

CSAYN GLOBAL

Working Towards a Resilient Environment Through Climate Smart Agriculture

ISSUE NO. 001

April 2021

Newsletter



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- ◇ CSAYN, IICA ink deal to promote well-being of rural youth, women
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- ◇ United Nations Food Systems Summit Dialogues (FSSD) Round-up

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EDITORIAL

NTIOKAM DIVINE



The Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network (CSAYN) Global is happy to launch the first issue of its quarterly Newsletter, which is intended to provide our stakeholders with updates on our activities and act as a platform for learning and sharing knowledge on various developments within the spheres of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As a network of volunteers based in Africa, Asia, USA, North America, and Europe who have a strong interest in CSA and the environment, CSAYN Global has been endeavoring to achieve its primary goal of impacting younger generations with knowledge on increasing productivity, climate change adaptation, and mitigation, when possible.

With a footprint in more than 70 countries, our members and activities have grown three-fold hence the need to continue forging collaborations and partnerships with various like-minded organisations.

Currently, CSAYN Global is partnering with a number of organisations to host independent UN Food Systems Summit Dialogues (FSSD) in where it has a presence. The FSSDs offer a powerful opportunity for people everywhere to have a seat at the table at the milestone Summit in September 2021.

So far we have held several FSSDs bringing together a diversity of stakeholders, including voices that are seldom heard, and provided an important opportunity for participants to debate, collaborate, and take action towards a better future. We are also championing the Decade of Action Agenda to add momentum to the implementation of the SDGs 2030. We are also in the process of setting up a Foundation to raise awareness and provide support to

vulnerable groups, particularly People Living With Disabilities (PLWDs). These activities have given us the chance to meet and connect with new partners, inspire and be inspired.

All these activities require a platform that will enhance the network's engagement with key stakeholders and goodwill of member-organisations, development partners and communities we are targeting.

We believe this Newsletter will enable us make more impact and achieve our main objective of creating awareness, sensitising and building the productive capacities of young people, women and PLWDs on CSA concepts for adaptation, mitigation and improving agricultural production and productivity in a sustainable manner.

In this first issue you can read several case studies of youths who are transforming their communities through agribusiness, and learn about the outcomes of the various Dialogues that we have so far convened.

You will also read how a partnership we recently signed with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) will boost sustainable agriculture and well-being of youth, women and vulnerable populations in rural areas among other developments we are proud of.

Our promise is that this publication will come with high content that will enable stakeholders to stay connected and engaged. It will, therefore, be a means for providing exceptional value via exciting content as we continue working hand-in-hand to make a better world for generations to come, from one person to another.

Mr. Divine is CSAYN Global Founder & Managing Director, and UN Food Systems Summit Champion.



CSAYN GLOBAL WORKING TOWARDS A RESILIENT ENVIRONMENT THROUGH CSA

BACKGROUND

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO, 2013) reported that the world’s population will reach 9 billion by 2050, and food production will need to be doubled in order to feed this rising number. However, achieving this goal is becoming more and more difficult since agriculture is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and other environmental and human-made challenges. Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) presents a sustainable alternative to cope and mitigate the impacts of climate change; it promotes production systems that sustainably increase productivity, resilience, reduces/removes greenhouse gases, and enhances food security and development goals. Whilst CSA has become an increasingly accepted approach, considerable knowledge, investment and stakeholder participation is

required to effectively implement CSA.

The Climate Smart Agricultural Youth Network (CSAYN) development was due to the fact that the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) showed interest in financially supporting pilot projects from sub-Saharan African (SSA) in three regions (East, West and Central Africa) through media sensitization. However, work is not strictly limited to these countries.

ABOUT CSAYN GLOBAL

The Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network (CSAYN) Global is a group of volunteers that have a strong interest in the climate-smart agriculture and the environment. The volunteers are (based in the African continent and, also Asia, USA and Europe) - linked across the world via an online platform through which they share findings and

seek advice for their practical projects in the fields.

The main objective of the CSAYN Global is to create awareness, sensitize and build the productive capacity of young people and People Living With Disabilities (PLWDs) on CSA concepts for adaptation, reducing emissions (mitigation) and increasing food productivity in a sustainable manner. CSAYN Global Hubs are in all the continents and in more than 70 countries in the World.

VISION

The group members want to educate the younger generations on increasing productivity, climate change adaptation and mitigation, when possible.

The network links volunteers across the world. The online platform enables us to share their findings and ask for advice from other volunteers for their practical projects in their areas.

MISSION

Our mission is to raise awareness on CSA among young men and women (aged 18-35) to enable them to make sustainable decisions for the future in the agriculture sector, to create awareness of the coming threats related to climate change.

To make the youth aware of the contributions they can make within agriculture for a better future, especially applying climate-smart practices in agriculture and forestry and to enhance meaningful youth contribution in livestock, fisheries and aquaculture activities.

OBJECTIVES

- To raise awareness on CSA among young men and women (aged 18-35) to enable them to make sustainable decisions for the future in the agriculture sector.
- To create awareness of the coming threats related to climate change.
- To make the youth aware of the

contributions they can make within agriculture for a better future, especially applying climate-smart practices in agriculture and forestry.

- To enhance meaningful youth contribution in livestock, fisheries and aquaculture activities.

TARGET GROUPS

- Children and Youth aged 18-35 years in rural and urban areas
- Persons living with disabilities (young people, women and men)
- Schools, universities and ministries.

ACTIVITIES

The following are the activities and expected results of the CSAYN Global for 2018-2022 (at local and national levels):

Activity 1: Establishing national forums on CSAYN Global. The national forums will aim at lobbying for the interest of the youth and PLWDs in all CSA related initiatives in their respective countries.

Activity 2: Organize biennial youth conferences (or forums) on CSA for national forums, and their members to showcase their experience and learn from the experience of others.

Activity 3: Establish a presence on social networks and websites, and create an online database to share information on the current issues of CSA.

Activity 4: Representing and showcasing youth engagement in CSA in different regional and global forums.

Activity 5: Establish farmer field schools to ensure farmers share their field experiences with other smallholder farmers.

Activity 6: Establish a mobile savings model for farmers to invest their own funds in high-quality seed, fertilizer, and agricultural training to increase their harvest and income.

AU NOMINATES TOP OFFICER TO CSAYN GLOBAL BOARD

The African Union Commission (AUC) has nominated one of its high ranking programme officers to sit on the Climate-Smart Agriculture Youth Network (CSAYN) Global's Board of Directors, giving the organisation a major boost in its efforts towards a resilient environment through Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA).

The decision by the AU Commission to second Ms. Leah Wanambwa Naess (pictured), a Senior Policy Officer in the Division of Environment, Climate Change, Water and Land Management to the Board of the global network of volunteers is a bold indication to its commitment to create livelihoods, jobs and wealth in the continent by enhancing the contribution of the youth and young women in agribusiness.

Ms. Wanambwa's nomination was communicated to CSAYN Global Founder and Managing Director, Divine Ntiokam, by the Office of AU Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment Amb. Josefa Sacko who signed the letter dated 20th April 2021. He hailed the collaboration between the AU Commission and CSAYN Global in advancing the youth agenda on CSA in Africa.

CSAYN Global's main objective is to create awareness and build the productive capacity of young people, women and vulnerable communities on CSA concepts for positive action on climate change adaptation, mitigations and increasing food productivity in a sustainable manner. It has footprints in more than 70 countries mainly in Africa, Asia, Europe, USA and Latin America.

Ms. Wanambwa has Masters and Bachelor's degrees in International Environmental Science and Environmental Studies from Lund University, Sweden and Kenyatta University in Nairobi Kenya, respectively. Previously she worked at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) before joining the AU in Addis Ababa where she has been based since 2012.

At AU, Wanambwa is in charge of developing and advocating for policies on climate change conservation and biodiversity.

She is passionate about wildlife and environmental



conservation issues – something she developed at a young age and her greatest inspiration was activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, the late Prof. Wangari Maathai.

Wanambwa's appointment has now expanded the CSAYN Global's Board of Directors and this is a show of commitment by the global network to deepen its impact through engaging youth, women and People Living With Disabilities (PLWDs) world-wide in working towards a resilient environment through Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA).

Ntiokam who shared the news on CSAYN Global online networking platforms hailed the nomination as a milestone in the growth of the organisation.

He said: "It is great news having such a high ranking officer from the continental body in our Board. I have worked with Wanambwa before and I am certain her vast experience and passion in climate and environment issues will provide CSAYN Global the impetus to realise our vision and goals as outlined in the strategic plan for 2018-2022."

Commenting on her nomination, Wanambwa said it is a wonderful opportunity to work with the youth, women and vulnerable groups in actualising her passion for environment and nature.

"I look forward to working with CSAYN Global in advancing its agenda with a stronger emphasis on the environment, climate change and sustainability," she said.



CSAYN GLOBAL, IICA IN PARTNESHIP TO BOOST SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

The Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network (CSAYN) Global and the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture (IICA) have entered into an agreement that will promote the development of sustainable agriculture in rural areas and ensure the wellbeing of young people, women and vulnerable groups.

The partnership deal signed at a virtual ceremony in March will enhance exchange of knowledge and expertise among youths, women and vulnerable groups in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean through shared knowledge and expertise in the fields of climate smart agriculture, agricultural productivity, and food security in an environmentally sustainable way and rational use of natural resources.

The agreement hailed by representatives of the two organisations as a significant milestone in building the bridges between the regions will improve productivity and competitiveness of the agricultural sector, and strengthen agriculture's contribution to the development of territories and to rural well-being. It will be implemented in the next four years to

improve agriculture's capacity to mitigate the effects of and adapt to climate change, make better use of natural resources and to improve agriculture's contribution to food security.

CSYAN Global Managing Director Mr. Ntiokam Divine noted that the deal has been inked at a very important moment when the world is looking forward to implementing the Paris Agreement on Climate change, which focuses on climate smart agriculture for climate change mitigation, adaptation and productivity of small-holder farmers.

Divine said the partnership will leverage synergies of the two organisations and member countries agenda to help reduce rural-urban migration by engaging young people, women and vulnerable groups in transforming rural economies through skills development and capacity building.

“Young people in Africa and everywhere in the world, be it Europe, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean are very innovative and when we are engaging them in transforming agriculture and addressing climate change impacts we are also looking at the aspect of



employment creation,” he said. Noting that Africa enjoys a huge demographic dividend with 65 percent of its land being arable, Divine underscored the need to push for initiatives that will transform agriculture and boost food security. He expressed interest in organising a high-level preliminary Food Systems Summit in Africa, where young people could contribute to strengthening the position of producers at the UN Food Systems Summit. The Summit will be held at the end of September.

IICA Director General Manuel Otero, likened the agreement to a bridge that will bring the two continents in a strategic alliance aimed at achieving sustainable development and rural well-being.

“The agreement with CSAYN Global provides IICA with a fundamental platform based in Africa, Europe, Asia and the United States, integrated by capable young people who want to share and seek advice on practical projects of interest in climate smart agriculture and environment,” said Otero.

He said the agreement is a step towards ensuring that the voice of farmers from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbeans is present at the UN Food Systems Summit in New York. He offered to facilitate a dialogue between young leaders from both continents to share their experiences, innovative technologies and good agricultural practices.

The two organisations will co-operate in areas related to bio-economy and production development; territorial development and family farming, international trade and regional

integration; climate change, natural resources and management of production risks; and agricultural health, safety and food quality.

The agreement also provides a framework for co-operation on gender and youth; innovation and technology in areas of digital agriculture, policy engagement and building state capacity and agricultural extension. The signing of the deal was witnessed by the Brazilian Ambassador to Costa Rica, Antonio Francisco da Costa Silva e Neto, the Chargé d’Affaires of the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago to the central American country, Anesa Ali-Rodríguez and Special Advisor to CSAYN Global Managing Director, Margarita Astralaga.

The Brazilian Ambassador commented: “The participation of young people in the agricultural sector still faces multiple challenges such as training, restoring the value of agricultural work and, more importantly, access to capital on which we have had positive experiences that could be beneficial to Africa,” he added.

Margarita said the youth are working hard and CSAYN Global has given them opportunity to step up by sharing ideas and skills that will shape best practices on how to achieve a green the economy.

“With the agreement there are reasonable questions and the potential to inspire and make sure that the lessons learnt with IICA work in the Americas help African youth move much faster to where the regions are now,” she said.

CLIMATE SMART VICTORY GARDEN: FOOD, FUN & FELLOWSHIP

What started as a community building initiative to demonstrate the value of integrating food with flowers has evolved into a significant global educational program, says Joan Kerr, the founder of FBSC in an interview. Here are the excerpts:

Kindly talk about the **Foundation for Building Sustainable Communities (FBSC)**

FBSC was incorporated in 2003 as a Federal not for profit with a mandate to preserve and repair the environment and to ameliorate the living conditions of the underprivileged. Our mission is to cultivate solutions that transform people lives and protect the planet. FBSC areas of focus are food and nutrition, technology, and Storytelling. In 2009, FBSC initiated its sustainable food Program, the Canadian Victory Garden. FBSC chose the Victory Garden model because of its approach to local food and community engagement. This historic model was first launched during the First World War to address food rationing and near starvation, as a solution for self-sufficiency and food security. FBSC adopted the model of citizen campaign, teaching how to grow vegetables, canning and preserving, and entrepreneurship, to include climate smart agriculture principles, adaptation and mitigation, and market gardens.

What inspired you to establish the project?

I read a newspaper article in 2008 asking for donations to replenish empty shelves at a local food bank, an idea sparked, 'how can food be more accessible for communities of hunger and poverty. I asked a group of friends to help me

create a solution that would satisfy feeding the hungry and build a more secure local food strategy for everyone. In Spring 2009 Climate Smart Victory Garden project started, with donations of land with a country farmhouse, seeds, plants, soil and compost. The next couple of years, more volunteers came, and so did the need to teach them horticultural skills, and to entertain them. Remembering, the days when I was growing up, the fellowship of community where people came together to eat, dance and have fun, I thought that since there was a house at the garden let me create a place for community members to eat, learn and connect with each other. The project launched garden events like food festivals and cultural events to offer the public the opportunity to learn about growing food, and incorporate vegetables in their home gardens. FBSC the became a member of the University of Toronto, Science for Peace Community Sustainable Working Group to work with sustainability and the role of climate change in food security. The concept of Climate Smart Victory Garden was created.

Briefly describe the Climate Smart Victory Garden model, how does it work?

The Climate Smart Victory Garden is designed with food, community and the environment in mind, it offers programming which promotes prosperity over the long term. It is an education program that

includes the consultative process will make a positive difference because education is a powerful skill, more than that practical application, enabling networks, resource sharing can lead to local community economic development while respecting cultural food heritage, traditional crafting, and provide solutions for individual and small scale enterprise.

The project is designed based on the needs of the community consultations; and aims at building capacity of the entrepreneur/ organization.

What are some of the activities you are undertaking to make this model have an impact in the community?

The Climate Smart Victory Garden is now a global program and in addition to replicating it as viable



model for addressing many environmental, economic and social issues, FBSC also offers the Train the Trainer Program; Youth Leadership and Community Service; and the VicTree Forests as part of a strategy for transforming communities.

What kind of challenges come with engaging communities in sustainable development and ecofriendly lifestyles?

There are many challenges when working with the environment and getting people to act in ways that incorporate a systems thinking approach. COVID-19 pandemic has helped with a lot of the challenges, where people have a chance to reflect on the way we live, and what's important for them, their families, community and the planet. The pursuit of making money, convenience, being hooked on cheap goods are the biggest challenges. Apathy and a sense of 'I can't make a difference', or

the government is taking care of it already and wouldn't let it happen are definitely big factors. I am hopeful that this is going to change, and I can see people being more aware, especially the youth who are actively promoting more eco-friendly lifestyles.

Talk about your association with CSAYN Global? How has this been beneficial on both sides?

I was introduced to CSAYN and met Mr. Ntiokam Divine in 2016 by mutual colleagues, and developed a supporting, discussing and collaborative relationship. I love the idea of creating a network of climate smart agriculture with youth. To collaborate and promote the environment with youth economic development is a passion for both CSAYN and FBSC. The strategy to increase collaboration as we move forward is both smart and timely.

INSPIRING SOMALIA

GIRLS TO ENGAGE IN AGRICULTURE

“We are not only working for ourselves, we work for women who fought for us and inspire us. We work for those we want to inspire now and in the future with our actions. We are stronger when we push and encourage each other because every woman’s victory is a motivation to others.”

That is the motivation statement posted by Saida Abdullahi Yalahow on social media during the International Women Day in 2020. In 2014, Saida and nine other female University students came together to establish the Somalia Agricultural Girls Association (SAGA) to improve the well-being of Somali girls by encouraging them to engage in agricultural production.

SAGA currently has over 100 members who boast of education background in agriculture and are determined to encourage more girls to study the subject and engage in farm activities that will improve their living standards.

This, they want to achieve through advocacy campaigns and empowerment programmes targeting girls, young women and the youth. Many of them like Saida, the chairperson for the association, completed their studies while others are still at various universities.

Somalia, which is in the Eastern Africa, is still languishing from devastation caused by several years of civil war and drought.

“Having seen harsh realities, which are being experienced in the entire country as a result of war and several droughts, we decided to form this association to enhance national integration and promote girls participation in agricultural production through awareness creation, education and skills development,

and employment creation.

We also have various development programs for women and the youth,” says Saida.

The association is also involved in lobbying to influence national policies and earn support from the local community and international organisations towards their cause for empowerment of girls, women and the youth.

The association has demonstration farms where girls learn modern agricultural practices and a retail shop which supplies agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and equipment.

“We work with pastoral communities to identify and address issues affecting women and girls involvement in agricultural education, production and farm management through advocacy campaigns, civic education, emergency interventions and development programs,” says Saida.

To achieve its vision, SAGA has been working with various local and international civil society organisations. One such organisation is the Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network (CSAYN) Global, which is a group of volunteers that have a strong interest in the climate-smart agriculture and the environment. The Network links volunteers across the world to educate young people on increasing productivity, climate change adaptation and mitigation.



“Our collaboration with CSAYN Global has given us a platform to network with other organisations and share ideas, knowledge and skills on how to help our target groups improve agricultural production through climate smart agriculture. We hope that through the global network we will be able to connect with development partners to support some of our programmes aimed at addressing the plight of the pastoral community and Somalia girls,” says Saida.

The association currently operates in South and Central Somalia but plans to establish branches in other regions and rollout programmes that will impact the whole country.

The members hope that more multinationals will be able to invest in Somalia’s agricultural sector to open up more employment opportunities for women and girls and enhance food security and nutrition for the population.



LILY SINGELENGELE: FROM BEAUTY MODEL TO BOOMING FARMER

For almost a decade, Lily Singelengele bestrode Zambia's modelling and beauty industry like a colossus. She walked the runway in front of the country's two first ladies and participated in the *beaucoup* international and several local shows, including Miss Malaika Fashion Week 2012 in Uganda.

Lily's exploits on the runway earned her fame and a huge following among fashion and beauty pageant lovers. This saw her named a brand ambassador of Cape Diablo, a lifestyle brand and retailer offering a variety of quality handmade accessories and products with trendy designs.

But today, that is a past she doesn't want to talk about. Lily has completely drifted away from the runway into farming where she is leveraging her beauty and modelling tactics to influence young people to participate in agriculture.

"Agriculture is very lucrative and the fact that I switched from modelling and pageants to the farm is already an inspiration to many who now see my move as the way to go," she says in an online interview from her residence in Lusaka, Zambia.

Lily has been taking selfies in the field and posting on social media platforms for her huge following. "I want to be attractive and show them that one can go to the farm with or without make-ups and many of them are following suit and taking up farming

activities." She is the founder of Green Agriculture Youth Organisation (GAYO) established on 2017 to combat poverty and unemployment in Zambia by promoting agricultural entrepreneurship among women and young people.

When she decided to hang up her high heels and pick the farming hoe, Lily wanted to engage in a development initiative that will transform lives. When she realized the high unemployment and poverty levels in Zambia, she jumped at the opportunity. That is what GAYO is addressing by rolling out programmes in Chongwe rural areas of the southern Africa nation.

One of the projects GAYO has been undertaking in the region is backyard gardening to help families with nutrition and to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"When the pandemic struck, the Government imposed a lot of restrictive measures to contain the spread. One of them was social distancing which meant people were no longer going to supermarkets to buy things and with the backyard gardens, women could just go behind the house and get things like vegetables, tomatoes and onions to prepare meals," says Lily.

GAYO is conducting training and mentorship programmes at the local skills development centre established by the Ministry of Social Development. Here beneficiaries undergo



Lily's backyard gardening is crucial in enhancing food security and nutrition

financial literacy and business management training to equip them with basic skills of running business like book keeping.

The organisation has also trained a group of women on maize production and this has seen their productivity increase, leaving them with surplus produce for sale. Plans are underway to begin an integrated fish farming, soya farming and piggery later in the year.

Though Lily agrees that lack of access to farm inputs, credit facilities and markets have been a major hindrance to youth participation in agribusiness, she says the main issue to be addressed is change in mindsets.

“For the youth what is needed is to change their mindsets so that they can realise that agriculture is a lucrative venture, and that it is not just meant for the old in the rural areas,” she says.

GAYO is a member organisation of Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network (CSAYN) Global and has been involved in championing the Network’s activities at the national level in Zambia.

She says her moment of pride came when she and a co-founder of GAYO, Brina Mbao, were invited by a group they supplied with seedling for backyard garden to attend a ceremony to donate face masks to a school. When the group harvested their produce, they sold some and spent the money on fabric which they used to make the face masks.





CREATING AWARENESS: CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

The Monde Community living in the Southwest region of Cameroon have for long been thriving in agricultural production because of their vast swathes of fertile land. This assured the community of food security and general well-being.

However, incessant Anglophone crises and climate change is threatening livelihoods in this community as many of them have been forced out of their land and are seeking refuge elsewhere. Erratic rainfall patterns have also affected crop yields.

But the situation is set to change following the intervention of Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network (CSAYN) Global. The Network has rolled out a programme to educate the community on climate smart agriculture and the environment.

In March, CSAYN Global held a meeting with the Monde Community Traditional Council of Elders where various areas of interventions to increase productivity and enhance climate change adaptation and mitigation were explored.

CSAYN Global programmes' officer, Noel Marie, noted the glaring lack of knowledge on climate smart agriculture and impact of climate change among the community.

“We picked on the community because we

realised that despite the abundance of fertile land in their area, they are not aware of climate change and how they can mitigate its impact. We want to use the meeting we had with the council of elders as entry point into the community to educate them on climate smart agriculture and sustainable development,” said Marie.

Marie stressed to the elders the importance of enhancing capacity building for youths to enable them have meaningful contribution to food security and sustainable development for the well-being of the community. The Network was established to raise awareness on climate smart agriculture among young men and women aged between 18 and 35 years old to enable them make sustainable decisions for the future in the agriculture sector.

Dahda Eric, who led the five-member delegation of the elders hailed CSAYN Global's efforts to enlighten communities on climate smart agriculture and called for more sensitisation workshops targeting the youth.

“We are excited to work with CSAYN Global and we hope that there will be adequate funding for the organisation to make an impact in our community by targeting the youth. When one Monde youth is empowered, the whole community is empowered,” he said.

CSAYN MALAWI ON LEAD: UNESCO - FUTURES OF EDUCATION INITIATIVE

The National Youth Network on Climate Change (NYNCC) in collaboration with Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network (CSAYN) Malawi with support of UNESCO organised a focus group discussion on the future of education and sustainable development.

The focus group discussion held on April 3, 2021 at Ebenezer Primary School in Tradition Authority Mazengera in Lilongwe, Malawi, is one of the ways of engaging the youth, especially young women and girls, in the UNESCO's Futures of Education - an initiative through which stakeholders explore how knowledge and learning can shape the future of humanity and the planet through focus group discussions.

UNESCO's Futures of Education forums, which were held in several countries around the world, aims to rethink education and shape the future. The initiative is catalysing a global debate on how knowledge, education and learning need to be reimaged in a world of increasing complexity, uncertainty, and precarity.

About 15 young women drawn from universities, primary and secondary schools participated at the forum in Malawi. Discussions were mainly centred on school's closure due to COVID-19 health crisis and its long lasting

effects on education systems.

The discussions highlighted the importance of learning experiences in schools and universities and what can be taught during and after the global pandemic.

Participants also explored the role of education in imparting knowledge about sustainability and environmental responsibility. They called on learning institutions to play a major role in ensuring green economies and sustainable development through environmental research and policy innovation.

Dominic Amon Nyasulu, NYNCC national coordinator and CSAYN Malawi country coordinator commented: "One of the critical issues debated was whether students need to leave schools and take to the streets to mobilise radical change and ensure world leaders deliver on their commitments for climate actions. We also tackled the contribution of education in mitigating climate change."

The views, ideas and contributions gathered from the forums will be synthesised and shared with UNESCO and the International Commission Steering the Futures of Education. A report on the forums will be released later in the year.



YOUTH FORUM TO DISCUSS RESILIENCE OF AGRO, BIOTECH INDUSTRIES

The International Youth Conference on Agriculture (IYCA) will be virtually located in KU Leuven from May 13th to 16th and has been informed by the need to adapt lessons from the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic to overcome future crises.

The Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network (CSAYN) Global has partnered with the International Association of Students in Agriculture and Related Sciences (IAAS) to organise an online youth forum to explore the resilience and potential for change in agricultural, food and biotechnological industries during crises.

The International Youth Conference on Agriculture (IYCA) will be virtually located in KU Leuven from May 13th to 16th and has been informed by the need to adapt lessons from the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic to overcome future crises.

Themed ***Resilience of the Living World: How can we adapt our life technologies to overcome crisis?*** the conference will be a gathering of universities, companies, inspirational speakers and committed students on agriculture.

“This past year, we have deeply transformed our daily lives in response to an unexpected global pandemic and there is still another crisis to overcome: the environmental

one. This ICYA will therefore encourage delegates to explore the resilience and potential for change in our agricultural, food and biotechnological industries in regards to the ongoing crisis as well as those we anticipate,” says Marie-Agnes Fine, IAAS World Vice President for External Relations.

Among the issues to be discussed at that the forum are the complex links between health and food and the relationship between biological systems and how they can be used to improve health.

Marie-Agnes says they expect about 500 delegates to participate and all discussions will be designed to offer unique perspectives of the environmental, social and economic problems youths face as the next generation of leaders in life sciences worldwide.

The ICYA will be divided into two parts, with the first two days taking place in the form of an online fair hosting both universities and companies on booths. This is to help international students discover new bachelor, masters or doctorate programs and job offers as well as allowing



universities and companies from the life sciences field to exchange reasearch ideas.

The last two days will constitute trainings and workshops, which will address topics such as personal branding and leadership. The workshops will be held to create a call for action regarding climate adaptation and sustainable agriculture.

Marie-Agnes says they are currently reaching out to various organisations and individual experts to participate in the conference as sponsors, speakers and exhibitors.

“The ICYA will be an eminent conference hosted by a professional online platform that will allow exchange knowledge and good practices with professionals from a wide range of expertise within life sciences,” she says.

The conference will also give organisations opportunity to get in touch with students thus enabling them to recruit highly qualified new collaborators, and expand



their network internationally.

CSAYN Global was founded in 2014 to create awareness on climate smart agriculture among young people, women and people with disabilities to enable the make sustainable decisions for the future in the agricultural sector.

IAAS is the biggest student organisation in the field of agricultural and related sciences established in 1957 to promote the exchange of experience, knowledge and ideas, and to improve the mutual understanding between students.

Those who would like to participate as an exhibitor, a speaker or a sponsor, can send an email to the ICYA Organizing Committee at icya2021@iaasworld.org.

FSS DIALOGUES
ROUND-UP

FOOD SECURITY CALL TO SUPPORT WOMEN, YOUTH-LED AGRIBUSINESSES

There is need to create a conducive environment for young people and women to engage in agriculture value chain for improved food security and nutrition in Africa.

Participants during a high level independent Food Systems Summit Dialogue on the role of youth and women in transforming food systems called for increased access to extension services, finance and credit, agricultural inputs and markets to promote women and youth-led agribusinesses.

The Dialogue held virtually on February 10th 2021 was convened by the Green Agriculture Youth Organisation (GAYO) in collaboration with Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network (CSAYN) Global, the Africa Europe Partnership and the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture under the theme: Role of women and youth as an enabler to transforming food systems and enhancing the Decade of Action implementation in Africa.

It brought together over 168 participants, mostly youth and women, across Africa, Asia and America and was moderated by Personal Advisor to CSAYN Global Managing Director, Margarita Astralaga.

They reiterated the need to engage the youth and women if the agenda to transform food systems and deliver on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 2030) is to be realised.

CSAYN Global MD and United Nations Food Systems Summit Champion Mr. Ntiokam Divine noted that the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 will be the launch-pad for bold new actions that will transform the way the

world delivers on the SDGs. “We are approaching the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 in September and we must ensure the voice of youth and women is present at the global forum. The Food Summit Dialogues offer a unique opportunity for all voices to be heard,” said Divine.

Dr. Martin Frick, Special Envoy for the UN Food Systems Summit 2021, described the forum as “the people’s summit where everyone’s voice must be heard.

Dr. Frick said young people have a role to play in bringing all stakeholders together to speak about their food systems, identify what the issues are and develop joint solutions.

“If we only gave women the same opportunities and chances as men, we could boost agricultural productivity significantly even without additional inputs. Empowering women is a very strong climate solution,” he said.

Dr. Janet Edeme, Head of Division, Rural Economy, in the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union (AU) Commission, said transformation in Africa’s Food Systems cannot be attained without participation of the youth and women.

Dr. Janet highlighted “Aspiration 6 of the AU Agenda 2063” which emphasises that development should be people-driven, relying on the potential of African people particularly women and youth.

“Sustainable food systems where women and youth play active role can only be achieved when an enabling environment that ensures inclusivism in the delivery of key services such as extension, finance and credits as well as access to inputs and markets is in place,” she said.

Ms. Christine Ciccone, Special Advisor -



Food Systems Summit, IFAD, said transformation of the food systems need to enhance livelihoods, nutrition and environmental sustainability and cautioned against approaches that will transform food systems at the expense of the rural poor.

“There is need to reshape food systems, ensuring gender considerations are mainstreamed, women are empowered from the beginning along with a combination of improved knowledge, sound policies, regulations and investments from production to consumption continuum,” said Christine.

Dr. Abebe Haile Gabriel, FAO’ Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, acknowledged the barriers faced by rural women and youth within the agri-food sectors.

Dr. Abebe cited some of the opportunities that could drive agro-foods systems in Africa as a growing food markets, operationalisation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the increased use of technologies. He stressed the need to take urgent action towards gender equality and women empowerment with renewed purpose and imagination.

“FAO is committed to working with all stakeholders and partners to support transformative changes that are required to strengthen agri-food systems that create and expand opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship for women and youth in Africa” said Dr. Abebe.

Médi MOUNGUI, Senior Diplomat, Deputy Permanent Representative of Cameroon to FAO, IFAD and WFP, urged all participants to yield to the UN Secretary General’s call in transforming our food systems. He highlighted the demographic challenges, the increasing impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic on younger populations and some of the obstacles inhibiting the achievement of the full potential of youth and women. He stressed the need for bold and accelerated solutions in combating these challenges.

Stéphane Gompertz, Former French Ambassador to Ethiopia, Special Envoy to Africa and the Middle East for COP 21 and current Advisor to Investisseurs et Partenaires, an impact investment fund in Africa, noted that lack of micro and mesofinance, transitioning from informal to formal sector and the transformation of income generating activities into productive businesses were the three major challenges facing young African entrepreneurs.

Ertharin Cousin, visiting scholar at the Stanford University Center on Food Security and the Environment noted that transforming Africa’s agriculture requires actions such as well deployed adequately financed innovative solutions like mobile funds, extension services, training and increased digital marketing and monitoring of regional markets.



RIGHTS OF NATURE

DIGITAL CAMPAIGN TO BOOST AWARENESS

A digital campaign has been launched to champion rights of nature and build public support and momentum for the movement that is seeking stronger laws and policies to protect natural ecosystems in Africa.

The campaign launched by CSAYN Global in collaboration with the Earth Law Centre will leverage the power of social media platforms to create awareness on the existence of the movement and rally people to protect nature in the face of climate change and unsustainable resource exploitation in the continent.

Under the hashtags #RightsofNatureAfrica #RightsofNature #EarthLaw, the campaign is calling for enhanced legislative and policy measures to protect terrestrial and marine ecosystem as an essential aspect of enhancing resilience of environment to climate change and improving food security and livelihoods in Africa. Rights of Nature activists aver that safeguarding nature' rights within legal frameworks and policy making processes will ensure natural life cycles are protected to contribute to a stronger and resilient ecosystems that can address impact of climate change and ensure food security and nutrition.

The digital awareness campaign was launched during an independent online UN Food Systems Dialogue themed 'Rights of Nature as an Enabler to the Transformation of Food Systems in Africa'.

Mr. Foretia Divine, CSAYN Global Lead for Rights of Nature program highlighted the capacity of digital technology to change lives, economies, cultures and societies, hence the idea of leveraging on it to build support for the movement in Africa.

"The internet and related technologies have created digital networks that have brought populations together and enhanced the flow of information among various groups and individuals. We are seeking support to be able to use these technologies more effectively to champion our cause," he said.

The Dialogue held on March 5th was aimed at exploring challenges and opportunities for advancing Rights of Nature paradigms in Africa to achieve sustainable food systems for Africa. The discussions were focused implications of rights of nature on sustainable food systems, the role of youth and women as change agents

in the transformation of food systems in Africa and promotion of indigenous foods within the rights of nature.

Speakers called for use of formal and informal education to promote awareness and actions in support of nature's rights.

“Re-learning indigenous ideologies and practices is vital because most of them are eco-friendly and have strong sustainability foundations. We want to engage more in education and awareness campaign to transform our culture of exploitation and promote the rights of nature as this will drive forth the cultural realisation that humans are part of nature and the environment and cannot be viewed separately,” commented Mr. Ntiokam Divine, CSAYN Global Managing Director and UN Food Systems Summit Champion.

Grant Wilson, the Executive Director Earth Law Center, said establishing the Rights of Nature movement in Africa is a necessary step towards ensuring the permanent protection of nature in the face of climate change, resource exploitation, land degradation, desertification, and pollution.

“Rights of Nature can help foster a transition of food systems that are restorative of the natural world and nourishing for human life as well. Enacting legislation to codify these principles will do much to safeguard food security and sustainable livelihoods in Africa for decades to come,” said Wilson.

“Undoubtedly, Rights of Nature perspectives can reinforce Africa's vision and aspiring new measures to enhance the effectiveness of actions to transform its food systems in the short and long run,” said Ms. Beverly Best, Director of External and Institutional Relations, Inter-

American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

Empowering indigenous communities, rural women and youths to become drivers of change through capacity building on leadership skills and advocacy was also underlined.

Philipine Bernard, assistant to Marie Toussaint, Member of the European Parliament (Greens/EFA) noted that Rights of Nature movement is growing rapidly, with more people connecting to different ecosystems around them, hence the need to give them tools and inspiration to ensure change at the local level.

“Many initiatives are emerging and they inventing new ways and governance around ecosystems and hopefully we will be able to create a bond between those in Africa and Europe to take the movement forward,” she said.

Astralaga Margarita, Senior Environmental Sustainability Advisor and Former Director of the Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division of IFAD said championing the Rights of Nature is like defending rights to healthy food, clean water and air, and the future of children.

Ngozi F. Unuigbo, Former Environmental Policy Research Fellow at the United Nations University-Institute for Natural Resources in Africa, Ghana said keeping food systems within planetary boundaries would require dietary and management practices that are in tandem with rights of nature.

DIGITAL APPS: EXPERTS CALL FOR INCREASED USE OF ICT TO ATTRACT YOUTH TO AGRICULTURE

Agriculture, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) experts are rooting for increased use of digital applications to promote smart farming and make agriculture more attractive to young people in Africa.

The experts who participated in an independent UN Food Systems Dialogue convened by Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network in collaboration with Dozliet Anim Farms, Nigeria, noted that most youths are reluctant to join the agricultural sector because of traditional farming and marketing practices employed in rural areas.

The Dialogue themed: *Timing of seasonal supply of agro inputs and taking off of farm produce with the use of ICT* noted that farmers will increase their productivity if they are supported to adopt technologies that address challenges like seasonal produce glut and access to markets. It was also agreed that digital platforms will give farmers opportunity to raise issues affecting them and influence policies.

Mobile applications like social media, Web 2.0 and the ordinary GSM technology were identified as some of the tools already running in most countries in the content.

“Farmers suffer losses due to seasonal produce boom or glut and are left to tackle the challenges that come with it on their own. Sometimes, government aids may take too long to come and when it arrives, it becomes irrelevant because farmers who needed such

support have moved on in life even to the point of quitting farming,” noted Juliet Ejezie, the CEO of Dozliet Anim Farms, who was the moderator of the virtual forum.

The Dialogue was aimed at identifying challenges encountered in accessing certified farm inputs, and off-take of produce. It also sought to create a road map for digitizing agricultural information.

Participants noted that fresh produce farmers were being exploited by middlemen who buy their produce at low prices when there is a glut in the market and sell to regions experiencing high demand at huge profits.

There is great need to promote the use of internet based applications or platforms where farmers can showcase their products directly to consumers or connect with them to sell at a good prices, they said.

Mr Buchi Ikeh, an ICT consultant and the CEO Broad Digital Nigeria Ltd said use of digital platforms such as Web, Mobile Apps, USSD and SMS can help farmers access, share and exchange agricultural knowledge, price information and other market insights.

“Such information will help farmers to strategize market activities and deal with issues such as traceability, process control, transparency in market information, reduction in transaction costs, and identification as well as tracking of consumer needs,” said Ikeh.

Mr Chukwuemeka Ogbuagu of Nnamdi

NIGERIA



THEME : Timing seasonal supply of agro inputs and taking off of farm produce with the use of ICT

DATE: WEDNESDAY 24TH MARCH 2021 TIME: 10AM-11AM (WAT) MODE: ZOOM



MODERATOR: Juliet Ejezie,
CEO Dazliet Anim Farms

PANELISTS

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/99488037407?pwd=NDRqVUcxdlm93bmFKL1FqZkxYZXVwdz09>

 <small>Oliver Olowu, Champions Engagement Lead, UFSS Secretariat, Nairobi</small>	 <small>Brood Digital Ltd CEO, Buchi Ikesh</small>	 <small>Mrs. Onwuka Chinyerudu, Akwa-Imu Farms</small>	 <small>Edojo John Alpopowowo, CEO FarmerShop</small>	 <small>Felix Zulu, CEO INKINGI Modern farmers</small>	 <small>Michael Nwamu, PHD, Agricultural consultant</small>	 <small>AITEC Consult CEO, Mr. Amara</small>
 <small>Engr Chikelue Nwabuike, AI Consultant</small>	 <small>Zarbali Consult MD, Ineacho Patrick</small>	 <small>Chika Wamela Ogbuagu - Nnamdi Azikiwe University</small>	 <small>Jorge Werthein, IICA Special Advisor</small>	 <small>Umu Sakiratu, Program Manager, Earthpays</small>	 <small>Pauline Christina, CEO Best Lifestyle Inc.</small>	 <small>Dr Edojo, Advisor CSAYN Global Nigeria</small>



Azikiwe University Awka, Nigeria, said lack of farm machineries (as agro inputs) which makes farming easier and faster can be addressed by establishing functional farm equipment leasing services that are easily accessed online.

Mr Edoja John, CEO of FarmerShop, an agro-commerce platform that creates a link and connects farmers to agro-inputs dealers and farm-produce buyers, suggested that farmers should take advantage of agro-commerce platforms to sell their products. “Platforms like FarmerShop helps farmers to market their farm produce and connect directly with the consumer hence earning more income than if they were to sell through middlemen,” said Edoja.

Engineer Chikelue Nwabuike, the technical head at Globacom Nigeria underscored the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in bridging gaps in food systems especially during disease outbreaks. “Through artificial intelligence technologies, images can be captured by drones and satellites and modelled to predict weather conditions, analyse crops and evaluate farms for the presence of diseases and information obtained used to advise farmers accordingly.”



FOOD SYSTEMS PRE-SUMMIT TO DELIVER BOLD AMBITIONS

Italy is set to host the Pre-Summit gathering for the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit will be in Rome, Italy from July 19 to July 21, 2021.

Under the leadership of UN Secretary-General António Guterres and Prime Minister of Italy Mario Draghi, the Pre-Summit event will bring together the efforts and contributions of a global engagement process to shape ambition to transform food systems. The three-day event will bring together youth, smallholder farmers, indigenous peoples, researchers, private sector, policy leaders and ministers of agriculture, environment, health, and finance among others to deliver the latest evidence-based and scientific approach from around the world, launch a set of new commitments through coalitions of action, and mobilize new financing and partnerships. The Food Systems Summit will take place in September alongside the UN General Assembly in New York.

“The Pre-Summit in Italy will be a key moment for mobilizing the bold commitments we need to build sustainable food systems that work for people, planet, and prosperity. Through accelerated action, we can help the world recover better from COVID-19, combat rising hunger and address the climate crisis,” said UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

As hosts of the Pre-Summit, the Italian Government will make a national food system commitment to set the tone and a high ambition ahead of the Summit.

“Italy is ready to welcome this key appointment of the Food Systems Summit in Rome. We want to address the issue of food security within our broad agenda as President of the G20. Together with the UN and its agencies based in Rome, Italy will engage with



its partners to promote better agriculture, sustainable value chains and healthy lifestyles. I expect everyone to join us in a global effort to protect the environment with meaningful actions,” said Italy Prime Minister Mario Draghi.

The Pre-Summit event is expected to take place in a “hybrid” virtual format over three days, during which many people will participate in person at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome, while others from around the world will be engaged on a vast virtual platform. Global leaders are expected to step up and launch bold new actions, solutions, partnerships, and strategies to “recover better” from Covid-19 and deliver progress on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), each of which relies to some degree on nutritious, sustainable and equitable food systems.

The Pre-Summit will take place in Rome while Italy is chairing the G20 process and co-hosting the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in November. The role of food systems in achieving global goals and climate targets is expected to serve as a central priority of these other events and continue to carry forward momentum from the Food Systems Summit.

DIALOGUES GENERATE 1,200 IDEAS

The UN Food Systems Summit has surfaced more than 1,200 ideas and propositions to transform food systems in just six months of public engagement.

Since September, the Summit has hosted regular online meetings, public fora and surveys organised around five priority objectives for more equitable and sustainable food systems.

More than 400 of the submissions during the preparatory process for the Summit, which takes place in September, came from farmer and producer groups, indigenous communities and civil society, while academics shared 200 of their ideas.

Around 250 suggestions came from the private sector and 123 were submitted by UN Member States, tackling a range of local, regional and global issues by offering voluntary solutions to help shape national commitments to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

“I’m delighted to see so many ideas put forward to set us off on our journey towards delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals,” said Dr. Agnes Kalibata, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the Food Systems Summit.

“Achieving the 2030 Agenda in the next 10 years is within reach if we act swiftly and with strong ambition. It also is a huge opportunity to come through on more inclusive food systems that deliver for everyone.” In the past month, the Summit leadership assessed the 1,200 ideas against

three criteria: impact at scale, actionability and sustainability.

The submissions were then consolidated into 107 emerging propositions across the five Action Tracks. These include a wide range of ideas such as making social protection programs more nutrition-sensitive to address hunger and malnutrition at the same time; scaling out agro-ecological production systems, and mechanisms like securing land tenure and property rights to strengthen the agency of many of the world’s most marginalized people.

Ahead of the next phase of engagement, the Summit leadership has called for additional ideas before it begins to prioritize the final path towards the Summit. “The Action Track leaders and members have spent an enormous amount of time and assessed what we have heard so far, and the process is at its beginnings,” Dr. Kalibata added.

“We need the broadest possible range of perspectives from Member States, citizens, private sector, civil society, producers, indigenous peoples, and youth, especially as dialogues take root globally now with more than 80 countries committed to the process, and nearly 200 independent dialogues happening.

The Summit leadership will consult with all stakeholders throughout April. They will invite feedback on submitted ideas, but they will also be taking new ideas on-board that may help close gaps and/or raise ambition towards achieving the SDGs by 2030.

CSAYN Global mapping youth-led agribusinesses

CSAYN Global is mapping youth-led organisations and agripreneurs in Africa to enable them leverage various opportunities to develop their initiatives and make significant contributions towards addressing environment and agricultural challenges facing the continent.

The mapping exercise will help to identify youth-led initiatives for learning webinars where opportunities are available, how to leverage the benefits, and how to advocate for inclusive implementation at the national, regional and international levels. It will also to enhance strategic collaboration amongst young people in Africa

leveraging on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and other important initiatives worldwide. AfCFTA is aimed at accelerating intra-African trade and boosting Africa’s trading position in the global market by strengthening Africa’s common voice and policy space in global trade negotiations.

TESTIMONIALS

With a footprint in more than 70 countries, our members and activities have grown three-fold, hence the need to continue forging collaborations and partnerships with various like-minded organisations.



MARGARITA ASTRALAGA
FORMER DIRECTOR, IFAD

This group of young people from all over the world have inspired me. They have taken their future and that of their children in their hands to ensure a better and more equitable and inclusive world full of opportunities for youth and women.



DR. LAILA B. LOKOSANG
AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

I am a witness to the growth of CSAYN Global in both the span of its activities and number of volunteers. Evidently, interest in its work has increased, which indicates that it has the potential to garner high demand for its services.



ROBYNNE ANDERSON
EMERGING AGRI INC

CSAYN Global's work is critically important - by bringing global youth leaders together to achieve the technical, innovative, and creative solutions that will be necessary to deal with our changing world they help show us all the path to success



DEBISI ARABA
MALABO MONTPELLIER PANEL

The CSAYN Global continues to make great strides in building the critical bridges among the public sector, the private sector, civil society, and other NGOs necessary to foster a global community aligned to transforming food systems.



BENJAMIN NJIILA FIELDS
GLOBAL HEALTH EXPERT

I had no connection to the SDGs and did not think about development in the African context but the CSAYN Global put me on the right track to push to solve the leading issues in Africa, and contribute towards the development of my country.



CATHERINE WANJIKU
STRATHMORE UNIVERSITY

Through its empowerment strategies such as accessible financial resources the CSAYN Global it has spanned creation of employment for the youths and this has spurred increase in food production in the various countries it has footprints in.



DR. GARY R. BURNISKE
MD, PURDUE UNIVERSITY

The CSAYN Global has maintained a high profile at Purdue University, and has been an important catalyst for connecting Purdue with youth dedicated towards combating climate change and building resilient agricultural systems.



SAÚL-ELÍAS-LÓPEZ
CSAYN REGIONAL DIRECTOR, LATIN AMERICA

CSAYN Global's experience in Venezuela and Latin America has been very satisfactory, in which sustainable food systems have been promoted through climate-smart agriculture. Venezuela has not escaped the adverse effects of climate change.



JULIET EJEZIE
CEO, DOZLIET ANIM FARMS, NIGERIA

The CSAYN Global has enabled me as a livestock farmer to learn ways of engaging in smart farming and climate change adaptation. I also educate the youth in my community on how agriculture can be run as a profitable venture

OUR PARTNERS



Alliance





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