sustainable Agricultural Development. The YPARD mentoring program's face-to-face pilot phase in Kenya culminated with 15 mentee/mentor pairs invited for a final retreat and a graduation ceremony. The success stories of these young Kenyan agricultural enthusiasts were shared widely through YPARD website and guest blogposts on partners' platforms.

Read: [Courtney Paisley: Pairing Youth with Experience for Agricultural Renewal in Kenya](#).

**Online** – 14 budding female agri-entrepreneurs took part in the mentoring program targeting women in business. Meet these outstanding [YPARD women](#).

**Blended, at a global conference** – 27 mentees were paired with mentors in the context of the Youth in Landscapes program at the Global Landscapes Forum. Testimonials show the impact of the project on the mentees' lives. Here are three examples of stories of impact:

From Paris to Uganda: [pitching for success and lifelong learning as a youth mentee](#) [\[Read here\]](#).

Ten months on...[What a mentoring opportunity has taught me](#) [\[Read here\]](#).

Finding my way – [reflections on my Youth in Landscapes mentoring experience](#) [\[Read here\]](#).

**Peer to Peer, with the YAP** – six young agripreneurs with great ideas are provided with 12 months of business and leadership coaching and technical mentoring as well as seed funding to facilitate the startup of truly innovative projects. Read more on the [GFAR's blog](#) YAP page.

### Nationally led on-the-ground mentoring program

**EduMala mentoring program** – YPARD Nepal with the support of [DreamWork Solution](#) started the "EduMala Mentoring Program". Three mentoring batches were completed with 99 mentees benefitting from the program. Mentees enhanced their skills in effective communication, networking, writing research proposals and publishing in academic journals, government policies in youth entrepreneurship, food preservation techniques and event management in the first and second batches. The third batch focused on Managing Livestock-based Community Development Projects.

All course materials are freely available at EduMala [website](#) for Open Courses. Read more on the [feedback from three mentees enrolled in the EduMala mentoring program: EduMala Online Platform Boosts Learning Opportunities, Edumala, as a turning point and An Encouraging Effort to Develop Interpersonal Skills](#).

**Agripreneur mentorship in DRC** – A delegation of YPARD DRC's [young agripreneurs](#) met individuals from the faculty of agronomy at the University of Kinshasa (UNIKIN) to explore mentorship models that can boost youth agribusiness projects. A team was set up to work on the supervision of young agripreneurs, initially identifying sectors with short term profitability (animals and vegetables value chains). The first cohort includes YPARD members and services will subsequently be extended to wider youth networks.

**Start-Up Food & Agro week-end in Peru** – With support from the National Agrarian University – La Molina, YPARD Peru organized the Start-Up Weekend Food & Agro to build capacities of youth in the rural sector. Economists, managers, agronomists, biologists, zoo technicians, foresters, and technologists gathered to explore better opportunities



"I have been involved in mentoring young professionals for over 20 years, and I must admit that the YPARD team from Eastern and Central Europe who participated in the 2016 annual meeting of the European Forum for Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD) in Prague, demonstrated why we must have confidence in the ability of young professionals to help us navigate the agricultural research and innovation landscape to lead us to new and exciting pathways for achieving greater development impact. The YPARD team should be our role model champions on agricultural research and innovation for greater development impact. Let's invest in young professionals and mobilize the resources to help them succeed."

**Judith Ann Francis**, Executive Secretary, EFARD



## Access to capacity development



in the agrifood chain. For 54 hours, 50 entrepreneurs and assorted business people worked on developing positive impacts for rural areas through, for example, the systematization of agriculture, improvements in the efficiency of irrigation systems, access to information and telecommunications, grain trade, food processing, and others.

### TRAININGS

Capacity development opportunities were organized by YPARD national teams around the world. Through more than 20 low-cost trainings, they empowered hundreds of members on:

**Governance:** Leadership training for Food Security in Africa by USAID in DRC; Project Management in Togo and [Organizational capacity building in Nepal](#).

**Monitoring and Evaluation and proposal writing:** with the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System in Kenya and on [Grant application writing](#) in Nepal.

**Agricultural specialties and nutrition:** YPARD Cameroon engaged on trainings on Crop production, poultry rearing with "Jeunesse Pour le Développement Durable en Afrique". Additionally they were trained on 'how to make chocolate', which included an additional partnership with the National Confederation of Cocoa Producers. In Nepal, a training was conducted on the [Youth role in nutrition](#).

**Rural and agricultural development:** YPARD Peru trained 30 young people, who were students in the final year or recently graduated from agricultural and social science programs, on nine trainings. These trainings covered among other topics the design of rural-agricultural development under the logical framework matrix and theory of change. These topics were demand-led, based on the results of an online survey of a target group.

**Financing in agriculture:** 20 YPARD Nigeria members attended a workshop on Agricultural Financing for Economic Development, organized in partnership with AgriHub

Nigeria to address the fears that face young entrepreneurs in agriculture as they begin their business. Attendance was free of charge.


**Agripreneurship:** YPARD members engaged in several events related to agripreneurship. From how to build a strong business plan in collaboration with the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) annual meeting in Cameroon; attending an agripreneurship discussion in the Democratic Republic of Congo; attending a meeting on [Agrifood systems](#) in Sicily; to a meeting on Youth business with the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), an intergovernmental regional organization, in Iran.

On the latter, the four-day event focused on youth employment in Asian Productivity Organization member states. Twelve YPARD Iran members participated in the workshop.

**Communications:** Trainings on communications were widespread in YPARD national chapters, from [Social media \(ICT4AG\)](#) in Trinidad and Tobago, Online Writing in DRC, [Communications and finance](#) in Togo, [Web and Technical Learning Bootcamp](#) in the Philippines to 'how to outreach to young people', in Colombia.

YPARD Colombia organized an expert round table to conduct the first analysis of options to design effective ways of communication among young people, bearing in mind the difficulties of connecting to the internet and inadequate municipal interconnections.

To carry out such an exercise, participants shared challenges concerning efficient communication among young people of rural areas in Colombia, existing approaches in Latin America, and exploring documents issued by AMARC (World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters), FAO, Onda Rural, and national organizations from different countries.



"YPARD have shown me the importance of connecting people and the impact of linking things together, as linkage can not only combine young agricultural professionals, producers and agricultural enthusiast but can also combine resources to solve agricultural issues. What I like about YPARD is that there are a lot of possibilities available for young professionals that can inspire enthusiasm and passion towards agricultural development."

**Stacy Hammond**, Nicaragua; Communications and Fundraising Intern, YPARD Europe





# Access to capacity development



## TRAINEES BECOME TRAINERS

Increasingly, our members apply the knowledge they have gained through YPARD opportunities to train their peers, multiplying the impact of YPARD activities.

Examples include: Madan in [Nepal](#), Keron in [Trinidad and Tobago](#) and Karen and Jan Joseph in [the Philippines](#). This is the true impact of the network!

### Special National Highlights

**YPARD Philippines** organized their own [Social Media Trainings](#) for their peers and partner organizations. After YPARD Philippines took part in a training hosted by GFAR, they successfully re-echoed the social media training to various research institutions.

The first one was the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD), a national government agency that funds agricultural programs and wanted their staff trained on how to better use social media for scientific communications.

The second training was for an alliance for biotechnology, hence the social media training's title - #GoBiotech. The organizations represented in this training were: ISAAA, SEARCA-Biotech Information Center, Department of Agriculture Biotech Program Office, and Institute of Plant Breeding - University of the Philippines Los Baños.

## AGVOCACY FOR YOUTH CAPACITY BUILDING

YPARD advocates for stronger youth capacity development at all levels:

YPARD Netherlands built a partnership with **ICRA - International Centre for Development oriented on Research in Agriculture** and are currently in discussions on the creation of a webinar series.

YPARD Serbia was involved in the Internship programme of an agricultural company **Superior Seeds** from the region of Velka Plana.

YPARD Europe is a partner of the **SIMPLE project**, supporting networking among graduates (alumni) and employers by establishing alumni centres and platforms for cooperation with the professional sector.

The YPARD Europe Team took part in a kick-off meeting, enhancing discussions between the Asian and European Youth and identifying YPARD representatives among the active group.

YPARD Peru identified six young people who were contacted for internships in rural technologies.



“As a social media trainer, I love to inspire others. But when the trainees, in their turn, become trainers, that takes it to another level. That’s why I love working with YPARD youth. They not only take the knowledge in, but share it with others. This snowball effect is really what capacity building is all about.”

**Peter Casier**, GFAR Social Media Coordinator



### FORESIGHT: ENABLING YOUNG PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND AND INFLUENCE CHANGE

The theme of the August 12th, 2016 International Youth Day, was “The Road to 2030: Eradicating Poverty and Achieving Sustainable Consumption and Production”. YPARD featured a key opinion piece on [Foresight: Eradicating youth poverty through agricultural production?](#) The role of foresight, to raise awareness about youth using foresight to influence and take action towards the future they want.

The YPARD Foresight Ambassador, Oluwabunmi Ajilore took part in expert discussions and foresight exercises for tackling land degradation and restoration: [Mapping the Future Scenarios of Land Degradation and Restoration](#).

### YOUNG PROFESSIONALS SHAPING AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

YPARD's young professionals' contribution to discussions on curricula reforms in agriculture took place through three key discussions this year among young professionals and with relevant stakeholders:

At the Tropentag Conference in Vienna, young professionals explored how educational programs can help to support a youth-led vision of agricultural development: [Enough of: “youth – this is what we want from you”](#). The Workshop “Mission 2026: Acting now to support youth in agriculture” was organized by YPARD in partnership with IAAS Austria to get insights of how youth need to be supported for their future roles in the agricultural sector.

With GCHERA: a global university consortia and other partners of the GFAR, where YPARD's young professionals contributed their specific perspectives on agricultural education: [Student Leadership and Transformative Changes to Meet the Challenges of the 21st Century](#).

During the launching of the SIMPLE (Support of International Platform Merging Labour and Education),

coordinated by CULS, the hosting organization of the [YPARD Europe unit: YPARD Europe says present at the SIMPLE project kickoff meeting in Prague](#).

### Curriculum reform dialogue

YPARD China joined the orientation of new International Students in Graduate School of CAAS to present YPARD and help identify with students and professors their needs from the graduate school.

### ENGAGING WITH STUDENTS

In 2016 YPARD representatives made a significant progress in building connections with IAAS - International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences particularly in Switzerland, Spain and Vienna. This enables students to connect with young professionals and to share their experiences as well as offer advice. Also, several meetings were organized at universities all around the world, such as:

#### Tropical Biodiversity Conservation Conference (TBCC)

YPARD Europe delivered a presentation on YPARD's objectives and shared information with attendees at the YPARD booth, targeting the conference participants.

#### Universidad de Santiago de Compostela

YPARD Spain organized a workshop and a presentation “YPARD - How can Young People increase their potential and benefit from agriculture”.

#### Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

YPARD Spain in collaboration with IAAS Spain organized a session with Young Professionals with the focus on promoting agricultural research.

#### University of Prishtina, Faculty of Ag. and Veterinary

YPARD Kosovo organized an awareness campaign and the subsequent sign ups on the website resulted in an increase in YPARD Kosovo members.

**YPARD Romania** promoted agriculture in high schools and excited great interest from pupils. The attendees were surprised to hear about different careers in agriculture.

**YPARD Sierra Leone** sensitized youth in the Njala University on the importance of agriculture. 23 people participated in the workshop.

**YPARD Togo** visited the [University Fair of Lomé](#). The chapter secured a booth where they spoke to visitors about the vision of YPARD and ignited the interest of some visitors to join the professional network. They presented examples responding to students' key questions: can agriculture bring jobs to Togolese youth? Can agriculture provide decent jobs for the youth?

### AGRICULTURE IN SOCIETY: USING RADIO AND NEW MEDIA

Promotion of agriculture among the youth remains a key focus at YPARD particularly through campaigns, captivating videos/vlog series, storytelling contests, the showcase of young professionals in agriculture, participation in TV programs, radios, and features in magazines.

#### Campaigns

YPARD took part in the [#IamAg](#) global campaign, organized by Farming First, to encourage more young people to take up agricultural careers. [Stories of talented agricultural professionals](#) from across the globe and the agricultural value chain were shared. #IamAg showcased YPARD members from Serbia, Peru, Nigeria, Trinidad and Tobago to cite a few, through blogposts and cartoons, and inspired the whole community.

Five national campaigns that stood out were organized in Kosovo, Peru, Iran, Nepal and Switzerland reaching out to hundreds of members, online and onsite. These include;

“**Green Farming Boots; Keeping your boots dirty**” in Kosovo, a captivating [online vlog series](#), to raise awareness on the importance of agriculture.

“**Future Young Farmers**” in Peru, a Facebook event soliciting young people to produce audiovisual material showing an actual problem facing the Peruvian agricultural sector. It went viral for a period of 21 days, reaching out to nearly

600 active contributors. Applications were submitted by 99 young people (56% women; 44% men) where their concept notes were evaluated and skype interviews attended. Nine young finalists attended an Inspiration Evening workshop, and took part of the pre-incubation stage and the Start-Up Weekend Food&Agro.

“**Green Farm, Green Food Campaign**” in Iran, a joint initiative to bring awareness about the importance of food systems from farm to consumption, based on the Slow Food movement Green guide which introduces different organic, natural and healthy products.

**Storytelling Contest for Young Agri Entrepreneurs** in Nepal, bringing the best [success stories of young agri-entrepreneurs](#) in Nepal.

“**A Profession in Agriculture- Why Not?**” – For many years, agriculture has been referred to as an ageing profession with a majority of young people choosing it as the last option.

YPARD Switzerland went to the streets to ask young professionals about their perceptions on agriculture and collated their insights into a [video](#).

#### Interviews

**Interviews were disseminated through TV program, Blogs and Radio.**

YPARD Nigeria team member, John Agboola, was invited for an interview with Agric-World TV show, a Nigerian program, to talk about youth's involvement in agriculture and YPARD. The recording is available on YouTube under the title [Capturing Youth Interest in Agriculture – A YPARD Example](#).


YPARD Kosovo representative, interviewed during a professional fair, promoted YPARD and its activities on Kosovar TV. (1:40 - 4:10)


Two members from YPARD Philippines were interviewed on National TV, one as a policy development








enthusiast in agriculture and the other as a young innovative agripreneur, to show the active role of young people in agriculture and their international exposure.

 **iEat Green** Bhavani Jaroff a Natural Foods Chef, Educator, Radio Host, and Food Activist in the United States interviewed Courtney Paisley, YPARD Director, to discuss about the connection between agriculture, food, youth and sustainable development.


 YPARD Colombia had strong coverage of YPARD National events by local media, especially radio stations including: Caracol Radio, RCN Radio, the National Army Radio Station, the National Police Radio Station, and the University of the Amazon Radio Station. On average, each station allowed a 30-minute intervention to clearly state the event's objective and guest audience.

 YPARD Nepal was featured on local FM radio during International Youth Day 2016 and a special coverage of YPARD/YPARD Nepal was made in [INGENAES /Nepal September newsletter](#).

 YPARD Nigeria was featured in [The Nation](#) – the national paper, to raise awareness about YPARD's 10th anniversary and some proposed solutions for more innovative agriculture.

 Nodar Tokhosashvili, a 24 year old farmer from Georgia and YPARD member was interviewed by journalist Jarkyn Samanchina: [Meet Nodar, not your 'Typical' Farmer](#).

 Young role model Mr. Hu Shize, was nominated by YPARD China together with partners. Mr. Hu Shize's work has focused on community building through natural agriculture and ecological tourism. He has strongly promoted the transformation of "farmer, agriculture and rural area" and founded the returning College Student Volunteer Service. His story is published in partners' [websites](#) and [video channels](#).

 Courtney Paisley, YPARD Director, took part in an expert interview on youth in development, published by

the revue "grain de sel", Inter-réseaux développement rural: [L'agriculture, une réponse au « chômage » des jeunes ruraux?](#)

## CELEBRATION DAYS: YOUTH-IN-AGRICULTURE JOIN THE MOVEMENTS

Celebrations include YPARD participation in festivals, fairs and special events, directly related to agriculture and sustainable development or focused on ICTs as a powerful means to get youth more interested in the sector. 2016 Promotional Days include:

**International Year of Pulses**, the chosen 2016 theme by the General Assembly of the United Nations with the main aim of heightening consumer awareness of the benefits of pulse crops. YPARD India organized [youth events](#) around the theme to sensitize the new generation on the importance of pulses.

**International Women's Day:** meet YPARD's Youth in Gender Champions – a globally featured [blogpost](#) for the occasion.

**International Youth Day**, focused on Youth Engagement in Sustainable Agriculture and the road to 2030. YPARD featured a [compilation of contributions](#), with a special highlight on the role of foresight in enabling young people to choose their future. Additionally, YPARD Nigeria was engaged by 'Rural Reporter' to a tweet chat to contribute and share their views.

**World Food Day:** YPARD Global and Nigeria prepared and tweeted quotes and pictures to engage youth in food celebrations as well as celebrating their role in food production.

**Social Media Week in Lagos:** YPARD Nigeria draws the [connection between youth, agriculture and ICTs](#) and makes a case on how ICTs can make agriculture efficient and attractive to young people.

**World Youth Skills Day E-forum** and the [UNCCD e-discussions](#) on "empowering youth through green jobs". YPARD

Croatia representative took part as a young expert in mobilizing and empowering youth in the agricultural sector.

**AgriFuture Days** focused on ICT in agriculture. YPARD Croatia representative was a key speaker and the chapter supported the Parallel Session called "[Youth in agriculture and Importance of ICT education](#)".

**Africa Sustainability Forum** hosted by [GreenAid](#), invited YPARD Ethiopia representative as one of the three panelists of the discussion on "[Creating Youth Employment through Climate Smart Agriculture](#)".

**DRC's Food Festival** (organized by the Wallonie Brussels Delegation in DRC) and the #FEMAT2016 Tree day, where YPARD DRC social reporters contributed to spreading the word and engaging online participants beyond onsite activities. They mobilized an impressive 25,319 followers through the hashtag.

**Food Fair in Kathmandu**, organized by the Department of Food Technology and Quality Control (DFTQC) of the ministry of Agriculture of Nepal hosted YPARD Nepal who promoted the [active role of the youth](#) and engaged in constructive discussions with the stakeholders present.

**Agricultural Celebration Day** held in Cameroon, informed urban youth on the benefits of being involved in agriculture, and how to become part of the sector.

## GENDER IN AGRICULTURE

YPARD continues to play a role on actively engaging with young women in the agricultural sector and looking to work with young female leaders as role models.

Some of YPARD's 2016 #KeyFacts on strengthening young women role in agriculture include;

Women represent 30% of YPARD Community but represent 52% of YPARD Team (inclusive of country representatives, regional and global coordination units, steering committee members)

Women are given an equal chance for opportunities and encouraged to apply.

The online mentoring program pilot phase was dedicated to young women agripreneurs.

YPARD Netherlands facilitated a thematic group on Gender dynamics, Diversity and Inclusion (youth and women) for the Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS)

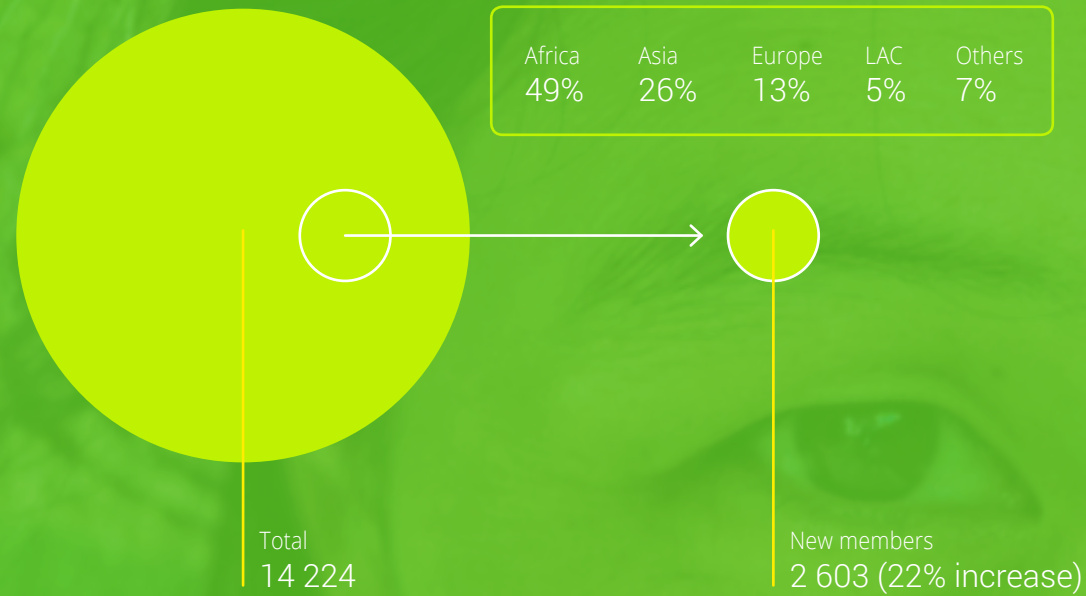
4 YPARD Sierra Leone members paid a visit to the Yoni Women's Agriculture Cooperative to discuss the realities of young women in agriculture, their challenges and opportunities

YPARD continues to play an active role in GFAR's Gender in Agriculture Partnership (GAP) with youth gender focal points.

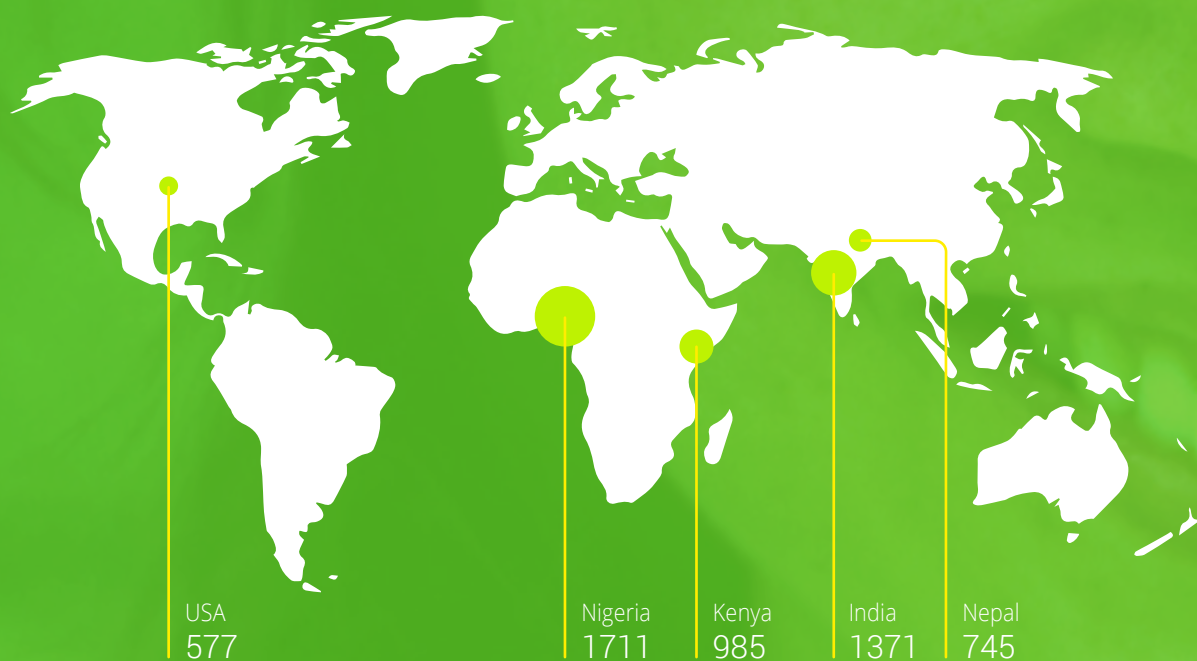


Membership  
Key Numbers

Registered members by December 2016 and regional representation



Top 5 country memberships



Top reasons to join YPARD:

- 1 Increase my professional network
- 2 Support the idea of promoting youth engagement in agricultural development
- 3 Find capacity development opportunities

YPARD is most valuable for:

- ✓ Funding opportunities
- ✓ Promoting agriculture among young people
- ✓ Capacity development information

\* Based on the members' annual survey



# Exchanging information and connecting people



Based on the 2016 annual survey to the YPARD members, new YPARD members indicated that they had heard about YPARD through social media, word of mouth (through friends/contacts), search engines and through representatives/team members.

This demonstrates the power and motivation of the community in mobilizing their peers to become part of the movement and the value of communications and networking in YPARD.

## ONSITE MEMBERS ACTIVITIES

Face to face meetings are key to boosting membership, information sharing and developing collective actions on a national level. These meetings focus on two aspects, that is, connecting people and generating substantial collaborations as thus;

### Special National Highlights

#### Networking events:

**YPARD Peru cafés** – young students and professionals from different career backgrounds get together and share the constraints faced by Peruvian youth, as well as the opportunities within the agricultural sector. Three YPARD Cafe events were organized, with the participation of 150 attendees. Similarly, spaces were used in events organized by associated institutions to inform the general public about the role of youth in food security. These events includes the International Gastronomic Fair Mistura y Pecha Kucha Night Lima that reached approximately 700 people.

**YPARD Colombia's "Tulpas"** – Within the framework of the "National Permanent Seminar on Successful Production Experiences for the Development of the Territory and Building Peace. Models and Prospective with a Territorial Approach", YPARD Colombia implemented a methodology called "Tulpas", which created a space for discussions on challenges facing rural youth and the difficulties they witness within the internal rural dynamics and around them. YPARD Colombia created a space for dialogue among young

people, which resulted in the socialization of activities that young people carry out.

**YPARD Switzerland** organized its second Annual Event with partners. The 2016 event brought together 25 national YPARD members with the ETH's university of Science and Technology in Zürich, where young professionals exchanged insights in their work.

Other networking events include YPARD's participation in [Le Festival Alimenterre of Kinshasa](#): three showcase days on congolese agricultural products; the first [agricultural international fair of Kinshasa](#); YPARD's Togo meeting at the [Togo's station d'Expérimentation de l'Ecole Supérieure d'Agronomie de l'Université de Lomé-Togo](#); the Cinfo Forum's Career Fair in Switzerland, showcasing the Swiss job market in international cooperation; YPARD awareness meeting during the Youth Elite Program of Agriculture Information Institute by CAAS in North Carolina State University in Raleigh and New York University in NY, USA.

#### Onsite thematic discussions and co-creation:

**YPARD Peru's policy briefs** – In order to create policies relevant to rural youth, and in the absence of a database with this information, data was collected on rural education and rural youth employment by the YPARD Peru team. Additionally actors were mapping alongside policies associated with rural youth and studies. As a result, YPARD Peru is in the process of developing three policy briefs on the following topics: 1. Rural education, 2. Rural youth entrepreneurship, and 3. Decent rural youth employment.

**YPARD Iran's Ecofriendly Village plan** – A model of an Eco-friendly village was designed in 2016 by YPARD Iran, with input from several experts from key organizations in Iran. The plan aims to provide a favorable agricultural and residential environment that goes beyond the national standards. In this project, serious consideration of the inclusion of rural youth and women are part of the model along with the important principles of 1. development of renewable energies, 2. climate-smart agriculture (CSA),

3. Healthy and organic agriculture, 4. the International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movement (IFOAM) standards, 5. Agricultural and domestic waste management, and training.

**YPARD Italy** got involved in a project called **Artin2** aiming to connect agricultural producers, controllers and consumers at a retailing level via mobile application. YPARD Italy serves as a platform for finding and identifying new farmers and consumers willing to test the application.

**YPARD Hungary** members networked with national organizations in **common applied research work**, such as the Research Institute for Fisheries and Aquaculture, food industrial SMEs. In synergy with YPARD objectives, they are working on four actual applied research topics involving young YPARD members who are PhD students. An example is a model based decision support tool for aquaculture, as well as a scheduling tool for dairy industry. These applications are also utilized in some MSc courses.

**YPARD Europe and YPARD Asia and Pacific** built a partnership through their hosting institutions. Currently, they are working on **connecting the European and Asian Researchers** via projects supported by the Chinese government and Horizon 2020 focused on Urban Agriculture and contribution to the EU-China Urbanization Partnership.



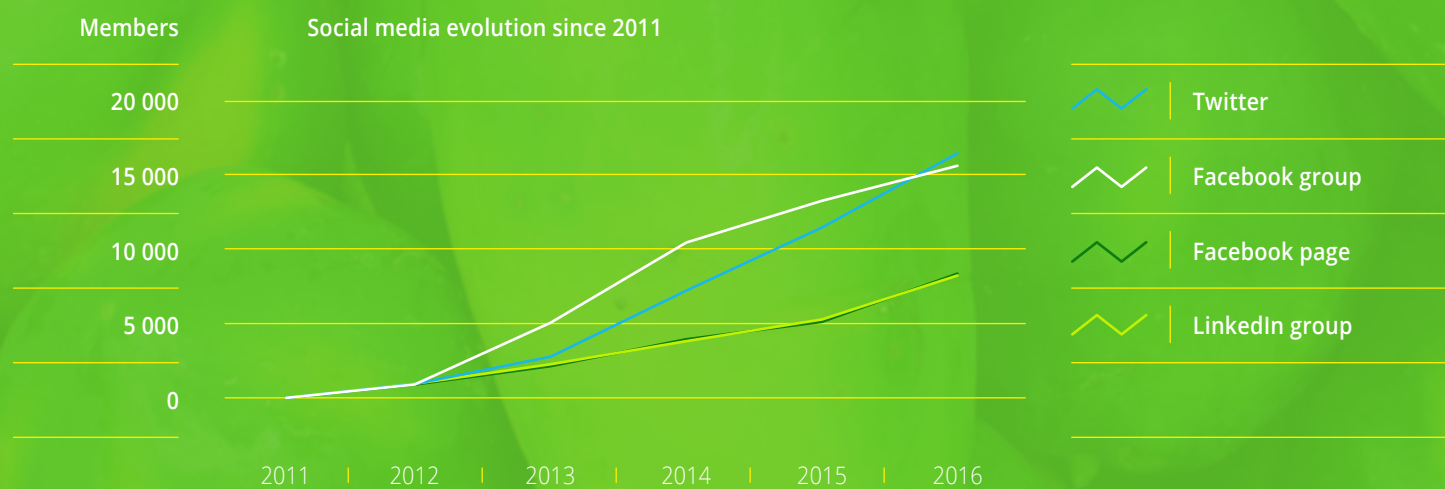
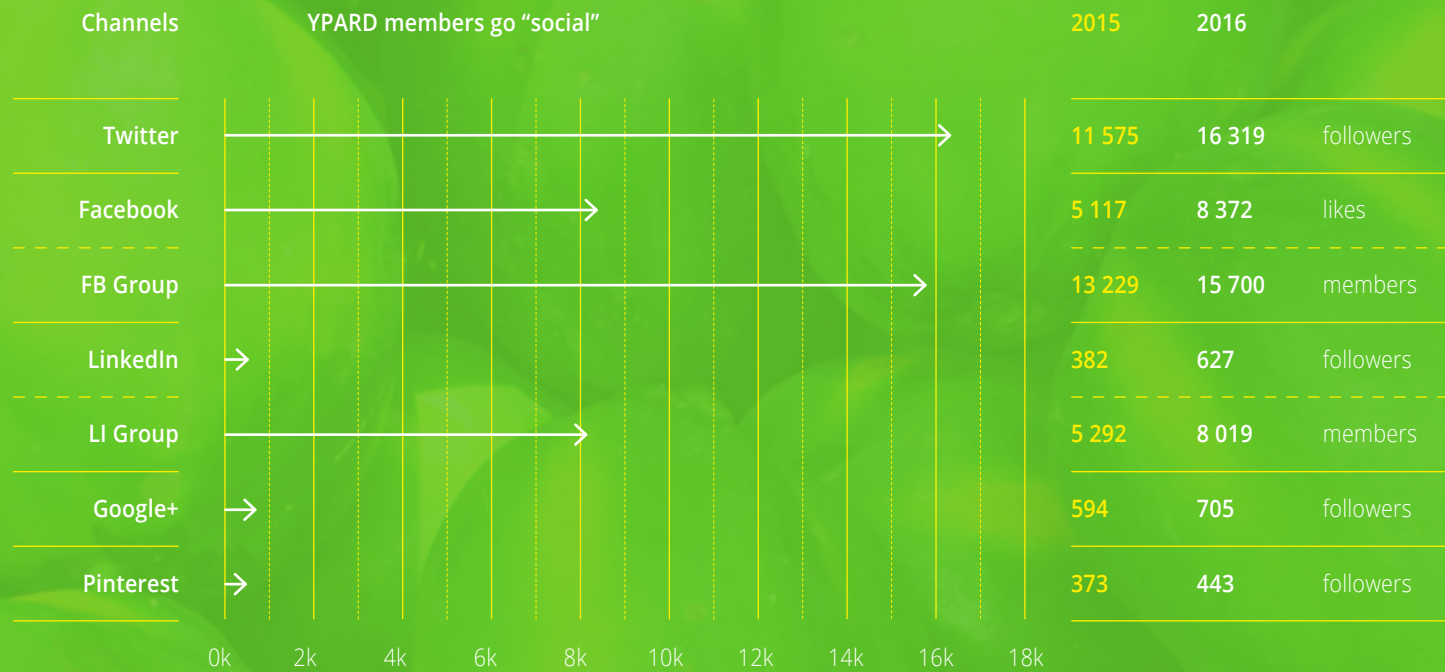
"YPARD has indeed helped me to network with other young professionals across the world and has helped build substantial skills and knowledge that aid my profession."

**John Agboola**, Communication Focal Person for YPARD Nigeria



# 2016 Annual Report

## Exchanging information and connecting people



The graphic above shows the members' increase on main YPARD Social media channels: Twitter, Facebook page and group, and LinkedIn group, since 2011. These channels are central to boosting the community feeling and info sharing.

# 2016 Annual Report

## Exchanging information and connecting people



### ONLINE INFORMATION SERVICES

#### Website visits

**265 534 total visits in 2016** (35% increase since 2015)

**59% new visitors** on total visits

**22 128 visits a month**

Over 1612 items published in English and an increase of 73% in publications in Spanish

#### Newsletter subscriptions

**11376 members subscribed** to the newsletter

80% of total members in 2016 (against 77% in 2015)

**27% increase in newsletter subscriptions in 2016**

#### YPARD Regional and Country chapters on social media

YPARD Regional and Country chapters confirm that Facebook national groups are central for members to share information specific to their context, have opportunities to interact and express their interest and views as a community.

Membership is increasing steadily as young people connect, not only on Facebook, but increasingly on WhatsApp and Twitter.

#### Special National Highligh

YPARD Peru created the first Facebook public group to provide information about the Peruvian agricultural sector: news, training events, seminars, scholarship opportunities, employment opportunities, and internships.

The group also serves as a platform to communicate activities organized by the teams of YPARD Peru and YPARD Global, among other events of interest. The posts getting the most likes are then compiled in an electronic newsletter to be distributed on a monthly basis among the members of the YPARD Peru network registered in the database via social networks.

Up to this date, three newsletters have been sent. Likewise, news from the agricultural sector, as well as YPARD Peru and YPARD Global events are communicated to the YPARD

Peru Twitter account followers. So far, there are 963 members in the Facebook group and 129 Twitter followers.

YPARD Peru and YPARD Colombia created YouTube channels more tailored to Spanish speaking members allowing members to share videos that help to better understand YPARD objectives, as well as the initiatives of young agricultural professionals in their countries.

Discover [YPARD Peru YouTube channel](#) and [YPARD Colombia YouTube channel](#).



# YPARD: A sustainable platform



2016 saw the growth of a stronger YPARD team on national, regional and global levels, learning from each other and with enhanced capacities for leadership, coordination and communications in English, French and Spanish.

## THEY JOINED YPARD TEAM IN 2016

We welcomed **new team members**: a [regional coordination unit for Europe](#), ten new country representatives and four interns in the [Global](#), the [African](#) and the [European](#) units to boost the information services and comms in English, French and Spanish.

[Libuška Valešová](#), YPARD Europe coordinator

Representatives for [YPARD-DRC](#), [Burkina Faso](#), [Madagascar](#), [Jamaica](#), [Peru](#), [Romania](#), [the Netherlands](#), [Myanmar](#), [Mongolia](#) and [Turkey](#):



**Aimé**  
YPARD-DRC



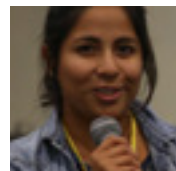
**Minata**  
Burkina Faso



**Malala**  
Madagascar



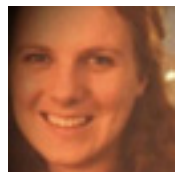
**Jhannel**  
Jamaica



**Daniela**  
Peru



**Ramona**  
Romania



**Ingrid**  
the Netherlands



**Aung**  
Myanmar



**Anudari**  
Mongolia



**Seher**  
Turkey



**Get Involved**  
Become a YPARD member!

**New interns in Networking and Communications** with [YPARD Africa](#) and [Europe](#)

[YPARD Web4Knowledge](#) interns: [Diego Valencia](#) and [Husein Shahadu](#)

## BUILDING THE YPARD TEAM'S CAPACITY

A series of five hangouts strengthened the capacities of the YPARD team all around the world on the topics of 1. Communications, 2. Team building, 3. Negotiations, 4. Fundraising and in 5. Planning the mentoring program's next phase. Also, YPARD Nepal executed a training for YPARD local representatives through their EduMala mentoring program, for replication of the mentoring program to other countries.

## NATIONAL TEAMS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Our national teams increasingly organize YPARD Cafés or other gatherings to discuss key issues they want to target through their activities and how to take action. Peru, Togo, Uzbekistan, India are some of the few examples.

Particularly, an annual event is perceived as an excellent platform for YPARD Switzerland to become more visible. With an interesting program, they attract not only YPARD members but also representatives from relevant Swiss institutions come together to exchange and to get to know each other better. On the other hand, in Spain, the creation of a national working group brought fresh air to YPARD Spain

and supported the management. Members of the working group are located in different regions of Spain and they organize regular Skype meetings and e-mail discussions.

## Special National Highlights

### When Planning Meets Celebrations – YPARD Philippines Planning and 10 year Celebrations

Since 2015, YPARD Philippines members have been part of conferences, such as the YPARD Asia Pacific Conference, GCARD3 Bangkok Regional Consultation, ADB Asian Irrigation Forum, and GCARD3 Global Event. In addition, the team was involved in trainings like the GFAR-hosted GCARD3 social media trainings. Strengthened through these experiences, they improved the national chapter planning. YPARD Philippines will formalize its operations by organizing a Board of Directors (coming from the informal Advisory Group), where the Country Rep will be Chairman, and the Board will elect a President. Institutionalizing efforts is important as formal proceedings are required to implement activities. This will boost the membership as well as diversify funding sources on a national level for YPARD events.

### YPARD Uzbekistan: We are going on an adventure!

YPARD Uzbekistan members organized a national meeting to gather and discuss youth challenges and opportunities in agriculture. This was held at the ICARDA-Tashkent office.

### YPARD Peru Holds the First YPARD-Café in Lima

The freshly boosted YPARD-Peru team welcomed fifty enthusiastic young people (students and professionals) - most of them with a background in agricultural, social and political sciences - for the first YPARD-Café in Lima. YPARD Peru is implementing two projects: "Youths for Food Security" and "Youths as Agents of Change: building competencies for rural development".

They further organized workshops to strengthen the network, by sharing methodologies such as participatory planning, facilitating processes, and dissemination of results as well as on participatory strategies to formulate and

manage social projects. This workshop enabled a better understanding of the appropriate strategies, according to the different type of organizations implementing the social intervention projects.

## COUNTRY AND REGIONAL ONLINE SHOWCASE

YPARD country pages were launched on ypard.net. These are windows to see what's going on with and for the young professionals in agriculture in the different countries where YPARD has national representatives and teams. Go to our "who we are" page and jump onto the country page of your interest!

*Read: [The tree metaphor: announcing YPARD's Country Pages!](#)*

## DIVERSIFIED FUNDING SOURCES SECURED

### Global Level

New supporters include The MasterCard Foundation, CGIAR and AWARD along with our longstanding supporter, SDC. While networks remain a challenge for fundraising, the power, reach and value of the YPARD network speaks for itself. This is a network that translates into real exchange of ideas, connections with a diverse group of stakeholders and ultimately, locally relevant actions.

### Some regional and national success stories:

YPARD Philippines and the Asia regional coordination unit are following up on YPARD Asia funding;

YPARD China received funds from the hosting organization, Agriculture Information Institute of CAAS to conduct youth participation in e-commerce and the development of a Youth Information System;

YPARD Netherland found a hosting institution - KIT Royal Tropical Institute who is providing in-kind support;





National chapters partnered with local organizations to co-organize events and trainings described in this report to make them achievable;

YPARD Togo produced okra and soya bean and sold the produce to raise funds to support their YPARD activities. The food production was carried out on half a hectare piece of land which was temporarily offered to them by a benefactor. They raised an amount equivalent to \$100 USD and members of the coordinating team made similar contributions demonstrating their passion and commitment;

Sharing YPARD experiences with partners such as IICA in Latin America and EFARD in Europe inspired these organizations to raise funds and mobilize support within their own networks for YPARD activities.

## CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

### Global Level

One of the primary challenges at YPARD is maintaining a vital and dynamic network, while managing expectations of that network. YPARD can provide a lot support to young professionals by allowing them to be part of a community and movement, have access to information, online networking and providing the opportunity to take part in exciting and meaningful activities. But, it cannot consistently meet the enthusiasm of members and support both financially and the human capacity support that they require.

An additional challenge relates to YPARD being asked to represent the view and opinions of 'youth'. Youth are not a homogeneous group with the same ideas and expectations and when providing the 'youth' perspective, it is challenging to present this nuanced perspective in a way that both meets the needs of those wanting the input but also that it provides enough direction and substance to encourage activities and programs that actually will support young professionals in the sector.

### Challenges faced at the national level include:

Keeping activities running with small amounts of resources and relying on voluntary work.

Difficulty in finding hosting institutions or the use of facilities for operational offices.

Difficulty in operating if they are not officially registered for some countries.

Lack of capacity for applying for and reporting on funding.

Language barriers.

### Key messages: lessons learned from country representatives

Creation of working group is important for boosting national activities and enhancing self-motivation.

Finding a hosting institution for national chapters has great potential for attracting more members and facilitates fundraising opportunities.

Sharing materials in more languages significantly increases the number of YPARD members and thus more young people get engaged.

Fundraising strategies for national chapters are very important to sustain active chapters.

National representatives require capacity building to enhance their effectiveness in their roles and among the national chapters.



“I had one family until I joined YPARD. Now, I got a second one, because YPARD represents a large, global family, where you can exploit the infinite opportunities of agriculture, hand in hand with amazing people.”

Monika Varga, YPARD Hungary



## A fresh 2017 onward!



These 2016 achievements set a solid ground on which to launch our activities in the new year and we are ready to kick off a tremendous 2017 with you all. Let's embark on a new journey full of strategic directions and innovation.

**2017 will blow a wind of change, at YPARD! There will be a strong renewal this year with leadership changes that will bring fresh energy and perspectives. Also, it is time to review the Business Plan 2014-2018 and start a new strategic phase.**

2017 will also see the strengthening of the mentoring program and the push for increasing its scale and scope.

Meanwhile, we will carry on strengthening our regional and national chapters for locally relevant youth engagement and activities. Through our diverse network, we can bring a stronger united but unique voice of the youth to guide strategic direction and activities for agricultural development.

The regional and national teams have identified, for 2017, a number of partnerships, potential partners and events to attend and innovative online activities to boost their activities and funding. Finding more hosting organizations on national level, to access fundraising opportunities has also become a key focus. Finally, involving members in key development topics and formulations (i.e. food security, climate change) as well as strengthening databases of development actors for the regions will support the networking of young people in meaningful conversations and activities in a sustainable way.









**YPARD Global coordination unit**  
Young Professionals for Agricultural Development

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Report published on May of 2017  
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