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**Mission 2026: Acting now to  
support youth in agriculture**

**Tropentag: September 19, 2016**



# IAAS

*International Association of Students in  
Agricultural and Related Sciences*



## ◎ Mission

*“To promote the exchange of **experience, knowledge and ideas** in the field of agriculture and related sciences”*

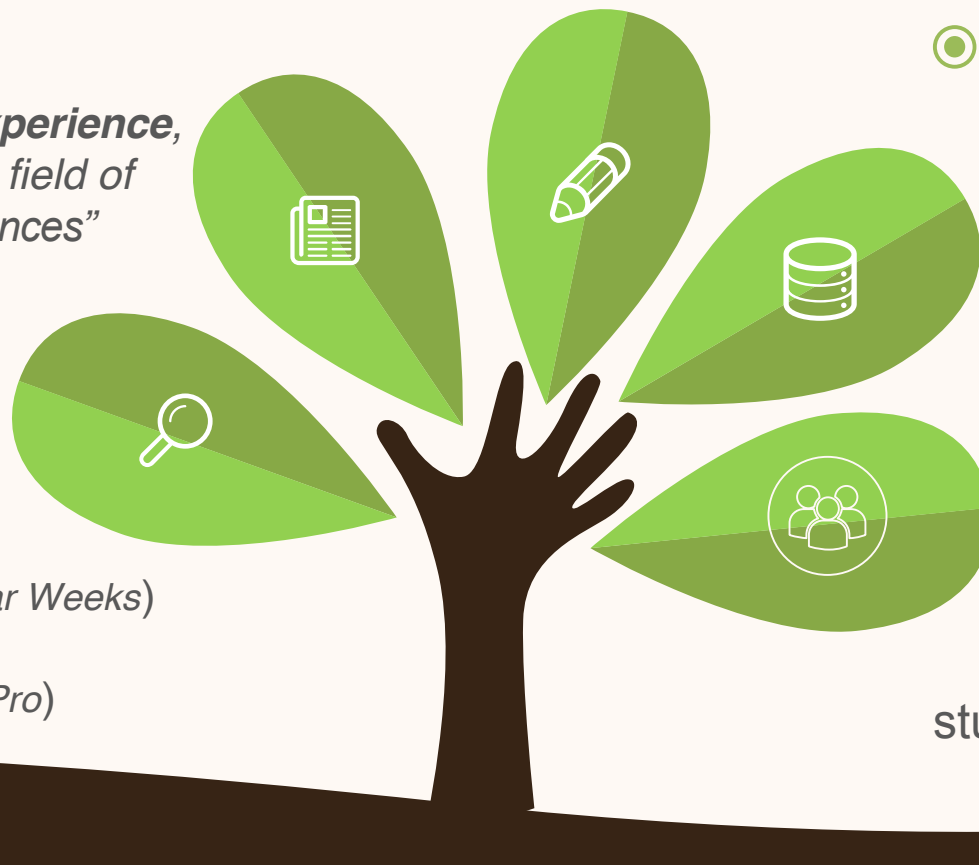
## ◎ Exchange of knowledge

International Events

*(World Congress, Exchange & Seminar Weeks)*

Local Events,

Exchange Programme (ExPro)



## ◎ Personal development

Leadership Training

Organizational Skills

Promotional & Networking Skills

Fundraising

## ◎ Make it count

Village Concept Projects

Participation at Partner's Conferences

*(FAO, YPARD)*

## ◎ Friendships

Network of 10000+

students 100 committees in

45+ nations



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENTS IN AGRICULTURAL  
AND RELATED SCIENCES



# Why YPAR?

- Lack of **inclusion** of youth in **policy debates** and discussions
- **Declining interest** and engagement of youth in the agricultural sector.
- Need for a **platform to support youth's potential**



# YPARD – What for?

A **multi-stakeholder decentralized movement** for young people to:

- **Exchange ideas and learn** from one another
- **Define challenges and opportunities** in their own countries and take action
- Support a growing network of **youth leaders** around the world





# Curriculum that responds to a changing agriculture

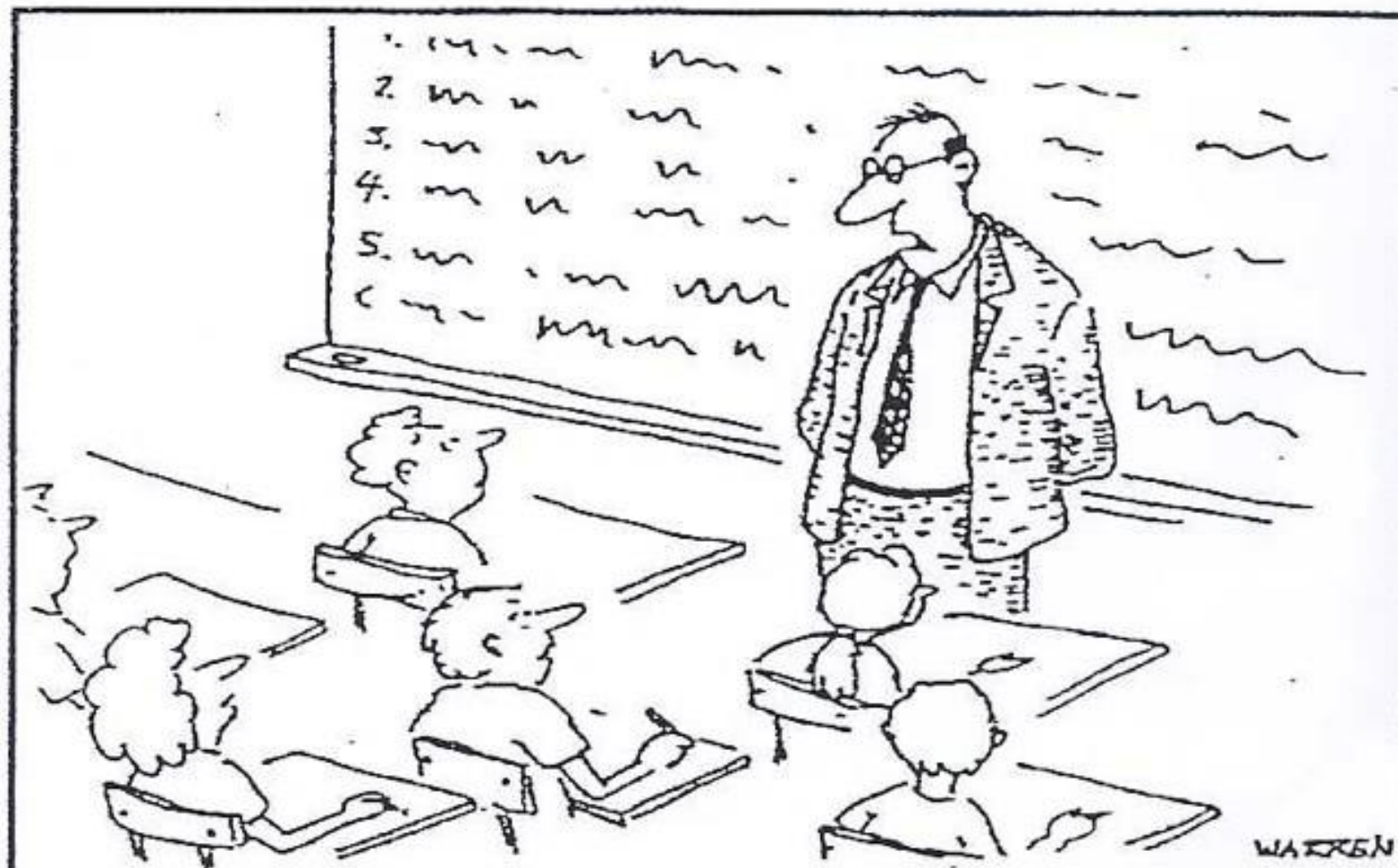
- **Skills** of graduates do not **meet the needs of the agriculture sector**
- Greater **multi-disciplinary approach** is required
- **Enrolment in agricultural studies lagging** in some regions
- Keep pace with constant **change**
- **New areas** of growth and opportunities

# Working towards a new generation of young professionals

- **Youth-Inclusive curriculum development process**
- Insights on new and **innovative career** possibilities
- Compare **skills and competencies** needed now and in 5 years time among young professionals and employers

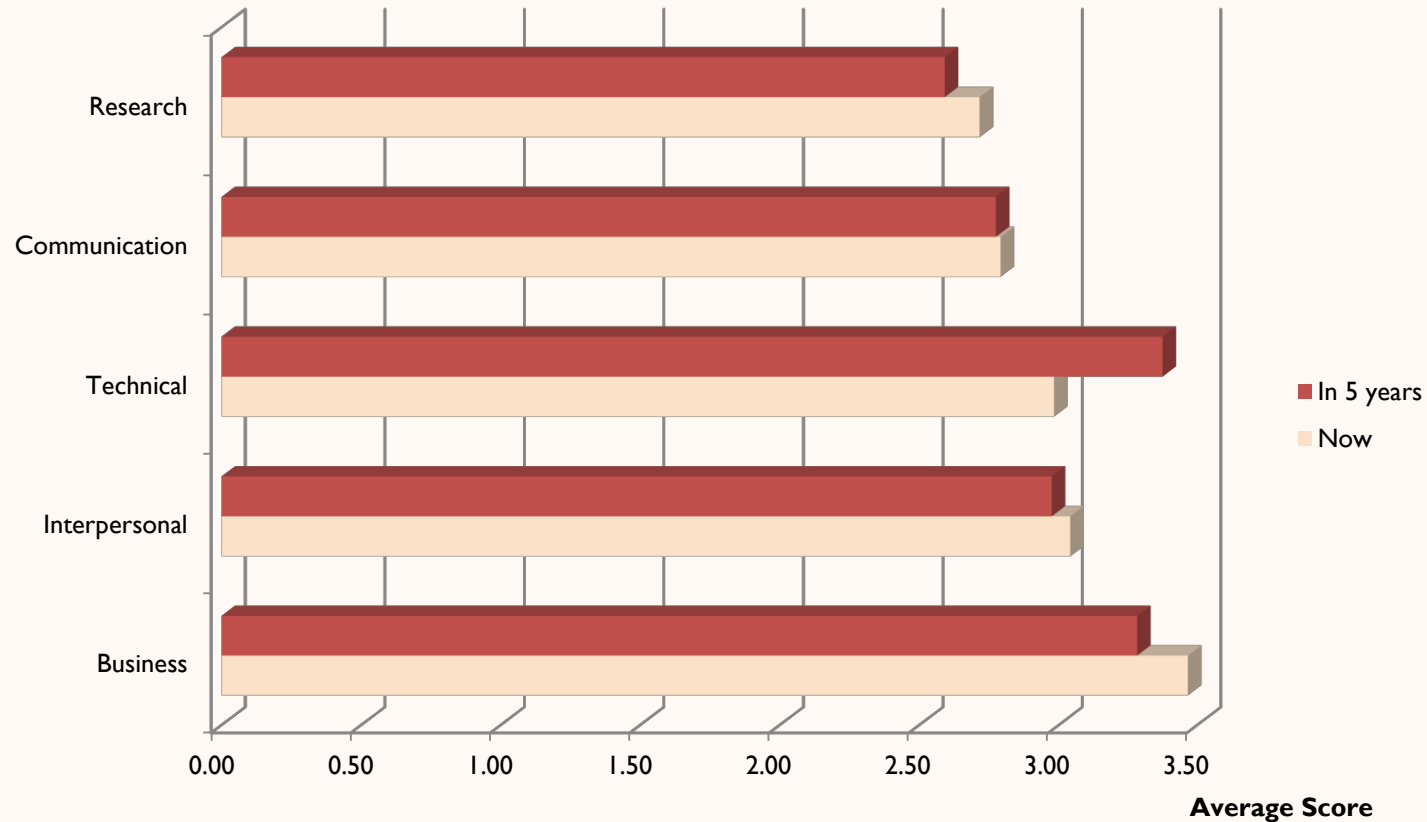






**'I expect you all to be independent, innovative, critical thinkers who will do exactly as I say'**

# Some results: Competency Groups

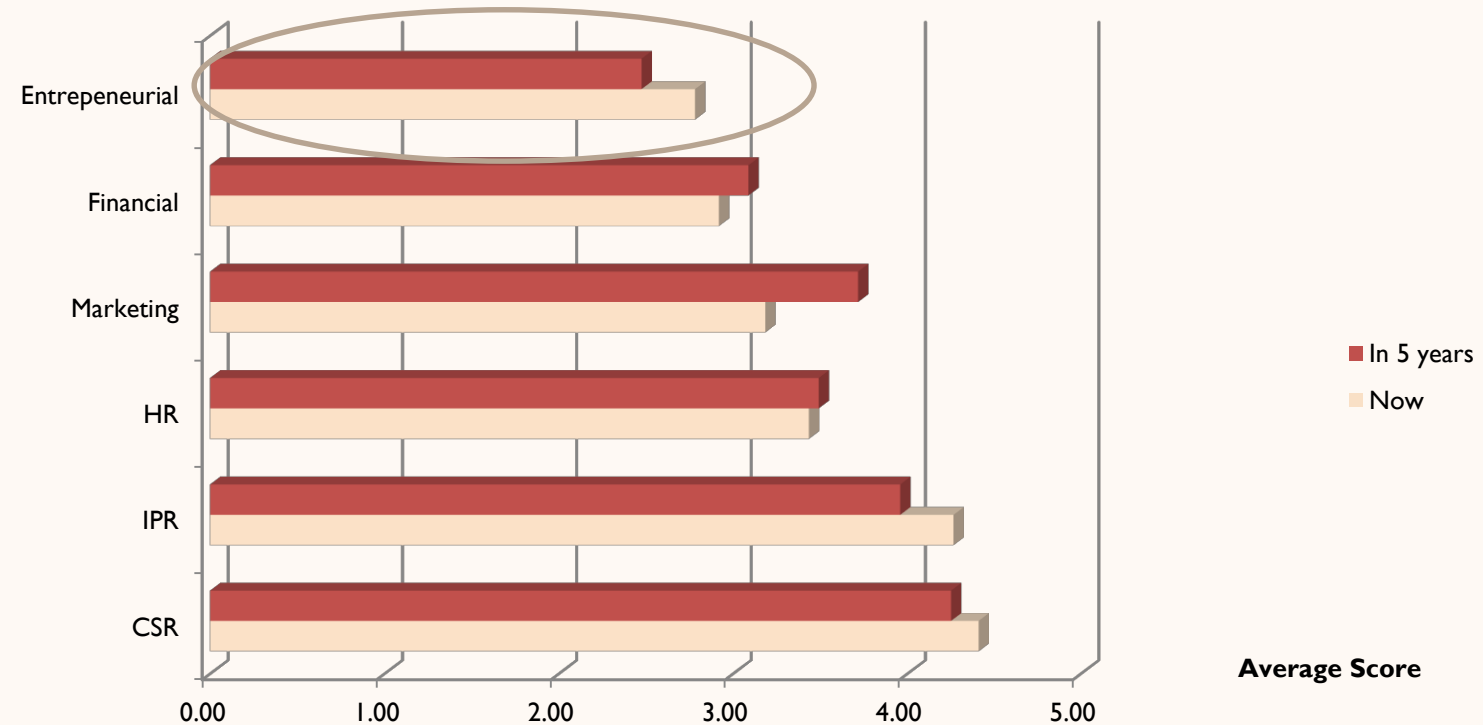


The highest score is the *least* important competence group

Source: YPARD's study 2011 - Working towards a new generation of young professionals



# Business and Economic Competencies



**The highest score is the *least* important competence**

Source: YPARD's study 2011 - Working towards a new generation of young professionals

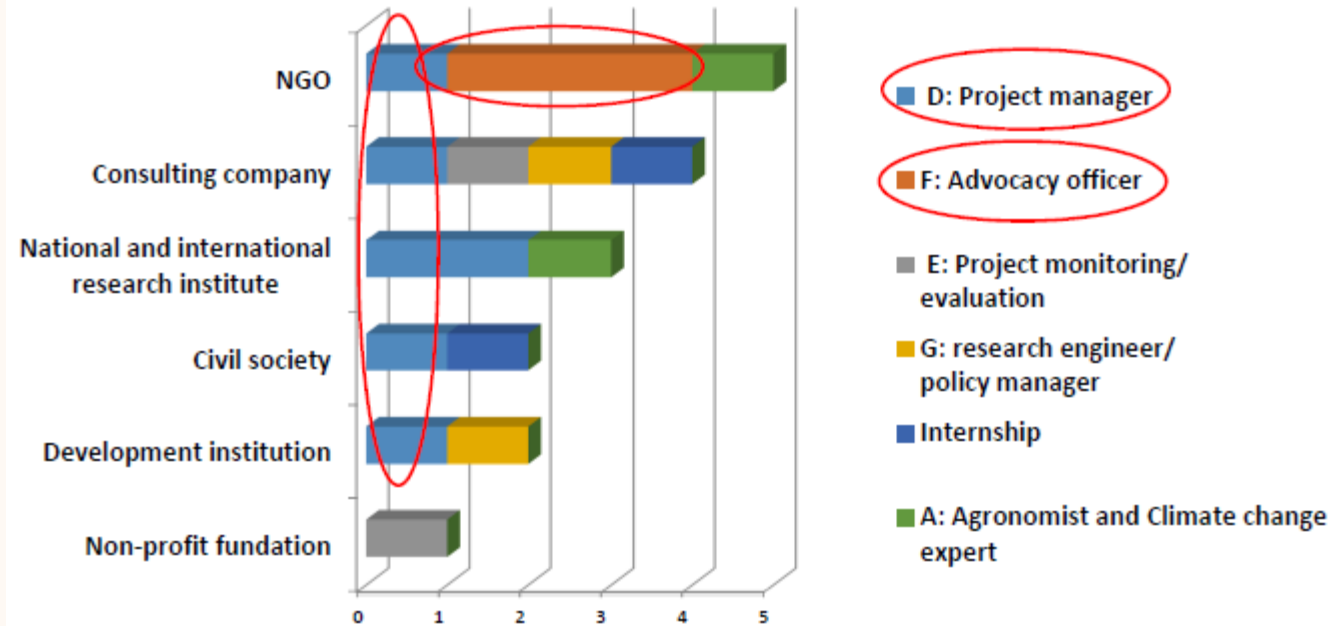
# Climate change educational needs

- **Research** to inform and feedback on a new Msc on **Agriculture and Climate Change (ACT)**
- How to ensure enough **technical competency** in a multidisciplinary degree ?
- Teaching methods are increasingly important for **imparting 'soft skills'**
- Climate Change requires the ability to **evolve with changing contexts**

# New job market's needs

## Results → Job offer analysis

Is there an emerging position?



# Tropentag 2014 Career Fair

- By Agrinatura and YPARD
- Focus on **youth employability** of youth
- Real **understanding of the job market**
- **Employers** shared their **needs**
- **Universities** received insight in the needs for a **shifting curricula**



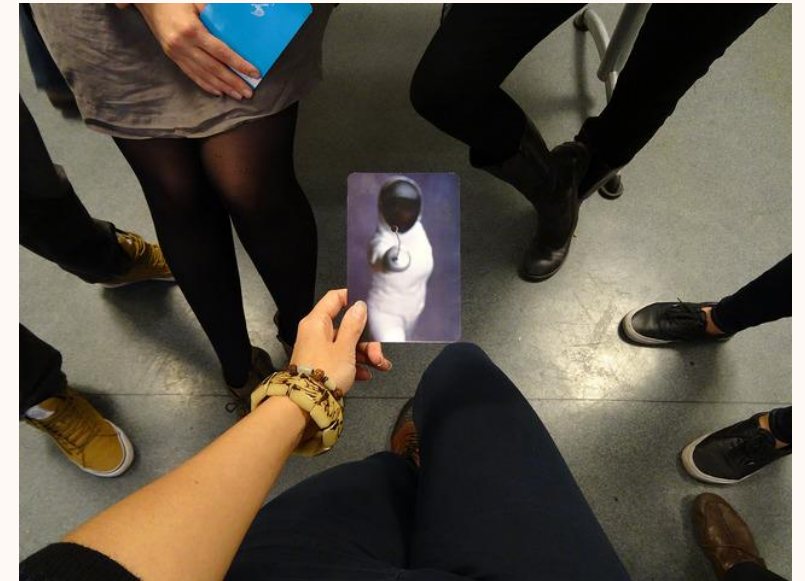
# What was missing...

- **Youth's vision** on their future in agricultural development
- How to support **youth to have a critical eye** on development, needs of the job market and how they can **lead the change**
- **Identification of jobs and skills needed to support youth's vision**



## So...now what?

- **Support youth visions and support change**
- **Better understand the technical/soft skill balance required**
- **Engage youth in curriculum reform**
- **More dialogue with employers and educators for a more inclusive partnership around youth's vision**





**Thank You**



**[www.ypard.net](http://www.ypard.net)**

# The Workshop

- **Mission 2026: Acting now to support youth in agriculture**
- *Looking back, what actions will the youth of tomorrow wish today's custodians had taken to improve the agricultural sector of 2026 and their place in it?*

# Workshop's Principles

- Encouraging **discussion among different stakeholder groups.**
- Voicing visions – **comparing and confronting differences of opinions**
- **Guiding principle:** all stakeholders share a common goal: for a strong **youth-led future** that will engage young people in innovative and relevant agricultural related activities.

# Agenda

- **9:00 – 9:20 Welcome and presentation**
- **9:20 – 9:40: Motivations and drivers**
- **9:40 – 10:00 Organisation and reflection**
- **10:00 – 10:20 Coffee**
- **10:20 – 11:00 Discussion**
- **11:00 – 11:25 Presentations and discussion**
- **11:25 – 11:30 thanks and wrap-up**

# Discussion Questions

**Q1. What role are today's young professionals playing to realise their common vision? Is this reflected in your studies? In the job sector?**

- Do current jobs adequately reflect the needs/visions that you outlined or what motivated you? Is there something missing? If so, what?

**Q2. What skills and competencies are most valued (in your opinion) in current agricultural development practice? Is there a good balance between technical and soft skills – how can this be improved? How can these help to build the future you want?**

- Is there too much/too little emphasis on certain skills. How can we find the right balance? What have you found in your own experience - can you give examples? What can be done to create a better balance from your perspective? What is the role of the educational institution?

**Q3. How do we prepare young professionals to work towards the future they want?**

- How can we best work towards a better future (common vision?) within the constraints faced by young professionals (lack of authority, limited decision making and experience, etc). How can we become more deliberate in our work and in shaping our future? How do we prepare youth to understand the realities of the sector and make real change?