


Water, Energy and Food Nexus



Rwandan youth to mainstream
sustainably growing their
Agribusinesses

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Rwanda Youth in Agribusiness Forum

- Officially launched on 3rd May, 2016, the Rwanda Youth in Agribusiness Forum (RYAF) is a national platform of young agro-entrepreneurs with the aim of changing the old-fashioned mindset of youth vis-à-vis the Agricultural sector, to orient them to seize business and investment opportunities in the sector through awareness creation, skills development, advocacy and support services.





Mission

- ❑ To promote, inform, advocate and mobilize Rwandan youth to engage in agribusiness.
- ❑ To facilitate youth in agriculture to change their mind-set to productive and agribusiness oriented.
- ❑ Advocate for technical, managerial & financial support through linkages with stakeholders.





What we believe as RYAF

- ❑ Youth have potentials of being part of the agriculture to render it economically rewarding business venture,
- ❑ Jobs can be created as a result of well performing agribusinesses, innovative to create resilience,
- ❑ Sustainable youth engagement in agribusiness can be vital pillar to reduce social and economic threats (rural-urban forced migration, Afro-Europe forced and illegal migrations, etc.)
- ❑ Agribusinesses of the youth are to be hubs for enormous investments, exports, services, etc.



How RYAF Operates

- ❑ RYAF has National Board (Chairman, Vice, Treasurer, Secretary and 5 Heads of Clusters) and Districts and Sector Committees (President, Vice and Secretary)
- ❑ RYAF General Assembly made of 90 District Committee members and 9 Board Members
- ❑ RYAF operates through Executive Office with full time staff



Youth career development (current)

- ❑ **+300** young professionals under short term contract (MoUs with partners)
- ❑ **+500** professional and academic interns per annum, working within farming communities across the country



RYAF Members benefits

- ❑ Belonging to a highly organized professional community of like-minded young Agro-entrepreneurs who are well-connected and coordinated from grassroots to national level,
- ❑ Opportunity to promote yourself and your achievements through RYAF networks, online TV and other social media channels,
- ❑ Easy access to global opportunities designed for youth in agribusiness,
- ❑ Business Development Support through **access to finance & other assets:** Equipments, land, buildings, etc.
- ❑ Access to RYAF Capacity Building Programs: Trainings, mentoring, coaching, etc,
- ❑ Access to markets for members through partner buyers or RYAF shops.
- ❑ Access to prestigious, exclusively negotiated benefits with hand-picked partners.



Wayforward/ Future plan





Digital innovations to overcome agriculture value-chain related constraints: Focusing on technological solutions that support youth-related innovation and modern production technologies in agriculture solutions to foster youth-led or youth-focused networking,

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- ❑ **Exhibition of innovative products and services:** an exhibition of innovative products and services for agriculture and rural development by youth and youth-led organizations from across the Nation will be organized, as well as a networking/match making space for the youth and potential investors.



Agribusiness Incubation Program: Technical and managerial skills development to agro-entrepreneurs,

RYAF Shops: Improved local, regional and international market access,

Innovation in Agribusiness competition program (Annual): Youth in Agribusiness Convention to conclude the gathering,
commits to create job opportunities: For youth in agricultural value chains, and to support and facilitate preferential entry and participation for the youth in gainful and attractive agri-business opportunities.



How RYAF is working to mainstream Water-Energy-Food security Nexus

- ❑ New technology like solar powered irrigation system in agriculture. This technology has already been introduced and are benefiting youth from their involvement in agriculture through innovations and smart technologies,

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- ❑ Solar-powered, walk-in cold room, where farmers can buy storage through a pay-as-you-go system to preserve their perishable produce. Cold rooms in food markets and at farms, allowing farmers to keep their produce fresh by stacking it in clean crates inside the rooms.



How RYAF is working to mainstream Water-Energy-Food security Nexus (con't)

- ❑ Rain water harvesting: Facilitate and support smallholder farmers in rain water harvesting through RDDP granting schemes including water tanks, underground water tanks, dam sheets along with other innovative solutions,

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- Biomass energy: an outstanding plan which will be produced from plants and organic wastes: everything from crops, trees, and crop residues to manure. Crops grown for energy could be produced in large quantities, just as food crops are.





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