



Youth
Forward

NCBA
CLUSA



Reproductive
Health Uganda



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH AGRICULTURE

YETA EFFECTIVENESS STUDY



The purpose of the study was to assess the effectiveness of YETA contribution in enhancing youth engagement in agricultural enterprise. It also captures unintended outcomes that can be positive or negative due to the project in addition to other factors influencing overall change.

Findings

Improved Entrepreneurial Outcomes

YETA contributed in creating a momentum to strengthen agricultural capacity of youth that led to significant increase in agricultural income. A Gender Equity Test revealed that both female and male youth have similar patterns in saving money but males have more access to land to scale up agricultural business.

- 80% of the youth earned more than UGX 200,000 (USD 55) per season of which 20% of them earned more than UGX 1,000,000 (USD 270)
- Majority (92%) of the youth reported profit in the last 12 months. Fifty percent of them earned a profit more than UGX 309,000 (USD 85) and about 2% reported a profit of UGX 7,000,000 (USD 1,917).
- Average income per season increased from UGX 720,000 (USD 197) to UGX775,000 (USD 212)

Entrepreneurial Specific Behaviors

YETA developed entrepreneurial skills of youth to start and maintain their businesses. This involved enhancing youth capacity through training in technical and business management aspects and linkage with private sector networks.

- There has been a mindset change in the youth who now are looking at agriculture as a source of income as opposed to the past where agriculture was mainly seen as a source of food (subsistence).
- Youth have drawn lessons on good agronomical practices like timely planting, correct spacing among others and making the right choices of more profitable enterprise (crop and livestock) that they find are easier to manage. This has been as a result of cost benefit analysis or learnings from failed previous seasons.
- Improved financial discipline where some youth access affordable finance from their existing VSLA to help with their agriculture.
- Some youth now negotiate for better prices due to bulking and collective marketing.
- Ability by some youth to form primary cooperatives, store their produce and sale at the right time when they are better prices.

- Contract farming by some youth has helped youth guard against future price fluctuation as decisions are made with clear projections of earnings in the future.
- Practicing a range of other small enterprises and opposed to only planting a single crop per season.

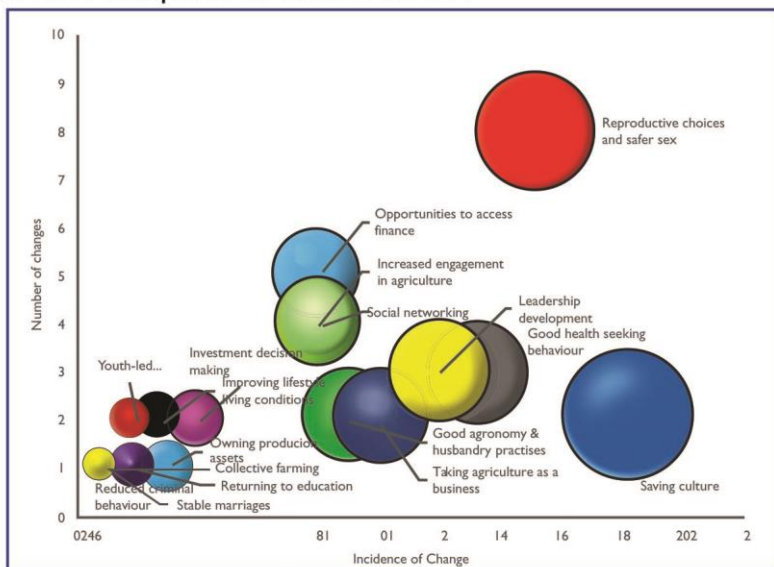
Influence on Communities

YETA activities influenced community ecology creating an enabling environment for the youth to enhance their human potential. The program partnered, coordinated, and collaborated with the local institutions that included Local Governments, Banks, Health centers, community groups, and individuals.

Sexual Reproductive Health

As a result of establishment of youth friendly corners in many Health Centers coupled with training of Health Center staff to offer the said youth friendly services, there has been improved Health seeking behavior of the youth; many of them now go to seek for health services.

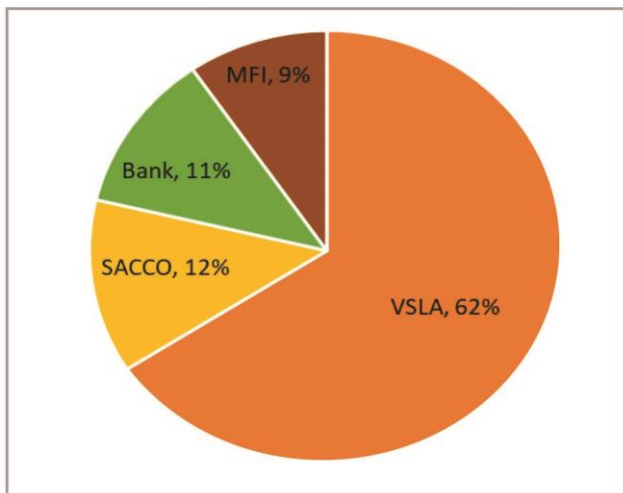
- SRH testing and counseling: In 2016 (not exposed to program) only 45% reported to have received SRH counseling compared to 81.37% in 2019
- Utilization of health care services: In 2016 only 45.83% accessed health care services compared to 68.63% in 2019



Access to Finance

Sources of finance

Evidence suggests YETA participants adopted entrepreneurial behaviors such as; accessing loans, timely payment of loan investing in business focused in agriculture. The chart shows different sources of finance.



Unintended changes

The spillover effects in the communities were noted. Other youth and also adults in the communities have started copying business and agricultural practices introduced by YETA.

- YETA youth have emerged as role models of advancing economic wellbeing.
- The banking systems have adopted youth focused approaches lending non-YETA participants.
- Stigma related to HIV/AIDS in the communities has reduced.
- Reduction in gender-based violence was reported by the majority. Young girls have gained more respect in the communities.

Plot 19 Binayomba Street Bugolobi, Kampala Uganda

Tel: +256 414 505 525

Email: inquires@clusauganda.co.ug

Website: www.clusauganda.co.ug



@YETAUganda



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