

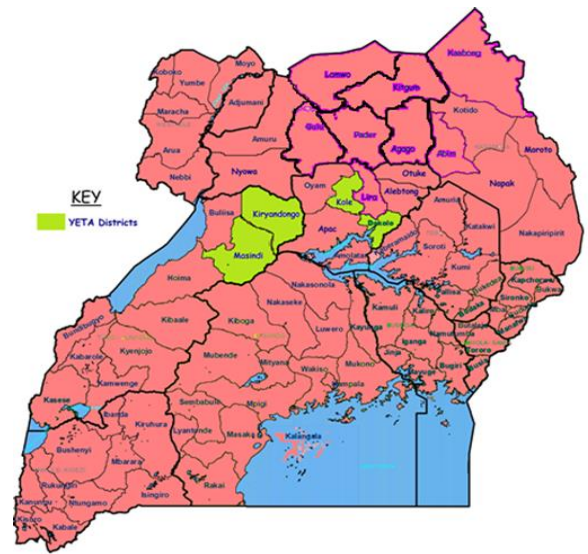
YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH AGRICULTURE (YETA)

FEBRUARY 2015 – FEBRUARY 2020

IN COLLABORATION WITH:

Mastercard Foundation

Project Value: \$11,454,063



Target

To train **26,250** youth in Agriculture Business Skills



A youth shows off his cabbage garden in Kole

Reflections

- Increased public and private sector leaders' awareness of youth priorities through the Youth Forward platform.
- Harness stakeholder support through private sector linkage and Regional Advisory Committee

Youth Empowerment Through Agriculture (Y.E.T.A.)

Y.E.T.A. strives to empower 26,250 youth 15-24 years old through agriculture using its "Learn, Engage, Build" model. It is designed to create long-term engagement by integrating numeracy, literacy and life skills with technical expertise in agriculture, business, entrepreneurship and management.

Y.E.T.A. builds on the successes of the Uganda Conservation Farming Initiative (U.C.F.I.) - NCBA CLUSA's \$8.4 million USDA-funded program in Northern Uganda, which took a value chain approach to increasing smallholder farmer profitability through conservation farming.

Y.E.T.A. is being implemented in the four districts of Dokolo, Kole, Kiryandongo and Masindi.

Objectives

- 750 Youth Associations (YAs) are formed and strengthened.
- YA members have improved well-being and confidence through enhanced foundational skills.
- YA members have access to increased financial services.
- YA members develop the technical and entrepreneurial skills to launch their businesses.

Achievements

- 12,766 youth trained in governance, foundational skills, financial literacy, VSLA best practices, agro entrepreneurship and agricultural technical skills.
- 583 youth associations (YAs) formed and strengthened.
- 296 YAs establish VSLAs.
- 343 YAs access land to practice agriculture & launch group incubation businesses.
- 10,057 youth mentored by Parent Organizations in business start-up and management.
- 1,325 youth start Community Based Solution Provider (CBSP) businesses.





Youth
Forward



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH AGRICULTURE



Upcoming Activities

- Support Cohort 3 YAs with incubation of group agri-business enterprises and start-up individual enterprises.
- Linking YAs and individual youth to Parent Organizations and private sector (input suppliers and buyers) for mentoring & identifying income generating opportunities.
- Linking YAs and individual youth to financial service providers to enable access to credit to continue their agri-businesses.
- Mobilizing an additional 167 YAs to gain access to business, financial, and life skills and link to markets.
- Continue training Cohort 3 youth in similar skills, leveraging experiences and lessons learned from Cohort 1 and 2.
- Devise strategies that keep YAs more involved and empowered to lead and manage their group activities.



Okech in his Maize garden

Challenges

- Need for a wider policy enabling environment for youth
- Difficult access to land by youth
- Unreliable weather patterns

Success story

Twenty-four year-old Okech Geoffrey of *Alik Imalo* Youth Association in Akalo Kole district has demonstrated that youth only need initial, short-term support and guidance to make a meaningful economic contribution in society. After training in Agro Entrepreneurship and ongoing mentorship conducted by YETA, Okech with support from his wife Janet Acen (also group member) started offering CBSP services by ploughing gardens of community members and this season alone they managed to plough 15 gardens which earned them an estimated 1.2 million UGX (\$300) that they used to buy a plot of land at the road side near the trading center.

For his individual business this season, Okech ploughed three acres of maize and one acre of soy bean. He expects to harvest about 2,000 kgs of maize (worth about 1.6 million UGX or \$440 USD). The one acre of soy beans has already yielded 250 kgs earning him 500,000 UGX (\$137 USD), which he quickly used to start construction of a two-door low-cost commercial building intended to be a shop and produce store. He plans to finish construction using income from the next two harvests and become a produce-buyer who promotes bulking among his peers as one way of increasing market access. This is just one example of how YETA CBSPs are pursuing a number of economic and livelihood activities, diversifying their income and becoming more resilient.

NCBA CLUSA was founded in 1916 and has worked in over 85 countries building democratic institutions and providing technical assistance to cooperative businesses and local organizations. We currently work in Africa, Asia and Latin America providing expertise in co-op development, food security, youth empowerment, governance and natural resource management.



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