



2013

Activity Report



YPARD

Young Professionals for Agricultural
Development

www.ypard.net

Prepared by:

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Young Professionals for Agricultural Development

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Key achievements in 2013

- 25 new YPARD representatives for: [Ethiopia](#) , [India](#), [Nigeria](#), [Trinidad and Tobago](#), [Iran](#), [Kyrgyzstan](#), [Serbia](#) , [Moldova](#), [Uzbekistan](#), [Bangladesh](#), [Guinea](#), [Cameroon](#), [Senegal](#), [Canada](#), [Georgia](#), [Russia](#), [Brazil](#), [Switzerland](#), [Sierra Leone](#), [Burundi](#), [Ukraine](#), [Kenya](#), [Armenia](#), [Croatia](#), and [Malawi](#)
- 43% increase in YPARD members in 2013
- 54% increase in blog posts with 237 blogs posted on www.ypard.net in 2013
- YPARD [partnership](#) with the CGIAR's Drylands CRP, for better inclusion of young people in the program, at all levels
- Strong [youth participation](#) at the 6th African Science Week, with a YPARD side event, a youth and women side session and youth social reporting
- Global Landscapes Forum (part of COP19) TEDx style [Youth session](#), webcasted, with 150 online submissions and 9 young, powerful speakers
- Expansion of gender work as part of the [GAP initiative](#), a collaborative platform for women in agriculture
- The YPARD community is one of the pioneers in the [AgriVivo initiative](#), for better networking and collaboration in agriculture
- Workshop by YPARD Africa and FARA for inclusion of youth in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme – Knowledge, Information and Skills ([CAADP-KIS](#))
- Successful [International Youth day](#) celebrations with 20 powerful testimonials from youth on the topic of migration and development
- Stronger YPARD national working groups, field visits and activities on local level reported in [YPARD news](#)
- YPARD involved in the organisation and on the jury of 'Innovative Ideas from the Youth to Feed the World' [showcased at FAO](#)
- [Seeing Thoughts contest's winner](#) (Grace Wanene) announced; video available on the website;
- YPARD on the jury for the 2013 ITU Telecom [World Young Innovators Competition](#)
- YPARD Europe participation to the 26th [International Leadership Workshop](#) for Rural Youth
- YPARD has official representation on the [GFAR Steering Committee](#) with full voting rights
- [New YPARD Steering Committee member](#): Danielle Nierenberg of FoodTank
- 5 remote interns in Web4Knowledge and Social Media in 2013: [Tega](#) , [Apeh](#), [Emmie](#), [Madhu](#) and [Madan](#)
- [YPARD annual report 2012](#) and [Youth and GCARD2 report](#) available in YPARD e-library
- Logo competition, vote among staff and representative and official confirmation of new YPARD logo!

Introduction

2013 was a year of growth for YPARD, both within the network and its position as a leading youth in agriculture organisation on the international, regional and national scenes.

YPARD actively promoted and supported the participation of youth in key events in 2013, playing a strong role in the Africa Agriculture Science Week and the Global Landscapes Forum. These events showcased youth driven initiatives that are proving that agriculture can be attractive to young people when innovative solutions are applied to meet certain key challenges.

Regional level activities began to gain strength from working with FARA for inclusion of youth in the CAADP Programme, European activity planning at the youth and rural development workshop, the production of videos within Europe on young farmers their lives and visions and participation in the launching of the CGIAR Drylands CRP meetings.

Twenty-five new national representatives were selected, many spearheading strong activities from youth meetings in Nepal, youth contributions to conferences in China, links with IITAs young agripreneurs in Nigeria, providing youth input to CORAF/WECARD in West Africa, youth meetings in Russia, meetings with regional bodies in Brasil and much, much more.

The year ended with the report from YPARD's external review. The reviewers congratulated YPARD on its successes since the previous review in 2009 including a 400% increase in members, new regional hosting institutions and 41 country representatives. Suggestions for the future included a content-driven agenda, stronger regional hosting arrangements and to roll out the planned mentoring programme.

Activities

YPARD has implemented a range of activities in 2013, provided in detail below according to the strategic objectives.

Strategic objective 1 - Exchange of information and connecting people

Active membership and sharing of information

Website & information services

- A 43% increase in new members signed up on www.ypard.net in 2013, bringing the total number to 6915. The number of active members (those with detailed profiles who login regularly) is 4930, a 61% increase since the end of 2012;
- A 54% increase in blog posts in 2013 with 237 in total. Nepal and Nigeria have been particularly active in soliciting their members and local representatives to write blog posts;
- More information being collected on members, including how they learned about YPARD;
- Posting official YPARD documentation so that everyone is informed and activities of the GCU are transparent. For example, the 2012 Annual report: [YPARD report 2012 is out!](#)

Social media

- YPARD Social Media Team (SMT), created from the GCARD2 young social reporting programme (now 171 members), celebrated their one year of existence [Read more: Geek & Agriculture Lovers-for-ever celebrate their 1st #GCARD2 anniversary](#);
- Several calls a year are made for young people to join the YPARD SMT and other online groups created for key ARD events organized by partners, as a way to involve more youth into discussions, for example: [Unleashing your social media powers for Agriculture!](#)
- YPARD national pages are now on the Russian, Chinese and Ukrainian equivalents of Facebook: [Vkontakte](#), [Renren](#), [QQ](#) and [Veibo](#).

Active national chapters!

National representatives are increasingly active in building working groups and memberships. In 2013 new country representatives were nominated for [Ethiopia](#), [India](#), [Nigeria](#), [Trinidad and Tobago](#), [Iran](#), [Kyrgyzstan](#), [Serbia](#), [Moldova](#), [Uzbekistan](#), [Bangladesh](#), [Guinea](#), [Cameroon](#), [Senegal](#), [Canada](#), [Georgia](#), [Russia](#), [Brazil](#), [Switzerland](#), [Sierra Leone](#), [Burundi](#), [Ukraine](#), [Kenya](#), [Armenia](#), [Croatia](#) and [Malawi](#)

India: In response to the [call](#) for participation in the [YPARD India](#) working group on [ypard.net](#), 15 candidates out of several applications were selected based on their expression of interest, insight on youth and agriculture and commitment to YPARD: [YPARD India working group constituted](#).

Nepal: organized a [Year round planning of YPARD Nepal](#) with its team of local representatives, and sent a [YPARD Nepal call for membership](#) for more active members

Russia: [YPARD presentation in Saint-Petersburg](#) was organized by the national representative, in collaboration with national partners

Nigeria: the national chapter is growing and seeking young professionals for four volunteer positions: Communications and Awareness, Partnership, Program management and Administration (Secretary). Read more: [Calling for new YPARD Nigeria team's members!](#)

Brazil: built a small and effective team who translated YPARD materials in Portuguese and participated to national meetings for awareness on youth engagement and information sharing: [Zoom in 2013 YPARD Brazil !](#)

Burundi: introduced YPARD to a group of rural youth and discussed the benefits of working together: Quand la jeunesse rurale commence à s'intéresser aux activités de recherche agricole pour le développement (ARD)

Cameroon: built its working group and is beginning to plan activities: [YPARD Enhances Agricultural Research for Development in Cameroon among rural youth](#)

Rwanda: registered more than 50 new members in 2013 who will support activities in 5 corners of the country. In a meeting scheduled in 2014, each province will have a representative for the district focal points. It is expected that there will be 5



Marina Cherbonnier
Welcoming Warmly YPARD new Country Representative for Switzerland : Rahel Wyss ! Rahel already fully belongs to the "family"

Million thanks to Johanna Gysin who is handing over the position. It was great working with you, Johanna, and you made an awesome job!

Let's keep it on!

Welcoming YPARD new Country Representative for Switzerland : Rahel Wyss ! | YPARD
ypard.net

Because of new intense professional paths, Johanna has decided to hand over her role as YPARD Switzerland representative to another Young Professional. Read her testimonial about her experience with

Like · Comment · Unfollow Post · Share · Yesterday at 11:11am

Islam Gamal El-Den, Nana Darko, Raymond Erick Zvavanyange and 26 others like this.

Olawale Isaiah Ojo You are very welcome
Yesterday at 1:02pm · Like · 🔄 1

Moses Owiny Yes, you are most welcome!
Yesterday at 1:08pm · Like

Sridhar Gutam Congrats and welcome!
Yesterday at 1:40pm via mobile · Like

Rahel Wyss Thank you all very much and looking forward to our collaboration.
Yesterday at 1:46pm · Like

Kálú Samuel Anyá Big welcome Rahel!
Yesterday at 1:56pm · Like

Keron Bascombe WELCOME!
Yesterday at 4:12pm · Like

Dinesh Panday All the best Wyss 😊 we are with you.
Yesterday at 4:39pm · Like

Noelly Rasoamandrany welcome Rahel Wyss
23 hours ago · Like

F. Md. Safiul Azam Congratulations and welcome 😊
21 hours ago · Like

Johanna Gysin Go Rahel, go Rahel! I'm looking Forward to work with you for YPARD! 😊
21 hours ago · Unlike · 🔄 1

Nana Darko Welcome Rahel Wyss. All the best!!!
9 hours ago · Edited · Like

Marina Cherbonnier Thumbs up, Guys! A little proof among others here that YPARD as an international community of YPs is ALIVE & VIBRANT! I love the way you welcome each others! Another proof? A young lady popping up Today in my office telling me she was advised to meet us to learn from our community practices and that she was impressed by our website... A lot, a lot of work to do, still and again, but we are doing good! Sending Love from Roma!
2 hours ago · Like · 🔄 1

Rahel Wyss wow! wanted to add that i am as well really astonished by all the kind welcoming words of you guys!! awesome! and Marina Cherbonnier: great story! I think we are on the right path 😊
2 hours ago · Like

provincial representatives and 30 district focal points

Ghana: made presentations at research institutes and universities across the country to augment membership and encourage discussions on youth empowerment in agriculture. Presentations were made at the University of Cape Coast (School of Agriculture), University of College and Education Winneba (Mampong campus, Agriculture faculty), Soil Research Institute and Forest Research Institute of Ghana. At each location a representative was selected to organize ypard activities and liaise with interested youths and experienced supporters on activities in their respective institutions. Contacts were made in each institution to follow up on ypard activities.

China: A China Youth Elite Consultation was held for enlarging the YPARD China network, improving the organizational chart and enhancing promotion channels. Discussions were also held on the preparation for an YPARD Asia Consultation.



- Organized three meetings to share key messages from GCARD2 to young researchers in the CAAS agricultural information institute. The first was about knowledge sharing and learning, the second was how to apply for sponsorship for international conferences, and the third was for the YPARD China Team on enhancing partnerships with other stakeholders.
- YPARD China also held a meeting about YPARD to students at Ningxia University, in the North-Central region of the country.
- There were exchange experiences between YPARD China and YPARD Ethiopia when the Ethiopian representative visited Beijing for Young Volunteers for Environment. Representatives exchanged experiences and strategies.

Benin: supported the launch of a francophone platform with AgroDev that aims to facilitate access to agricultural information for youth from Benin and African francophone countries. It also enables agricultural opportunities and resources sharing within francophone regions in general and Benin in particular with an emphasis on opportunities and resources for young professionals in agriculture <http://agrodevbenin.wordpress.com>

Bangladesh: YPARD members and students from the *Department of Biotechnology & Genetic Engineering and Department of Molecular Medicine & Bioinformatics*, lead by the YPARD representative visited a farmers` field to learn about agricultural practices and crop-profit status of horticulture. Read

more: [Cash Crop Cultivation Brings Smiles to the Farmers: Revealed from A Field Visit of YPARDIans of UODA](#)

Switzerland: organized a first field visit for YPARD members and partners related to urban agriculture. [Of Humans and Plants: How gardening can connect city residents and help to build up a local community](#)

Nigeria: paid a visit to the IITA Young Agripreneurs at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture to create links and examine ways of working together. Read [YPARD Nigeria visits IITA Agripreneurs](#) , [Empowering young farmers: IITA walk the talk](#), [YOUTH IN ACTION – MY IITA Experience](#) , [Averting a "time bomb" - The IITA Example](#)

Strategic objective 2: Opportunities for policy debates

Inter-institutional linkages

These activities are about partnering with organizations who share the same objectives and who can have an impact on youth engagement in the sector as well as benefit from YPARD and its experiences.

Global level

CGIAR Dryland Systems research programme: [YPARD](#) was invited as a partner and official youth representative for the launch of [CRP1.1](#) in May 2013, in Amman, Jordan. A presentation was provided by YPARD on the importance of youth in the implementation of the drylands system programme and potential areas of engagement. YPARD national focal points then attended regional program meetings in West Africa, East Africa and South Asia, to advise on youth engagement in the workplans. Read more about the outcomes of the launch: [Youth's stake in the CGIAR Dryland Systems CRP 1.1](#), the South Asia and East Africa reports: ["Youth up for CRP 1.1's implementation in South Asia region"](#) and ["Shaping the Future of Youth Involvement in CRP 1.1 - East Africa"](#)

YPARD then became a key partner in the development of a joint youth and gender strategy for the CRP. Unfortunately the joint strategy was not approved by the consortium, as a standalone gender strategy was requested. Nevertheless a youth strategy is being finalised and youth will continue to be a key area of focus for the CRP

Youth representative on the GFAR Steering Committee: As part of YPARD's efforts to include youth in advisory positions on boards and steering committees, YPARD proposed the inclusion of a youth representative onto the GFAR Steering Committee. YPARD "will now have full and equal status in GFAR decision-making, alongside other sectors already represented" [Read more.](#)

Gender in Agriculture Partnership (GAP): YPARD is recognised as the catalyst for youth and has provided input in the start-up activities of the GAP. While the YPARD network still has more men than women registered as members 42% women to 58% men, women are strongly represented among YPARD national representatives, regional coordinators, CGU staff and SC and equal representation in opportunities are sought where possible YPARD has two GAP catalysts (one woman, one man), and with these intends to increase its gender focused work.

FSN Forum West Africa a collaboration began with YPARD on a joint survey on [Youth in agriculture in West Africa](#). The survey seeks to learn more about existing programs for youth and food security in the region. It solicits youth to become more involved in the FSN Forum and YPARD and to boost collaboration between the different actors around the identified activities.

IFAD and YPARD organised joint e-discussions to capture the perspectives of young professionals on intergenerational cooperation and agricultural water management labour markets for youth in the south. These contributions fed into presentations and communication materials for high profile conferences in the water and agriculture sector such as the Stockholm Water Week, the First World Irrigation Forum, and the Budapest Water Week "[Being a Young Professional in the Agricultural Water Management sector](#)"- [Call for contributions!](#)

Regional level

Spore magazine, edited by CTA solicited YPARD to obtain testimonials of young agricultural researchers in Africa. Michael Osei, the Ghanaian representative and a young scientist at the Crops Research Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR-CRI) in Ghana was interviewed by the magazine. Read M. Osei's contribution: [Halting the brain drain of young researchers](#)

The screenshot shows the SPORE magazine website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the magazine title 'SPORE' and the subtitle 'The magazine for agricultural and rural development in ACP countries'. There are links for 'Download the magazine in PDF', 'Receive the newsletter', and 'Receive RSS feeds'. A search bar is also present. The main content area features a sidebar with a table of contents including 'EDITORIAL', 'COVERSTORY', 'DOSSIER', 'INTERVIEW', 'VALUE CHAINS', 'NEWS', 'AGRICULTURE', 'LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES', 'ENVIRONMENT', 'RESEARCH', 'BUSINESS AND TRADE', 'PUBLICATIONS', and 'NEWS FROM CTA'. The main article is by Michael Osei, titled 'Halting the brain drain of young researchers'. It includes a photo of Michael Osei and a short bio: 'Michael Osei is a young scientist at the Crops Research Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR-CRI) in Ghana and the Ghanaian representative for the Young Professionals in Agricultural Research for Development (YPARD) platform. In 2010, he came fifth in a CTA competition for young scientists in Africa and in 2011 he won a bronze award for the National Best Young Ghanaian Scientist prize. © M Osei'. A quote at the bottom of the article reads: 'In Africa, young agricultural researchers in the public sector face many obstacles. Despite their passion, they are often tempted to leave institutional research centres to join private companies, or even work abroad. Yet, public-private partnerships could reduce this temptation'.

National level

Senegal: The national representative met with the Executive Director of **IPAR** (Initiative Prospection Agricole Rurale) to discuss partnership and an MOU between IPAR and YPARD Senegal is being developed. Further discussions were held with **CORAF/WECARD** (the West and Central African Sub Regional Organization for Agricultural Research for Development) to discuss CORAF's strategy on empowerment of young professionals in agriculture. A strong partnership is expected.

Mali and Benin: The YPARD Senegal representative introduced the Malian and Benin representatives to CORAF to identify young individuals for youth integration into the PPAAO (West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme). There are plans for other francophone and Anglophone West African YPARD representatives to become involved as well.

Nepal: YPARD created links with universities (IAAS/TU and AFU) and government research institutions (NARC) via focal persons so that YPARD members may sit on the board of working committees of ARD organisations and get more visibility.

Benin formed a partnership with ACED (Actions pour l'Environnement et le Developpement Durable) to become a hosted entity. This was discussed and approved by the ACED Board of Directors, enabling YPARD Benin to benefit from the institutional structure with official recognition and a wider reach.

ARD events

Global level

Global Landscapes Forum (GLF), COP19: YPARD co-organized the TedX-style youth session with CIFOR and CCAFS, the organizers of the GLF. It showcased 9 inspirational speakers and thought leaders who have changed the way youth are perceived in the natural resource management sector and youth champions who successfully set up a project or business in this sector.



E-discussions were held prior to the event to solicit young people to share concrete ideas on how to tackle specific topics including: (1) lack for finance (2) unattractiveness of the sector among the youth (3) mismatch between the education system's deliveries and the needs of the job market and (4) the lack of capacity development for the youth.

The half-day youth session of the GLF attracted 200 participants onsite and was streamed live on the internet. 150 youth speaker submissions were received which were published online to show the diversity and the quality of the youth-led projects. A contest was held on these submissions which received over 13,000 online votes. The outcomes of the youth session were brought into the general discussions of the two day GLF event and the moderator of the youth session was part of the closing session's panellist.

In addition, 2 YPARD members were selected (and the fee waived) to attend the Social Media BootCamp prior to the event. The YPARD network was active in the social reporting team online and onsite. Thanks to the networking, one of the young presenters received a small grant and attended the world

agroforestry congress in India. Another presenter is exploring ways to work with organisations on community participation for conservation.

Articles are available in annex 1 and the wrap-up of the outcomes of the session and its impact on the conference: [Active Youths' take home messages - how to involve our peers in landscapes approaches](#).

Science Forum: YPARD met with the ISPC to provide input on their youth session for the 2013 science forum and mobilized its network to apply. Five YPARD members were selected, presented their work and discussed YPARD activities in their different regions. Read more: [Early Career Scientists mentored at the Science Forum 2013](#)

Youth and GCARD2 report was published on the website and shared with partners. A blog post summarized the tangible impacts of the capacity development opportunities in social media, highlighting the projects undertaken by the trainees using the skills they learned at GCARD2. Find the report : <http://ypard.net/resources/youth-and-gcard2> and the blog post: [If agriculture is an aging profession, we need to make some changes](#)

Innovative Ideas to Feed the World – Young Professionals Conference was held at FAO Headquarters in May 2013. YPARD mobilised its network to apply and was on the jury where five finalists presented their groundbreaking ideas to help end global hunger and malnutrition. [Read more](#)

2013 Global Food Security Symposium: YPARD was solicited by the Chicago Council to invite some Young Professionals to take part in the social reporting of the event – 5 participants blogged and tweeted about the event remotely. [Read more](#)

Regional level

African Agricultural Science Week

YPARD was actively involved at the FARA African Agricultural Science Week, where it held a side event, organised a youth and gender session and presented in the capacity development side event. It also raised awareness and provided shortlisted candidates to FARA for the young social reporters program. As such, many YPARD representatives were able to attend through different funding mechanisms.



The YPARD side event was very well attended, despite the high number of concurrent side events. It brought together YPARD members, national representatives, partners and interested parties. Topics included strategies on reaching out to rural youth, learning and sharing with the wider YPARD and youth-in-agriculture network, fundraising, partnership development and planning for the future.

The youth and gender side event provided concrete examples of engagement of these groups within the sector. YPARD encouraged attendees to learn from the struggles and successes of the gender movement over the decades to more effectively address youth in agriculture. The capacity development session focused on mentoring and YPARD presented what it learned from the pilot peer to peer approach and the young social reporters were dynamic and contributed a lot of online content. More information on this blog post: [YPARD full involvement at the AASW6](#) and *annex 1 for more information*

Before the meeting started, YPARD national representatives who were supported by FARA including: Senegal, Mali, Burundi, Kenya, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Uganda, Nigeria, to attend the meeting took part in gender mainstreaming capacity building workshops.

After the meeting, FARA disseminated a survey for feedback on the outcomes of the meeting. Of a total of 294 response, 172 contributions were received from YPARD members. This demonstrates the degree to which YPARD is contributing to increased feedback from young professionals.

Engaging youth in the implementation phase of the CAADP transformation agenda: was organised by FARA, involving several YPARD Africa representatives. The workshop examined strategies for engaging youth in the strategic stages of the CAADP agenda as it evolved from planning to implementation phase. It also looked at strategies to engage YPARD members at the country level to contribute to the CAADP. More information at: "[Engaging the Youth in the Implementation Phase of CAADP Transformation Agenda – Knowledge Information and Skills](#)"

GFFA and Tropentag 2013: YPARD Europe made several useful links at these events and discussions have led to YPARD Europe working with the Tropentag 2014 organisers to plan their regional meeting adjacent to the next Tropentag in September 2014.

Rethinking Food Security in Africa: New Paradigms, New Approaches: 5 YPARD members were invited to take part in the event in Nairobi as social reporters and for presentations on youth empowerment
[Read more](#)

ICT4AG conference: YPARD Rwanda members attended and exchanged ideas on challenges and solutions for utilization of ICT in agriculture in ACP countries. Members say they were inspired by the innovation taking place and were able to link up with development actors to network, collaborate and exchange knowledge within the scope of their activities or business.

Youth Challenges and Opportunities Workshop: YPARD was invited to present and participate at the event in Islamabad, Pakistan, October, 2013, to propose ways forward of working together on youth engagement in the Asia-Pacific region. YPARD supported the (soon to be) YPARD Asia coordinator and India representative to meet with others and strengthen YPARD Asia strategy and partners : [Read more](#)

on YPARD Director's blog post: [Youth and Ag workshop in Pakistan - my thoughts](#). The YPARD China representative (soon to be Asia coordinator) shared her experience: [AR4D Foresight for Youth: China Perspective](#)

Country level

2nd Youth Forum of ARD: organised by the *Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS)* and YPARD China, April 2013 to discuss what qualifications a researcher needs and what atmosphere is needed for young researchers to succeed in agricultural development. [Read more](#)

4th GLAST (Global Forum of Leaders for Agriculture Science and Technology): YPARD China participated to increase YPARD's visibility among the world leading international agencies and introducing YPARD to local Chinese institutions, seeking potential support.

Youth and Policy Dialogue Series on: Food Security for a Mega Population: Nigeria local representative for Lagos participated and gave input for youth in the region, in March, 2013. [Read more](#)

National Youth in Agriculture Policy Dialogue: was held following the commissioned six country case studies by the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Network (FANRPAN). Zimbabwe members took part in April 2013, to interrogate the case study findings for Zimbabwe, [Read more](#)

YPARD India was re-introduced during FFPARTY: The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) counts 7000 agricultural scientists of which 27% are young professionals (under 40 years of age) and thus, have a keen interest in the topic. The YPARD Director sent through a video presentation and ICAR expressed their interest in giving more space to the youth including YPARD activities. [Read more](#)

Pan African Youth Strategy on Learning for Sustainability Launch The YPARD Zimbabwe representative, funded by the WWF, made a presentation at the meeting in November, 2013, on the "The science of youth engagement in sustainable development and green economy in Zimbabwe" Read more: [The science of youth engagement in sustainable development and green economy](#)

Maxwell Mkondiwa, former Malawi representative, on handing over to a new Malawi representative



I have really enjoyed working with you all and I am sure that we will continue working together. YPARD has built me in many ways starting from the Science Forum 2013 and that acted as a springboard to most of the projects I am doing right now. I am still implementing strategic projects with CCAFS, ACIAR and CSIRO because of that single trip. It is only proper for me to allow YPARD to grow and enhance the capacity of fellow youths attain excellence in their agricultural fields of study.

Transform Africa 2013: a high level event in Rwanda in October 2013 aimed to set a new African agenda to leapfrog development challenges through the use and uptake of broadband and related services. 5 members of YPARD Rwanda were selected through a call for participation as social reporters, logisticians and participants.

Kenya

- 1st Africa Food Security & Adaptation conference, “Harnessing Ecosystem-based Approaches for Food Security and Adaptation to Climate Change in Africa” organized by UNEP in August 2013 in Nairobi. The conference provided a platform for young professionals to contribute to various issues related to food security. YPARD Kenya also used the forum as an opportunity for networking and recruiting new members.
- During the 2013 World Environment day, YPARD Kenya was represented by its members, where the theme was Think.Eat.Save, an anti-food waste and food loss campaign that encourages people to reduce their footprints.

YPARD produced an overview blog of its partnerships around key events from GCARD to AASW, 2013: [Big Thanks to Youth Supporters!](#)

Increasing YPARD’s visibility

Web, social media and generating youth content

- Articles from the YPARD team and members were published in **World Farmers’ Organisation newsletters**. Articles include the specific experiences of members to more general advocacy such as "Investing in youth", by the YPARD Director in the @FARMLETTER of April 2013. YPARD aims to reach out to young farmers to become part of the network. [Read more](#) *See annex 1 for the full list of contributions*
- The YPARD Director was invited to contribute to the **Chicago Council’s** Global Food for Thought Blog on the importance of engaging/investing in youth in agriculture sector to alleviate hunger and poverty through a guest commentary. Read more: [Engaging youth in agriculture. Investing in our future](#)
- YPARD gained more visibility on **partners’ websites**, including Food Tank, e-Agriculture, Global Landscapes Forum’s website and YPARD members’ blogs. The promotion of YPARD via articles is increasingly undertaken by YPARD representatives at all levels. *See annex 1 of references to YPARD on partners’ websites*
- **YPARD social media activities** are crucial in giving YPARD visibility, through information sharing and creating a sense of community to social reporting programmes at key ARD events, reaching out to a wider network of partners and individuals with a stronger voice on youth issues. Social media channels are the primary traffic generator to the YPARD website.

- Some country representatives have had their YPARD articles published on **local media**. YPARD Nepal was featured in Republica (national daily newspaper) and had a broadcasted interview in national level radio.



Communication material in additional languages: Basic YPARD information and communication resources were translated into Chinese, Russian and Portuguese for better outreach in China, Russia and central Asia, and Brazil.

YPARD promotional events

- A YPARD promotional event was organized at HAFL, where during two days, the European coordinator, Swiss representative and another committed member worked a booth to provide more information and motivate people to become involved.
- YPARD members from China and Switzerland applied for and were accepted to the Summer School of the ETH Zurich World Food System Center ([WFSC](#)) on “Sustainable Agriculture and the World Food System” in August, 2013 in Switzerland. They introduced YPARD to other participants through a presentation. [Read more](#)
- YPARD Nigeria organized a YPARD awareness campaign at Kogi State University in the Department of Animal Production [Read more](#)
- YPARD Nepal organized an awareness event at the Agriculture and Forestry University, including a capacity building aspect on ICT4D. [Read more](#) and the [testimonial](#) of a participant.

Logo contest

In order to improve and modernize the YPARD look to coincide with the development of the new strategic plan and celebration of an over 400% increase in membership since 2010, it was decided that this was a good time to rebrand as the original logo and promotional materials were looking quite old-fashioned among the young members. A logo contest was held among designers at www.logomyway.com with a \$200 prize. The GCU and members narrowed it down to the top ten and YPARD representatives, regional coordinators and GCU voted on their favourite. The winning logo is now being put onto all promotional materials.



young members. A logo

contest was held among designers at www.logomyway.com with a \$200 prize. The GCU and members narrowed it down to the top ten and YPARD representatives, regional coordinators and GCU voted on their favourite. The winning logo is now being put onto all promotional materials.

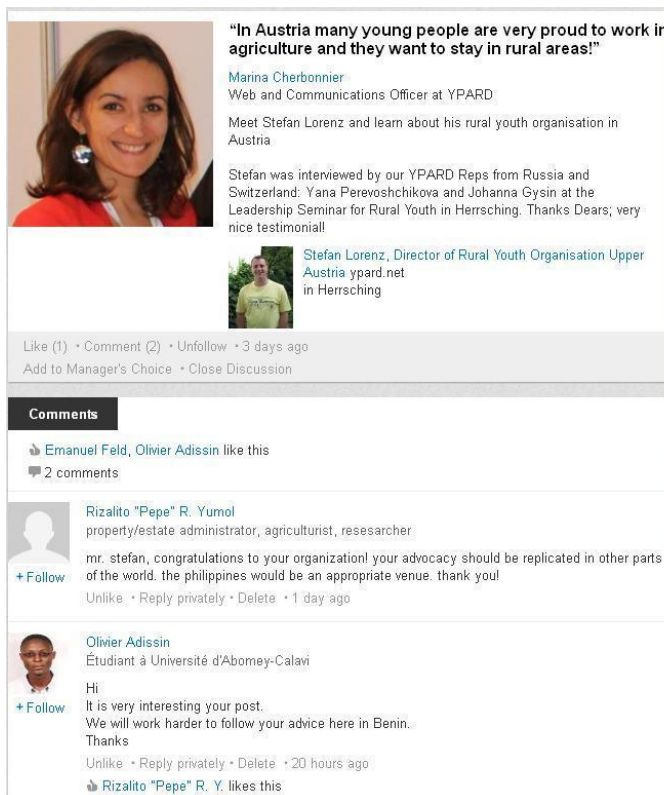
Strategic objective 3 - Promoting agriculture among young people

Promoting agriculture as a viable career path

Global level

All the social media activities that YPARD implements are geared towards promoting agriculture among young people. The use of ICTs helps to provide a more modern picture of agriculture and reach out to the new generation.

- YPARD announced the winner of the **Seeing Thoughts contest**. The video competition, launched in 2012 aimed to capture and showcase the voices of youth and their contribution to agriculture for development. The project included a mentoring aspect where the applicants received coaching and mentoring from experts in the field, on the development of their videos. [Read more: Announcing YPARD Seeing Thoughts contest's winner...Grace Wanene!](#)
- Migration for development was the theme for **International Youth Day**, August 2013. YPARD published and disseminated 20 powerful testimonials of members from different parts of the world, some of which were re-published on partners' websites: e-Agriculture and Ardyis [Read more](#)




"In Austria many young people are very proud to work in agriculture and they want to stay in rural areas!"

Marina Cherbonnier
Web and Communications Officer at YPARD

Meet Stefan Lorenz and learn about his rural youth organisation in Austria

Stefan was interviewed by our YPARD Reps from Russia and Switzerland: Yana Perevoshchikova and Johanna Gysin at the Leadership Seminar for Rural Youth in Hirsching. Thanks Dears; very nice testimonial!



Stefan Lorenz, Director of Rural Youth Organisation Upper Austria ypard.net in Hirsching

Like (1) • Comment (2) • Unfollow • 3 days ago
Add to Manager's Choice • Close Discussion

Comments

👍 Emanuel Feld, Olivier Adissin like this
🗨️ 2 comments

Rizalito "Pepe" R. Yumol
property/estate administrator, agriculturist, resesarcher

mr. stefan, congratulations to your organization! your advocacy should be replicated in other parts of the world. the philippines would be an appropriate venue. thank you!

+ Follow

Unlike • Reply privately • Delete • 1 day ago

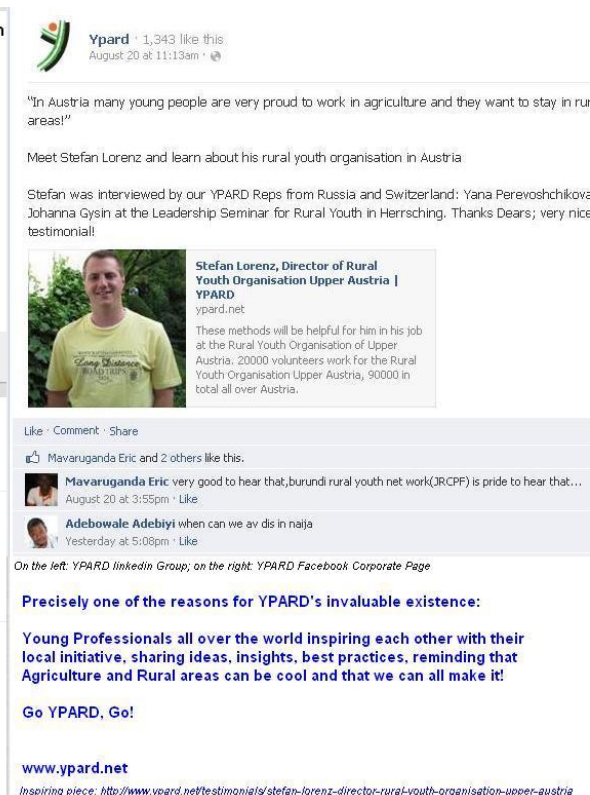
Olivier Adissin
Étudiant à Université d'Abomey-Calavi

Hi

It is very interesting your post. We will work harder to follow your advice here in Benin. Thanks

+ Follow

Unlike • Reply privately • Delete • 20 hours ago
👍 Rizalito "Pepe" R. Y. likes this




Ypard • 1,343 like this
August 20 at 11:13am

"In Austria many young people are very proud to work in agriculture and they want to stay in rural areas!"

Meet Stefan Lorenz and learn about his rural youth organisation in Austria

Stefan was interviewed by our YPARD Reps from Russia and Switzerland: Yana Perevoshchikova Johanna Gysin at the Leadership Seminar for Rural Youth in Hirsching. Thanks Dears; very nice testimonial!



Stefan Lorenz, Director of Rural Youth Organisation Upper Austria | YPARD ypard.net

These methods will be helpful for him in his job at the Rural Youth Organisation of Upper Austria. 20000 volunteers work for the Rural Youth Organisation Upper Austria, 90000 in total all over Austria.

Like • Comment • Share

👍 Mavaruganda Eric and 2 others like this.

Mavaruganda Eric very good to hear that,burundi rural youth net(JRCPPF) is pride to hear that...
August 20 at 3:55pm • Like

Adebowale Adebisi when can we av dis in naija
Yesterday at 5:08pm • Like

On the left: YPARD linkedin Group; on the right: YPARD Facebook Corporate Page

Precisely one of the reasons for YPARD's invaluable existence:

Young Professionals all over the world inspiring each other with their local initiative, sharing ideas, insights, best practices, reminding that Agriculture and Rural areas can be cool and that we can all make it!

Go YPARD, Go!

www.ypard.net

Inspiring piece: <http://www.ypard.net/testimonials/stefan-lorenz-director-rural-youth-organisation-upper-austria>

Regional level

YPARD Europe conducted a **video project** : [A YOUng FARMer's vision](#), three short films; each of them portraying a young farmer from Switzerland, Serbia and Slovakia, giving an authentic and positive picture about their daily life and their visions. These are high quality videos that YPARD will use in its communications activities and show at events.

National level

YPARD awareness campaigns organized by country members attempt to provide a dynamic image of the sector and identify opportunities. Participants are interested in and inspired by a community of young people taking the lead on critical issues and become more aware of opportunities in the field, such as those in agropreneurship and ICTs. YPARD attractive notebooks and Tshirts are provided to national representatives to promote agriculture among their peers.

Trinidad and Tobago is working on building a partnership with the Agribusiness Society of the University of the West Indies (ABS) around activities to motivate student to continue their pursuit of a career in agriculture. One of ABS's most successful activities is '*D Agri Talk Series*;' an initiative aimed at sparking opinionated discussions on topics relevant to agri youth such as technology use in agriculture, entrepreneurship, value addition, policies, along with many other topics that the students deem to be of interest.

Nepal: National Rice Day 2013 was celebrated by promoting and collaborating with other local level organizations focusing on youth and farmer interaction programs.

YPARD Nepal also contributed to sharing on *Perspectives of Nepalese Youth on Future of Food* during the "Graduate Workshop on Green Economy", July, 2013 in Kathmandu, Nepal

China:

- New opportunities for youth were highlighted in YPARD China's event: The Near Future of Agriculture: Opportunities for the Youth. The changes and trends of future agriculture were presented and discussed by both senior researchers and young professionals, and new



capacities and skills were identified, such as that of the trans-disciplinarian, entrepreneurship and broadening networks. Additionally new opportunities within the value chain were highlighted.

- A speech contest was held to promote agriculture among youth in China: More policy makers, leaders and YPs learned about YPARD during this event. Enthusiasm was particularly strong to expand international communications.
- Cooperation was made with the Little Donkey Farm, a project supporting community agriculture in Beijing. YPARD China helped to link the Little Donkey Farm with the Asian Farm Association for experience sharing and promoted YPARD China through the Little Donkey Farm's network.

Curricula reform

The Tropical Agricultural Platform (TAP) of which YPARD represents the youth, did a global assessment of current capacities and needs for capacity development in agricultural innovation systems in low income tropical countries. YPARD shared its 2012 study on skills and competencies required for the new young professional in ARD with the TAP, which was incorporated into the global synthesis report.

YPARD China held a survey of young professionals, which indicated that curricula reform is required in agricultural education. Results were reported to leaders in CAAS.

In Rwanda, the national working group is committed to engaging with higher learning institutions take the lead in implementing the results of the YPARD curriculum study of 2012.

Strategic objective 4 - Better access to capacity building and resources

Mentoring

AgriVIVO is an initiative launched by [GFAR](#), [Cornell University](#) and [FAO](#) as a search portal to facilitate the discovery of expertise and improve connections between actors in agriculture. The YPARD community is one of the pioneers on the platform and currently represents the biggest part of this network: [Towards better networking and collaboration for the Youth in agriculture: join AgriVIVO 1.0 !](#) and [AgriVIVO is growing - New data from CABI and planned collaboration with USDA and IICA](#)

Partnerships for mentoring: Based on the YPARD Skills and Competencies study of 2012, members in Rwanda agreed on the importance of working across different disciplines and understanding the value chain. YPARD Rwanda thus is working to facilitate internships for youth with a background in agriculture and rural development. Some were arranged through the Digital Opportunity Trust- DOT in 2013.

Capacity Development

Technical online communicators' workshop: was organized by CGIAR in May 2013. The participation fee was waived for three YPARD members. The YPARD team used social media (twitter, storify and blog

posts) to share their notes from the workshop, enabling other YPARD members to benefit from the learning experience. [Read more](#)

Social Media Coordination

Bootcamp of the Global Landscapes Forum was organised by the CGIAR in November 2013. The registration fee was waived for two YPARD members. This enabled two social-media experienced young professionals to benefit from a capacity building's opportunity in



refined Social Media Coordination for youth-in-ag' s empowerment. Read more: [Social Media Coordination for Youth-in-Agriculture's empowerment](#)

Coaching program on delivering an effective speech: In the frame of the GLFCOP19 Youth session, YPARD, in partnership with CIFOR offered coaching to the 9 young speakers through guidelines and individual skype meetings on delivering impactful speeches. Read the guideline: [How to give a once-in-a-lifetime speech](#) and learn more about the youth session: [Youth: The Future of Sustainable Landscapes](#).

ITU Telecom World Young Innovators Competition: YPARD was on the jury, in the section Food and water wastage. The contest aims at recognizing young people who are using technological innovation to improve the social reality of their communities and giving them a boost in their activity. It implies a coaching facet where juries give feedback on youth's proposal for them to strengthen their business plans. Selected individuals are invited to a workshop to build upon their skills and meet experts, and are given a grant to implement or develop their project.

Regional

Leadership Workshop for Rural Youth: welcomed four YPARD Europe representatives, where they spent time developing new skills and writing their national activity plans. Read more about the participation here: [Life after Herrsching](#)

National

A great example of YPARD members working together to access resources was a joint application made by YPARD China, Tanzania and Kenya for the AgriTT program funded by Dfid. The application included youth led research activities and strong international cooperation. Unfortunately the proposal was not accepted but the group plans to work together on future proposals.

Brazil shares some short guideline on networking practices: [The know-how of Networking](#)

Vietnam: organized a workshop on the role of biodiversity and biotechnology in response to climate change in Vietnam. The workshop was a bridge across disciplines for young scientists who could exchange and share their results in biodiversity and biotechnology as well as forestry, plant breeding and microorganism studies in climate change. The workshop also provided young scientists with more information on the consequences of climate change both nationally and globally and solutions to respond to climate change now and in future. [Read more.](#)



Nepal: organized an informative meeting on the proper handling of email & internet, social media and sharing of agriculture based websites and groups, in order to enhance YPARD members' participation online and information access and sharing.

China: the YPARD China secretary successfully applied for an opportunity that she found on the ypard website, the ETH Zurich World Food System Center (WFSC) Summer School "Sustainable Agriculture and the World Food System" She enhanced her analysis and communication skills and shared her experiences with the rest of the YPARD China team. Stronger links between YPARD China and YPARD Switzerland have been established.

The YPARD China Financial Officer joined the AASW6 in Ghana and received social media training. She enhanced her web and communications skills and also enhanced the links between YPARD China and YPARD Cameroon.

The YPARD China team organized a regular study group to discuss, plan and organize activities. All the seminars were in English which help improve the team's English level and communication skills.

Burkina Faso: YPARD members attended the ICRISAT regional meeting on building capacity for scenario visioning (West African Sahel & Dry Savannas), December 2013

Benin: CTA funded two members of YPARD Benin for training social media through the UNITAR course "Innovative Collaboration for Development.

Through support at the global level, Benin submitted a proposal to IFAD at country level for review and consideration. The proposal focused on two activities: Supporting youth in agribusiness and training young professionals in agriculture on web2.0.

Burundi: YPARD members supported the training of community leaders and rural youth after receiving training in web 2.0.

Kenya: partnered with the Scinnovent centre and others to organize the two phases of the training course *‘the art of influencing policy change: tools and strategies for researchers’*. The objectives of the course were to help researchers understand the research – policy nexus, including: their role in bridging the research – policy gap; the key issues and considerations for evidence-based policymaking; and strategies for getting knowledge into policy. It also provided researchers with a set of tools for influencing policy change including how to design a framework for action; context mapping; influence mapping; how to write policy papers and policy briefs and how to engage policymakers.

YPARD governance and evolution

External review: An external review supported by SDC was completed at the end of 2013. The review indicated an overall positive performance of YPARD since the previous external review in 2009 and made several recommendations.

The overarching recommendation of the review for YPARD’s future activity is: to develop and apply a content-driven approach. The 2014-2018 period will focus on moving towards a content driven agenda, facilitating the development of topic specific activities and ensuring that regional and national content is represented.

The set of secondary recommendations made by the review includes:

- Develop the mentoring program and secure funding for its implementation
- Continuing with the active social media team and strategy
- Diversify funding sources
- Reinforcement of the Global Coordination Unit through one additional full time position
- Strengthen and/or renegotiate regional hosting arrangements, where possible
- Standardization of management and organizational structures

The outputs of the external review provided a base for discussions and decisions in the strategic planning meeting, setting the basis for this medium term plan. [Read more](#)

Steering Committee

The YPARD Steering Committee meeting was held in Rome February 22nd and 23rd, 2013 and examined the activities and role of YPARD and its strategy in the years to come. The SC agreed on the change of name, to Young Professionals for Agricultural Development, changed the title of coordinator to director to reduce the confusion among the several coordinators within the network and elected a new chair.

[Read more](#)

A new YPARD Steering Committee member joined the team early in the year, Danielle Nierenberg, who works for the Food Tank, which specialises in communications in agriculture and food systems. Danielle's expertise is in communications and plans to help YPARD further develop its communications outreach [Read more.](#)

Performance review: YPARD plans to implement a performance review for all levels – the Steering Committee, Global Coordination Unit, Regional Coordinators and National Representatives. It will include a two-level review, where individuals will be reviewed by those that manage them and those they manage as well.



GCU: welcomed 5 remote and part-time interns in Web4Knowledge and Social Media, in 2013: [Tega](#) , [Apeh](#), [Emmie](#), [Madhu](#), [Madan](#)

Regional: Measures have been put into place to change the Asia Regional Coordination Unit from VIT University in India to the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) in Beijing. This will be formally announced in 2014. CAAS is more active in the agricultural development community and will provide more opportunities for YPARD to engage at the regional level. Furthermore more time of the regional coordinator will be committed to coordinating regional activities.

National level: As YPARD is not an officially registered organization, some activities are not possible, such as meetings with government ministers. It was decided during the SC meeting that registration is not something we should seek at this time but rather to seek hosting organizations for national chapters. Some country representatives have begun to seek possible hosting organisations on a national level with clear legal status. Benin has now secured a hosting organisation, Zimbabwe is at the stage of identifying organisations and launching discussions and Guinea as well.

All YPARD national representatives have created a YPARD gmail address and a Dgroup has been implemented to enhance the internal communication within YPARD team

Challenges and lessons learned

Video contest: Although participants received capacity development for skills in video production, it did not result in the high quality videos that were expected. The winning video was a strong one, but other finalists' videos were not of high enough quality to be used for external purposes. YPARD has since learned that it is better to use professional film makers when trying to get a message across. If a similar activity is organised in the future, more capacity development and access to more professional quality equipment would be planned in the programme.

Administrational hurdles: The systems and logistics for administering small amounts of funds to both regional and national level are time consuming. It thus takes a lot of time to organise and monitor transfers as well as long durations to wait for funds for national level activities. This slows down the progress of activities and takes time of the GCU which could be better spent on programs. YPARD continues to try and simplify administrational procedures where possible.

National level activities: While feedback from national representatives on their activities is increasing, communication is still very poor with some countries. National level activities are still limited by the lack of funds for enable formal meetings with members geographically dispersed within a same country. This leads to the challenges of reaching every registered member, and collecting impact information.

Several national representatives face challenges in implementing activities when YPARD is not an officially registered organization but as discussed above, hosting arrangements are being sought at national level.

Most representatives are keen, but do not always know how to approach the planning of activities or overcome limitations. The creation of a Dgroup enables an open communication structure within YPARD team to ask questions and receive support. More formal mechanisms will also be strengthened including guidelines and further capacity development is being sought in order to help national representatives organize strong activities and mobilise youth in their country.

Regional Commitments: Although efforts were made for a stronger coordination of country level activities, regional units still face the challenge of not having the appropriate follow-up time. This will be a priority in the fundraising strategy, to strengthen YPARD activities through regional coordination.

Stronger messages: Youth is getting a voice, however the messages that they are providing need to become clearer and more concise. Young professionals require additional guidance and skills to build strong arguments at the table of decision makers. It is additionally difficult to obtain a unified message among a disparate group of people. Youth are not a common group with the same ideas and opinions. When providing an input to a particular topic, the message is often nuanced, making strong statements more difficult to provide. Additionally, youth input cannot always be extracted from the outcomes of a meeting, making monitoring of youth input more difficult.

While interest in youth input is becoming stronger, there remains little effort to make this input central to decision making and support youth in delivering their messages. This is where YPARD plays a key role in ensuring the youth voice is heard.

Language barrier: YPARD still faces the challenge to diversify its information in several languages although great efforts were made by Russian, Chinese and Portuguese speaker representatives in order to provide information and communications resources in their language.

Too much? The agricultural field is a large one, and YPARD must focus its efforts on where it can have the greatest impact.

Monitoring and evaluation

Website: Google analytics is still widely used to monitor web usage and the items of most use to members. YPARD monitors location of visits, pages most viewed, and key words most searched for.

A number of improvement on YPARD.net were made in 2013 including the question 'how did you learn about YPARD?' to facilitate the collection and treatment of members' data for M&E and better understanding of the composition of the community

Interns support the monitoring and evaluation of social media activities, with monthly short reports and a report for improvement at the end of their term. Throughout the internship, weekly skype meetings are conducted. At the end of the internship, final feedback is required from the interns to evaluate the level of their satisfaction, solicit feedback for improvement and assess the impact and added-value of the program.

Regional and national plans YPARD began implementing a more rigorous M&E system in 2013 with standardised planning and reporting documentation where regional coordinators and national representatives were required to identify the expected outcomes of their activities and the indicators that they would use to measure success. The use of the standardised forms, however, has not been widespread among the representatives and continuous efforts are being made so that everyone uses the new system.

The use of a standard the Letter of Agreement of FAO for funding to outside bodies, remains the primary means of maintaining control over regional funding and withholding second and final payments, if necessary. National funding plans are organised according to the regional hosting institutions' requirements.

Surveys: Satisfaction surveys among YPARD members and staff will be implemented to measure the level of service to YPARD members, the interest and concerns of members and the quality of management of the network. The yearly surveys will provide baseline data from which to measure progress.

Fundraising

YPARD has discussed with several potential donors on contributing to YPARD's activities. The external reviewers noted that a more content-driven agenda will be more in tune with many donors and YPARD will have to direct its work in specific themes that can complement existing agendas.

YPARD was successful in convincing other organisations to focus more on youth input into ARD discussions, particularly in the Global Landscapes Forum where the CGIAR Consortium, GFAR and CTA agreed to sponsor young speakers for the youth session. It also provided feedback and contributed to awareness raising to the CGIAR ISPC in their young scientists session at the CGIAR Science Forum.

With the completion of the external review and the strategic planning meeting which has fed into the business plan, YPARD will use these documents to demonstrate to donors how far it has come and the significant potential impact it can have for youth engagement in the agricultural development sector in the coming years. YPARD is well placed to enhance its role as the youth leader in the sector.

Conclusion and way ahead

In 2013, YPARD significantly expanded its membership, structure and activities, with the development of several new representatives and partnerships. YPARD is being recognised as the key mechanism for stronger youth engagement in the sector. It is particularly celebrated for its role in social media and joining forces with other stakeholders to involve youth in their programs. Additionally, the provision of information and funding opportunities continues to be a highly valued service by members.

The challenge now is to bring stronger messages by the youth. One of the comments from the external review was *"Youth are getting a voice; great, what do they have to say?"* In order to respond to this, stronger capacity development is required within the YPARD team, particularly for country representatives and their working groups through targeted trainings and mentorship programs.

With the external review's recommendations, a fresh look and a new strategic plan 2014 and beyond are set to be areas of real change and impact. The best is yet to come.

Annex 1: YPARD visibility on partners' websites

The list below provides an indication the diversity of partners' websites and members' blogs where YPARD gains visibility. It is not an exhaustive list.

- **Heartland Global, Inc.** recognizes YPARD as a key player for Inspiring a new generation of farmers and ag-professionals to meet future food needs Read more: <http://heartland-global.com/inspiring-generation-farmers-ag-professionals-critical-meet-future-food/>
- YPARD was featured on **FARMD**: on a blog post: <https://www.agriskmanagementforum.org/blog/welcome-ypard> and in the practitioners directory: <https://www.agriskmanagementforum.org/practitioner-directory>
- YPARD Director was invited to contribute to the **Chicago Council's** Global Food for Thought Blog on the importance of engaging/investing in youth in agriculture sector to alleviate hunger and poverty through a guest commentary. Read more: [Engaging youth in agriculture. Investing in our future](#)
- Michael Osei (YPARD Ghana)'s interview on **Spore magazine, CTA**: <http://spore.cta.int/images/stories/pdf/SE-164.pdf+french+potuguese>.
- Marina Cherbonnier (YPARD Web&Comms)'s interview on **AASW6 blog (FARA)**: <http://aasw6.wordpress.com/2013/06/25/ypard-ensuring-inclusive-youth-contribution-at-aasw/>
- A call for young agriculture professionals – **Samuel Kalu's blog (YPARD local representative for Nigeria)**: <http://kalusam.wordpress.com/2013/04/16/a-call-for-young-agriculture-professionals/>
- Our annual report 2012 promoted on **agroyouth centre**: <http://theagroyouthcentre.wordpress.com/2013/05/14/ypard-report-2012-success-story-of-what-youths-can-do/>
- "Youth and agriculture: It's up to us" by Dinesh Panday, YPARD Nepal representative, published on **agriculturesnetwork** <http://www.agriculturesnetwork.org/magazines/global/markets/youth-and-agriculture-dinesh-panday#.Uclwljs0lqs.facebook>
- Gbadebo Odularu, YPARD Africa, was published a testimonial in the **new guardian Nigeria**: http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=125508:how-to-engage-youth-in-agriculture&catid=203:youth-speak&Itemid=730
- YPARD was mentioned as official partner of FARA for the AASW6 – on their website's home page and documents: <http://aasw6.wordpress.com/2013/06/26/cgiar-social-media-and-agricultural-research-for-development/> ; <http://aasw6.wordpress.com/2013/06/19/idowu-ejere-kicks-off-aasw6-blog/>
- YPARD was mentioned on several of **FARA AASW6** Blog posts - example: <http://aasw6.wordpress.com/2013/07/16/les-femmes-et-les-jeunes-innovent-dans-lagriculture/>
- YPARD blog post on **CGIAR website** : <http://wle.cgiar.org/blogs/2013/07/17/youth-engaging-youth-in-agriculture/>

- **AgriVivo** highlights YPARD as the top contributor of the platform: <http://www.egfar.org/news/agrivo-growing-new-data-cabi-and-planned-collaboration-usda-and-iica>
- YPARD was mentioned on **EGFAR, GFAR's website** about AASW: <http://www.egfar.org/news/6th-africa-agriculture-science-week-aasw6-social-media-wrap> and <http://www.egfar.org/news/strong-focus-women-and-youth>
- **Future agricultures** showcases a YPARD Director and YPARD Africa coordinator joint presentation on YPARD: http://www.future-agricultures.org/publications/research-and-analysis/doc_details/1517-engaging-young-professionals-in-the-agri-food-sector-strategies-lessons-and-experiences#.UtO_VVuJhGg
- Highlight on YPARD by **CGIAR** in the article on proactive gender and youth strategy for **drylands agriculture**: <http://www.cgiar.org/consortium-news/a-proactive-gender-and-youth-strategy-for-drylands-agriculture/>
- YPARD was mentioned on Codrin Paveliuc-Olariu's blog, in the post: [Youth are the future. Invest in them!](#)
- Unleashing your social media powers featured on [Food Tank](#) and [e-agriculture](#)
- Active Youths' take home messages - how to involve our peers in landscapes approaches, featured on: <http://foodtank.org/news/2013/12/active-youths-take-home-messages-how-to-involve-our-peers-in-landscapes-app>
- Social Media Coordination for Youth-in-Agriculture's empowerment featured on e-Agriculture: <http://www.e-agriculture.org/news/social-media-coordination-youth-agriculture%E2%80%99s-empowerment>
- [Geeks and Agriculture Lovers Unite! | Food Tank](#)
- [ITU Telecom World Young Innovators Competition: "and the winner is...."](#) featured on e-Agriculture
- 11 YPARD-related blog posts on e-Agriculture in 2013: <http://www.e-agriculture.org/category/tags/ypard>

World Farmers' Organization

- [WFO newsletter on Food Waste December 2013 - Contribution of the Youth](#)
- [WFO newsletter on A Global Landscape Approach to Climate Change and Agriculture, November 2013 - contribution of the Youth](#)
- [WFO newsletter, September 2013 on Contract Farming](#)
- [WFO newsletter on Water, August 2013 - contribution of the Youth](#)
- [WFO newsletter on Quinoa, July 2013 - contribution of the Youth](#)
- [WFO Newsletter - May 2013](#) – YPARD Nepal activity featured
- [WFO Newsletter - April 2013](#) - Investing in Youth", article by Courtney Paisley, YPARD Director

Global Landscapes Forum

Articles related to the GLFCOP19 Youth session

- Call for speakers: [We're looking for youth with a story to tell](#)
- Call for e-discussions : [Youth in Landscapes: Taking action on recurring issues](#)
- Call for bloggers and social media volunteers: [Bloggers and co wanted! - youth and landscapes](#)
- Call for voting for the 150 submissions shared online: [Youth submissions online and ready for your vote: what are the key messages?](#)
- Announcement of the speakers: [Eleven young entrepreneurs to kickstart the Global Landscapes Forum](#)
- Announcement of the 5 winners of the online session and first outcomes of the session: "[Behind the victim's mask, a hero](#)", "[Nothing for the youth without the youth](#)"
- Key take-home messages of the speakers: [Active Youths' take home messages - how to involve our peers in landscapes approaches](#)

Articles related to the social media bootcamp

- [Feedback from the GLF Social Media Bootcamp – Keron Bascombe](#)
- [Social Media Coordination for Youth-in-Agriculture's empowerment](#)

6th African Agriculture Science Week

- [YPARD Meeting on Sharing Country Experiences at the Africa Agricultural Science Week - AASW6](#)
With over 40 young professionals supported to attend the 2013 [African Agricultural Science Week](#) (AASW), [YPARD](#) planned an event that could celebrate what young people have done on the continent in ARD and examine how we can work stronger, together.
- [Opening Young Minds to Africa's Agriculture – How the 6th AASW connects the dots](#)
- Key events enable YPARD country representatives to meet and work together: [What youth can do for agricultural research for development](#) If young people and women are given a platform, they can do more for agricultural research for development (AR4D).
- [Social media: Business as usual?](#)
- [Sparking youth engagement in agriculture](#)
- [YPARD – Ensuring an inclusive youth contribution to the AASW](#)
- [Youth: get geared up!](#)

Annex 2 - YPs of the Month – Success stories

- [From getting a Youth voice to committing to action in ARD strategic arena!](#)
- [“We need to stumble in order to learn”: Aracely Castro – young professionals showcase](#)
- [From Local Activities to Global Development](#)
- [Agriculture; my vocation.](#)
- [Youth Support in Agriculture, Important in our time...My story](#)
- [Future Farmers in the Spotlight – Success stories of young farmers from all over Europe!](#)
- [Youth and agriculture: It's up to us](#)
- [Can a ‘city mouse’ make a good farmer?](#)
- [The Agripreneur: A new breed of Young entrepreneurs combining their love of Farming and Agriculture with an acquired professional Business Approach](#)
- [The Importance of Intercultural Exchange for Rural Development: a youth perspective from Germany](#)
- [Starting from the Roof Top – Agriculture in Hong Kong!](#)
- [Stefan Lorenz, Director of Rural Youth Organisation Upper Austria](#)

Annex 3 – Feedback from members

Below are three individual stories from members on what they gained from YPARD

- Huang Jiaqi, after she received the training in ETH summer school, shared her experience with a blog on YPARD website (<http://ypard.net/2013-june-17/successfully-got-chance-summer-school-switzerland—thank-you-ypard>) mentioning “*chance for going abroad for further study is not far from us Chinese students, and YPARD could offer information of various kinds of opportunities.*”, she also shared the news of ETH 2014 training in India and another Master student applied successfully.
- Testimonial from a former YPARD Country Representative, Johanna Gysin : [Being the first YPARD country representative of Switzerland was a challenging task – and a very interesting one!](#)
- *This blog was so inspiring, we wanted to include it in full:*

YPARD Nepal awareness raising activity

3 May 2013 by [Swikriti Pandey](#)



I am a **young girl from eastern part of Nepal**, moreover I am very young in agriculture field although more than two third of Nepalese population depend upon agriculture to sustain their daily life.

When I meet with my neighbors and other people, they usually ask me what I am studying. My answer is “agriculture”, but their perception level is different and they assume my bachelor course is a JTA (Junior Technical Assistant) course. It means that agricultural graduates have not still good access to farmers

and other people about what is different within these terms. Indeed what can they do more for farmers and farming system?

In fact, my path to study agriculture grew only when I have been selected in B. Sc. Agriculture entrance examination within hundred successful students over the 1500 applicants. Now *I am somehow sure to lead my career towards agricultural activities but I still need more time to perceive a clear picture of agriculture and how I will be able to contribute to farmers's work and the nation*; taking big dream in agriculture may not be true until and unless I have more precise knowledge and experience in this field.

It has been two month that I am pursuing my first semester agriculture academics in Agriculture and Forestry University. I am **very much surprised with course syllabus and teaching strategies** of teachers in classroom. Even more I am not getting good advices and guidelines in scope and opportunities in this sector as on being agriculturist in future. So I felt somehow uncomfortable with my studies. It may be due to the first batch of newly formed university where administrative and academic environments are not sound well. However, I left these feelings when I visited agricultural farms around the university with my colleagues where I rejoiced with nature.

The seminar organized at my university entitled, "[YPARD Awareness Campaign](#)", last week, became very fruitful to me. I remember that university had organized an orientation program in the first day of the first semester but we were not able to get knowledge on agriculture broadly. So I got several informative points from the seminar and it made me energized in the field of ICT (Information and Communications Technology) and ARD (Agricultural Research for Development).

The YPARD session has provided me good information on internet browsing, more precisely the use of different web applications and related websites to agricultural academics, the use of social media in agriculture, and I highly appreciated the concept of YPARD which is anchored in promoting youth in agriculture.

So I am very excited and expressing **keen interest in such type of network** which could facilitate the exchange of information, knowledge and ideas of youth by broadening youth opportunities and making us more proficient by enhancing youth capacities and which could attract more youths towards scientific agricultural practices which is the need of present time to secure future for upcoming generation more sustainably.