

RURAL YOUTH



YOUTH NETWORKS IN AFRICA



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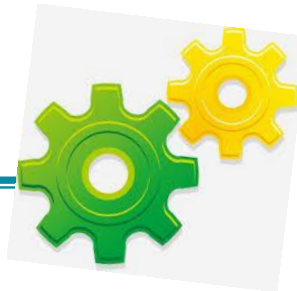
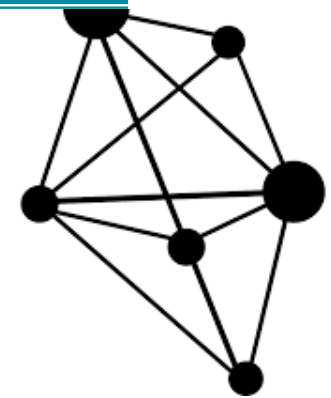


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BACKGROUND & METHODOLOGY

- ❖ Establishment of Global Donor Platform's Rural Youth Thematic Working Group – Development programme **WITH the youth** not for the youth
- ❖ Identification of youth representatives
- ❖ First step to understand: what kind of networks exists? what do they do? how are they structured?
- ❖ Identification of potential avenues for collaboration and getting broader youth representation



Methodology:

- ❖ *Online searches and snowballing*
- ❖ *Information collected through phone calls and questionnaire with 40 organisations*
- ❖ *Networks selected based on willingness*





WHY YOUTH NETWORKS?

- ❖ Creation of synergies to take advantage of economies of scale-marketing, production, bulking
- ❖ Sharing information (a lot of interactions online)
- ❖ Convening power can push agendas – with governments donors etc.
- ❖ Jointly purchase niche services e.g. trainings
- ❖ Peer mentoring and social capitals
- ❖ Access to finance



Source: facebook.com





OTHER COLLABORATIVE NETWORKS

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MVIWAMBO Dairy cooperative, Tanzania

- 1 It is necessary to own livestock (price of a cow ranges between 700,000-1,000,000 TZS=266-380 EURO)
- 2 Have 5 shares (20,000 TZS for one share=8 EURO)
- 3 One needs to be 18 and older
- 4 Membership fee
- 5 Need to have milk arrive on time
- 6 Quality of milk needs to be at certain standard.

Flink et al, 2018



Source: icon-library.ne



Source: flaticon.com

- ❖ Rigid entry requirements for traditional cooperatives
- ❖ Young people didn't have a say in the decisions of the co-ops
- ❖ Youth felt left out of opportunities
- ❖ Expressed a feeling of "elite capture" by co-op managers
- ❖ National youth councils – considered check box in policy & constrained by political will



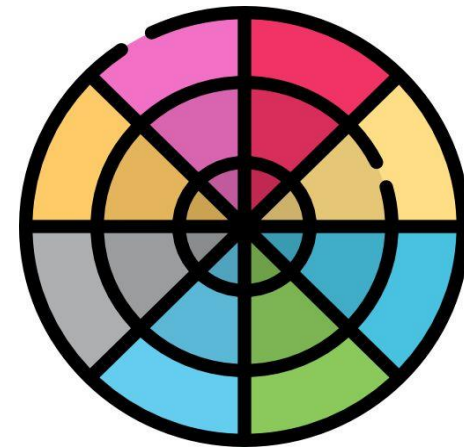
CLASSIFICATION OF YOUTH NETWORKS

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- ❖ Literature around youth networks is very scanty
- ❖ Various networks, doing different things , with different structures
- ❖ They could be clustered based on different areas:

- ✓ **Scope of work** - Collective action, academia, lobby and advocacy, youth & policy involvement
- ✓ **Geographical scope of operations** – continental, regional e.g. west African, country or sub county or village level operations
- ✓ **Affiliations** – recognised country chapters, institutional affiliations e.g. AU youth



Source: flaticon.com





- ❖ Involved in agricultural production & come together to capitalize on economies of scale
- ❖ Carry out activities in production and marketing
- ❖ Usually focused on a particular crop
- ❖ Usually small in number 10 – 20
- ❖ Usually funded by gains from production

- Kibwezi Hortipreneurs Youth Group (KHYG):**
- ❖ 14 members – Graduates with bachelors degrees
 - ❖ Involved in production of vegetables, grain and value addition
 - ❖ Has organised administrative systems with members spread around marketing, production and value addition activities
 - ❖ Housed by the University of Nairobi



- Others:**
- ❖ Tomato and Orchard Producers Association of Nigeria- Nigeria
 - ❖ Associação Jan- value addition and production, Mozambique



ACADEMIA

RURAL YOUTH



- ❖ Not necessarily engaged in agricultural production
- ❖ Contribute to ARD through data generation for various uses
- ❖ Work strives to diversify the youth involvement in Ag paradigm
- ❖ Composed of academic professionals
- ❖ Have commercial products

- ### Young African Researchers In Agriculture (YARA):
- ❖ Peer network of young and early career researchers
 - ❖ 150 researchers in 25 countries in Africa
 - ❖ Youth mainstreamed in all themes
 - ❖ Knowledge generation and dissemination capacity building of researchers
 - ❖ Hosted by University of Cape Town in SA



- ### Other network:
- ❖ Tanzania Graduate Farmers Association



LOBBY & ADVOCACY

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- ❖ Lobby for specific activities – getting the youth and their needs heard
- ❖ Policy makers – main audience
- ❖ Usually have larger membership – 500+
- ❖ Clearly laid out management structures
- ❖ Have strong affiliations with governments and other practitioners
- ❖ Activities are largely funded by donors

- ### Young Farmers Champions Network (YOFCHAN):
- ❖ Strive to voice the challenges and ideas of young people in the agricultural space
 - ❖ Involved in creating linkages for young farmers, capacity building, with a focus on lobby and advocacy
 - ❖ Created the "National Youth in Agriculture Manifesto"
 - ❖ Reference point for MOA in regards to youth programmes



- ### Others:
- ❖ Young Farmers' Federation of Uganda (UNYFA)
 - ❖ Africa Initiative on Climate Change Zambia





- ❖ Equip fellow young people with specific skills and knowledge
- ❖ Usually not involved in political lobbying – Rather focusing on getting information to young people
- ❖ Young people are the main audience
- ❖ A big focus on getting young people aware of current challenges e.g. climate change
- ❖ Large following of youth but have a core management team

The Youth Café Kenya:

- ❖ Intersection point between young people and policy institutions
- ❖ key activities
- ❖ Translating facilitation of youth participatory democracy information to “youth friendly” formats, podcasts
- ❖ Developed the Kenyan youth manifesto



Others:

- ❖ Youth Agenda Trust – Zimbabwe
- ❖ The initiative for a greener Africa – Nigeria
- ❖ Young Emerging farmers Initiative – Zambia





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GEOGRAPHICAL CLARIFICATION

Continental networks:

- ❖ Large networks with 1000+ membership
- ❖ Well built structures – secretariat functions, staff, etc.
- ❖ Usually structured with country chapters
- ❖ Handle a wide array of topics
- ❖ Diversity in performance of the chapters based on various factors
- ❖ Have solid recognition from different stakeholders

Africa Youth in Agribusiness Association (AYA):

- ❖ A lot of activities carried out online
- ❖ Different focal points across different countries
- ❖ Promote continental cross learning and collaboration
- ❖ Share information to fellow young people



Other networks:

- ❖ Africa Youth Initiative on Climate Change
- ❖ CAADP Youth Network





Country networks:

- ❖ Operations focused on country structures
- ❖ Usually affiliated with the national governments
- ❖ Have other networks tying into them
- ❖ Usually require membership subscriptions
- ❖ Operate with democratic structure – AGM
- ❖ Highly functional structures

Botswana Young Farmers Association:

- ❖ Over 5000 young farmers in Botswana along different value chains
- ❖ Provide conversion point for other networks
- ❖ Different activities - trainings for young farmers, policy participation
- ❖ Annual Botswana young farmers forum
- ❖ Legally registered with a board and administrative body



Source: facebook.com

Other networks:

- ❖ Namibia Young Farmers Association
- ❖ Rwanda Youth in Agribusiness forum
- ❖ National Farmers Network Cameroon





Young Professionals For Agricultural Research and Development

- ❖ World wide informal network
- ❖ A shared vision of food secure world without poverty where young people are enabled to fully contribute
- ❖ A lot of activities online

Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network:

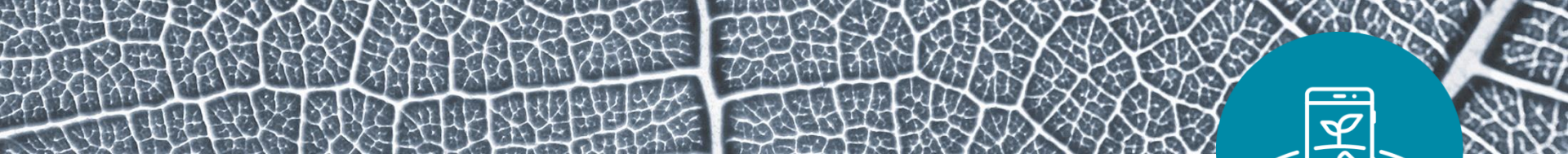
- ❖ Operations in Africa, Asia, USA and Europe
- ❖ Focus on promoting CSA practices
- ❖ Sensitisation of youth in SDG processes – translated SDGs to local languages
- ❖ Take on other activities



Institutional affiliations:

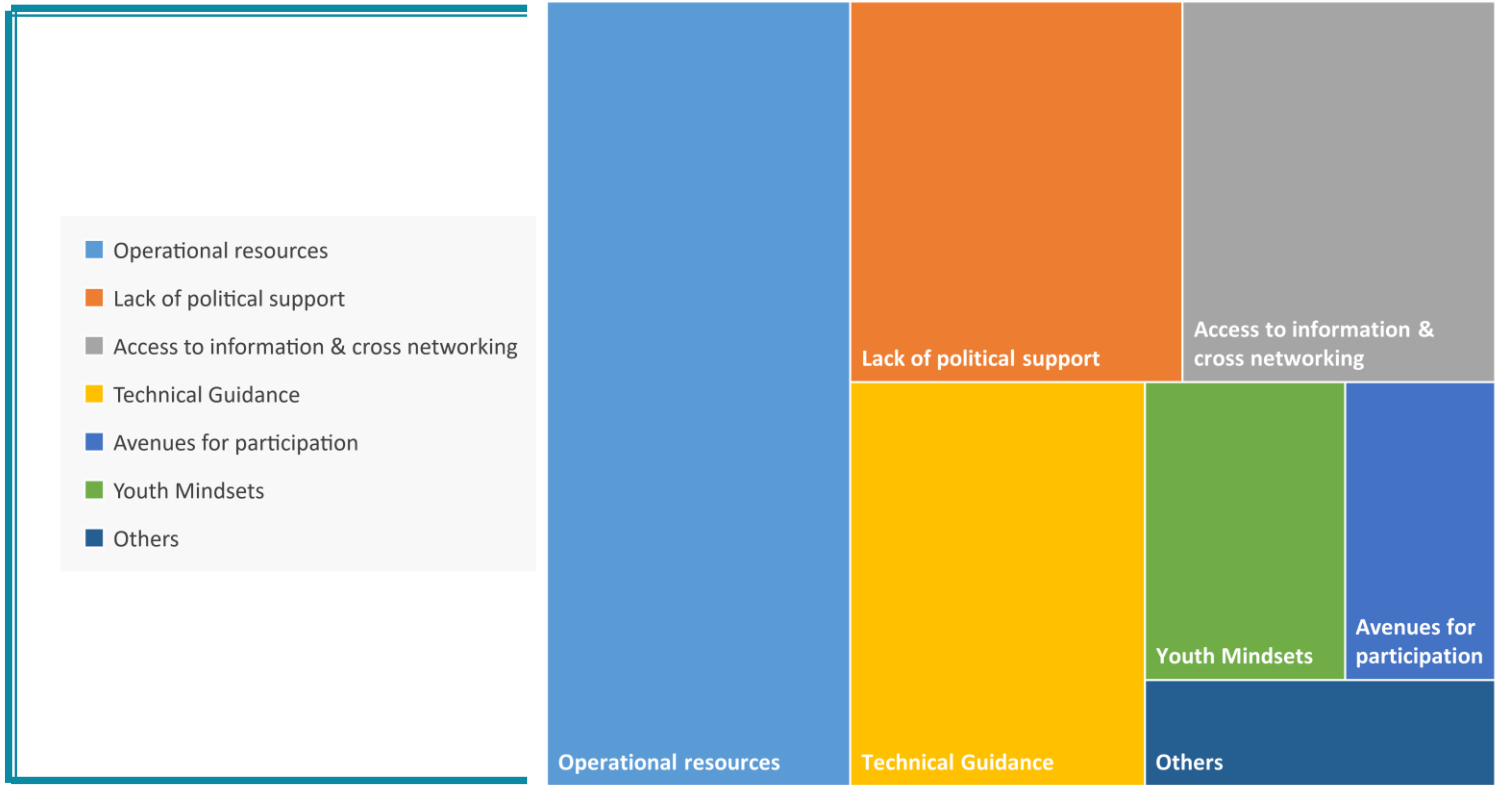
- ❖ CAADP Youth Network
- ❖ AU- EU Youth Envoys





CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUTH NETWORKS

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- Operational resources
- Lack of political support
- Access to information & cross networking
- Technical Guidance
- Avenues for participation
- Youth Mindsets
- Others

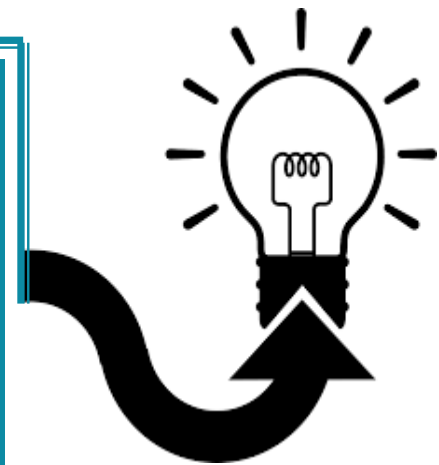


RECOMMENDATIONS

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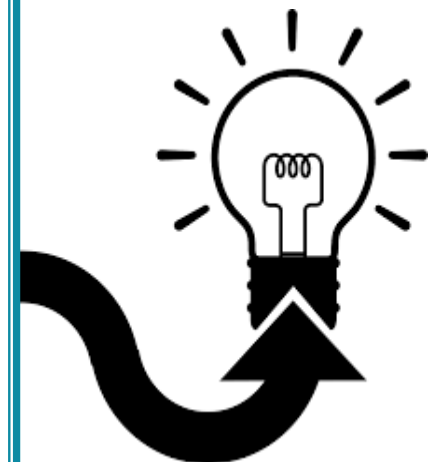


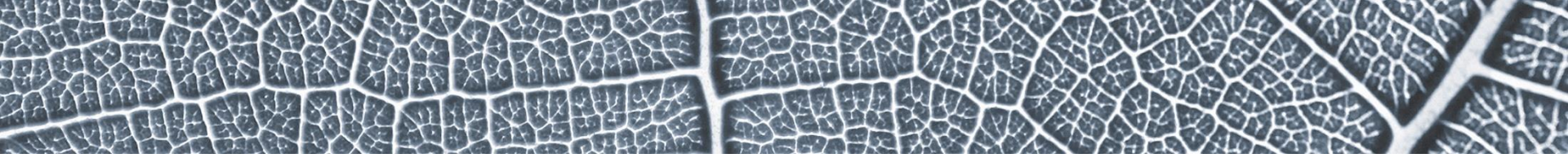
- ❖ Understanding the diversity of networks specifically in regards to structures and composition
- ❖ Matching development programme needs with the structures to prevent unwarranted changes in the structures of the networks
- ❖ Need for more in depth studies to answer questions about power structures, representativeness and risks of “elite capture”
- ❖ Enhancing efforts to increase the visibility of youth networks – many networks are not visible and are not easy to find





- ❖ Facilitation of creation of youth network led advisory committees within donor communities like the Rural Youth working group within the GDPRD
- ❖ Promoting youth networks as recognised and relevant to governments
- ❖ Creating programmes to bring together networks and harmonize efforts specifically at country and regional level
- ❖ Provision of resources including hosting secretariat functions, operational funds
- ❖ Building the technical capacity of network heads in terms of managing expansion, strategic planning and management
- ❖ Creating arenas for networks to showcase their work i.e. international forums and events





Thank you....



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