



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Youth Inspiring Youth in Agriculture Initiative

Required Citation:

FAO. 2022. Youth Inspiring Youth in Agriculture Initiative. Kampala. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0677en>

Disclaimer:

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

ISBN: 978-92-5-136536-6

© FAO, 2022



Some rights reserved. This work is made available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 IGO licence (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO; <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/legalcode>).

Under the terms of this licence, this work may be copied, redistributed and adapted for non-commercial purposes, provided that the work is appropriately cited. In any use of this work, there should be no suggestion that FAO endorses any specific organization, products or services. The use of the FAO logo is not permitted. If the work is adapted, then it must be licensed under the same or equivalent Creative Commons licence. If a translation of this work is created, it must include the following disclaimer along with the required citation: "This translation was not created by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). FAO is not responsible for the content or accuracy of this translation. The original [Language] edition shall be the authoritative edition."

Disputes arising under the licence that cannot be settled amicably will be resolved by mediation and arbitration as described in Article 8 of the licence except as otherwise provided herein. The applicable mediation rules will be the mediation rules of the World Intellectual Property Organization <http://www.wipo.int/amc/en/mediation/rules> and any arbitration will be conducted in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

Third-party materials. Users wishing to reuse material from this work that is attributed to a third party, such as tables, figures or images, are responsible for determining whether permission is needed for that reuse and for obtaining permission from the copyright holder. The risk of claims resulting from infringement of any third-party-owned component in the work rests solely with the user.

Sales, rights and licensing. FAO information products are available on the FAO website (www.fao.org/publications) and can be purchased through publications-sales@fao.org. Requests for commercial use should be submitted via: www.fao.org/contact-us/licence-request. Queries regarding rights and licensing should be submitted to: copyright@fao.org.

Cover Photo: ©FAO/Nakaseke

Acknowledgements

This booklet is a product of the collaboration between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), and stakeholders who have contributed to the development and implementation of the Youth Inspiring Youth in Agriculture Initiative (YIYA) in Uganda. The YIYA was developed in the framework of FAO's Integrated Country Approach for Boosting Decent Jobs for Youth in the Agrifood System (ICA), which is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

Special thanks go to the FAO ICA project implementation team at FAO Rome, Peter Wobst for his strategic guidance, Ileana Grandelis for her day-to-day technical guidance, and overall coordinator of the ICA project, Hitomi Ho and Giulia Castro for their technical support and contribution to the YIYA initiative, Yasuko Ose for conducting an assessment on YIYA Round One, which guided the second round, as well as to Carlo Angelico for supporting the initiative's communication work.

Appreciation goes to the FAO Country Office in Uganda for steering two successful rounds of the YIYA initiative. The FAO Representative in Uganda, Antonio Querido, provided overall strategic guidance and support to the ICA programme team, Priya Gujadhur, Deputy FAO Representative and JeanMarie Byakweli gave invaluable support and guidance, Edward Tanyima provided day-to-day technical support and project coordination in Uganda, while Anita Tibasaaga and Agatha Ayebazibwe provided invaluable support on communication and visibility of the YIYA initiative.

Special thanks go to the Government of Uganda, particularly through the ministries, agencies, and departments that collaborated with FAO to implement the YIYA initiative and support youth in agriculture. Gratitude goes to Yafesi Ogwang and Consolata Acayo from MAAIF, for their day-to-day project coordination with government departments. From the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), James Ebitu and Mondo Kyateka provided strategic guidance, Paul Anapa supported the coordination of the initiative, Charles Bagoole participated in various activities, and supported coordination and Sylvia Pimer provided invaluable day-to-day coordination.

Finally, the YIYA initiative owes part of its success to multiple stakeholders from various institutions, namely AVSI Foundation, Young Farmers Champions Network (YOFCHAN) and Young Farmers' Federation of Uganda (UNYFA), Uganda National Farmers Federation (UNFFE), National Farmers Leadership Centre (NFLC), National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO), Uganda Development Bank, Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI), Consortium for enhancing University Responsiveness to Agribusiness Development Limited (CURAD); Makerere University Business School; Africa Agribusiness Academy and Excel Hort Consult.

To our dear youth champions who participated in the YIYA initiative and to all the competition judges, thank you for believing in the young people of Uganda.

Contents

Introduction	1
Message from the FAO representative	2
Message from the Minister of Agriculture	3
Message from the YIYA Program Coordinator	4
Message from the Chief Judge	4
Message from the Youth Representative	5
Message from the Youth Representative	5
Training at NARO Nakyesasa, Namulonge, Wakiso District	6
Top youth champions for the 2020/2021 cohort	7
Nyakato Moreen, Kabarole district	8
Nahurira Hillary, Ntungamo District	10
Adong Susan, Dokolo District	12
Thomas Oloya, Gulu District	14
Stephen Tumukugize, Mbale District	16
Mwagale Barbra, Tororo District	18
Nyakaisiki Annet, Kampala District	20
Muawiya Mukasa, Nakaseke District	22
Orisaba Hilda Mbarara District	24
Uwezi Seth Luta Mbarara District	26
Top youth champions for the 2017 cohort	28
Jonathan Tamale, Kayunga District	29
Ali Acidri, Gulu District	30
Gerald Katabazi, Kampala District	31
Fatuma Namutosi, Mbale District	32
Jamil Karigilaki, Kabale District	33



Introduction

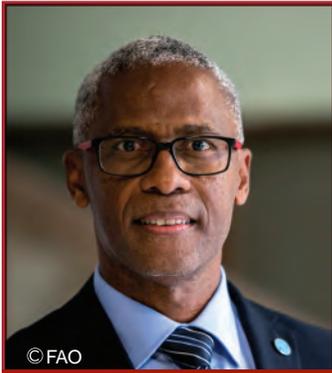
Since 2015, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been implementing a global project titled Integrated Country Approach for Boosting Decent Jobs for Youth under the Agrifood System (ICA). The project has been implemented in Guatemala, Senegal, and Uganda (2015–2022), and Rwanda and Kenya (2019–2022). It aims to enhance decent jobs through the economic and social empowerment of rural youth by enhancing the enabling environment for youth agripreneurship. This is done through evidence generation and dissemination, policy and strategy support, and capacity building.

In Uganda, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), with support from FAO, through the ICA Project, launched a National Strategy for Youth Employment in Agriculture (NSYEA) in 2017. The Strategy aims to guide state and non-state actors in Uganda on engaging and creating decent employment for youth in agriculture. As part of the implementation of the NSYEA, FAO in collaboration with MAAIF and the Young Farmers Champions Network (YOFCHAN), launched the Youth Inspiring Youth in Agriculture Initiative (YIYA) in 2017. YIYA is a nationwide competition aimed at promoting youth employment in the agricultural sector by recognizing and supporting young agripreneurs, that are role models to their peers and are willing to work with and support other youth through knowledge-sharing, capacity building, and mentorship. The first cohort of youth champions (25), selected and awarded in 2017, received cash, technical training in different value chains, opportunities to exhibit their enterprises nationally and internationally, and participated in youth-focused policy dialogues on employment in agriculture.

Based on the success of Round one of the YIYA initiative, FAO, MAAIF, and partners embarked on a process to scale up the initiative into a national youth agripreneurs mentorship programme, to attract and inspire more young people to engage in the agriculture sector countrywide. In 2021, over 270 youth champions were selected from over 1 400 applications and 35 national youth champions were recognized and awarded with equipment, assets like animals, inputs and all of them have gained visibility and will further be supported to access opportunities of networking with fellow youth and partners and services providers.

This booklet profiles the top national youth champions, giving them and their work visibility, and attention as game changers in agriculture in Uganda. They share their stories of commitment, perseverance, passion, and resilience to inspire more young people into agriculture and agribusiness.





Antonio Querido

FAO Representative

Message from FAO Representative in Uganda

It is a great honour to present to you this booklet about the successful second round of the Youth Inspiring Youth in Agriculture (YIYA) initiative at FAO Uganda. As the global economy emerges from the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, I am incredibly grateful for and proud of the young men and women involved in different agricultural enterprises, who remained steadfast against the distortions created by the pandemic to make agriculture work for them, their communities, and their peers.

The world's population is young, with nearly 2.2 billion people under the age of 18, of which 85 percent are living in developing countries. Uganda is one of the countries with the youngest population, whereby of the current 42 million Ugandans, 76 percent are below the age of 30 years. This situation creates an unemployment challenge, especially since investments and development in the country are insufficient to generate the required number of decent jobs to absorb the growing young population.

FAO recognizes that this next generation holds the key to the future, and agriculture is a major component in ensuring better lives and more prosperous futures for everyone. Empowering young people to engage in agriculture a main employer in the country, is a sure pathway for lowering unemployment, creating business opportunities, increasing food production and access, improving livelihoods, advancing agriculture value chains, boosting the economy, and fostering sustainable and inclusive development.

FAO is therefore exceedingly thankful to the Government of Uganda, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), with whom we worked to develop the National Strategy for Youth Employment in Agriculture (NSYEA) in 2017. This Strategy seeks to guide all state and non-state actors in Uganda to engage and create decent employment for youth in agriculture.

Thanks go to our partners, with whom we rolled out a successful second phase of the competition: NFLC, CURAD, UNFF, MAAIF, MGLSD, NARO, and AVSI Foundation. Thank you for making FAO a choice partner for supporting youth in Uganda.

I congratulate the youth champions for adding another feather in their caps and demonstrating that agriculture is a worthwhile and essential venture for young people. I wish you success in all your endeavors, and as FAO, we remain committed to walking with you and genuinely supporting you.



**Hon.
Frank Tumwebaze**

**Minister of Agriculture,
Animal Industry & Fisheries**

Minister's statement on youth champions

The Government of Uganda, through the National Development Plan III (2020–2024), aims at increasing household incomes and improving the quality of life of Ugandans through sustainable industrialization for inclusive growth, employment, and sustainable wealth creation. Pursuant to this ambitious goal, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) is championing the Agro-industrialization programme that is guiding strategies and interventions in the agricultural sector, for increased household incomes and wealth creation, export earnings, employment creation, and food security.

The Agricultural Sector Strategic Plan (ASSP), the National Development Plan (NDP) II, and now NDP III identify agriculture as one of the strategic and priority sectors for investment, which still remains the mainstay of our economy. More than 75 percent of Uganda's population is below the age of 30, with the country having one of the highest youth unemployment rates at 13.3 percent. The youth bulge and high levels of unemployment call for urgent action and innovative solutions, there exists great and ever-increasing potential and the agricultural sector has an untapped potential for youth employment creation. Eighty percent of Uganda's land is arable but only 35 percent is being cultivated. In the fiscal year 2020/2021, agriculture accounted for about 23.7 percent of GDP, 31 percent of export earnings and UBOS estimates that about 70 percent of Uganda's working population is employed in agriculture.

The Ministry is therefore proud of the youth champions in agriculture, for being role models to their peers and for demonstrating that agriculture can indeed transform their lives and their communities while fostering food security and economic growth. The youth are change agents, partners in Uganda's development and some are trailblazers in their selected farming enterprises and value chains. The Government, through MAAIF, is committed to making Agriculture and Agribusiness work for the young people of Uganda, who constitute a significant proportion of our population. Through the National Strategy for Youth Employment in Agriculture (NSYEA) launched in 2017, we will support youth engaged in agriculture to perform various functions in the Agricultural Value Chain (Primary Production, Post-Harvest Handling, Storage, Agro-processing and Value Addition), as well as downstream segments of Marketing and distribution. This will enable them to create more jobs for the young people, drive the country's transition from subsistence farming to commercial agriculture, and will contribute to bolstering the economy.

I acknowledge and thank all our partners like the FAO for believing in the young people of Uganda and the aspirations of the country. Thank you for supporting youth champions in agriculture.



©FAO

Edward Tayima

Program Coordinator

Message from FAO Program Coordinator

Youth Inspiring Youth in Agriculture Initiative is an approach that we started a few years ago, in 2017. We aim to identify young entrepreneurs, who have something tangible they can show on the ground, and recognize and award them as role models and mentors to inspire other youth in the communities where they live.

They show other youth an example that one can invest and work in agriculture to get money, be productive, and continue living beyond just surviving. The youth acquire resources and build assets to develop themselves as individuals support their families and even contribute to their country's social and socio-economic transformation.

We work together with the government, in particular MAAIF and MGLSD, as well as incubators like CURAD, and umbrella organizations of farmers such as the UNFEE, YOFCHAN, and UNYFA.

Since we started the project with the first pilot involving 25 participants, I have witnessed a significant change in the businesses owned by the Youth and the communities around them. Youth have accessed more assets and improved their incomes, their businesses have grown thus generating jobs for their peers, and several youth champions have supported their communities to initiate new agricultural initiatives.



©FAO

**Dr.
Dick .N. Kamuganga**

**President Uganda National
Farmers Federation**

Message from Chief Judge

I am the president of Uganda National Farmers Federation (UNFFE), a body that brings together all farmer organizations in the country. As the Chief judge of the YIYA initiative second cohort, I was fascinated to see the work young people are doing within their own means, with the knowledge they acquired in the program when we visited the youth agripreneurs across the four regions in Uganda.

I thank FAO for starting the initiative, MAAIF and MGLSD and other stakeholders for getting on board to support the successful execution of the program.

The YIYA Initiative puts the youth at the center and makes them the pathfinders that are showing other youth the path to self-reliance, self-employment, job creation, wealth creation, and they pass to anchor the nation.

The initiative is generating momentum and I hope that in the years to come we can amplify the great opportunities it has created for the youth in agriculture and increase the number of village-level youth agripreneurs recognized in the program. If the nation is going to continue growing its economic activity, then we have to continually identify, recognize and support the young people working in the agriculture sector.



**Tumwebaze
Kamutima**

Team Leader Young Farmers
Champions Network

Message from Youth Representative

I am the team leader at Young Farmers Champions Network (YOFCHAN). We have partnered with FAO on the YIYA initiative since 2017.

A competitive process is used to identify and select the youth inspiring youth in agriculture across the country. We rolled out a call for applications, young people accessed the forms and applied, through the district office or online through the website.

We screened the applications and shortlisted the selected youth, who were visited on their premises by a team of judges to validate the work and see whether it is actually in existence. The final champions were then taken through the capacity building training on business support, mindset shift, value addition among other topics.

Five youth champions from the first cohort have been able to access a capital of more than USD 40 000, thanks to the linkages crated by the initiative with UNDP and other youth support programs. We continue linking them to more financial support.

COVID-19 affected the program because training was supposed to be face to face and very practical. However, we have been able to partially adapt to virtual modalities. I am very grateful for the achievements so far, and my contribution to the agribusiness sector, and I hope to make a much bigger contribution in the future.



Denis Kabiito

CEO - UNYFA

Message from CEO Young Farmer's Federation of Uganda

Our mandate as Young Farmer's Federation of Uganda (UNYFA) is to amplify the interests and voices of youth in agriculture, and so shape the future of farming. In this regard, UNYFA partnered with FAO Uganda to publicize the YIYA program and facilitate the application process by making the application forms available both in hard copy and online to all the Ugandan youths in the 72 districts in the North and East.

UNYFA also participated in training the selected champions on how to access skills and resources from their parents through a farm succession framework approach, during the training camp at the National Farmers Leadership Center (NFLC) in Kampiringisa. As young farmers, we are proud and privileged to have contributed to the success of the YIYA initiative, from which 270 youth role models were selected countrywide. We believe that these young agriculture ambassadors will inspire other youths to engage in farming, thus contributing to food security, reducing poverty and nemployment in the country.

UNYFA is grateful to FAO Uganda for recognizing our potential as youth and choosing us as strategic partners for this program. We look forward to inspiring and working with more young people.



Training at National Animal Resource Research Institute at Nakyesasa, Namulonge, Wakiso District

During the first pilot in 2017, we identified and trained about 25 youth champions, who have then succeeded in their ventures. From there, the initiative grew to cover all 135 districts and reach over 270 youth in 2021.

In 2021, 270 agripreneurs were awarded at district and regional levels and 35 awarded as National Youth Champions.

These youth benefited from training on Mindset change programs, business planning, Value addition, Financial Literacy, Investment Readiness, and some of them have gotten apprenticeship opportunities at the Champions' enterprises.





© FAO/Soroti

TOP YOUTH CHAMPIONS



NYAKATO MOREEN

Enterprise: Greco Organic Farm
District: Kabarole, Fortportal
Region: Western Uganda

I started growing vegetables on a small scale in 2015 after my mother was diagnosed with a serious heart problem and health experts recommended to provide her with healthy food.

I started Greco Organic Farm because many youth do not own land which is why the majority of them can't participate in agriculture. We do modern farming collectively as a way of utilizing land to practice agriculture on small spaces.

Participating in the YIYA program has exposed me to new knowledge and practices. As a result, I have been able to incorporate new products such as bio fertilizer production and mushroom on my farm. I have both dry and fresh mushrooms. I also practice vermiculture, in which I learned from a fellow young agripreneur that I met through the YIYA program.

I have also been able to get partnerships and expand my network through the program. I am working with Green Colleges to train youth in the Rwenzori region in green trades, particularly vegetable growing. I am also working with Kabalore Research and Resource Center to train refugees in camps to improve their nutrition.



We have been able to set up demonstration gardens in eight different house units at the host centers. I am also working with Uganda Small Scale Industries on business exposure and value addition, as well as training youth, with support from Enable Youth Uganda.

Through Greeco Organic farm, I have gained a lot of personal development. I have expanded my enterprise by acquiring more land and housing. I have been able to network with so many youths and increase my social capital.

For me, the COVID-19 pandemic provided more opportunities than challenges because many people picked interest in farming, personal nutrition, and dieting. This provided market and more business for me to train and provide healthy food supplies.



© FAO/Mbarara



© FAO/Mbarara

NAHURIRA HILLARY

Enterprise: Active Living Uganda Ltd.
District: Ntungamo
Region: Western Uganda

I heard about the YIYA initiative via an agriculture WhatsApp group and I submitted my application online to showcase my products and inspire fellow youth.

The YIYA program has helped me bring my product to people, they have exposed me to a different number of people and I have learned so much from the networks with the youth champions during the award ceremony. Most of them are now my ambassadors, helping me to market my product in other districts.

I will use the UGX 3M funds from FAO, to procure a lemon juice extractor that will help me scale and improve my efficiency and hygiene in production because it will reduce human contact with the ingredients.



© FAOMbarara

At Active Living we manufacture personal care and public health products of the plant origin with our flagship product being a Lemon Aftershave. In Western Uganda, there is limited access to affordable natural high-quality aftershaves. The available aftershaves contain chemicals that are believed to be cancer-causing. The other alternative commonly used locally in our communities is spirit plus an additive, a product meant for food warmers therefore not good for skin use.

At Active Living, we resorted to research and product development of a natural aftershave from the selected most effective medicinal herb that is 100 percent chemical-free and reverses the effects of sun raise for people who shave the hair completely.

I started working at Bishop Stuart University Agribusiness Incubation center in 2018 and I am also partnering with Pharm- BioTechnology and Traditional Medicine Centre and Agripreneurs-hip Alliance from Sweden. Regional University Forum for Capacity Building in Agricultural Forum and Avsi Foundation under Sky project have supported me.

We involve youth and women to form farmer groups that supply us with raw materials like aloe vera, essential oils from lemongrass. We are targeting farmer groups led by women and youth. We organize them and train them to produce high-quality supplies.



©FAO/Oyam



©FAO/Dokolo

SUSAN ADONG

Enterprise: Seedling Handling and Horticulture

District: Dokolo

Region: Northern Uganda

Our farm is a family business that deals in fruit seedling and horticulture. I got interested in agriculture through my father, who instilled in us the skill of farming at a young age. We started with passion fruits, slowly upgraded to citrus and now avocado.

The YIYA program is an excellent initiative because it brings youth with different talents together to learn from each other. We are getting market for our products through the YIYA youth network, and the program has linked us to different acts in agriculture.

During the program, youth shared how they achieve value addition in their businesses, and I saw an opportunity for the farm. Our farm has focused only on the seedlings and fruit in the past, which we sell cheaply. Now we can look into doing juice or exporting the fresh fruits.



FAO has continued to connect us to opportunities even after the training; for example, I have been invited to participate in a Business Development training and it has connected us to financial institutions and mentorships.

The sales from the farm has given my family a source of livelihood and created opportunities for the people in the community.

Every year we teach over 50 people at the farm, with the majority being women since they are the only laborers in my community. We teach them potting, manure mixture. We also get agriculture students from Arapai University in Soroti to do internships at the farm.

We are now looking into turning the farm into agrotourism and working towards adding value to everything, we do at the farm.

As a family and through our network, we are hoping to raise some money to acquire equipment to help in the value addition so that we create jobs for other youth but also earn money on the farm.



© FAO/Gulu



© FAO/Gulu

THOMAS OLOYA

Enterprise: Fish Farming
District: Gulu
Region: Northern Uganda

I do farming as a business, fish farming is one of the agricultural activities we do at the farm along with forestry, floriculture, poultry, and piggery.

When I learned about the call for application for the YIYA program, I wanted to participate in the program because inspiring youth in agriculture is what I do at the farm through different projects. At the fish farm, I have over 15 permanent workers and over 100 casual laborers at the minor farm in Gulu, the bigger farm is in Moya.

The YIYA initiative is a very good project because it is supporting the government to bridge the gap of some of the things that the Government cannot do. What inspired me most from the training in Kampiringisa was the mindset change. Most youth need to reset their mindset from blue-collar jobs to agriculture.

Through the FAO network, we are partnering with Enterprise Uganda to provide training to the youth. The program has also created awareness for my business.



© FAO/Guid

Before the training, we operated informally. Through the knowledge I acquired, we have been able to formalize the business starting from registration, bookkeeping, and hiring technical staff to run the farm activities. I have also formed farming groups comprising of 11 youth in northern Uganda so far. The farmer groups have helped regulate fish prices for the benefit of each farmer.



Business Registration



Business Records



Farmer Cooperatives

COVID-19 has not affected the business so much because we are selling food, the demand is there only the supply is low, however, COVID-19 has affected us in the transportation of feeds due to the restriction on the movements.

My plan is to build a recreational center to continue training youth in agriculture.



STEPHEN TUMUKUGIZE

Enterprise: Darling Coffee Limited
District: Mbale
Region: Eastern Uganda

Darling Coffee Limited focuses on coffee value addition through different activities, such as farmer group training on post handling practices, quality management, and coffee processing.

The YIYA is a very motivating initiative and has helped youth come together to make their impact known to the community, while inspiring other youth. Being selected as a youth champion in an area where I am not born is a great achievement for me and it shows other youth that they can leverage resources from wherever they are. Youth still have a bias about working in the agriculture sector and the YIYA program is helping to change the mindset of the youth through the stories of the youth champions.



© FAO/Mbale

© FAO/Mbale

From the training, I have been able to setup a system that tracks every process of the business from production, finances to sales. I am in the process of registering the business. I have also engaged farmer groups to participate in other agricultural enterprises besides coffee like vegetable and mushroom growing.

Before attending the program, I didn't have a clear understanding of gender balance in agriculture activities, but we have been able to employ two females out of the five employed staff and we focus on employing youth because they are more flexible.



© FAO/Tororo



© FAO/Tororo

MWAGALE BARBRA

Enterprise: Kango Microfinance
District: Tororo
Region: Eastern Uganda

Kango Microfinance is an agro finance company that supports rural women and youth who are into agriculture and small businesses. We support them through different services like input financing in the form of seed at small manageable loans with minimal interest rates, seasonal payments. We also provide training in financial literacy and business development. We also provide an agro-processing plant which is still on a small scale.

We provide extension services like management information systems to promote accountability and transparency among farmer groups in the village saving association. These groups previously used metallic boxes for safe-keeping of their savings. We are passionate about providing financial access for all.

We choose women and youth as our target group because 57 percent of the 43 million Ugandans are rural women and are key players in the agricultural sector.



© FAO/Tororo

Currently, we are working with 45 groups each having a range of 30 to 100 members and 55 percent of the members are youth. Some of the challenges we have experienced include dishonesty, poor saving culture among the members and failure to pay back the loans due to low harvest performance.

The YIYA Initiative exposed me to a wide youth network, equipped me with skills in business and changed my mindset on how best to manage a successful business. In the next two to five years, we plan to expand from Nagongera town to the whole of Tororo district and other nearby Districts; reaching 20 000 youth and women through the farmer groups.



© FAO/Kampala



© FAO/Kampala

NYAKAISIKI ANNET

Enterprise: Barista House Ltd
District: Kampala
Region: Central Uganda

Barista House Limited mainly deals in coffee value addition and production of other products like soap. Participating in the YIYA program helped me realize existing business opportunities that I was initially not aware of. Through the program, I met other youth doing different ventures in agriculture that I now network with to share knowledge and opportunities.

I recently acquired an oil pressing machine that youth champions from Kasese and Oyam motivated me to get, after I shared my production struggles. They linked me to a good supplier and guided me in the procurement process. The machine has helped me increase production.

I am also applying the financial knowledge acquired from the program. Initially, I did not know about keeping business records like balance sheets, income statements, and expenditures but now I keep the financial records up to date.



I have been able to share the knowledge I gained with over 800 youth, working locally and abroad. I carry out evaluations to see how the youth i train are progressing.

I plan to set up a coffee training institution to train youth in all coffee-related skills because we get many youths interested in the training, however, accessibility has been a challenge for them.

I am also planning to buy a roastery that will help make it more accessible to other youth in the coffee business. We are looking at acquiring a solar dryer which will help us have more control of the quality of coffee we get from farmers and have complete control of the value chain, and helpfully we can do exports then.



© FAO/Nakaseke



© FAO/Nakaseke

MUAWIYA MUKASA

Enterprise: Kapeeka Agro & Live Stock Farm
District: Nakaseke, Kito sub-county
Region: Central Uganda

FAO has given me a platform to inspire my fellow youth by showing them what I do. The YIYA training helped to change my mindset, improve business goals, increase production and to understand the mandate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, especially regarding implementing the National Development Plan. Through the training, my peers and I learned about why we need to focus our businesses and grow from subsistence to commercial agriculture.

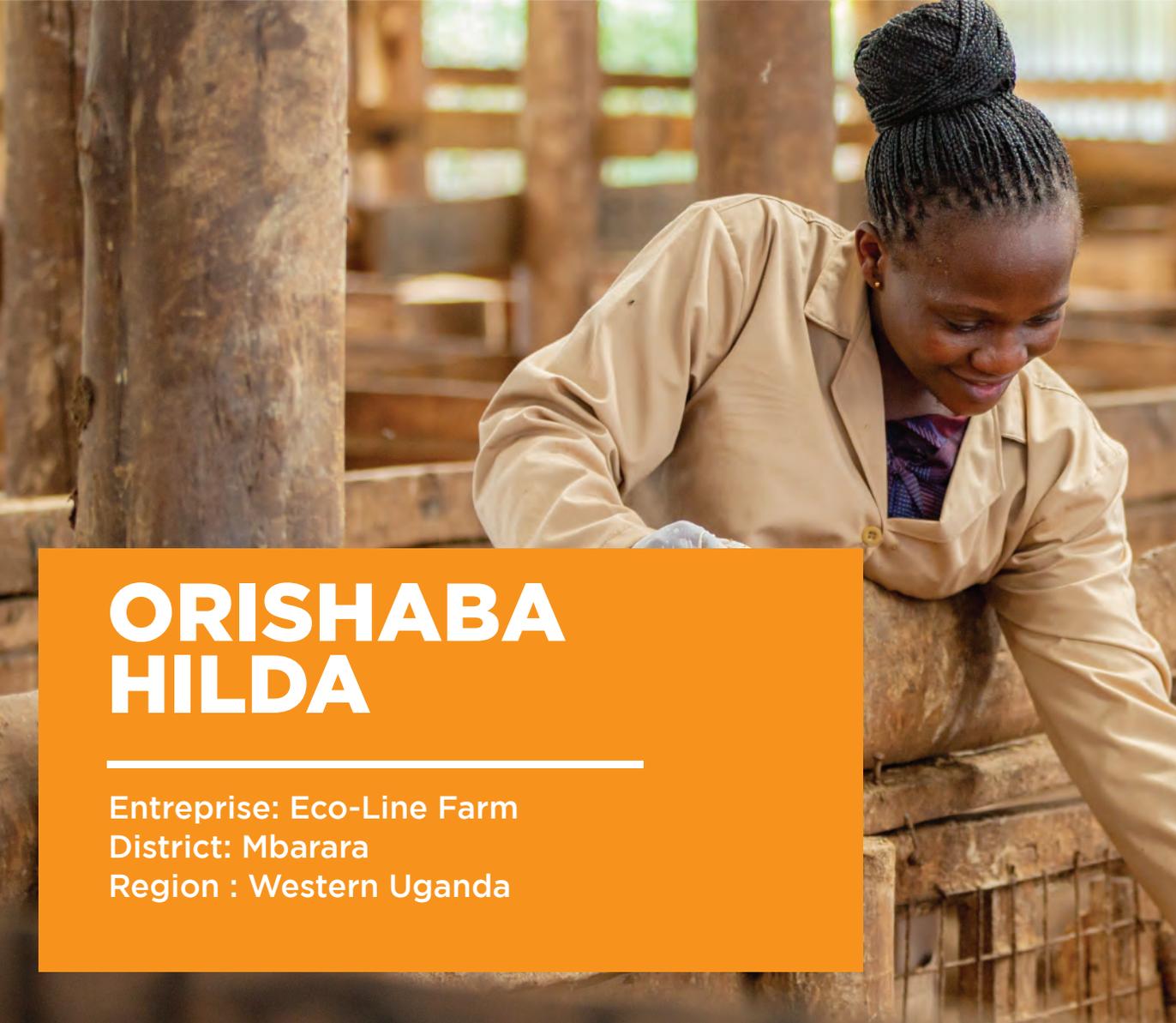
One of the reasons that inspired me to start an agribusiness was the immense opportunities for employment creation. From research, I saw that through agriculture we can get decent employment and it is a sector that can employ almost all of us. Considering the projected increase in the population, there will always be demand for agricultural supplies.



Secondly, about 95 percent of the diseases we are suffering from right now come from how and what we eat and that is why at the farm we concentrate on organic farming for healthy eating.

I employ over 50 workers at the farm: youth, women, and elderly workers. I also offer free training in partnership with the Nakaseke district office, the district organizes the youth and brings them for training at the farm.

Our goal for the next two years is to create employment and promote healthy eating. We target to onboard 200 outgrowers who will employ 500 people. The outgrowers will provide 6 000 rabbits per month and this will produce three tons of rabbit meat per day to address healthy eating.



ORISHABA HILDA

Entreprise: Eco-Line Farm
District: Mbarara
Region : Western Uganda

Eco-Line Farm is a piggery farm located in Mbarara, Biharwe sub division. I started with 15 piglets in 2017. I learned very quickly that the farm does not grow if I continue to sell the piglets and focusing on value addition has helped me to grow the farm to over 450 pigs. Through the piggery farm, I have been able to buy a car that eases transportation of farm supplies and bought two hectares of land out of Mbarara where I have set up a banana plantation.

My encouragement to the youth, especially women, is to build a passion for agriculture and join the sector because it is a profitable venture if one is committed to it.

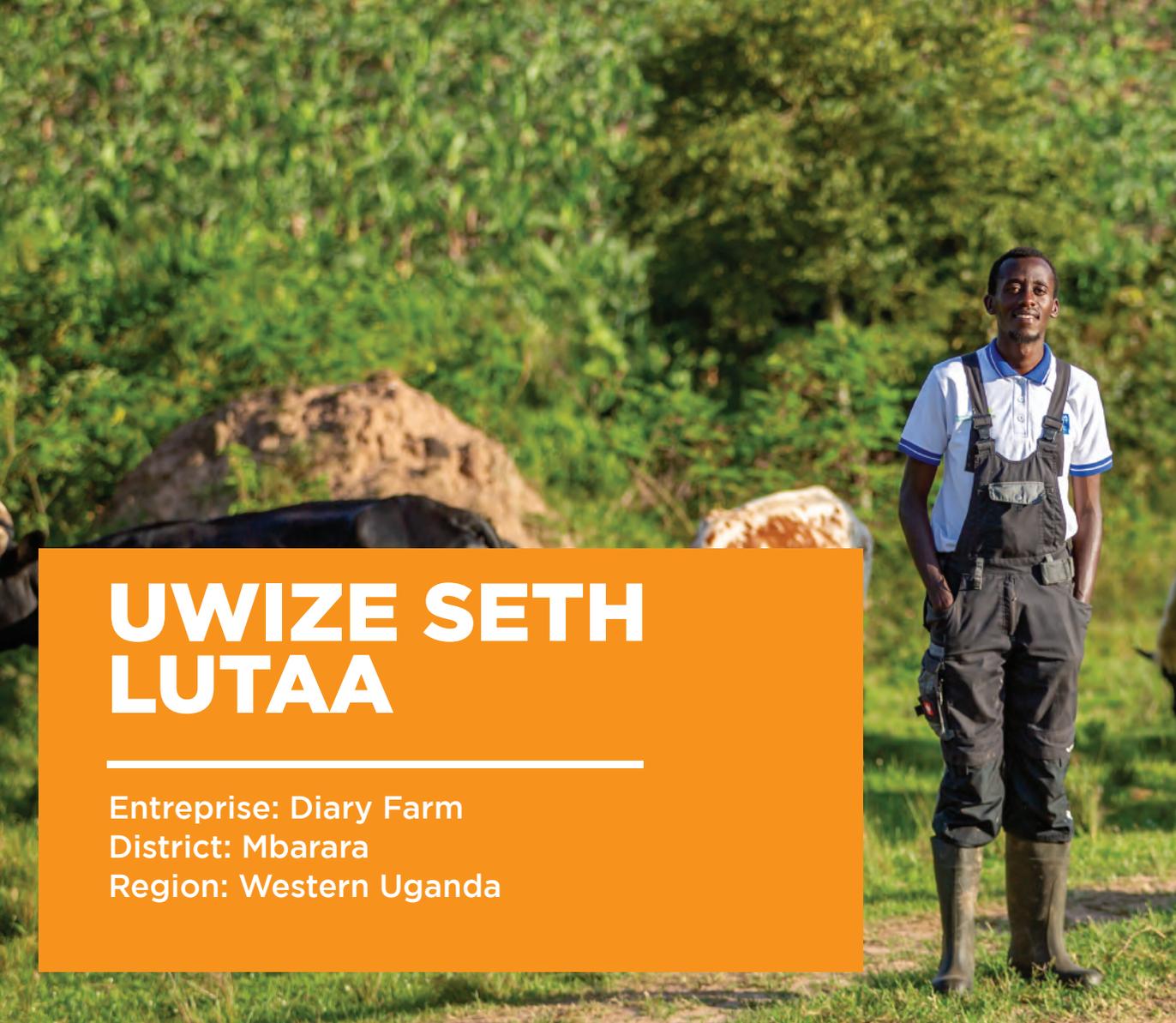
COVID-19 affected my business activities as the clients reduced due to the restricted movement and the closure of the entertainment places. Feeding the pigs became a challenge as well since maize brand prices increased.



However we were able to substitute the maize brand with waste from breweries which was cheaper.

Eco-Line Farm, involves women through employment and training. We have two women already employed with us and we have trained ten women out of the 25 youth that were trained at the farm this 2021.

Five years from now, I want my business to grow beyond production. I hope to tap into the whole value chain from production, aggregation, processing and marketing to both the national and international market. I wish to establish a meat processing plant to produce sausages and bacon.



UWIZE SETH LUTAA

Entreprise: Dairy Farm
District: Mbarara
Region: Western Uganda

It is an honor to be part of the YIYA program. For so long agriculture has been associated with older workers in the media and television, so young people thought it was a venture they can only join when they retire. I believe the impact of the program is going to change the way youth look at agriculture.

Through the knowledge gained from the YIYA program, we have started the process of formalizing the Ankole Young Farmers Association. This is going to help us to continue implementing the learnings from the program through small communities. Personally, I have gotten a chance to network with other youth in the industry, and gotten exposure from other young Dairy farmers. The networks have also helped me improved my farm's brand within and outside Mbarara.



© FAO/Mbarara

Besides the changes with retaining the workers at the farm during the lockdown, COVID-19 has been an opportunity for me because it helped me quit my official job to concentrate on farming fulltime.

In the next three years, I am looking at improving the cattle breed from the cross breeds I currently have to specifically dairy breeds as I have learned from other youth that if, I am to maximize profit, I have to specialize.

I also plan to turn my current farm in Mbarara into a demonstration farm and transfer the animals and other farm activities to a location outside Mbarara, because the city is growing and may not be a good fit location for the farm in the future.



©FAO/Oyam

PREVIOUS YOUTH CHAMPIONS



© FAO/Kayunga



© FAO/Kayunga

JONATHAN TAMALE

Enterprise: Nile Coffee Farmers
District: Kayunga
Region: Eastern Uganda

Kayunga Nile Coffee Farmers co-operative is a membership organization of coffee farmers. The FAO program guided me on how to lead the company, and through their connection, I manage to secure a grant worth USD 250 000 from USADF.

Under the grant, we procured a brand new telemetric vehicle TATA, we procured a carrying machine, and set up a 400 meter warehouse. We have managed to get all that because of the kind of skills and knowledge we acquired from FAO.

FAO has also linked us to other partners like the Uganda Export Promoting Board which has enabled us to secure international buyers; like the Russian buyers. We attended the Dubai expo and it has all been possible because of the exposure.

We realized youth and women invest a lot of time in farms, but the men take all the money. That is why we train farmers on a family basis to look at coffee as a family business. We have encouraged youth to join the coffee value chain to roast, package, and market since most of them don't have the and to grow the coffee.

With effect from 2022, we are planning to export coffee and we have already started to secure coffee buyers and join the international market to realize bigger margins from the coffee.



ALI ACIDRI

Enterprise: Honey Pride
District: Gulu
Region: Northern Uganda

The honey value chain is our core business at Honey Pride Arua (U) Limited. We supply beekeeping equipment and provide market for the youth while procuring the key inputs for the business. I am currently training over 4 000 youth in Arua, Koboko, Maracha, Yumbe, and Nebbi districts.

Through the YIYA initiative, I received UGX 2million, which I used to buy 54 bee-hives. I also got the opportunity to attend a one-month training in food processing and fish farming in Benin. When I returned, I received 5 000 USD from FAO, which helped me to support the business and secure more beehives and working capital for the business.

I have been able to support my family through this business; I am able to pay school fees for my children and invest most of the revenue back into the business.

I involve youth and women in the business activities. Six of eight employees are youth. Our processing part of the business is handled by females. We also employ over 14 youth and women on a casual basis.

Our plan for the next two to three years is to increase the number of our beehives from 800 to 2 000 to increase the production capacity. I also plan to establish a poultry farm and juice production plant to use the food processing skills I gained in Benin.



© FAO/Kampala



© FAO/Kampala

GERALD KATABAZI

Enterprise: Valcon Coffee Ltd
 District: Mbale, Kasese & Kampala
 Region: East, West & Central UG

I am a 2017 youth champion, the program has been amazing to me, it helped me understand the business principles and equipped me with new skills to manage my enterprise better. Furthermore, it exposed me to the international market and we are now exporting to foreign markets like Dubai. I was also able to acquire a processing equipment for value addition through the program. We are now skilling and helping more young people to get into the coffee value addition chain using the same facility.

Before joining the YIYA program, I was running a coffee kiosk in the Namayiba bus terminal but we had challenges of business management. When I participated in the YIYA initiative, I was able to network with other partners like Makerere Innovation Lab that skilled us in business principles. I used this knowledge and I was able to two more Kiosks.

We are now generating revenue, with consistent cash flows, and are making steady progress in our business growth. Women work in the harvesting and processing of the coffee while the youth mostly work the roasting phase. We have skilled over 1 225 youth and women so far. Our business is a social cause and we believe it is going to drive growth for the company and the economy at large.

Unfortunately during the pandemic, all our outlets in Kampala, Mbale and Kasese had to close and seven percent of our revenue was affected; which was a set back. However, we created an online presence which helped to keep us in business. We acquired a shop in Dubai and are planning to expand our international market.



FATUMA NAMUTOSI

Enterprise: Byeffe Foods Co. Ltd
District: Mbale
Region: Eastern Uganda

Byeffe Foods Company Limited is a Food Processing Company producing nutritious food products mainly from pumpkin.

The youth program exposed us to various support organizations and gave us skills in business management, best practices, business sustainability, marketing, and exposure of our products. This support has helped to expand our market.

Being a Youth Champion in agriculture has enhanced our business reputation and strengthened our links with the district authorities and community, thereby giving us more opportunities. We have been able to collaborate with different national and international agriculture forums and organizations, including Uganda Development Bank (UDB).

Like many businesses, ours was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our sales decreased. As many farmers were sick, our production reduced and the cost of raw materials skyrocketed. However, we had to be resilient and persistent.

We are currently constructing our company premises and we plan to acquire the necessary certification to be able to serve the whole country and export to foreign-markets. We plan to hire the right people to run the business and complete the installation of necessary equipment needed to speed up our processing activities. We also want to engage more youth and women in the production of raw materials.



JAMIL KARIGILAKI

Enterprise: Yildi Enterprises
District: Kabale
Region: Western Uganda

Yildi Enterprises is a leading producer of flavoured tea in Uganda - Yildi Flavoured Black Tea. Yildi Flavoured Black Tea is produced in two flavors - lemon grass (locally known as Omutete) and Basil or Ocimum suave (locally known as Omujaaja). We extract these two rich flavors from leaves by steam distillation.

I am a Youth Champion in Agriculture from the 2017 cohort. The Initiative helped us to inspire other youth into agriculture. We engage youth and women through small groups by making them out growers and giving them training in entrepreneurship and agripreneurship skills.

Through FAO, we were able to get a grant from UNDP, which we used to set up a fully-fledged factory with modern machinery. This has helped increase our production tremendously.

In the last two years, our sales went down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which reduced farm production. We could not produce because people were not consuming. However, the opportunity with UNDP has helped us stay afloat.

In the next three years, we plan to launch a new product on the market - tea bags of our flavoured tea. This will be in response to numerous demands from our customers.



© FAO/Oyam

Special thanks to our partners



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MAAIF

Ministry of Agriculture
Animal Industry and Fisheries



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
MINISTRY OF GENDER,
LABOUR & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



© FAO/Namulonge

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,
Representation in Uganda.



FAO-UG@fao.org



@ www.fao.org.



@FAOUganda

CC0677EN/1/09.22