

Session title:	South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Promoting Youth-led Agri-food Innovations from the Global South
Session number:	9
Type of session:	Livestreamed
Day:	Monday, 6 September 2021
Time:	11:15-13:00 EAT
No. of participants:	41
Session Organizers:	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
Moderator:	Redi Tlhabi: South African Journalist, Producer, Author
Key Note speaker:	Dr. Obiageli Ezekwesili – Economic Policy Expert, former vice president of the World Bank
Rapporteur:	Brian Moseti
Relevant outcome:	<p>Showcase innovative rural solutions by the youth in private-sector driven extension and input systems.</p> <p>Discuss the challenges encountered in the eco-system and expectations for the future.</p> <p>Discuss key interventions required from governments, multi-lateral organizations and NGOs to create an enabling environment.</p> <p>Create awareness for the IFAD Rural Solutions Portal.</p>
Objectives:	<p>Food systems are integral to the health and economic wellbeing of people across the planet. In Africa, where they account for almost 60% of the population, young people have been engaging and investing in activities that support agri-food value chains. However, they face significant constraints that curtail their capacity to contribute to the economy, such as the lack of product visibility. For this year's AGRF, the South-South and Triangular Cooperation event - organized jointly by IFAD and AGRA - will highlight innovative solutions from the youth that are transforming the agri-food sector in Africa; and provide a platform to tackle some of their existing</p>

challenges.

Speakers:

Panel 1

- Yi Li: Co-founder FarmWorks
- Dr. Fadel Ndiame: Deputy President, AGRA
- Paul Matovu: Founder, and CEO, Vertical and Micro Gardening
- Brigitha Faustin: Founder and CEO, OBRI Tanzania
- Fadja Barry: Co-Founder and CEO, GoMarkit SL
- Ifeoluwa Olatayo: Founder, Soupah Farm-en-Market Limited

Panel 2

- Brian Chipili: Technical Specialist, Youth, International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD)
- Nono Sekhoto: Lead, African Leadership for Agribusiness Network
- George Apaka: Programs Lead, Mastercard Foundation
- James Wachuhi: CECM Kenya Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, County government of Nyeri

Main highlights:

(*For Insights and newsletter. To be based on the theme of the day. Fill in in bullet form)

- Agriculture is the single largest employer of the youth. However, the sector does not appear to offer meaningful employer of the youth.
- It is difficult for young people to access opportunities for building successful careers in the agricultural sector.

KEY CHALLENGES

- Lack of specialist training in agriculture sector
- Stigma around agriculture – Agriculture is seen as a career for the poor
- Lack of proper financial support for the agri-food sector
- Difficulties in land ownership for the youth
- Red tape hindering agripreneurs from securing government support

INNOVATIONS PROPOSED

- Develop platforms celebrating successful young agripreneurs
- Use the triple helix model to define the interactions between academia, industry and government, to foster an agriculture led economic transformation in Africa

RECOMMENDATIONS/ NEXT STEPS

- Train youth agripreneurs to understand why they are working in the sector and the benefits they should get.
- Modernize agriculture and give it more importance in national development

programs

- Governments to include more youth programs in their agricultural development plans
- Governments and development partners should involve youth in all stages of program development – from design to implementation.

Session Summary:

The South-South and Triangular Cooperation invited youth agripreneurs to a session highlighting innovative solutions for transforming agri-food sector in Africa. The session, which provided a platform for the youth in agriculture to tackle some of their existing challenges, brought together young farmers, innovators, agripreneurs, leaders of development institutions and heads of government, began by defining the difficulties that youth in agriculture face. Panelists at the event listed a lack of training, insufficient financial support, difficulties in land ownership and challenges in accessing government support as the key reasons for the non-interest in agriculture by Africa's youth. Speakers recommended the abolishment of retrogressive cultures, such as those preventing women from inheriting land, and the development of enabling policies by governments as some of the leading strategies for increasing the participation of Africa's youth in agricultural transformation.

Tweetable quotes with timestamp:

(*For podcast and to go to AGRF Communication for social media. Minimum 3 per session)

1. "Access to land is one of the biggest challenges that most young people in Africa are facing" - Brigitha Faustin, Founder and CEO, OBRI Tanzania (00:54:39)
2. "There is so much to learn in agriculture; agriculture isn't just about farming" - Nono Sekhoto, Lead, African Leadership for Agribusiness Network (1:18:27)
3. "We need a lot of sensitization so that parents stop holding land just for sentimental value and see it as a factor of production" - James Wachuhi, CECM Kenya Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, County government of Nyeri (1:36:03)
4. "In a post-recovery agenda, agriculture must be at the center of the agenda" - Dr. Obiageli Ezekwesili – Economic Policy Expert, former vice president of the World Bank (00:08:36)
5. "Africa's agricultural potential cannot be realized until we pay enough special attention to our young people and their role in agriculture" - Dr. Obiageli Ezekwesili – Economic Policy Expert, former vice president of the World Bank (00:10:36)

How has the session contributed to the AGRF outcomes?

*(For end of AGRF communique/ Press release. List 3 - 5 top outcomes)

- Brought together farmers, agripreneurs, government representatives, and

development organizations on a common platform to identify solutions for challenges that youth in agriculture face.

- Allowed youth agripreneurs to lead the conversation around the difficulties they experience and how to resolve them
- Provided innovative solutions for Africa's youth unemployment problems
- Helped introduce innovative youth-led agribusinesses to the AGRF community
- Amplified the voices of participants from across the continent for a solution-finding exercise that takes into account the unique challenges of youth in different parts of Africa

COMMITMENTS

- Panelists promised to continue seeking innovative ways for getting the youth more interested in agriculture
- Governments committed to take into account youth-opinions in defining their development programs.