



YOUNG FARMERS'
FEDERATION OF UGANDA



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The annual report presents UNYFA's development and her strategic direction between the period of January and December 2023. The report details the organization background, key areas of development, achievements, learning's, challenges and success stories.

1.2 Background

The Young Farmers Federation of Uganda (UNYFA) is an umbrella organization for young farmers in Uganda, started in 2016 and launched in June 2017 as a duly incorporated member-based organization with a registration number 80020000478713 under section 18(3) of Companies Act 2012. UNYFA has over 72-member associations which are District Young Farmers Associations, Youth agro-based initiatives and school agricultural clubs, totaling to over 41,000 individual young farmers. The Federation operates countrywide in six regions namely: West Nile; Northern; Far-Eastern; Eastern; Central and Western Region, and is driven by the desire to have a holistically transformed youth in agriculture for a sustainable economy: UNYFA's target age group is of youth between 12 to 39 years who are rural and/or urban agro-based and young farmers in and out of school/ Institutions.

UNYFA is proud in UNFFE -AHA/DBV partnership which focused on the establishment of a strong young farmers' association in Uganda. Under its project of strengthening farmers' organizations, AHA with financial support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has provided capacity building, linkages/networks to UNYFA.

1.3 UNYFA Focus

Vision: "A Holistically Transformed Youth in Agriculture for Sustainable Economy"

Mission: "To Mobilize and Empower Youth in Agriculture for Social- economic Development"

Core values: Teamwork; Accountability (Transparency); Commitment and Inclusion (Equity for All)

1.4 Our Key Areas of Development

- » Institutional development/ Professionalization/
- » Advocacy:
- » Services: Linkage, network
- » Food security and income
- » Environment and nature resource management.

1.5 UNYFA Partners:

- German Farmers Association(DBV)
- Andreas Hermes Akademie(AHA)
- Schorlemer Stiftung (SST)
- TRIAS
- German Association of Rural Women
- GIZ Uganda

1.6 UNYFA Secretariat

UNYFA Board:

Name	Position	District of Origin
Richard Semwanga	President	Nakasongola
Vincent Ariaka	Vice President	Maracha
Brian Ogolo	Secretary General	Oyam
Betty Namaganda	Treasurer	Iganga
Martin Kafanta	Publicity Secretary	Kanungu
Sarah Awor	Board Member	Lira
Denis Kabiito	CEO/Ex-Officio	
Bashir Kilimo	Board Member	Kapchorwa
Joel Akuonzi	Life Member	Zombo

UNYFA Management Team:

Name	Position
Denis Kabiito	Chief Executive Officer
Samuel Magezi	Programs Manager
Namata Samalie	Administrative Assistant
Harbert Mawejje	Project Officer
Joseph Wandera	Lead Trainer/Project Officer (FOVL)
Reagan Ssempijja	Communications Officer
Hartwel Odur	Project Officer (IYFEP)
Kassim Mategyero	Accountant
Emmanuel Walusimbi	Documentation support staff
Anasta Nankanja	Assistant Accountant
Geoffrey Mwabira	Cleaning & Messenger support staff

2.0 UNYFA MEMBERSHIP

UNYFA operates countrywide with its members structured in the way that their different groups emanates from the grassroots to national level. This is deemed necessary for development of tailor made services, amplification of youth in agriculture voice and enhancement of young farmers campaigns at the grass root levels. Furthermore, UNYFA is proportioned into six regions of Uganda namely: West Nile, Northern, Far-East, Eastern, Central and Western each region with an average number of 4 to 9 districts which with established young farmers structure. Today we are the strongest young farmers' association rolling out plans and working along UNFFE structures right from the Apex body to gross roots – District Farmers' Associations.

In the reporting period, our membership base is now at over 72 member associations and approximately 41,000 individuals according to UNYFA membership provisional data survey July, 2023. UNYFA currently has the following categories of members:-

1. West Nile Region
 - » 7 District Young Farmer Associations
 - » 3 Youth initiatives
2. Northern Region
 - » 18 District Young Farmer Associations
 - » 3 Youth Initiatives
3. Far Eastern Region
 - » 12 District Young Farmer Associations
4. Eastern
 - » 14 District Young Farmer Associations
5. Central
 - » 15 District Young Farmer Associations
 - » 14 Youth initiatives
6. Western Region
 - » 8 District Young Farmer Associations
 - » 6 Youth initiatives

UNYFA Membership Composition

Category	Number
Female	15990
Male	25010
Total	41000

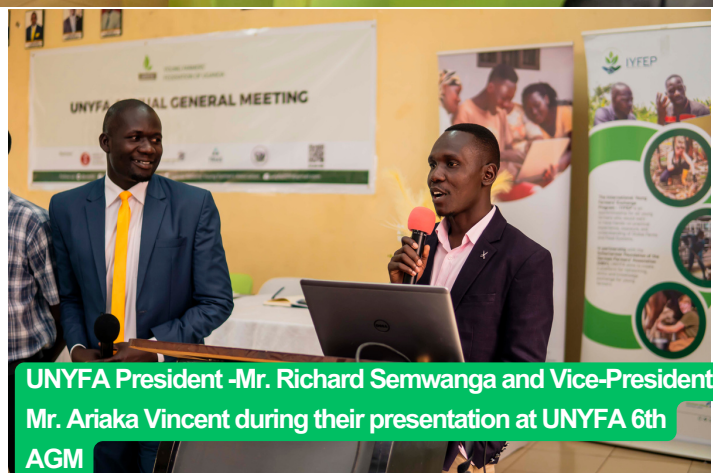
28% underprivileged

THE 6TH UNYFA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



UNYFA member association and initiative delegates listening to the UNYFA CEO presentation during the 6th UNYFA AGM at Nakasero, Kampala

The 6th UNYFA Annual General Meeting was hybrid event organized by UNYFA at UNFEE Hall Nakasero, Kampala and online on 27th -28th February 2023 and it brought together 60 delegates from all member associations from six regions of Uganda. UNYFA Board headed by the young farmers President chaired all the AGM Sessions where presentations and discussions were used to have smooth deliberations. UNYFA Annual reports both narrative and financial were presented, new members were: Farm and art space community initiative; Ento Organic farm; Sirius Ventures Uganda limited; Kalisizo sub county young Farmers Association; ST Jude project Farm and vocational institute; Luqman fresh farm; Green growth plus investment; Arua District Youth Farmers Network; Terego Youth Network; Ajumani East Young Farmers Association; Yonder life Uganda; Zion Wanyama Agri business club; Wonder hands farm enterprises; Hented poultry farm; Kutokea Afrika Initiative (white meat value chain and vegetables and new developments, organizational policy suggestions; challenges were discussed and positions were taken in account.



UNYFA President -Mr. Richard Semwanga and Vice-President Mr. Ariaka Vincent during their presentation at UNYFA 6th AGM



UNYFA member Association delegate from Sembabule DYFA giving his reactions to matters arising in the AGM

THE 6TH UNYFA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the 6th UNYFA Annual General Meeting members also presented their reports for instance:-

1. Mr. Semayengo Joseph; from Wakiso Youth Unit expressed his satisfaction in using the Farmer Organization Video Library(FOVL).
2. Oliver Apac DYFA presented his challenges of Piggery and Poultry farming enterprises especially in breed selection. The president encouraged him to make use of the FOVL and tap into the technical skills of members.
3. Kween DYFA delegate and a bee farmer expressed his challenge of pests on his bee farm and Bee farmers need more capacity building. He was encouraged to network with Mr. Agaba Kenneth from Kayonza Youth hub Kanungu who has over 500 bee hives and a processing unit and share experiences of Bee farming.
4. Seruubidde Cosima from Nakasongola DYFA shared on how he was part of the one health training organized by UNYFA in Masaka. When he got back to the district, he learnt that there is already a one-health committee at the district but there was no youth participation and he embraced the opportunity by joining the committee activities, so he encouraged the UNYFA one health TOTs to reach out to their districts and do the same. But also informed the AGM that Nakasongola DYFA is focusing on maize processing thus they buy maize from farmers, process it and brand it as Nakasongola DYFA product.
5. Annet Diana Nanono from Masaka informed the AGM that she represented UNYFA at the 30th International Leadership Workshop for Rural Youth in Germany. She was inspired by the artistic farming she saw from Germany and she is implementing it at her farm in Masaka.
6. Mr. Orwama Abraham from Kayunga DYFA informed the AGM that his DYFA has not been so active for some time but now they have embarked on recruiting new groups to join the DYFA. He requested UNYFA to backstop their agenda. But also disclosed to the AGM that the DYFA had one member who will be participating in the IYFEP-6 and requested that UNYFA members to prioritize the program. The president pledged their support to Kayunga DYFA as they revamp and recruit more members.

7. Martin Tenywa from Ento Organic Farm, shared with members how IYFEP-5 exposed him modern agriculture practices and creation of international partnerships and mentors from Germany. He also informed members that he participated in the one health program and he is currently incorporating one health concept knowledge into his training programs and insect farmer.

8. Kisakye Joan Nabwendi from Mpigi DYFA also testified of incorporating the one health aspects into her trainings for farmers. She mobilized youth in Mpigi and participated in the National Agriculture show. But also informed members how she benefited as IYFEP alumnus, with a joint venture of a Farm in Mpigi district Uganda owned jointly together with her German host family.

9. Zalwango Cissy from Kumi DYFA gave her Advocacy report which involved training their team in advocacy and conducting advocacy campaigns at grassroots by meeting and presenting policy position papers to the district officials namely Resident District Commissioner, Chief Administrative Officer, and District Production and Marketing Officer. She informed the AGM that the district officials were pleased and encouraged the team to push for the issues of climate change.

The president encouraged the DYFA to be profiled and form enterprise groups for them to benefit from the Parish Development Model (PDM) of Government. As UNYFA Secretariat also draft a simplified version of the PDM guidelines for our members to understand and benefit from the program.

Mr. Okot Godfrey, the former UNYFA president thanked the secretariat and board for making it possible for members to attend the AGM virtually.

UNYFA 9TH AGRIBUSINESS TOUR

“Think regional – galvanizing opportunities together for sustainable Agribusiness Development”

UNYFA organizes biannual agribusiness Tours aimed at exposing and offering on-farm learning experience to young farmers and young people who want to more about agriculture. From the 21st -27th May 2023, 50 (9 Germans and 41 Ugandans) young farmers from across Uganda and the globe and they traversed farms in central & western regions of Uganda but also visited Farms in Rwanda. The 9th Agribusiness Tour Itinerary was rich in farms and tourism sites thus giving participants an all round study trip and adventure. The literary day one started from Central region of Uganda in Kampala city where all participants converged at UNYFA office for debriefing, boarding the Bus and visiting Cloverdale Farm at Nsangi for poultry farming and also Gomba Next Generation farm for Dairy Farming and Breeding. The second day, participants visited St.Jude Family Projects at Busense-Masaka for Organic & permaculture farming and ended the day by visiting Lwako Mixed Farm located at Kalisizo for Passion fruit farming. The Agribusiness tour continued on the 3rd day with visits to Kibinge Coffee Farmers cooperative where participants got exposed to coffee value chain (seed to cup) and its opportunities. Participants crossed to Western region of Uganda and ended the 3rd day with a game drive through Lake Mburo National Park as part of the adventure and they where able to see animals such as Zebras, Giraffes, Worth hogs, Antelopes, Impalas and Buffalo.

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UNYFA 9th Agribusiness Tour participants learning about Poultry farming at Cloverdale Farm located at Kitemu-Nasangi, wakiso district.

UNYFA 9TH AGRIBUSINESS TOUR



UNYFA 9th Agribusiness Tour Participants sharing experience with Mr. Bakkabulindi Mwazi James of Lwako Mixed Farm at Lwankoni village, Kyotera district

“Nothing broadens our horizons like exposure, the UNYFA 9th agribusiness tour was an avenue for us to broaden our agribusiness opportunities and networks” - Denis Kabiito (CEO UNYFA).

“During 9th UNYFA agribusiness tour, participants saw how farming is done more cost effectively and uniquely in Uganda and Rwanda. Networked and created new business partnerships with fellow youth in agribusiness” -Juliana Lanyero (Gender officer)

“With the 9th UNYFA Agribusiness Tour theme: “Think regional – galvanizing opportunities together for sustainable Agribusiness Development”, we brought an action packed agro-tourism experience to participants and a number of opportunities such as sustainable networks, fun and of course first hand information on how to establish, manage and sustain agricultural venture” - Samuel Magezi (Programs Manager).

“If you thought Agriculture is only about soiling your hands and learning about boring farming terminologies, the 9th Agribusiness Tour brought out fun, adventure and ecotourism youth need in life” -Reagan Ssempijja (Communications Officer)

“We always want to change the world but usually forget that we need to change ourselves first. To achieve this change one must discover who they are first. The participants of 9th UNYFA Agribusiness Tour reflected and learnt about themselves while exploring the green gold treasure in the farming sector, there is always one more thing to learn” - Wandera Joseph (Lead Trainer)

ENHANCING THE CAPACITY OF YOUNG WOMEN IN AGRIBUSINESS (ECAWA) PROJECT



Photo taken at Luweero during the dlV midterm review workshop with 20 women who participated in the study trip to Germany in October, 2023 UNYFA & UNFFE project staff and dlV officials

UNYFA-dlv Project of Enhancing the Capacity of Young Women in Agri-business (ECAWA) seen its first year with significant strides in achieving the set objectives. The project, implemented by the Young Farmers Federation of Uganda (UNYFA) in collaboration with the German Rural Women's Association (DLV), focuses on improving the livelihoods of 400 rural female youth in the Northern (Lira, Apac, and Oyam) and West Nile Clusters (Arua, Madi-okollo, and Maracha) of Uganda. During the reporting period, we made the following significant progress and achievements: successful completion of stakeholder meetings, a project baseline study, needs assessment, group dynamics training, entrepreneurship training, gender mainstreaming training and the support of 20 women participating in a study tour to Germany.

However, challenges were encountered during the implementation, particularly in conducting the activities as per schedule and making some adjustments to suit the context of the communities and areas of implementation. Deviations from the initial planning scope were mainly due to unforeseen circumstances, but overall, the project is on track. Estimations for further progress indicate the continuation of activities with increased stakeholder engagement and enhanced support for the participants.



Photo showing Mr. Mattias Lenders- German intern posted at St.Jude Family Project Farm, Busense Masaka, showing the IYFEP project officer -Mr. Hartwel Odur the carrots he planted in Green house.

THE INTERNATIONAL YOUNG FARMERS EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Within the program design a series of events/ activities were conducted to support the participants and have successful rounds of exchange. The activities were: call for applications for April & August cohorts, screening of participants; preparation workshops; visa acquisition; medical examination of participants; send -off events; review workshops and pick-ups; Host farmer per-visits-profiling-preparation; Start Seminars and Evaluation workshops.

Key 2023 IYFEP milestones were: 20 Ugandan host farms profiled and entered into the IYFEP host farmers' pool, 2 exchange rounds organized and registered 100% return rate of Ugandans interns back to their country & farms; and 23 Ugandan and 16 German interns participated in the program. However, we also encountered some challenges such as: Visa denial responses from the Germany embassy Kampala, two Ugandan IYFEP participants received visa denial response with a strong reason of no sufficient evidence that they will leave the Schengen territory after the intended period of the program. UNYFA helped them to apply again with enough evidence of the contracts they sign and security they leave behind and the Embassy granted them the Schengen visa.

Another Challenge was about IYFEP annual budget 2023 Versus implementation of activities, some of the IYFEP activity such as the visa application and physical preparation workshops, their budget lines were surpassed due to implementation time and its changes. For instance, Visa application fees changed from catering only for the embassy fees to addition of the handler fees (TLScontact) but also the physical meetings budget line included the 4 days in-country preparation workshop facilitated by the AHA International Trainer rather than the usual 2 days of UNYFA-IYFEP preparation workshops which form the basis of the budget.

In the reporting period, UNYFA marked the 5th year of implementing International Young Farmers Exchange Program in Uganda. UNYFA together with its partners: Andreas Hermes Akademie and Schorlemer Stiftung of the German Farmers Association with special support from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation & Development, 7 IYFEP cohorts have been organized, 93 Ugandan and 43 German young farmers have been exchanged between Uganda and Germany. The program aimed at promoting education and training among young farmers through hands-on experience and cultural integration of both countries. This year 2023 UNYFA together with Schorlemer Stiftung successfully conducted two exchange cohorts namely IYFEP-6 (April -July, 2023) & IYFEP-7 (August-October 2023), which provided exposure and networks to a total number of 23 Ugandans and 16 Germans who lived on German and Ugandan farms respectively for 3 months.

7 IYFEP COHORTS ORGANIZED SINCE OCTOBER 2019

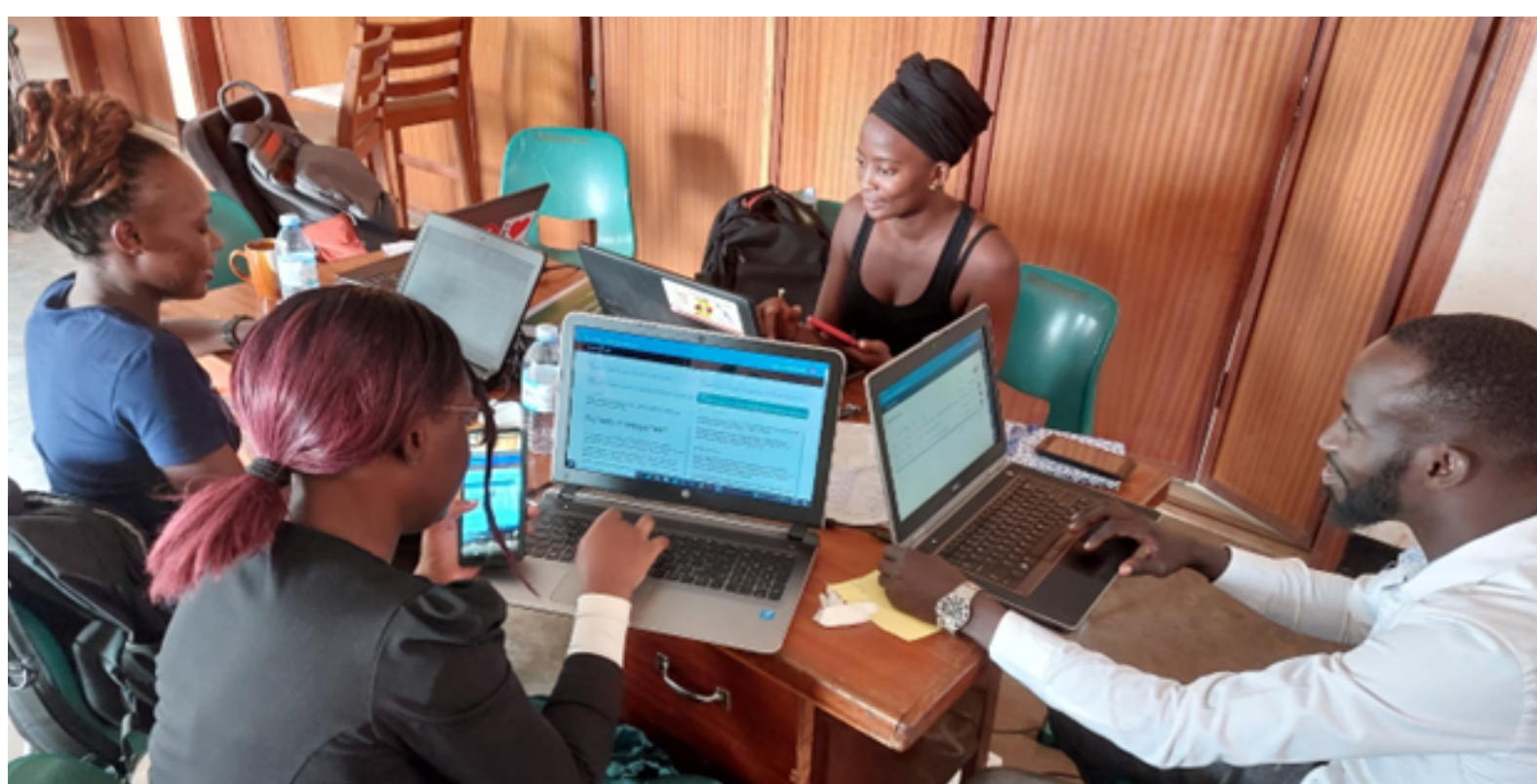
Year 2023 marked the 5th Year of IYFEP and 93 Ugandan & 43 German Young Farmers Exchanged

Photo take during the 6th IYFEP Cohort UNYFA Monitoring visits to German interns: In the background is Mr. Odur Hartwel -IYFEP Project Officer, Mr. Juuko Edward- Host Farmer and Mr. Daniel Ess harvesting Garden Eggs at Namulonge Horticultural Farmers Association

Over 20 Ugandan Host Farmers profiled.



Photo take during the 7th IYFEP Cohort Start Seminar Organized in Kampala Uganda by UNYFA, In the background were Ugandan , Kenyan and German interns presenting their group work.



UNYFA FARMER ORGANIZATION VIDEO LIBRARY (FOVL)

The UNYFA Farmer Organization Video Library is Farmer Organization formation platform under UNYFA-Andreas Hermes Akademie partnership for strengthening farmer organization. The platform aims at producing agricultural information and offers E-extension Service to farmers especially with access to professional agricultural videos that improve their agricultural productivity and agricultural information. In the reporting period, a number of activities were successfully completed to develop the platform and increase access to agricultural information, technical advice & E-Extension advice, these activities were:-

- Swahili and Luganda Translations: Over 500 Luganda texts were done and supported by translation buzzers. Similarly, Over 300 Swahili texts were worked on with 25 to 45 video watched and texts translated on monthly basis by the Swahili translator.
- FOVL Editorial work, the platform has English as its main language this forms a basis of all the other activities such as transcribing & translation done on the platform. The editorial work were done by three editors namely Mr. Kiguli Shaffic, Mr. Balamu Enock and Mr. Masego Shamiru under the supervision of Mr. Wandera Joseph as the the Chief Editor. The editorial team was able to source 480 and input English texts.
- Online FOVL Partners' meetings, the meetings have brought together UNYFA, KENAFF and AHA to regularly check the FOVL activities, progress and plans for improving the platform.
- Physical Meetings, editors and translators convened physical meetings to check the progress of the platform and also find solutions to any challenges encountered during their FOVL work.
- Editors and Translators Platform On-Boarding, Platform earlier from inception, Markstein Publisher software was used to manage it but also do all the editorial work. This had its challenges and it was costly so an upgrade was made to using WordPress. This meant that for the team to get acquainted with the new system, they had to have chance to learn while practicing and actually giving output/content to the platform. Editors and translators' computers were all installed with file mangers where their activities would be executed.

UNYFA FOVL Marketing strategy

This year the platform established its marketing strategy to support its visibility and usability within UNYFA members and Uganda at large. The strategy underpins the use of social media platforms like Facebook, X(former twitter) and WhatsApp as marketing platforms for UNYFA FOVL, therefore, Agricultural value chain related topical links are shared depending on the prevailing farming season. These links were shared on social media and drew platform user traffic for the UNYFA FOVL platform. Furthermore, National Agricultural Trade Shows and exhibitions like the National Annual Agriculture Education show and National Agriculture show organized by UNFEE at Jinja show grounds were attended to and showcased UNYFA FOVL platform but also engaged the show goers on how they can navigate the platform. The strategy also considers outreaches to agricultural schools and tertiary institutions as one of its plans next year to popularize the platform with Agricultural scholars community.

Key achievements in reporting period include;

- Editorial and Translation team increased expertise in texting abilities. thus quality of materials being shared.
- Cumulative texted English videos (Platform has over 2000 texts)
- Cumulative translated Luganda and Swahili texts (over 850 Luganda texts and 800 Swahili texts)
- Continued search and identification of videos sources to sustain the platform.
- Publicizing and marketing the project on various platforms.
- Farmers picking interest into the FOVL platform, registering and even testifying for using the platform.

Challenges have been encountered and where overturned into experiences due to the solutions brought forth, these were: Delayed dashboard modification; Unstable and Expensive internet to power the operations of the platform and low marketing budget for the platform thus limiting its usage.



Photo taken during the 28th National Agricultural Show organized by UNFEE at Jinja, Mr. Shafic Kiguli demonstrating the UNYFA FOVL to farmers who visited the UNYFA Booth.

UNYFA-TRIAs Programme

Titled: "Towards Social Justice in Uganda, driven by inclusive and sustainable family entrepreneurship worldwide."

UNYFA-TRIAs Programme is a five years programme started in January 2022 and running until December 2026. In the reporting period the programme prioritized two key thematic areas of focus namely inclusion and climate change. While activities related to service delivery and networking were incorporated, they took a secondary role. The significant achievements are to foster a sense of security, voice, and active participation among members in decision-making processes affecting the organization.

One notable accomplishment during this period was the development of the UNYFA strategic plan for the years 2023-2028. This strategic plan was crafted utilizing recommendations from the evaluation of the 2017-2022 strategic plan, with member involvement crucial in identifying the needs and priorities the federation should focus on.

Simultaneously, efforts were directed at strengthening the organizational structure at both national and grassroots levels. Strategic consultation meetings were held between DFA and DYFA leadership to reaffirm DYFA's existence and explore collaborative initiatives for supporting youth within the district. Additionally, a national-level consultation meeting involved leaders discussing enhancements to the Member-Based Organization (MBO) structure for greater inclusivity among all members.

Training initiatives were implemented under the climate and service delivery thematic areas. The Training of Trainers (TOT) occurred initially, followed by grassroots-level training. This aimed at improving service delivery to members and raising awareness about climate change in the community. A total of 420 youths were trained in basic business, and 506 received training in climate resilience, with 40% of the profiled individuals being women. TOTs' skills were reinforced to provide continuous support to members for climate change adaptation and agribusiness.

The program also amplified the voice of youth at local and international events, including COP-28, the Youlead Summit, and the FAO rural youth program in Budapest. Collaboration with partners was evident in hosting the International Day for Rural Women, showcasing the vital role of women in supporting agriculture.

Challenges identified during the implementation included the fluidity of youth at the grassroots, a weak structure incapable of representing member issues effectively, and the need for a robust member database for tracking project impact. Additionally, there was a prevalent mindset among the majority of youth, especially in the West Nile and Rwenzori regions, expecting handouts. The program aimed to address these challenges by working on the mindset of the youths in regions where this mentality was prominent and focusing on building a strong database for identifying emerging needs at the grassroots level.

ORGANIZATION MOBILITY ENHANCED WITH A VAN BY UNYFA-TRIAS PARTNERSHIP.



Since inception (January, 2016), UNYFA outlived with transport challenges by 6 years despite being a national youth organization with operations countrywide. The Federation has been so much constrained with high transport costs(double expenses namely Hiring and fuel fees) towards its field activities which affected its outreaches to all youths and their districts in Uganda.

In the reporting period, UNYFA was able to procure a Toyota Hiace Van ("Drone") and registered in the names of Young Farmers Federation of Uganda with number plate UBN under UNYFA-TRIAS Partnership to improve the organizational mobility. The van is yet to be fully function since it needs to be furnished with 9 to 10 seats, new tires, branding, Van bumper guards and luggage rack to be ready and available for use and eventually bridge the gap of affordable and reliable transport for UNYFA.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN (IDRW) 2023.

On 17th October 2023, the German Development Cooperation (GIZ), the German Embassy, the German Association of Rural Women (DLV), the Young Farmers' Federation of Uganda (DLV) and other national and international Development partners in Uganda commemorated the International Day of Rural Women (IDRW 2023). The event was held at the German Cultural Centre in Kampala. Under the theme "Rural Women Cultivating Good Food for All," the event spotlighted the indispensable role that rural women in ensuring the availability of good nutritious food for all. Rural Women in the global and Ugandan food systems. Despite facing numerous challenges like discrimination, limited access to financial services, market constraints, and a shortage of technical expertise, rural women remain the cornerstones of the world's food system. Petra Bentkamper, President of the German Association of Rural Women, underscored this significance, stating that women, particularly those from rural areas, are pivotal in food production, and empowering them with access to productive resources in agriculture would increase agricultural production by 20 to 30%. This could uplift over 100 million people out of poverty and enhance global food security. In his keynote address, Denis Kabiito also shared some eye-opening statistics. According to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), women represent over 37% of the world's rural agricultural workforce, approximately 50% of small-scale livestock keepers, and 50% of small-scale fisheries' labour force. However, much of their work goes unrecognized and unpaid, as official research and statistics often fail to capture their contributions. He noted that IDRW offers an opportunity to recognize rural women in alignment with the vision of the Feminist Plan and the United Nations Food System Summit's multistakeholder commitments, ensuring that rural women share in the fruits of their labour. Luigina Blaiich, Head of the Programme for the GIZ promoting rural development in Uganda, praised the dedication of Ugandan rural women who produce, process, and ensure access to nutritious food, which is essential in a country where food security and malnutrition remain a critical obstacle to development.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN (IDRW) 2023.



James Macbeth Forbes, the GIZ-Uganda Country Director sharing a moment with Beef female farmer from Northern Uganda



Luigina Blach, Head of the Programme for the GIZ promoting rural development in Uganda, sharing a photo moment with UNYFA member from Sembabule district young farmers Association adding value to millet.

INTERNATIONAL DAY INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN (IDRW) 2023.

Supporting Rural Women in Food Production, The struggle for land ownership among rural women in Uganda remains a considerable challenge in agriculture. James Macbeth Forbes, the GIZ-Uganda Country Director, asserted that placing women at the centre of interventions is a priority for GIZ. This is in alignment with its Feminist Development Policy which guides a prioritises a woman's focus in its various interventions. He noted that GIZ's Responsible Land Policy in Uganda programme (RELAPU), supports women in such circumstances to advocate for their development. David Loew, Head of Development Cooperation at the German Embassy, stressed the importance of land ownership for high productivity. He highlighted the persistent issues of gender-based violence and unpaid labour in agriculture and pledged continued support from the German Government and its partners to empower rural women throughout the agricultural value chains.

The Role of Rural Women in Promoting and Preserving Traditional Food, Dr. Precious Mlingo, a Wellness Consultant, emphasized the significance of traditional foods in promoting a healthy population. She noted that traditional foods hold valuable nutrients and should be preserved to combat malnutrition. Monica Nabaasa, from Slow Foods Uganda, encouraged rural women to venture beyond their traditional roles and engage in entrepreneurial ventures related to traditional food production, processing, and distribution. By doing so, they can promote traditional foods and boost their incomes.

"As rural women, it is our role to make traditional foods attractive to our children and equip them with the knowledge of their usefulness, and how to produce and prepare them". Jolly Kateeba, Rural woman-Shema district Outstanding Rural Women Recognized, The event climaxed with an award ceremony, recognizing 15 outstanding rural women in food production, processing, and distribution. Racheal Katushabe, a dealer in agro-inputs and agricultural produce, emerged as the overall winner, securing a brand-new tricycle to transport produce to nearby markets. Florence Kakande, who processes nutritious baby foods, received a Stainless Multipurpose Grinder. Winfred Adakure from Arua district, known for commercial peanut production, was awarded a peanut processing machine, and Gladys Nalubega, an inspirational entrepreneur and leader for rural women in Sembabule district, took home a deep Freezer. Fiona Aciro, a commercial producer, and processor of seed oils from Lamwo district received an Impulse Sealer Machine. The GIZ-Uganda Country Director encouraged the awardees to continue inspiring other rural women in their communities. The event concluded with an exciting exhibition of traditional foods and products by rural women and an amazing cultural dance performance by the Watmon Dance Group, showcasing cultural performances from across the country.

Recommendations

- A nationwide campaign should be initiated to ensure that no women are left behind. This will motivate more women to participate in the competition.
- It is important to note that the majority of rural women are not literate, and therefore, videos should be recorded in their local languages and translated during the video scripting process.
- Early involvement of partners and mobilization of resources will allow for more women to be awarded for their exceptional work. The campaign should be organized with a series of events, culminating on specific days such as Climate Change Day or Women in Finance and governance, to raise awareness about the challenges affecting women and how we can overcome them through a concerted effort.
- It is also important to make the exhibition open to the public.

GLIMPSE OF INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN (IDRW) 2023.



Outstanding rural women from different districts of Uganda were recognized.

THE GERMAN TOPKURS VISIT TO UGANDA.

Andreas Hermes Akademie (AHA) runs a program (TOP Kurs) every year for training and exposing young farmers & youths with different profession but interested in farming coming from all regions of Germany by equipping them with leadership and management skills. During the study period, TOP Kurs students get exposure to various aspects of farming such as farmers' organization & leadership dynamics and practical farming in their country and across the world. AHA being a strong partner and pillar in establishment of various farmers initiatives on the African continent most especially in Uganda and Ethiopia, has formed viable relationships between farmers and this has encouraged farmer to farmer exchange visits and experience sharing. With that therefore, it has been part of AHA plans for the TopKurs students during every year of their study to visit one of AHA development projects in such countries and get insights about the nature of farming and farmers organization. This year the 48th AHA TOP Kurs students were hosted by the Young Farmers Federation of Uganda (UNYFA) on their visit to Uganda from 27th November to 6th December 2023. The 48th AHA TOP Kurs student visit to Uganda aimed at the following objectives: To directly interface with youths involved in agriculture in Uganda;

- To visit state /private owned farms and small holder farms.
- To conduct one day workshop with Ugandan young farmers and also play a football match between the hosts and visitors at the end.
- To visit and exchange Ugandan small scale farmers and stay with a farmer for one night.
- To do safari to Murchison Falls National Park, Kalangala Island for Lake Victoria and Source of R. Nile at Jinja.

The visit entailed 16 students and (2) two AHA trainers, 10 days (27th November to 6th December 2023) and the following activities made our itinerary:-

Monday 27th Nov 2023: Official Welcome session at UNYFA office, Nakasero Kampala where presentations about UNYFA and Ugandan Agriculture were done by UNYFA President & CEO and East Africa Farmers Federation President Ms. Elizabeth Nsimadala.

Tuesday 28th Nov 2023: Crossed the Equator (Stopped over for Photos) and Visit UNYFA Program's Family Farm at Kituntu village for exposure on Coffee farming, Bananas, Vanilla and poultry).

Visited Tony Katumba the beneficiary for AHA TOP Kurs 2016 students networking session.

Wednesday 29th Nov 2023: Uganda – Germany Agricultural Rendezvous and football match with UNYFA members at Masaka

Thursday 30th Nov 2023: Visited Kibinge Coffee Cooperative for Coffee Value Chain (Seed to Cup).

Staying at small holder family farm in Masaka during the Day & night of Thursday Small holder Family set-up, farm Activities, Cultural exchange and Story telling.

Friday 1st Dec 2023: Visited Ssese Farm Institute and interact with agricultural students and Night stay on the Island.

Saturday 2nd Dec 2023: Visited the Source of the Nile at Jinja in Eastern Uganda Boat cruise on the Nile.

Sunday 3rd Dec 2023: Visited Farmacy Farm at Zirowwe Luweero a UNYFA member farming vegetables.

Monday & Tuesday 4th to 5th Dec 2023: Visited Murchison falls National Park for game drive, boat cruise to the bottom of the falls, Hiking to the top of the falls and Zziwa Rhino Sanctuary for Rhino Breeding experience.

Wednesday 6th Dec 2023: Visit Kalerwe Market on your way to UNYFA office for final remarks and thereafter returned to Germany.

48th AHA TOP Kurs students during their visit to the Farmacy Farm at Ziobwe-Luweer, a UNYFA member in horticulture



AHA Top Kurs students at Murchison Falls National Park and Source of the Nile at Jinja



AHA Top Kurs students during their visit at UNYFA President's Farm in Nakasongola

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

Challenges

- Weak Grassroots Structure, the challenge lies in the inadequacy of the grassroots structure, making it difficult to effectively organize, engage, and support members at the local level.
- Member Database, the absence of a comprehensive database of members from the grassroots makes it challenging to track the impact of the project accurately and efficiently, but also during the designing of interventions for new project.
- Youth Mobility, the mobility of youth members poses a challenge, hindering consistent engagement and participation in program activities due to factors such as relocation and travel.
- Mindset of Handouts, there is a prevalent mindset among members expecting handouts rather than fostering self-reliance, which undermines efforts to promote sustainable development and empowerment.

Lessons Learnt

- It is important to enhance the skills of the TOTs so they can readily provide personalized support to the youths within their communities. Further strengthening their capacities and turning their farms into role model farms where youths can meet, exchange, and learn from each other.
- A membership package and incentives should be created to reduce member dormancy and encourage more active participation. The membership packages enable members to know what they should expect from their organization. Further, it streamlines the business of the organization and creates a sense of belonging among the members within their association.
- More activities are needed at the grassroots level to increase the involvement of DYFA members. From the meetings with the DYFA and DFA, it is evident that the DYFA structure exists, but there is a need to make it more active by directly involving it in national body activities, either in monitoring activities or directly writing joint proposals to generate funding.
- Keeping and maintaining an Updated database from grassroots- with potential to identify members needs and products.
- Collaboration with Business oriented companies – that can offer financial and business services to members.
- Appointing Individuals/officers that can keep track of the services and impacts being conducted at both national and grass root levels.

Next Steps and Conclusion

Next steps

- International Exchange Program cohort 8 and 9 (April to June and August to October 2024)
- Conduct an Elective UNYFA AGM
- Implement an IYFEP Alumni Program
- Furnish UNYFA Van and make it ready for organizational operations.
- Conduct visits to UNYFA members and Update UNYFA membership database
- Organize Rural Women Exchange program with dlV for 20 rural women.
- UNYFA 10th Agribusiness Tour May-June 2024 and November 2024.

Conclusion

Amongst the most significant achievements this year were: the increased participation of women in the UNYFA activities due to deliberate efforts of our partnership with the German Rural Women's Association enabled us to have a separate budget for directly implementing women's activities within the Northern region of Uganda. Additionally, the appointment of a Gender Officer paved the way for a gender lens within most activities. Secondly, our organization mobility was enhanced with a van thus making UNYFA upgraded in terms of transport means hence breaking the dependency syndrome of hiring vehicles all the time. The achievement of training 420 youths in basic business services, and 506 climate resilience and smart agriculture can not go unnoticed in the ending year 2023. Therefore, the Young Farmers Federation of Uganda is indebted with thanks to all its partners namely Andreas Hermes Akademie, Schorlemer Stiftung, TRIAS, dlV, and members for the support during the organization operations and implementation of activities in the reporting period.