



Young Professionals' Platform for Agricultural Research for Development

Strategies for engaging young men and women



Young Professionals' Platform for Agricultural Research for Development

What is YPARD?

A global platform of young professionals under 40 years of age active in Agricultural Research for Development (ARD)

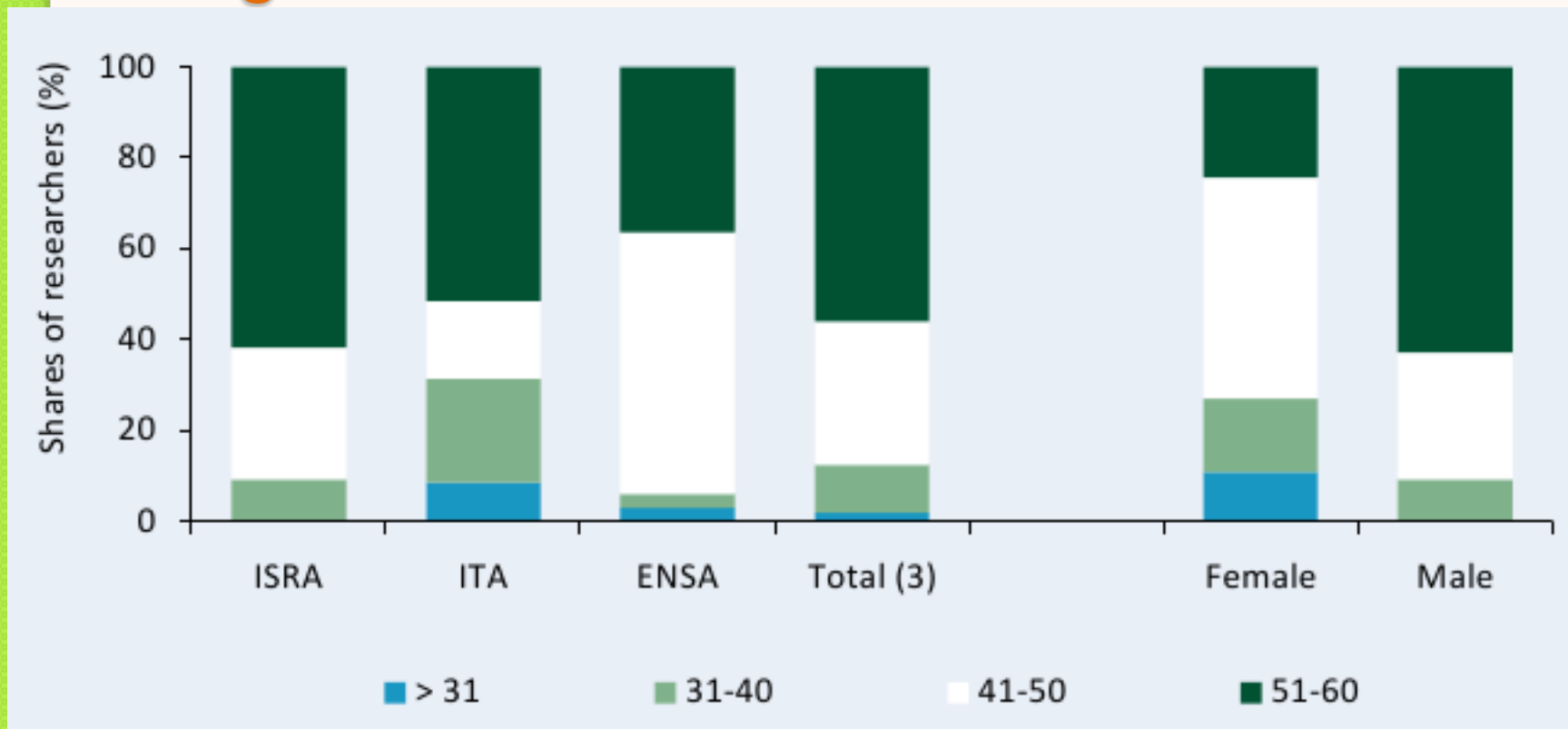
Ageing ARD population

Age distribution by agency and gender, 2007

At these three agencies over half were between the ages 51 and 60. This aging pool of well-qualified researchers, many of whom will retire in the next decade, is a major area of concern.

Sources: Calculated by authors from ASTI-AWARD 2008/09.

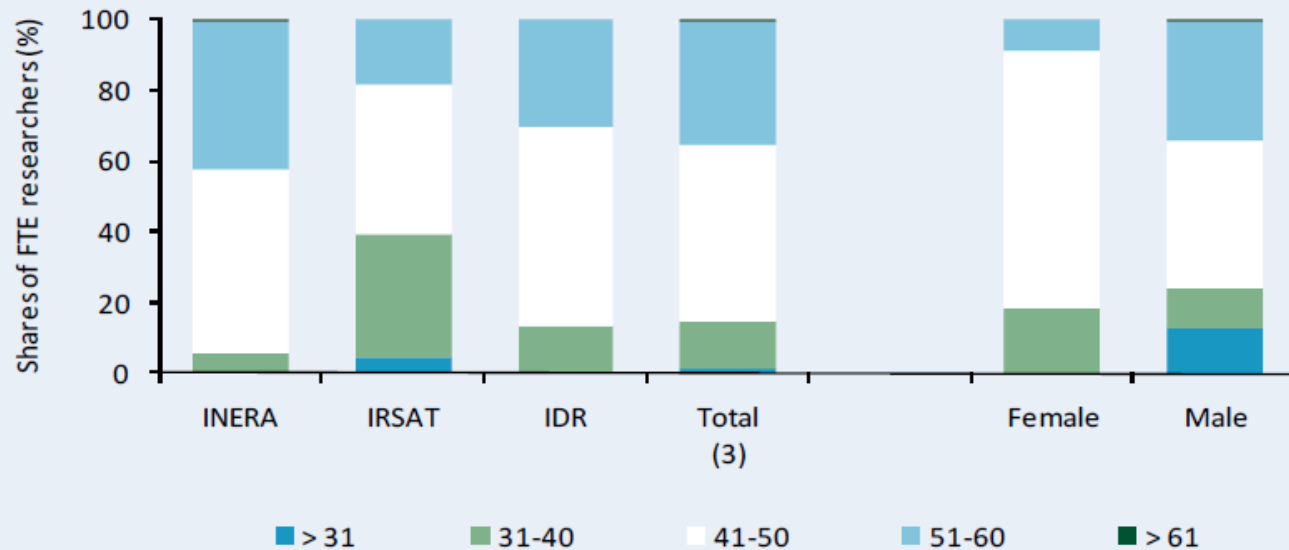
Senegal



Burkina Faso

Figure C7—Age distribution by institutional category and gender, 2007

This figure illustrates the distribution of researchers by age at INERA, IRSAT, and at the Institute for Rural Development (IDR), disaggregated by agency and gender. At these agencies, the large majority of researchers were over 40 years old in 2007, and 50 percent were between the ages 41 and 50. Male researchers were slightly older than their female colleagues, 34 percent of male researchers were between the ages of 51 and 60 years old compared to only 9 percent of female researchers.



Source: Calculated by authors from ASTI-AWARD 2008/09.

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate the number of agencies in each category.

Why YPARD?

- Insufficient participation of young professionals in dialogues addressing critical development issues
- Limited access to professional opportunities for youth
- Absence of a support network or platform to voice young professionals' ideas, opinions and concerns
- Declining interest in agriculture among youth
- The need for sustainable ARD

Coordination offices

Global Coordination Unit

at



AFRICA 

at



ASIA 

at



LAC 

at



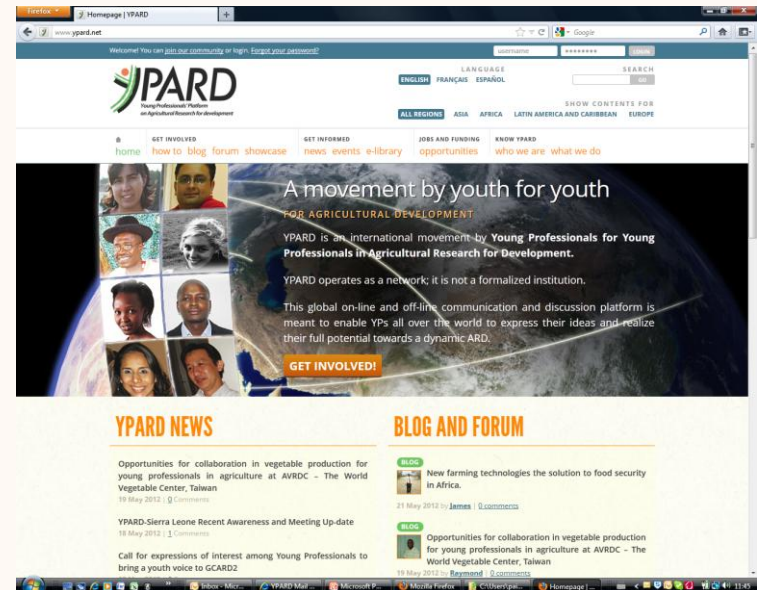
EUROPE 

at



How does YPARD engage its youth?

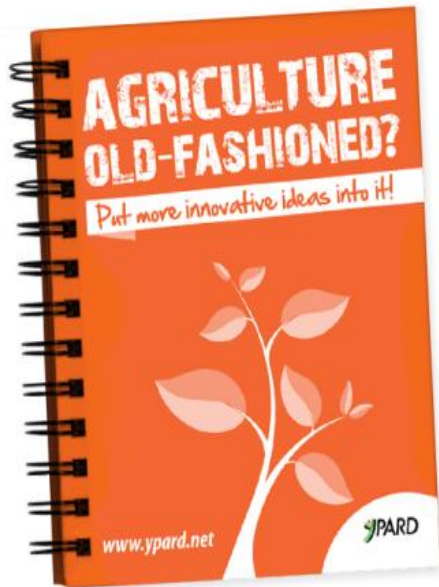
Objective One: Facilitating the exchange of information and knowledge among young professionals across disciplines, professions, age and regions



Objective Two: Broadening opportunities for young professionals to contribute to strategic ARD policy debates



Objective Three: Promoting agriculture among young people.



Objective Four: Facilitate access to resource and capacity building opportunities



Africa Science Week 2013

Over 40 young professionals supported to attend through:

- Youth and women side event
- Young agro-entrepreneurs
- Social media reporters

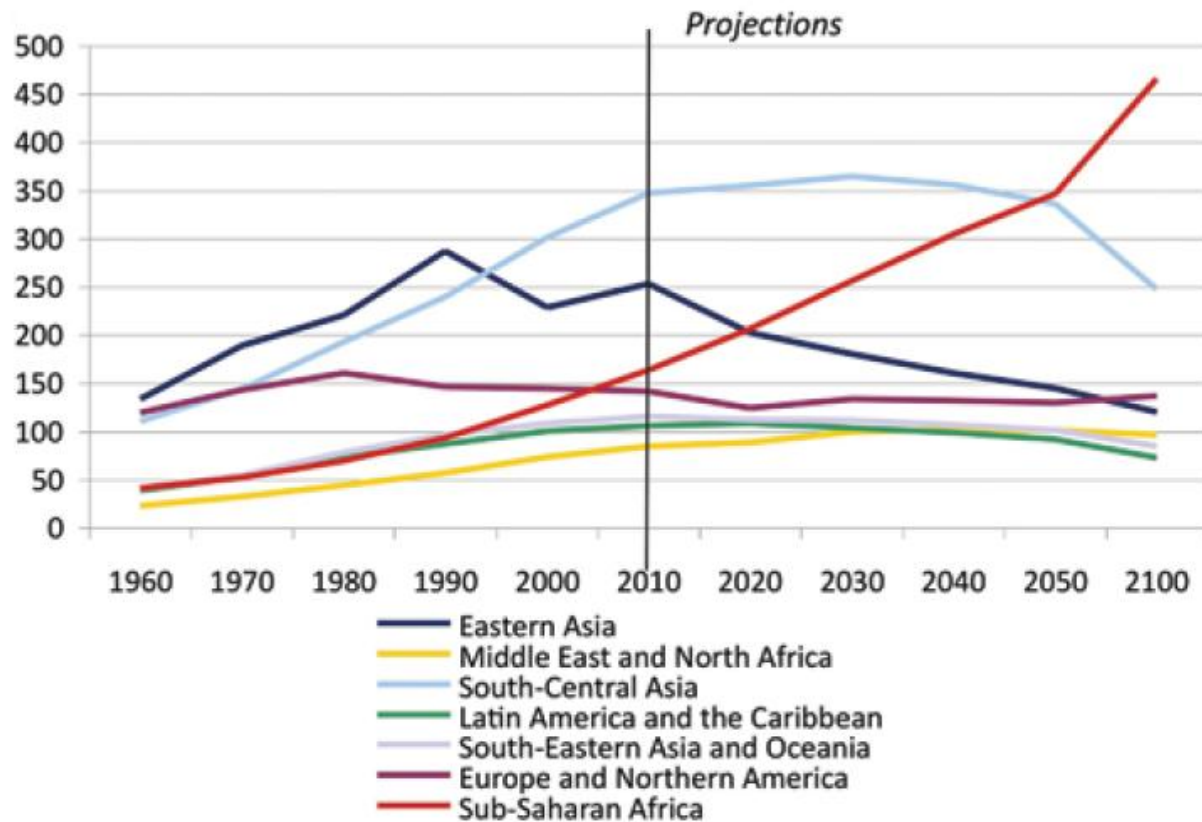


Additional successes

- 4 regional coordination units, 35 national representatives implementing activities locally;
- Youth representatives on steering committees and advisory councils (EFARD, FORAGRO, GFAR)
- Youth and the CAADP meeting

But...the bigger picture

Figure 3. Youth population (aged 15–24) trends and projections to 2100 in key regions (millions)



Source: Small-scale farming and youth in an era of rapid rural change: Felicity Proctor and Valerio Lucchesi, based on UN World population prospects, Revised 2010 edition



Youth and Gender mainstreaming

- Join forces for greater strength
- Youth advocates can learn from the extensive experience of gender mainstreaming
- Focus on engaging young women together

Where to now

- Mentoring programme with focus on young women and entrepreneurship and agribusiness
- Stronger regional programs with a wider impact
- More youth on Steering Committee and Executive Committees
- Young people as a regularly consulted stakeholder group
- More young people turning to ARD because of interest and the number of possibilities



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www.ypard.net