

# YOUTH PERSPECTIVES ON URBAN FARMING.





# Brief About UNYFA

- ❑ UNYFA is a member-based organization for young farmers started in January 2016.
- ❑ 54 member associations spread in all regions of Uganda.
- ❑ Target group: youth between 12 to 39 years of age in rural areas; Schools/Tertiary institutions and those out of school.
- ❑ Our Vision: A holistically transformed youth in agriculture for sustainable economy.
- ❑ Mission: To mobilize & empower youth in agriculture for social-economic development.
- ❑ Key development areas for UNYFA: Professionalization Advocacy; Services; Education and training; Networking



# Urban Farming

- ❑ Urban agriculture refers to “agriculture located within and around cities whose products are at least partly destined for the city and for which alternatives exist between the agricultural and non-agricultural uses of resources”( Stewart et al. (2013).
- ❑ An estimated 40% of agricultural products consumed in urban areas are produced from within urban areas (Draft Uganda National Urban Policy, 2013).
- ❑ Urban and Peri-urban(UAP)farming provides income and employment opportunities to the population.
- ❑ It supplements the sources of food supply at an affordable price thereby contributing to food security.

## SOURCE:

- ❖ Mugisa (2016). Full Length Research Paper| Urban and Peri-urban crop farming in Central Uganda.
- ❖ Stewart R, Korth M, Langer L, Rafferty S, Da Silva NR, van Rooyen C (2013). What are the impacts of urban agriculture programs on food security in low and middle income countries?



# Production Systems

## Micro gardening techniques:

The best practices include:-

- Food towers
- Used Car tires
- Pots/ sack gardens
- Used Plastics
- Polythene bags
- Raised beds
- Ridges in farmers' backyards.





# How UNYFA Supports Youth in the Uptake of Urban Farming

## UNYFA's Role in Agro technology

- Fosters Information sharing.
- Providing Farmer exchange visits for exposure and excursions
- Facilitating linkages and networks establishment between farmers and technocrats.
- Conducting tailor made trainings.
- Synergizing with key partners in Agro technology and advocate for desired change.
- Promoting new tested agro technologies and prototypes.

## Peri-Urban Farms of UNYFA Members.

- ❖ **Fruits of Faith Farm, Gayaza Magere**( established and managed by a young farmer Joseph Male) It has a wide range of crops e.g. Strew berries, spinach, Chinese cabbage, etc. and Spices like oregano and Rosemary, piggery unit, fish farming and Bananas.
- ❖ **Ebenezer Farm, Nasuti –Mukono:** Poultry parent stock, Vegetables, Worm production and Hydroponics.



## 1. Fruits of Faith Farm, Gayaza Magere



## 2. Ebenezer Farm, Nasuti –Mukono





# Disruption and Shocks due the Natural Calamities

- Increased costs of doing business ( internet,
- Loss of jobs/ down sizing of staff on farms
- Members forums postponed/ limited freedom of association. No group, AGM meetings.

The challenges are seen along the various enterprise value chains :

**a. Inputs:** Supply chain on raw materials for production cut

- Poor or limited access to inputs
- Rising prices

**b. Production**

- Direct extension services negatively affected
- Poor / lower agricultural production
- Flootation of produce

**c. market/ transportation etc**

- Reduced mobility of customers/ traders
- Closure of public markets
- Demands reduced (schools, hospitality centres)
- Quality of products jeopardized
- Changing demands by consumers



# What next ?

1. By Farmers / farmer organisation need to find resilience and innovation( find business models to adapt).
  - Need to increase direct farmer to consumer channels.
  - New business lines/ product lines--diversification
  - Value addition and storage
  - Local sourcing of components and raw materials
  - Integration of transportation logistics in production cycles/ on farms or FO
  - Digitization and automation
  - Expanding market share and rethinking on how to gain new markets





# Opportunities

- Realization of the importance of Agriculture.
- Funding and financing schemes
- Urban farming has picked-up
- Youth doing urban farming: change agents/trainers of others.



# Call for action

The farmers need support from out.

1. Need to protect and support agriculture food systems & SMEs
  - a) the pandemic policy should integrate food system resilience into their response. Its not only a health risk but also a food security risk.
  - b) need for financial support, insurance and assets in that line
  - c) establishment and facilitation of partnerships that help farmers (PPs, access to big buyers, government tenders etc)
  - d) Policies that prioritize resilience, entrepreneurship and innovation
  - e) Align agriculture training to business resilience, online markets and health risks.
  - f) Grants and loans to agri-food SMEs and some tax exemptions.



## Conclusion

The only way to beat this time is to focus on the lessons we can pick from the challenge at hand. The quicker we learn from the current life lesson the faster we can move on to the solution or new experiences .

“Lets be the Change we Want to See”



# THANK YOU



YOUNG FARMERS'  
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