
2017 Annual Report

YPARD's Year in Review





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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Our top 10 achievements for 2017



A positive external review of the network.



Successful partnership with the MasterCard Foundation with a capacity development workshop and mentoring as part of the YAW Summit.



YPARD Kenya part of the launch of Kenya's first national youth in agribusiness strategy.



Capacity development opportunities organized by national chapters around the world.



Publishing of the review of the pilot YPARD mentoring programs.



Publication of the "Youth in Drylands' Systems" study.



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



Youth engagement at global events



YPARD's advisory role increasing to global, regional and national orgs.



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



2017 has been vibrant with continued activities geared towards achieving the network's objectives. This year saw the network strengthen its operational processes with some exciting results as thus;

We welcomed 17 new team members including twelve new country representatives, four interns at the **Global** and regional units to boost the information services and communications in English, French and Spanish; YPARD Europe coordinator; and two steering Committee members. Additionally, national teams- Myanmar, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Uganda, Spain and Netherlands- increasingly organized YPARD Cafés or other gatherings to discuss key national issues to target in their chapter activities going forward.

The YPARD External Review

With the YPARD business plan 2014-2018 coming to a close, in the spring of 2017, Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD) commissioned the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) to re-examine and report on YPARD's performance evolution and to provide recommendations regarding priorities for future actions. A mixed method was used to review the network, including an analysis of primary and secondary data, (Skype) interviews with experts, and an online survey to ask the members of the network for their feedback. The outcome was very positive with some recommendations on areas for further work.

Successful launch and implementation of the Young Africa Works mentoring program in partnership with the MasterCard Foundation and the close out of the Young Agripreneurs Program.

Young people and the Sustainable Development Goals monthly showcase on Young professionals and how the SDGs interplay in their lives. A total of 7 testimonials were published.

Discussions on youth involvement, empowerment strategies and activities

In 2017, the network input played a crucial role in elaborating stronger stakeholder strategies for youth in the sector including those in the Kenya Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MoALF); Africalead Feed the Future initiative in the DRC; Akwa Ibom State Agricultural Policy and Food Sufficiency Strategy Summit just to cite a few.

Promoting agriculture among the youth

YPARD representatives made great strides in engaging with young students to encourage them to join the agricultural sector through constant and deliberate sharing of information with universities across the world. This was done through musicals, videos, blog series, showcase of young professionals in agriculture, participation in TV programs and celebration of agriculture days.

Youth sitting in management roles

YPARD continuously increased its youth representation in agricultural development management committees around the world. New organisations representation in 2017 included the Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Network (BAEN) and the APEC Agricultural Data Union.

Meaningful youth inclusion in global policy debates through bringing strong youth delegations to key

conferences who take active roles in global strategic discussions and bring the outcomes far beyond the conference floor. In 2017 these included, The Young Africa Works Summit, Committee on World Food Security (CFS) 44, Global Landscapes Forum and the 8th BCFN International Forum on Food and Nutrition.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

In 2017, YPARD ran a monthly showcase on Young professionals and how the SDGs interplay in their lives. A total of seven testimonials were published;

From RDC

Aime Kazika on Goal 1:

End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

–

Read: [La lutte contre la pauvreté: motivation, passion, profession et engagement!](#)

From Cameroon

Marc Ghislain on Goal 2:

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

–

Read: [Believe in sustainability, food security, fight for the hungry: My Credo](#)

From Romania

Ramona Cibotaru on Goal 4:

Ensuring inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.

–

Read: [A non-traditional career path](#)

From Spain

Mariola Acosta on Goal 5:

Gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

–

Read: [Easier said than done: Gender equality and women empowerment](#)

From Colombia

Miguel Román Corredor Hernández on Goal 9:

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

–

Read: [Juventud Rural de Colombia... Alguien me escucha?](#)

From Nepal

Dinesh Panday on Goal 15:

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

–

Read: [SDG 15: A case for environmental friendly fertilizers](#)

From Bangladesh

Abdur Rahaman Rana on Goal 13:

Taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

–

Read: [Climate resilient agriculture and producer-consumer justice through ICT](#)

Creating linkages between young people and policymakers

CONTRIBUTING TO EVIDENCE BASED RESEARCH AND EFFECTIVE YOUTH STRATEGIES

Research on Agricultural cooperatives and inclusion of rural youth

In partnership with The Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), YPARD Uganda conducted a six day research on "Agricultural cooperatives and inclusion of rural youth: best practices and policy recommendations. The chapter identified, mobilised and participated in the facilitation of the six focus group discussions and two key informant interviews with select members of two identified cooperatives, that is, Kwapa Farmers' Cooperative in Tororo district and Bushika Integrated Area Co-operative in Bududa district. The study will be made available in mid-2018.

Additionally, the study on the [youth in drylands: realities, perceptions, challenges and aspirations of rural youth in dryland agriculture in the Midelt province, Morocco](#) was published and well received. In 2017, YPARD member, Sebastian Mengel, was the recipient of the SFIAR Master Thesis award for his collaborative research with YPARD, HAFL and CGIAR CRP drylands program on agricultural livelihoods of rural youth in the drylands of Midelt, Morocco.

YPARD's advisory role

YPARD continued with its contribution to discussions on youth involvement, empowerment strategies and activities. In 2017, the network input played a crucial role in elaborating stronger stakeholder strategies for youth in the sector.

Of particular mention where YPARD chapters played an active role include; the Kenya Ministry of Ag, Livestock and Fisheries (MoALF) [youth in agribusiness strategy](#) that will inform how young people in Kenya will be actively engaged in agribusiness; Africlead Feed the Future initiative in the DRC; and the Akwa Ibom State Agricultural Policy and Food Sufficiency Strategy Summit

★ SPECIAL NATIONAL HIGHLIGHT

YPARD Kenya was the main youth partner in the design and launch of the [National Youth Agribusiness Strategy 2017-2021](#) that positions the youth at the forefront of Agricultural Growth and Transformation. Kenya's Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries and the County Governments, in collaboration with other development partners developed the Kenya Youth Agribusiness Strategy to address challenges that hinder youth from participating effectively in the sector. The Strategy aims at providing new opportunities for youth in agriculture and the related value chains with impact of youth engagement in agriculture evident in sustainable economic growth and reduction of poverty and malnutrition.

YOUTH IN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

YPARD has continuously increased its youth representation in agricultural development management committees around the world. In so doing, it brings youth-specific challenges, opportunities and visions into key decision making. In 2017, YPARD chapters increased youth representation in management committees in;

Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Network (BAEN)

Dr. Susmita Das was elected as a member of Executive Committee of Bangladesh Agricultural Extension Network (BAEN). This appointment was made after Ms. Das represented YPARD as a member of the National Steering Committee in the Supporting Smallholder Farmers in Asia and Pacific Islands Region through the Strengthened Agricultural Advisory Services (SAAS) project.

5th Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) partners assembly

YPARD director sits in the TAP steering committee and joined more than 60 participants mostly partners working to implement the TAP capacity

building program for the platform annual assembly in Laos, Thailand.

–
Read: [Are young professionals ready to engage in Agricultural Innovation Systems?](#)

XVI Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee of Foro de las Americas para la Investigación y Desarrollo Tecnológico Agropecuario (FORAGRO)

YPARD LAC is part of the executive committee of FORAGRO and as such, took part in its XVI Annual Meeting. The main focus of the meeting was to discuss the restructuring process in order to address the needs and demands of modern agriculture.

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Read: [YPARD presente en la XVI Reunión Anual del Comité Ejecutivo de FORAGRO.](#)

Asia-Pacific Islands Rural Advisory Services Network (APIRAS)

YPARD Philippines country representative was invited by APIRAS/SEARCA/IFAD to be part of APIRAS Governance Structure.

Agricultural Council of Kenya (AgCK)

YPARD Kenya is a recognized member of the Agricultural Council of Kenya (AgCK) and represent all other Youth in Agribusiness networks based in Kenya under the AgCK Youth Consortium umbrella.

Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAR) Steering Committee

Tech4Agri, an initiative by the YPARD Trinidad and Tobago representative was elected as the local Youth Representative for the GFAR Steering Committee. The members of the Steering Committee of which there are 32 in total, are there to represent their constituents in various sectors ranging from and including farmer organizations, women and gender advocates, private business representatives, regional organizers, research institutions and more.

–
Read: [Change is coming!](#)

The European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD)

YPARD Switzerland – Rahel Wyss is a member of the EFARD management team

APEC Agricultural Data Union

A high level of alliance was set up between Agriculture Information Institute AII/CAAS and YPARD Nepal for the APEC Agricultural Data Union.

Hungarian Association for Agricultural Informatics

YPARD Hungary sits on the monthly board meetings of the Hungarian Association for Agricultural Informatics as the youth representative. The association aims at facilitating the development of information in society, especially in the term of e-agriculture – support of online communication in agriculture by including many stakeholders, particularly government, private companies, international organisations, researchers and young experts.

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. Some notable mentions from 2017;

The Young Africa Works Summit

YPARD partnered with the MasterCard Foundation at the Young Africa Works Summit to deliver a capacity development workshop for 28 youth participants who took part in the conference mentoring. The event brought together 300 high-level influencers from NGOs, government, peer funders, the private sector and youth themselves to discuss how youth can actively participate and drive agricultural transformation in Africa. In addition, 15 pairs continued taking part in the year long long-term mentoring program.

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Read: [Mentoring youth for agricultural transformation – The 2017 Young Africa Works Summit.](#)

Creating linkages between young people and policymakers

UNFAO Committee on World Food Security session 44

Under the theme 'Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition', YPARD communications officer took part in the CFS 44 social reporting program initiated by GFAR.

Read: [Public-Private-Peasant-Partnership: Who needs who?](#)

Youth in Landscapes

The Youth in Landscapes Initiative, co-founded by YPARD to boost multi-sectoral collaboration among stakeholders, organized its fifth annual program at the 2017 Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) in Bonn, Germany. The YPARD director was a panelist in the Digital Summit on Mainstreaming youth – The good, the best and the ugly which sought to explore best practices and common pitfalls among strategies and programs aimed at youth development. More than 155 participants registered for this online interactive webinar.

Read: [Donor and Partner Event Report for GLF 2017.](#)

8th Barilla Center for Food and Nutrition Foundation (BCFN) International Forum on Food and Nutrition

YPARD Europe and Italy built a partnership with BCFN Alumni Foundation through which YPARD director and the Italy representative attended the 8th BCFN International Forum on Food and Nutrition to explore support and areas of common interest. Further follow on will be developed with the BCFN Alumni Foundation in 2018.

Meetings of Agricultural Chief Scientists of G20 States (MACS-G20)

[YPARD AP Coordinator](#) took part in the 6th edition of the G20 MACS Meeting in Berlin and the Linked Open Data meeting as Coordinator of G20 Agriculture Technology Sharing Platform to advocate for the mechanism for agricultural technology sharing. Under this initiative, the coordinator will facilitate

more youth participation for information and technology sharing through the G20 events and Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CIAC) a rising regional cooperation mechanism with APEC.

8th Global Meeting of Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS)

Three YPARD members participated in the 8th Global Meeting of Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) in Australia. The meeting pioneered the creation of the GFRAS Youth Working Group with YPARD Philippines Country Representative as the Focal Point.

G20 conference "ONE WORLD- No Hunger. Future of the Rural World"

[YPARD Uganda representative](#) and the YPARD Director participated in the high level G20 conference "ONE WORLD- No Hunger. Future of the Rural World" which took place in Berlin on 27 and 28 April 2017. Together with other youths, participants discussed how they can promote competitive, sustainable, and just rural development resulting to the creation of the Berlin Charter on rural development.

Key results

More intergenerational relationships fostered at both the YAW and GLF events. At the YAW, 28 youth delegates were paired with selected Summit delegates to participate in conference mentoring and 15 pairs continued in long-term mentoring for the year while at GLF, 122 interested participants were paired with 61 mentor/mentee pairs.

All youth interviewed as part of the Young Africa Works Summit assessment asserted that the youth program gave them opportunities to learn and practise skills and techniques for engaging in conversations and promoting their work and projects.

More focus and emphasis on youth employment in rural areas.



"Being member of YPARD gave me the amazing opportunity to join the BCFN (Barilla Centre for Food and Nutrition) Forum. It has been an amazing experience, and I've learnt so much about sustainability, food production and climate change. Now, I am looking forward to putting my knowledge to good use globally, and to share it with my fellow YPARD members!! I hope to take part in more events in the coming years, and to meet other YPARD members from all around the world. Networking can really change our world for the better!"

[Giulia Martino](#), new YPARD Italy member

Creating linkages between young people and policymakers

YOUTH INCLUSION IN REGIONAL AND NATIONAL POLICY DEBATES

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

African Youth Agripreneurs Forum

YPARD Nigeria joined four other Country Representatives to share their knowledge on agripreneurship and contribute to the discussion while networking with other young agripreneurs from other African countries at the [African Youth Agripreneurs Forum \(AYAForum\)](#). The event was organised by the The African Development Bank (AfDB) in Ibadan, Nigeria.

Mediterranean Dialogue Workshop

María Jesús Blanco, an active member of YPARD Spain and Tarek Amin, attended the ["Mediterranean Dialogue Workshop in Marche-en-Famenne"](#) where they had discussions with European leaders and policymakers about rural sustainable development. Fatima Bensoltane, the Vice President of the Foundation, is working with María Jesús to organize a tour around Spain with young Tunisian farmers, on a learning and knowledge exchange basis.

Regional Symposium on Integrating Gender and Nutrition in Agricultural Extension Services (INGENEAS)

Two YPARD Nepal members- Nikita Bhusal and Abhishek Khadka were sponsored by INGENEAS to attend the [regional symposium on Integrating Gender and Nutrition in Agriculture Extension in Dhaka, Bangladesh](#). The main objective of the symposium was to identify opportunities for scaling up nutrition integration in agricultural extension with participants developing big, bold ideas for innovative action. The team did a poster presentation on [Promoting Food and Nutritional Values among Nepalese Young Minds](#).

APEC Symposium on Agricultural Science Data Sharing and Services

YPARD Nepal member Asmita Nagila joined APEC Symposium on Agricultural Science Data Sharing and Services in Beijing, China as a YPARD delegate.

National events where YPARD members took part in include;

YPARD Spain participation in the [II Jornadas de Investigación Agraria para el Desarrollo en Madrid](#) where they introduced YPARD to other participants at the event who included private companies, international organisations, researchers and young experts. The team further discussed the way forward for YPARD Spain in improving the position of young agricultural professionals in Spain.

YPARD Netherlands are part of the Community of Practice on youth in agriculture facilitated by [Agriprofocus and Food and Business Knowledge Platform \(F&BKP\)](#). In 2017, they provided valuable input into the event "Youth employment and entrepreneurship programs: critical factors for effective interventions".

YPARD Netherlands participation in the 2017 [Thought For Food \(TFF\)](#) event.

YPARD Sweden did a presentation at the [Agri4D Conference](#) on "Climate change, food security and low employment: Engaging youth in agriculture through YPARD"

YPARD Kenya was in the [1st National Youth in Agribusiness Conference and Expo](#) which saw the launch of the 1st Kenya Youth in Agribusiness Strategy.

YPARD Russia representative took part in the [Young Encounters in Sustainability \(YES\)](#) lab in Costa Rica.

YPARD DRC was part of the [Feed the Future initiative](#) and created a collaborative relationship with the

young farmers trained by Africalead in the DRC and other young Congolese Youth with the ambition of farming and volunteering.

YPARD Ghana members served as panel discussants, chair for discussions and presenters in policy workshops organized by [FAO, World Bank and IFAD](#). Additionally, the chapter, responded to the Government of Ghana's 2018 budget on agricultural development with the request from the government to do more investment to the youth.

Seven YPARD Nigeria members took part in the three-days [Akwa Ibom State Agricultural Policy and Food Sufficiency Strategy Summit](#) to discuss and develop policy document and strategic implementation plan for the agricultural sector in Akwa Ibom State.

Two days workshop organized by [Agriterra](#) in April 2018 where two YPARD Nepal members were invited as resource persons to discuss and develop strategies on youth and the cooperatives, how youth can benefit, challenges and how to promote youth inclusion in the cooperative's management.

Through the established collaboration, YPARD Europe was invited to attend the [IAAS 2017 ExCo meeting in Vienna, Austria](#) with the aim of introducing YPARD to the global IAAS community. YPARD Europe's attendance further strengthened the cooperation on national levels by initiating a matching list between YPARD national representatives and IAAS national/local committees.

YPARD Nigeria allotted three slots for members to attend the [Green Table Series](#) on rice value chain focused on educating and enlightening individuals about the opportunities within the sector and how informed decisions can be made to improve the productivity within that sector. Selected members listened to key players across the value chain of rice and met with stakeholders including CEO Kereksuk

Rice Farm, the second largest commercial rice farm in Nigeria by land size cultivating over 45,000 hectares.

YPARD DRC has developed a relationship with the delegation of Wallony Brussels in Kinshasa, which allowed them to participate in the 2017 edition of the [Food Festival \(# FAT2017\)](#). The team was connected with agricultural policy makers and experts in agribusiness and other networks such as the CLEJUPS, EXINA and SOS Family to get young people involved in the agricultural sector.

YPARD Russia was invited to showcase the network at the [SIANI workshop on Sustainable Agriculture in Stockholm](#) through the existing partnership between SIANI and YPARD. They are exploring further opportunities with SIANI staff and exchanges between Sweden and Russia.

Boosting youth employment in Africa: what works and why? YPARD Netherlands provided inputs into the conference 'Boosting youth employment in Africa: what works and why?' in The Hague organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and INCLUDE platform. It provided a platform for Dutch, European, African policymakers and other stakeholders (youth!) to exchange knowledge and the latest research evidence to formulate solutions with impact.

Ms. Jieying Bi was seconded to GFAR and facilitated GFAR Executive Secretary Mr. Mark Holderness' visit to [CAAS during the 60 Years anniversary](#). The visit enhanced the cooperation for youth capacity building and potential to establish a joint training center in Graduate School of CAAS in partnership of YPARD.

YPARD Bangladesh showcased YPARD activities at the Market Place event of CDAIS project of FAO Bangladesh which helped create linkages with FAO Country Representative of Bangladesh and other high-level stakeholders. Potential follow up on set-up a meeting on YPARD team with FAO Country Representative.

Creating linkages between young people and policymakers

YOUTH VOICES IN ONLINE AGRICULTURE COALITIONS

YPARD continues its partnership with the World Farmers Organization (WFO), Farming First (a coalition of more than 180 organizations) and the Thought for Food Summit (TFF) enabling young professionals of YPARD engage with these networks via article contributions and online discussions.

In 2017, under YPARD Italy coordination, nine YPARD members contributed to the WFO monthly farmletter whose reach is more than 400,000 subscribers enabling to increase YPARD members' voices by sharing their ideas, propositions, projects and issues regarding the agriculture development in their countries.

The contributions included;

+ January 2017:

Jhannel Tomlinson, YPARD Jamaica country representative, on enhancing linkages between tourism and sustainable agriculture.

+ February 2017:

Virginia Cravero, the YPARD Italy country representative, on the interlinkages between sustainable forests for food security and nutrition.

+ March 2017:

Ota Henry, a member of YPARD Ethiopia, on trade agreements and the future challenges and opportunities for farmers.

+ May 2017:

Sylvia Natakunda, former YPARD Uganda representative, on animal production and health.

+ July 2017:

Virginia cravero, YPARD Italy representative on global strategy to fight the global ruminant pest.

+ August 2017:

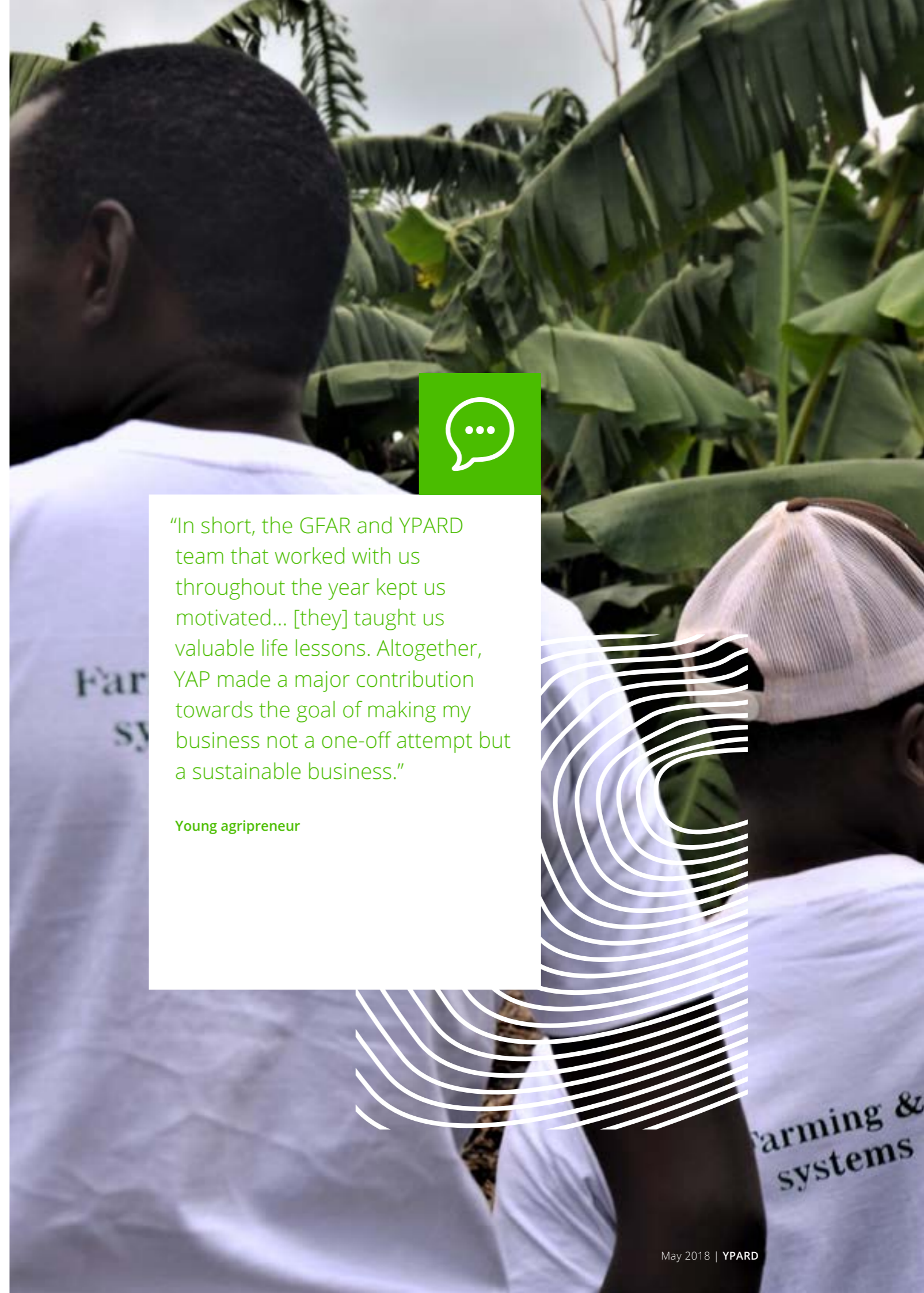
Dinesh Panday, YPARD Nepal representative, on fostering young people in digital agricultural landscapes.

+ September 2017:

Nestor Ngouambe, YPARD Cameroon country representative on responsible agricultural investment: a great challenge for youth in agribusiness.

+ October 2017:

Deepak Ghimire, regional coordinator at YPARD Nepal, on food security and nutrition: a youth perspective.



"In short, the GFAR and YPARD team that worked with us throughout the year kept us motivated... [they] taught us valuable life lessons. Altogether, YAP made a major contribution towards the goal of making my business not a one-off attempt but a sustainable business."

Young agripreneur


Access to capacity development


YPARD MENTORING PROGRAM


GLOBAL MENTORING PROGRAM


The **Young Africa Works youth program** that equipped 47 youth with the skills and confidence to actively participate at the **2017 Young Africa Works Summit**. In doing so, it fostered connections and networking opportunities that will serve the youth even post the event. 28 youth delegates were paired with select Summit delegates who assisted them in understanding key Summit themes as well as conference networking. 13 mentoring pairs continued their mentoring relationship for the rest of 2017 and 11 country clusters were developed for onwards mentorship and coaching.

Some key highlights from the mentorship program include;

 21 blogposts published on the YPARD website documenting the relationship between the mentor and the mentees.

 **The YPARD Pre Summit Video** that follows four youth delegates who took part in the pre-Summit workshop, the Summit and the long term mentoring program.

 **The Video Teaser** that helped in building the momentum on social media which has garnered more than 2.8K views on Facebook.

 The **Pre Summit Youth session photos** courtesy of Illume Creative Studio. Additionally, see the album **YPARD Young Africa Works Mentoring program** on Flickr for photos related to the YAW mentees and mentors activities.

The Young Agripreneurs Pilot (YAP) Project

This collaboration between GFAR and YPARD came to a close in May 2017. The YAP project combined an online competition to select outstanding young

agripreneurs with seed funding, mentoring, business development training and guidance in new ways to advocate and network using innovative communication and outreach tools. Find a copy of the YAP evaluation report on the YPARD e-library.

NATIONALLY LED ON-THE-GROUND MENTORING PROGRAM

YPARD Nepal Onsite Mentoring Program, is a series of learning-exchange activities at farmers' field to share ideas on crop/animal production, management and marketing based on value chain approach and facilitate two-way exchange of queries, information and knowledge between students and farmers. YPARD Nepal initiated it after the successful completion of EduMala Mentoring Program in 2016.

So far, two young professionals/ students are benefiting from this program in coordination with local farmers' cooperative of Makawanpur district. Plans to replicate such programs at other sites (Dolakha and Kaski districts) in the near future are underway.

Grooming Leaders for Agriculture

YPARD Nigeria in partnership with The Green Generation Initiative, Nigerian Women in Agricultural Research and Development (NIWARD), Protect Ozone, Agribusiness Academy launched the **Grooming Leaders for Agriculture** mentorship program. The program comprises of three focus areas of intervention, that is, mentorship (GLA Mentors), Capacity Building/Training (Youth Agri-Lead) and GLA Juniors which provides a good opportunity for the beneficiaries of the program (GLA Volunteers) to put the training received to use.

Mentoring Rural Youth 2017

Mahesh Chander, an ardent YPARD supporter, initiated the **Rural Youth Mentoring-2017 programme** at his own institute, Indian Veterinary Research Institute (ICAR). Under the Mentoring Rural Youth-2017 programme, one hundred rural youth

were mentored by the Agricultural scientists of ICAR, Izatnagar, specialists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra and by the agripreneurs trained and promoted by the ICAR.

★ SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT

Equipping young people to make a real change in agriculture

After a year of experimentation with different models of mentoring: face to face, virtually, blended (through conferences) and group mentoring including seed-funding, YPARD published in a report the outcomes, strengths and limitations of each of these mentoring approaches. The report also highlighted the stories of impact from both the mentees and the mentors from the mentoring programs.

Read: [Equipping young people to make a change in agriculture](#).

The YAP Pilot Project – Evaluation Report

In the run-up to the GCARD3 in 2015, YPARD and GFAR Secretariat piloted the Young Agripreneurs Pilot (YAP) project that broke new ground in combining an online competition to select outstanding young agripreneurs with seed funding, mentoring, business development training and guidance in new ways to advocate and network using innovative communication and outreach tools. The evaluation report documents the project's achievements and challenges in its pilot year and its value to its participants as well as the unique characteristics of the Project that have made a difference.

Read: [Young Agripreneurs Project \(YAP\) Pilot Project – Evaluation Report](#).

TRAININGS

Capacity development opportunities were organized by YPARD national teams all around the world. Network members were empowered on the following subjects:

Governance

Three YPARD DRC members were selected to be part of the training of the champions in food security in Africa. The trainings were organized by AfricaLead within the framework of the Feed the Future initiative. Additionally, EXINA- a national NGO, trained five YPARD DRC members on wealth and enterprise creation as well as how to develop a good business plan. After this training, the young people were supported to better manage their businesses and develop visionary leadership skills.

Good agricultural practices

YPARD Togo partnered with IAAS to organise a training on compost preparation. 30 chapter members took part in the training that sought to promote good agricultural practices to curb the harmful consequences of conventional agriculture, environmental pollution, waste of resources and use of pesticides that threaten biodiversity. The trainings that targeted rural communities and were organized in partnership with NOVINYO cooperative, UROPC-M and UGPC-A under the theme "Compost making and raising awareness on good agro ecological practices".

Agricultural biotechnology

YPARD Nigeria was part of the stakeholders that attended the one-day **workshop on attaining food security through GMO adoption**. The event was organized by Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB) Nigeria in collaboration with the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria (CNS) and the Action Family Foundation (AFF).

Financing in agriculture

YPARD DRC organized training courses on the banking culture and entrepreneurship targeting recent graduates from universities. In anticipation of financial support from financial institutions, 22 young people were trained by a banking expert.

Access to capacity development

Agripreneurship

YPARD Nigeria as part of its capacity building program trained young people on [beekeeping and opportunities along the value chain](#). The objectives of the training workshop were to provide the youth with basic beekeeping skills to make their hives more productive; basic marketing skills and contacts; share the understanding of potential opportunities and motivating the potential beekeepers to build up their honey production and empower the youths to take the lead in environmentally friendly livelihoods activities.

Communications

YPARD Philippines organized a social media workshop on communicating climate change to the National, Regional and Provincial Leaders of the 4H Club. The participants were equipped with skills on how to use social media to strengthen their organization activities and promote agriculture to rural and out-of-school youth. Additionally, YPARD Nigeria team organized and facilitated a training session on [social media and the power to scale up agribusinesses](#) for the second batch of the GoGreeners (30) under the one month free agricultural empowerment boot camp organized by the Lead Convener of the Go Green Africa Project and the founder of Highhill Agribusiness Incubation (HABDEC).

Urban Farming

YPARD Philippines held an Urban agriculture workshop with 4H in Metro Manila on how to practice urban agriculture.

28th International Leadership Workshop for Rural Youth in Herrsching, Germany

YPARD Turkey, Kosovo and Armenia representatives participated in the 28th International Leadership Workshop for Rural Youth in Herrsching, Germany organized by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The two week workshop equipped participants with the skills to help young people in rural areas to improve their living conditions.

AGVOCACY FOR YOUTH CAPACITY BUILDING

YPARD advocates for stronger youth capacity development at all levels:

YPARD Egypt contributed to the **National Youth Program**. Three YPARD members benefited from it and are working as assistants to some officials in the Department for Rural Development and the Institute for Planning.

YPARD Uganda participated in the **Capacity assessment on youth and responsible investment workshop**, organized by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. It provided room for acquaintance, exchange and reflection through presentations, discussions and working group sessions. Emphasis was put on developing the capacity of the youth and youth platforms to be able to benefit from present and future investments.

In June and July 2017, YPARD Bangladesh collaborated and facilitated the Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition consultation on [‘What role can Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services play in realizing gender equality and improved nutrition?’](#)

YPARD Zimbabwe continues to share ideas for capacity development opportunities with young people with whom they come into contact with on a daily basis.

YPARD Indonesia member Ratih Nawangwulan was part of the **ADB project on Engaging youth in ICT for enhanced agricultural information in Indonesia**. She has focused on her research on ICT application in regional and Indonesian value chain development with an online survey designed with support from YPARD AP Communication officer.

YPARD Netherlands attend the Thought For Food (TFF) event in Amsterdam from 26-27 May 2017.

Result of a lobby process for partner organisations in the Netherlands to reserve spots for YPARD members on their events as default.

YPARD Europe has been a partner of **SIMPLE project** aiming in networking and providing the link among graduates (alumni) and employers by establishing Alumni Centres and Platforms for Cooperation with Professional Sector. The YPARD Europe Team attended the SIMPLE training workshop in Vienna, Austria.

YPARD Hungary submitted and secured mobilities for two YPs in the next year (one mobility to China Agricultural University and one mobility to University of Southern Queensland, Australia) through the **Erasmus Credit Mobility program**.

YPARD China facilitated the application of Newton Foundation Program on Agricultural Technology sharing through technology extension centre with Power Construction Corporation Company of China.

YPARD Europe and YPARD Italy started a consistent collaboration with BCFN Alumni Foundation through the participation at Twitter chat/webinar sessions as attendees, enabling ultimately to join the 8th BCFN International Forum on Food and Nutrition. The event allowed to exchange information and ideas regarding the future and challenges of the agri-food systems.

YPARD Malawi representative was one of the discussants in the online discussion **Sustaining the impact of capacity development initiatives for African youth in agriculture**, which was held on the [FAO Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition in Africa](#) (FSN Forum Africa) from 25 October to 17 November 2017.



“I am lucky to have the chance to attend this knowledge sharing workshop and join the YPARD platform. There is need for more platforms like this in Bangladesh. I will encourage my colleagues from my office to join this platform.”

Mr. Md. Maksudul Haque,
Scientific Officer of Bangladesh
Rice Research Institute (BIRRI)

Promoting agriculture

FORESIGHT: ENABLING YOUNG PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND AND INFLUENCE CHANGE

Jieying Bi, the YPARD Asia and Pacific Coordinator in collaboration with Mr. Ajit Maru, GFAR senior officer published an article on the GFAR website on “[The changing paradigm of agricultural research and innovation](#)” with perspectives that can attract youth’s innovative participation in agriculture.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS SHAPING AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

YPARD’s young professionals’ contribution to discussions on curricula reforms in agriculture took place through two key discussions this year among young professionals and with relevant stakeholders;

The AGRA Musical Production

YPARD Philippines created a 2 hour and 30 minutes musical production that fused the science of agriculture and the arts. About 1,200 high school students, and about 1,200 college, professionals, and organizational partners were able to watch and experience the show that sought to promote agriculture through the production at the biggest auditorium of the University of the Philippines Los Baños which was featured by ABS-CBN Southern Tagalog TV Station, and critiqued and reviewed on Women’s Journal.

Career Guidance and Workshop on Statistics

Organized by YPARD Nepal from December 30-31, 2018 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The chapter brought together students in Goldengate International College to collaborating with Nepal Food Scientists and Technologists Association (NEFOSTA).

Hungarian Association of Agricultural Informatics

YPARD Hungary participated in the Hungarian Association of Agricultural Informatics discussion about a curricula development in the intersection of agriculture and data management.

The Climate-Smart Agriculture Manual for Agriculture Education in Zimbabwe

Developed through a collaboration with The Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) and other key national counterparts including the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate; the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development and Zimbabwe’s universities and agriculture colleges. The manual will be complimented by a capacity building process, including training of trainers, which will enable broader dissemination to ag students and extension workers across the country.

ENGAGING WITH STUDENTS

In 2017, YPARD representatives made great strides in engaging with young students through constant and deliberate sharing of information in universities across the world to encourage them to join and take up careers in the agricultural sector. Some of these particular cases include;

The YPARD Nepal Student Research Symposium

with 50 participants including 20 poster and oral presenters in attendance. The symposium was organized by YPARD Nepal with support of INGENAES and was designed to provide an opportunity for Nepalese undergraduate and graduate students to present their existing and emerging research work among university students and faculty members, researchers, and young agripreneurs.

YPARD Uganda country representative visited the **MST Junior Academy** together with a team including the state minister for primary education in Uganda, East Africa Legislative Assembly Representative and Commissioner Teacher Education. The aim of the visit was to further improve on the government driven concept oriented towards spreading the model to all primary schools all over Uganda.

YPARD DRC held guided tours at **Loyola University of Congo (ULC)**. The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences

at ULC has a Research Center (CERED) where young Master students are supervised in agribusiness and entrepreneurship.

YPARD Ghana Country Representative and two YPARD agripreneurs paid a visit to YPARD mentees at **Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST)**. The mentees had the opportunity to present what YPARD is to the Agribusiness Students’ Association of Ghana (ABSAG) at their annual entrepreneurship clinic. In addition, the country representative had interactions with the Executives of the International Association of Agricultural Students (IAAS) University of Ghana, Legon.

YPARD Nigeria partnered with **KoboFarm and Farm Hack Nigeria to organize an agricultural Hackathon programme** that brought together students and different players within and outside the agricultural sector with the aim of brainstorming on ICT ideas as solutions to persistent problems of agriculture such as logistics, mechanization, data analysis, marketing among others. Two events were held – one in the **University of Ibadan** and the other at the **Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta**. At both editions, YPARD Nigeria team made a presentation on opportunities available in the YPARD network and also served as a jury in screening the agricultural ICT ideas.

YPARD Nigeria in conjunction with **Ajaoko Agritech** organized a back to school sensitization campaign to the secondary school in Jos, Plateau State. 40 students and 3 teachers were sensitized on the opportunities in agriculture and the role of YPARD, as the largest youth network promoting agriculture.

Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University: YPARD Bangladesh held a **networking event with South and Central Asia Coordinator of Asia Farmers Association (AFA)** to engage and promote agriculture among the youth at the university.

YPARD Indonesia Country Representative, Shofi Fauziyyah, designed and organized an **Education and Training Program for Indonesian Farmers** on ICT Integrated Farming System (IIFS) together with the national team. The goal is to increase farmers’ knowledge of ICT benefits while boosting their income toward the easy access of information. Indonesia Green Action Forum (IGAF), International Forestry Students Association (IFSA), and agricultural students from university supported the event.

YPARD Myanmar held a promotional event at **Yezin Agricultural University (YAU)**, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 4th December. The chapter shared its objectives and activities to the respective audiences through YPARD Myanmar related flyers. About 350 students and 70 Academic staff joined the event.

YPARD Albania Representative Bledar Meta organized an event at the **Agricultural University of Tirana** to introduce YPARD as well as the new chapter to Albanian young people interested in agriculture. The theme of the event was “Contribution of agriculture to society and Economy; importance of youth participation in agriculture”

YPARD Europe and IAAS organized a workshop at **Tropentag 2017** in Bonn, Germany on the topic of “improving the position of youth in agriculture” with young agricultural professionals from Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa.

YPARD China held a **Summer Camp** with the aim of increasing the participation of youth in poverty reduction initiatives. Two young professionals, one a lecturer from a local Shanxi Agricultural University and the other a Masters student from Ji Lin Agriculture University joined the YPARD China team in the mapping process.


Promoting agriculture


AGRICULTURE IN SOCIETY: USING RADIO AND NEW MEDIA


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


Interviews


The promotional interviews were disseminated through radio and blogs and include;


 [TV] YPARD Philippines musical production was featured by ABS-CBN Southern Tagalog TV Station.


 [TV] YPARD Kosovo: Hana Voca, the YPARD Kosovo country representative and Nol Krasniqi, YPARD Kosovo member were invited to the program "Afternoon in Tribuna" to share more about YPARD in terms of its objective, mission, vision and events.


 [RADIO] YPARD Ghana was granted an interview with a local FM station in the country. During the interview, the chapter representative responded to the Ghana Government Budget statement on Agriculture by requesting the state to invest more on youth in agriculture.


 [BLOG SERIES] YPARD Hungary initiated a blog series for the YPARD website to [introduce](#) and [disseminate](#) to Hungarian YPs' agricultural activities both in research and in practice. It is still ongoing.


 [TWEETCHAT] YPARD Nigeria held a [tweet chat session](#) with the president of Grasscutter Farmers Association of Nigeria (GRAFAN) and the founder, the Highly Paid Grasscutter Farmers Network to discuss extensively on Grasscutter Farming: how to start, its management and financial implications. Questions were welcomed from the online participants and post-event questions and answers, recommendations and linkages were also provided.


 [TWEETCHAT] YPARD Sweden was invited to participate in a Twitter chat on Changing Climate, Changing Diets. The event, which was hosted by Thomas Reuters and Barilla Centre for Food and Nutrition brought together key global actors to discuss and deliberate on questions related to climate change, food security and the future. The tweets by YPARD Sweden were well received by the attendees and the spectators, with one tweet receiving over 6000 impressions and 384 total engagements.


 [TWEETCHAT] YPARD Italy representative took part in the [BCFN Twitter Chat](#) on food sustainability to discuss solutions, linked factors and actions that we all can take to raise awareness about climate change, famine, biodiversity loss, soil degradation and erosion.

 [PAPER] YPARD Zimbabwe representative contributed to the [Climate-Smart Agriculture Manual for Agricultural Education in Zimbabwe](#). The manual can be downloaded free-of-charge from the Climate Technology Centre and Network website.


 [WHATSAPP DISCUSSION] YPARD Togo held an online discussion on WhatsApp for two days in February 2017 where members discussed the effects of urban migration in the country. The chat was moderated by the Deputy Country Representative and attended by more than a dozen young people.


 [MAGAZINE] YPARD Nigeria promotional advert was featured on [AgroStrides Magazine](#), a magazine dedicated to agriculture and youth entrepreneurship. The magazine shared information about YPARD contributing towards the increased chapter membership.

 [NEWSPAPER] YPARD Ghana released a statement in reference to the [Ghana 2018 budget](#) calling on government to implement all outlined policy initiatives in the budget concerning the youth.

 [PAPER] YPARD Zimbabwe's Country Rep. was invited to serve as an author and reviewer to the Journal of Global Resources. A total of [5 articles](#) were reviewed in 2017 for the Journal of Global Resources and were authored by the Country Representative.

★ SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT

 [MUSICAL] YPARD Philippines created a 2 hour and 30 minutes musical production that fused agriculture and arts. About 1,200 high school students, and about 1,200 college, professionals, and organizational partners were able to watch and experience the show. The production was featured by ABS-CBN Southern Tagalog TV Station, and critiqued and reviewed on Women's Journal.

 [ONLINE PLATFORM] Following their participation in the Youth Climate Conference in October 2016, YPARD Jamaica representative launched an online platform dubbed Dear Young People in an attempt to showcase the work of Caribbean Youth in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically related to Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security. The platform has garnered more than 22K Likes and they are currently receiving requests from varying individuals and groups, who seek to be featured on the page. It has also been featured in the Youth Climate Change Activists blog.

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. 2017 Promotional days included:

International Youth Day:

More than 75 youth participated in the '[National Workshop on Youth Agri-Entrepreneurship – 2017](#)'

organized by YPARD Nepal, UVAS, and AFU. The workshop empowered young Nepalese with planning and management skills especially those returning from foreign jobs, new start-up farmers and students of agriculture with agri-entrepreneurship.

Additionally, in celebration of the International Youth Day 2017, YPARD steering committee chair wrote an opinion piece on how young professionals at YPARD are contributing to conflict prevention and sustainable peace.

Read: [Agenda 2030: The role of youth in peace, security and sustainability.](#)

World Food Day 2017:

YPARD Nigeria collaborated with CATO Foods and Agro Allied Global Concept to commemorate the World Food Day 2017 with the theme "Zero Hunger Changing the future of migration, Invest in Food Security and rural Development". The event which took place at ILEOGBO, Ayedire Local Government of Osun State created awareness to over four hundred (400) women on the benefits of Vitamin A fortified foods and also trained them on Vitamin A cassava value addition processes.

In addition, the chapter members visited St. Mulumba Catholic College in Ile-ife, Osun State to educate the teenagers on the viable career pathways in agriculture. Over 50 secondary school students attended the sensitization program.

International Women's day:

YPARD Nepal and Bangladesh celebrated at the International Women's Day at the [Regional Symposium on 'Integrating Gender & Nutrition in Ag Extension](#). The main objective of this two-day symposium was to identify opportunities for scaling up Nutrition Integration in Agricultural Extension merging it with gender issues.

Promoting agriculture

Youth Agric Festival:

YPARD Nigeria took part and gave a goodwill message at the Youth Agric Festival in Abuja organized by YFarm to promote youth agribusiness operations, build capacities of young people in the sector and scale-up engagement with relevant stakeholders. 5 YPARD members were given slots at the festival which increased networking opportunities between young people at the program.

Ultuna Career Day:

YPARD Sweden, SIANI and FUF shared a booth and promoted employment opportunities within the agricultural sector. The career day was hosted in Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences(SLU)with students from all agricultural disciplines attending. The booth attracted approximately 50 students interested in employment within the agricultural sector and a follow-up will be conducted with SIANI Youth, in which an agricultural career day is planned for some university towns in Sweden.

National Agricultural Research and Innovation Centre (NAIK):

YPARD Hungary participated in the National Agricultural Research and Innovation Centre (NAIK) event for "Signing cooperation agreements between V4 agricultural research institutes". This event helped to increase YPARD membership as well as create new linkages.

51st Annual Youth Day in Cameroon:

YPARD Cameroon in collaboration with the Cameroon Youth Initiative for Rural Development (CAMYIRD) and the WHYFARM Ambassador in Cameroon engaged with the CEF Institution on its half-day annual youth day event. The CEF Institution is a bilingual school with a population of close to three hundred students, about two hundred at the primary level and one hundred at the secondary level.

Read: [Youth and agriculture at the youth week in Cameroon.](#)

2018 World Wildlife Day:

The YPARD Steering Committee chair wrote an opinion piece on UNU-INWEH website on youth as agents of change in line with the 2017 World Wildlife Day theme "Listen to the Young Voices".

Read: [Youth as a catalyst for delivering on the SDGs – A connection we can't afford to ignore.](#)

The tropical and subtropical agriculture, natural resource management and rural development (TROPENTAG):

YPARD Europe and the International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences (IAAS) organized a workshop at the 2017 TROPENTAG conference. The workshop was centered on the topic of improving the position of youth in agriculture and explored their desires and expectations from youth focused organizations such as YPARD and IAAS.

YPARD Asia and Pacific coordinator, Ms.Jieying Bi, was invited to be one of the participants in the event "Seed with Tilling" event. YPARD China team joined other 900 participants among whom a majority are youth who have returned to rural areas for CSA farming.

GENDER IN AGRICULTURE

YPARD continues to play an active role in engaging with young women in the agricultural sector and looking to work with young female leaders as role models. Young women representation in 2017;

Women represent **31.3% of YPARD Community** against 30% in 2016.

Women represent **48.9% of the YPARD Team** in 2017 inclusive of country representatives, regional coordinators, coordination unit, and steering committee.

Women are given equal chances for opportunities and encouraged to apply.

YPARD Nepal communications focal point, **Nikita Bhusal**, was profiled in the INGENAES newsletter as one of the young women making a difference in the agricultural sector.

Read: [Time to Rise: Young Professionals in Nepal Rise Up as the Next Leaders in Agriculture.](#)

YPARD Egypt participated in a stakeholder validation workshop on rural women and decent employment in Egypt which was jointly organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UN-FAO) and International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA).

YPARD DRC arranged a farm visit to the COFED Farm in Central Kongo Province run by a Africa Lead champion **Mrs. Philomène** a model for young people.

Additionally, they visited a YPARD member, **Esther Inene**, manager of a mushroom production unit who is a model for a new generation of young people making farming their passion and career. She shared her experience in managing her farm business.

On the lead to the 2018 International Day of Women, YPARD Spain made a daily post (on Facebook and Twitter) for a week about [a woman contributing to agriculture.](#)

YPARD Bangladesh was a collaborator, participant and facilitator for the Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition consultation on 'What role can Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services play in realizing gender equality and improved nutrition? See the [FSN report on 'AEAS and youth Empowerment.](#)

YPARD Peru representative was a discussant in an one hour webinar [Rural youth and livelihood change](#) hosted by the CGIAR Collaborative Platform for Gender Research on youth and development studies in Latin America, Asia and Africa.



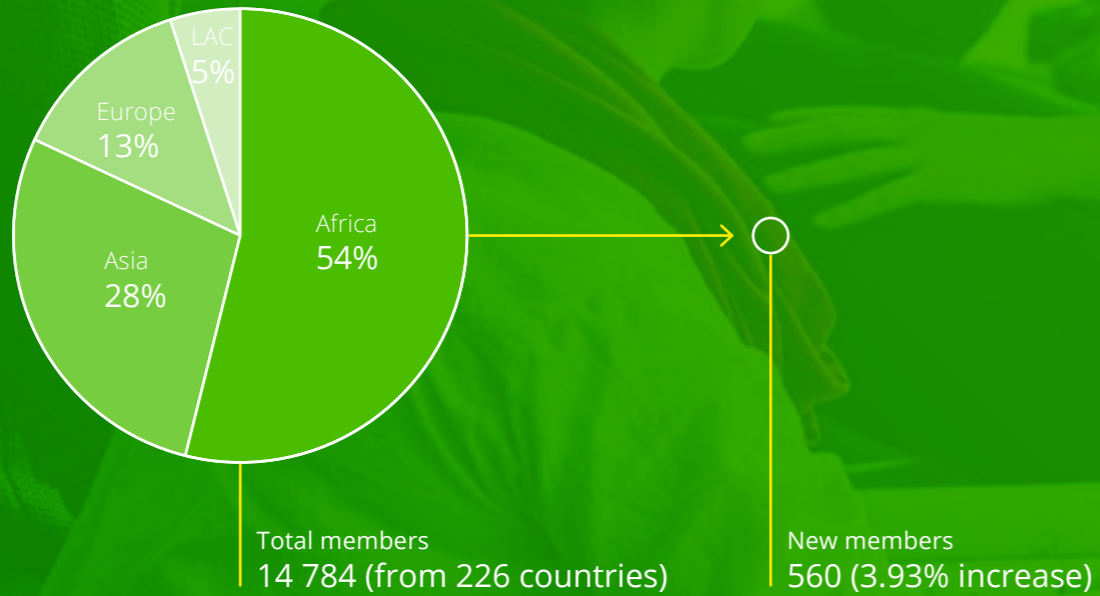
"YPARD has a huge potential to improve the image the youth has about agriculture and, make it a more interesting career to pursue. The impact YPARD can possibly have on the livelihoods of people is immense!"

YPARD member

Exchanging information and connecting people

YPARD MEMBERSHIP

Registered members by December 2017



Top 5 country memberships



Top 3 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:

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

* Based on the 2017 members' annual survey

Exchanging information and connecting people

Based on the 2017 annual survey to the YPARD members, new YPARD members indicated that they had heard about YPARD through these four major outlets:

-  1. Google or other search engine
-  2. A friend/contact
-  3. YPARD representative/team member
-  4. Facebook

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 MEMBER 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 Netherlands Meet & Greet

YPARD Netherlands organized a meet and greet event for members and partner organisations such as AgriProFocus, Centre for Development Innovation (CDI), Slow Food Youth Network, International Centre for development oriented Research in Agriculture, Food&Business Knowledge Platform, FoodFirst and The Royal Tropical Institute (KIT). The main aim of the event was to create a space for discussion and linkage between YPARD members and these youth based organizations.

YPARD Nigeria organized a sensitization and capacity building program for 50 YPARD members in Abia state in the South-Eastern part of Nigeria. Agro-success stories were shared and training was conducted on [“Apiculture-a sustainable tool for job creation and economic empowerment”](#).

ONSITE THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS AND CO-CREATION

YPARD Hungary held an introductory meeting at the Ministry of Agriculture resulting in an ongoing consultation about a possible partnership agreement.

YPARD Spain representative led a group to exchange information about a new tree disease Known as Xylella fastidiosa. Information was posted on the Facebook group and a blog post written about it. A group of volunteers (young professionals) has been created by YPARD Spain and connections of researchers on the topic have been made between the most affected countries (Portugal, Spain, France and Italy).

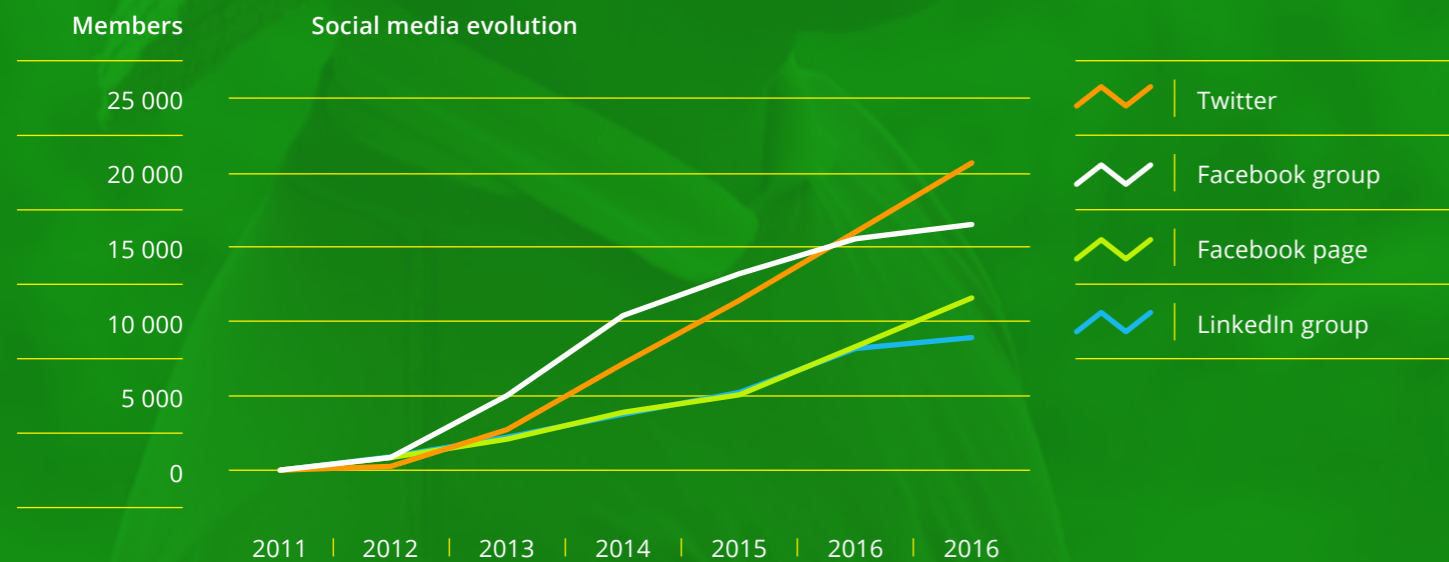
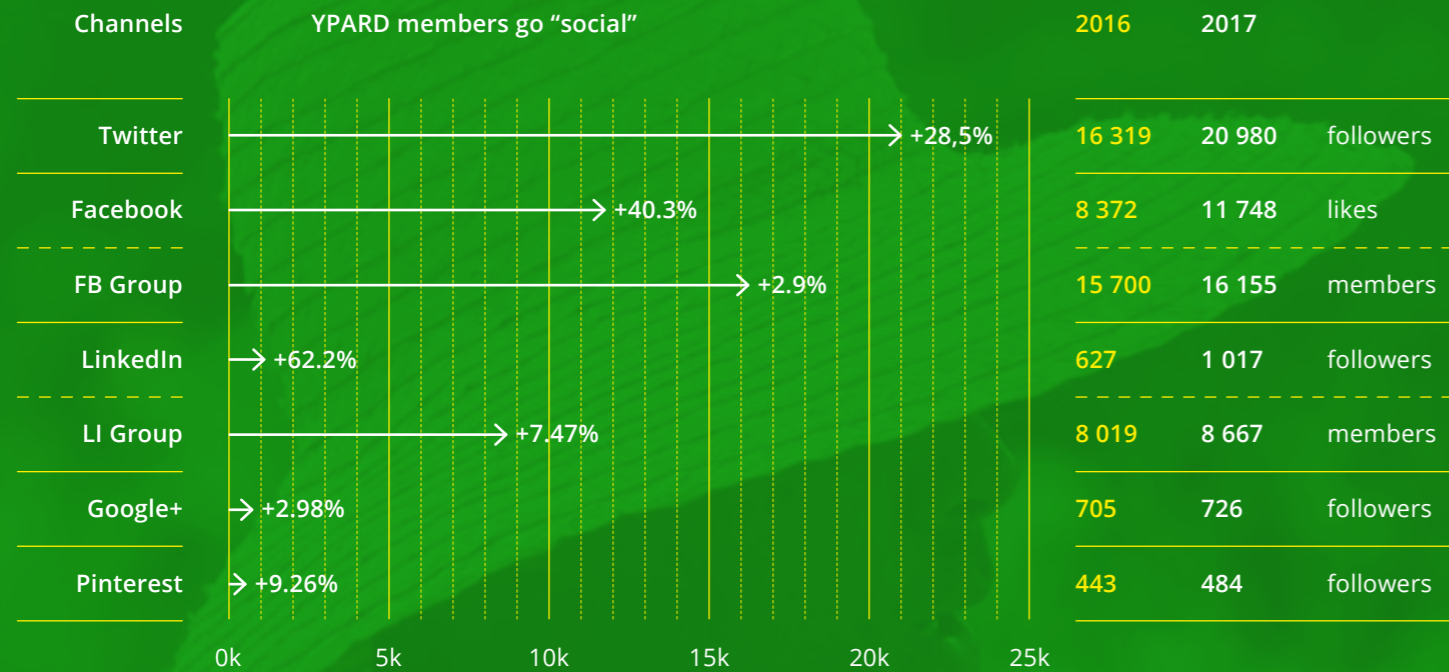
YPARD Armenia held local meetings to promote YPARD’s mission in Armenia, and to better understand how local youth can benefit from it. The team organized two meetings with different stakeholders involved in agriculture. The first meeting happened in the mountain resort Aghveran, gathering young farmers involved in organic farming; and the second meeting organized for juniors, who pursue a bachelor’s degree in Agribusiness and Marketing at the Agribusiness Teaching Center (ATC) in Yerevan. Both meetings were productive and helped to generate recommendations and ideas for practically addressing youth’s needs.

“YPARD has been consistent in sharing information on agriculture and existing opportunities, it is indeed a great platform for young people in agriculture”

Yekini Jayeola Jelili, YPARD member, during YPARD café in Lagos



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 information sharing.

ONLINE INFORMATION SERVICES

YPARD provides daily information on jobs, funding opportunities, blogposts and news items in the young professionals in the agriculture sector.

In 2017, over **1300 items were shared on the website in the 4 YPARD languages**. Additionally, the YPARD Social Media Team has been growing with more than 324 members who have shared and exchanged knowledge on more than 873 topics related to young professionals in agriculture.

WEBSITE VISITS

274 221 total visits in 2017
(3.27% increase)

61.8 % new visitors on total visits

22 851 visits a month

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

13 108 members subscribed to the newsletter

88.7 % of total members in 2017
(against 79.9% in 2016)

15.23% increase in newsletter subscriptions in 2017

YPARD regional and country chapters info sharing

YPARD regional and national chapters are increasingly embracing online channels to share information, opportunities and agricultural related subjects, webinars, online discussion, blog posts and articles with members and also encourage interactions among members.

Most used channels are Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp groups. LinkedIn group is mostly used by the YPARD Europe coordination unit.

SPECIAL NATIONAL HIGHLIGHT

YPARD Ghana has created a membership form for members to fill in order to identify and cluster members with regions, professions and the value chain they operate in. The segregation of membership data will enhance effective programme planning at both national and regional levels.

YPARD Uganda distributes a quarterly newsletter to members with information on available opportunities for youth in agriculture in Uganda. This has resulted to the network members having regular interactions especially online, sharing ideas and also connecting with individuals who are outside the country.

YPARD: a sustainable platform

At YPARD, we believe in structures that renew themselves and evolve. 2017, saw some waves of change at YPARD both at the global, regional and national levels.

THEY JOINED YPARD TEAM IN 2017

The year of 2017 marked big changes in the YPARD Global communications team as **Communications Manager**, Marina Cherbonnier departed the organization and Emmie Wachira took up the YPARD Communications management while Pius Hiwe become the youth-leader communications officer.

We welcomed 17 new team members:

Twelve new country representatives, and four interns in [Global](#) and regional (African and European) units to boost the information services and communications in English, French and Spanish.

New interns in Networking and Communications with YPARD Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and [Europe](#).

YPARD Web4Knowledge interns: [Lemien Sakalunga](#) (DRC Congo), [Natalia Lozano](#) (Peru) and former intern [Husein Shahadu](#) (Ghana) who renewed his term.

They will support the strengthening of YPARD services in French and Spanish.

Representatives for [YPARD Spain](#), [Mongolia](#), [Myanmar](#), [Austria](#), [Germany](#), [Ghana](#), [Uganda](#), [Sweden](#), [Albania](#), [Cambodia](#), [Armenia](#), [Moldova](#).

The Steering Committee members: [Rahul Antao](#), [Zhai Lin](#).

Philippines mentoring coordinator: [Maggie Guia M. Del Valle](#).

THE YPARD EXTERNAL REVIEW

With the YPARD business plan 2014-2018 coming to a close, in the spring of 2017, YPARD commissioned the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) to re-examine and report on YPARD's overall evolutions and performance and to provide recommendations regarding priorities for future actions. A mixed method was used to review the network, including an analysis of primary and secondary data, (Skype) interviews with experts, and an online survey to ask the members of the network for their feedback. See the full report [here](#).

BUILDING THE YPARD TEAM'S CAPACITY

In the spirit of transparency and inclusivity, two national chapters (YPARD Uganda and Nigeria) carried out online elections to select new country representatives. A call for expression of interest was published and shared with members. The applications received were reviewed and 5 candidates were shortlisted for the second phase of the selection process. For the case of YPARD Nigeria, shortlisted candidates submitted their one minute video about their plans and vision for the YPARD and the videos were posted for voting by members. The candidate with the highest video likes was selected to become the new country representative.

The YPARD mentoring coordinator mobilized the network members to take part in a [webinar on strategies to grow your agricultural businesses](#) in line with the Young Africa Works mentoring program.

In the preparation of 2017 annual programs, YPARD Nepal identified the need for youth's capacity building activities to focus on recent graduates. To address this issue, the team organized a [YPARD Student Research Symposium](#) to provide an opportunity for Nepalese undergraduate and graduate students to present their existing and emerging research work among university students and faculty members.

NATIONAL TEAMS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Our national teams increasingly organize YPARD Cafés or other gatherings to discuss key youth issues and how to take action. Some of the chapters that held gatherings include;

To New Beginnings with YPARD Myanmar

A group of young professionals met in Yangon with different stakeholder groups in agriculture (university, private sector, national and international CSOs, research centre) from Myanmar to discuss – in a first formal workshop – [the creation of the YPARD Myanmar unit](#).

YPARD Nigeria Café: the role of extension and advisory services

Under the theme [Understanding challenges and opportunities in extension and advisory services](#), YPARD Nigeria organized its first YPARD café as a pilot to other states of operation across the country. The café had 17 young professionals in attendance drawn from different spheres of agriculture including, farming, consultancy, IT professionals and an agricultural teacher.

YPARD Burkina Faso: Débat YPARD Café: La production d'oignon, une chaîne d'opportunité

As part of the implementation of its action plan, YPARD Burkina Faso in partnership with the Agency for the Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprise / Agriculture and Handicrafts (APME2A), held a public conference called [YPARD Café debate number 1](#) for the benefit of young people in Ouagadougou.

The general objective of this debate was to make an inventory of the onion industry in Burkina Faso. Specifically, the activity aimed to better equip young people with knowledge on the onion industry; encourage young farmers to practice onion cultivation; and create opportunities for young farmers in conservation, processing and marketing of onions.

YPARD Uganda first face-to-face meeting

With a common goal to transform the agricultural sector in Uganda, YPARD Uganda executive team held their [first face-to-face meeting](#) since taking office. The meeting deliberated on how YPARD Uganda could contribute to the achievement of the overall YPARD goals.

YPARD DRC held its first self-assessment meeting to evaluate the [chapter's 2017 annual action plan](#). The mid-term evaluation exercise allowed the chapter members present to have a critical look at what has been achieved, what has not and forge a way forward.

The [Meet & Greet event](#) is perceived as an excellent platform/method for YPARD Netherlands to recruit new active members, create a space for young professionals to discuss with policy makers, meet other youth based organizations and to give more visibility to the network by making blog series on these types of events.

YPARD Spain working group decided to create local branches as a means of dividing the work and multiplying the possibilities to receive public funding, increase the number of active members both on and off ground and boost the participation of Spanish young professionals within the network. All activities are and will be carried out locally within each region and will be reported through blog posts on the website.

YPARD: a sustainable platform

DIVERSIFIED FUNDING SOURCES SECURED

Global Level

New and old supporters came out to support YPARD in 2017 including SDC, GFAR, The MasterCard Foundation, in-kind support by CIRAD, AWARD, GLF and TAP. 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 on diversified funding include:

⊕ YPARD Philippines received 55,000 USD for the mentoring program and some YPARD Philippines activities for 2018 from GFAR. They have received first tranche already with two more tranches to be received later on in 2018.

⊕ A local branch of YPARD Spain has been set up in León, the town where the country representative lives. This local branch has been signed up in the official list of associations in the municipality which will allow the chapter to apply for funding to the University (approx. 1000€/year) and to the municipality.

⊕ YPARD Netherlands hosting institution KIT Royal Tropical Institute agreed to cover two hours/ week of paid work for YPARD Netherland country representative, occasional printing costs for YPARD materials and hosting the usual chapter meet and greet event.

⊕ YPARD Bangladesh received in-kind support for facilitation, local transportation and accommodation from INGENAES as for the YPARD-INGENAES Workshop while Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University offered the venue for the whole duration of the workshop.

⊕ YPARD Albania has managed to create a partnership with the Conservation of Agrobiodiversity in Rural Albania(CABRA) project implemented by GIZ Albania to obtain the funding necessary to organize a promotional event at the Agricultural University of Tirana. The activity is scheduled for the beginning of 2018.

⊕ YPARD Europe coordination unit secured a grant from Agrinatura to attend the Tropentag conference and conducted an interactive workshop at the event too.

⊕ YPARD Austria representative, Nikolaus Hruschka, obtained support for travel expenses to attend the CEDIA (European Confederation of Agronomists Associations) and ICA (Association for European Life Sciences Universities) conference from ICA and CEDIA

⊕ YPARD Europe Coordinator was invited by the SIMPLE project to attend a training in Vienna and a grant from ERASMUS+ was provided to cover all expenses.

⊕ YPARD Sweden representative Rahel Wyss was invited to attend EFARD's meetings and all expenses covered.



“For the short time I am a country representative, I have learned that I need to do more in search of donors and in the design and implementation of concrete programs. Where young people can have an opportunity, where to give their contribution and at the same time to get experience”

Bledar Meta, YPARD Albania.



Challenges and lessons learned



“Thank you YPARD Management for having this network functioning. We are able to connect and share information online with agricultural and innovations best practices. Thank you for giving us an opportunity to exchange knowledge and thank you for all the opportunities you share with us.”

Robert Kibaya, YPARD Uganda

Global Level

One of the primary challenges at YPARD is to find technical and financial partners who can help in supporting the huge community and more especially the activities at the local chapters.

Additionally, the network has built its name in the agricultural sector which many organizations see as an opportunity to get free services. This will form the basis for the partnership agreement in the coming years.

Challenges faced at the national level include:

- ⊖ Keeping activities running with **small amounts of resources and relying on voluntary work** remains a key challenge especially as the network members keep increasing.
- ⊖ Due to the fact YPARD is an **informal network**, it is not easy to work with some partners who are still hesitant to engage with a not formalized institution.
- ⊖ YPARD representatives who are not based in their countries have challenges working on the national activities particularly those with no **working groups**.
- ⊖ Some members recognize that there are **fewer concrete programs** at national level where young people can engage in practice and not just in theory.
- ⊖ **Language barriers** continue to pose a challenge at the local level. More members feel the information services should go beyond the four official YPARD languages.

Lessons learned from national representatives

- ⚠ National chapters recognize the need to have in place a **working group at the national and regional level** to help boost national activities and enhance self-motivation.

- ⚠ **Hosting institutions** for national chapters has a great potential for attracting more members and particularly for fundraising opportunities. Many national chapters have been turned away due to lack of a financial framework where the money can be transferred.

- ⚠ **Tailoring information services to local languages** has resulted to members being more active and there is a significant increase in the number of YPARD members

- ⚠ YPARD is still unknown in many circles especially at the national level. National chapters suggest **attending conferences** could be a good way to get network members interacting with key individuals in the agricultural sector.

- ⚠ YPARDians who are dispersed around the country have more challenges to organize themselves and work together. For this reason, **creating local branches** may allow to divide the work and still organize different events around the country.

- ⚠ It is important **not to duplicate efforts but to engage with like-minded organisations to reach scale**. A lot of organisations are working in silos on matters youth in agriculture and the national chapters can play the role of the monitoring agency hence avoiding duplication of efforts.

A fresh 2018 onward!

The YPARD Business Plan 2014- 2018 is coming to a close and this has initiated the need to start a conversation about where we go from here. The network has had some amazing successes but also continue to face some recurring challenges. The next strategic plan will cover the period 2018-2021 and will reflect a time of growth for the network. Additionally, 2018 brings with it changes in the governance structure at YPARD among them a new YPARD director and a new constitution of the Steering Committee members who have reached the 40 years age limit.

At a global level, we will continue strengthening our engagement with the regional and national chapters.

At a regional and national level, members have identified activities and the focus they would love to stay put on. Some of these include;

YPARD Nepal will continue with its key programs and projects, that is, the YPARD Student Research Symposium, Onsite Mentoring Program and the Nutrition club in School and University.

YPARD Ghana will pursue the Future Farmer Initiative with identified partners to help young people network through "Farmer Konet", increase young people interest and understanding of Agriculture through Campus Agriculture and facilitate access to capacity building and productive resources through the Enhanced Skills Programme (ESP).

YPARD Uganda will start a mobile investment hub to support youth groups engaged in Agriculture by building their capacity to manage their groups and link them to funding opportunities. This would also mean building the members capacity for proposal writing, enterprise selection (risk management and investment decisions) and advocacy.

YPARD Nigeria will scale up its operations from what was recorded in 2016 owing to a number of partnerships and commitment from the coordinating body.

YPARD Spain will be focusing on strengthening the local branch as a strong point of departure to create more local branches around the country which would allow them apply for funding at the local level and organize different type of activities to promote agriculture among the youth.

YPARD Albania will work with partners to offer practical career advice during and after completion of studies for students of high school and university students. They will also provide information and orientation of young people to benefit from various subsidies provided to agriculture and related fields and prepare and implement different projects where young people from the Balkans exchange experiences and learn from each other in the field of ag.

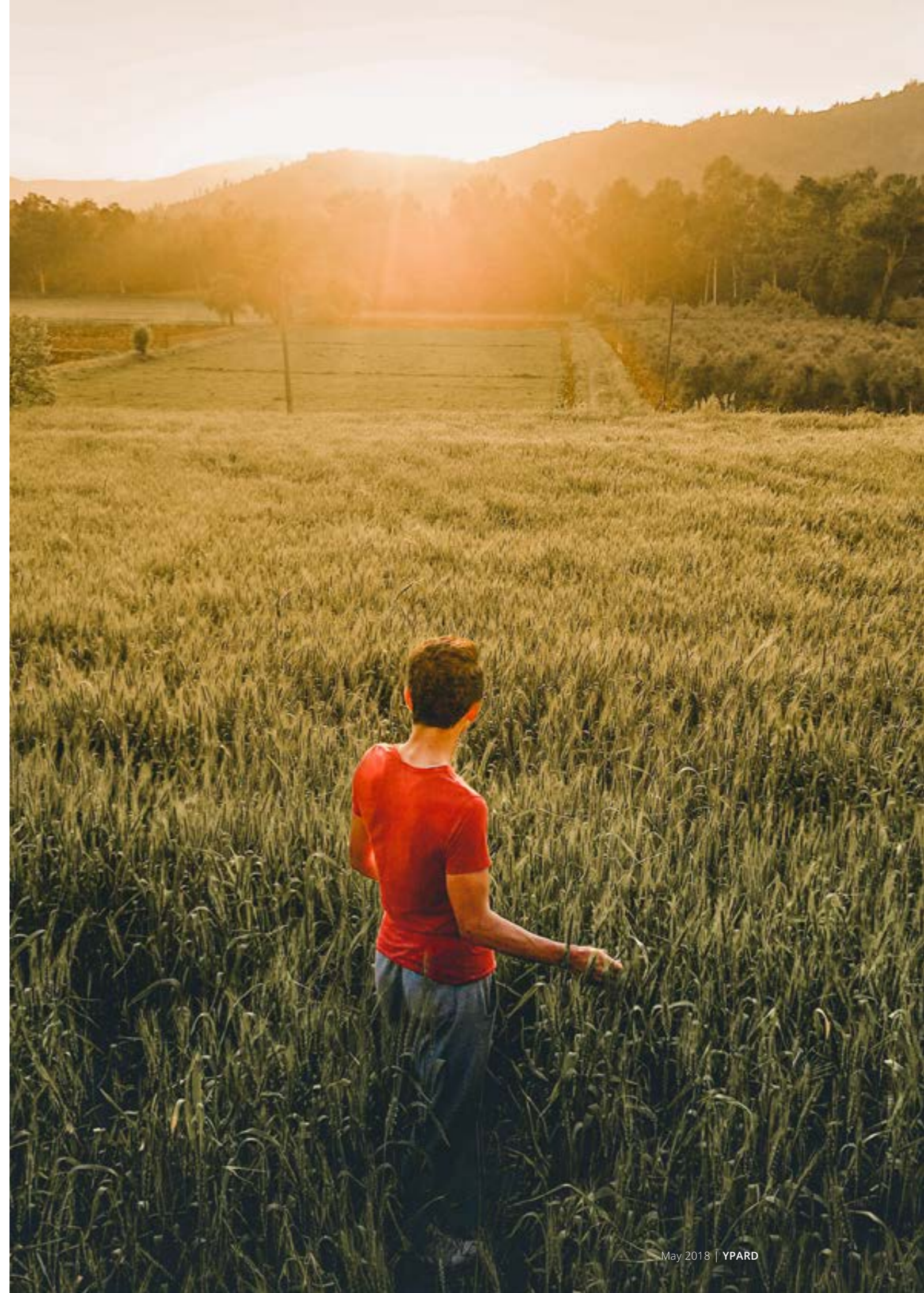
YPARD Azerbaijan working team intends to be more active and organize some events including training for farmers, environmental issues, agricultural trade, members participation at conferences and trainings.

YPARD Sweden focus for 2018 will mirror that of our biggest donor and partner organization SIANI, focusing on nutrition and global food security.

YPARD Netherlands will continue to involve more active members. The plan is to meet in a café early 2018 and facilitate an informal discussion with the members on what they need from YPARD NL and how they can/want to contribute to that themselves.

YPARD Turkey will focus on building a national team in 2018 with the new strategies. They will also look for solutions for the students and young farmers to make them more interested in agricultural and rural development through YPARD.

YPARD Jamaica will establish YPARD Gardens in Schools by the summer of 2018. The gardens project is intended to promote the idea of growing crops that can be used in the canteen at the schools to aid in the preparation of lunches.



YPARD Global coordination unit
Young Professionals for Agricultural Development

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