

Zimbabwe Youth 'Agripreneurship' Summit 2013



Proceedings for the Summit held from the 10th to the 12th of
December 2013 at the Harare Institute of Technology

The Zimbabwe Farmers' Union is grateful to GIZ, ZFAT and Fit for Life
for their sponsorship of the event



www.facebook.com/ZFUYoungFarmersClubs

<http://youtu.be/pZ-bMzXCImE>

INTRODUCTION

The Zimbabwe Farmers Union (ZFU) organized Youth Summit was held to primarily discuss the myriad of challenges and solutions that can help “break the barriers” that inhibit youths to realize their full potential in agriculture. Prominent scholars and key stakeholders were invited to interact with the youths while sharing their experiences. Importantly, the summit was also meant to listen to the issues that youths were raising. This report highlights the core issues addressed.

Address by the ZFU Executive Director, Mr. Paul Zakariya

ZFU Executive Director, Mr Paul Zakariya welcomed all the delegates that attended the Zimbabwe Youth Agripreneurship Summit 2013 highlighting that this crucial initiative was meant to strengthen young people’s participation in the agricultural sector in Zimbabwe. He extended appreciation to the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Zimbabwe Farmers Alliance Trust (ZFAT) and the Fit for Life program for contributing toward the success of the summit. The Director underscored the goals and expected results of the summit. The goals and objectives are underscored below.

Goals, Objectives and Outcomes

The goal of the summit was to generate and connect ideas aimed at progressing agriculture in Zimbabwe with the next generation of young people. This is a step towards encouraging youths to take charge and be responsible for their future and the community around them. The key objectives of the summit were:

- To provide an avenue for agriculturally focused youth from around the nation to discuss the challenges of engaging in the agri-business sector and to identify actionable agriculturally sustainable solutions;
- To provide a platform to young people actively engaged in the agricultural sector and with the drive of succeeding as young entrepreneurs to network with relevant stakeholders and other young people in farming to build up social capital to mobilize resources and build strong alliances;
- To share success stories of young people in agriculture thus motivating participants to stay proactive and maintain a high degree of persistence to succeed in the sector;
- To create an atmosphere that fosters business networks and friendships;
- To motivate youth by showing them available opportunities, e.g. jobs, investment, business, in agriculture;
- To bring young people together to support them in developing their own action driven work plans to shape the development of their communities and the empowerment of their peers;
- Securing commitment from the government, development partners, private sector players, civil society, youths in supporting youth driven agripreneurship, employment and food security.

Address: ZFU President Mr Silas Hungwe

The presentation by the ZFU President Mr Silas Hungwe was premised on the need to tap into the immense potential that youths present to grow the agriculture sector. He noted that youths possess the energy and requisite technical skills to positively impact on the sector. Going forward, he noted that the summit should present youths with the opportunity to share their diverse experiences whilst drawing lessons from key stakeholders in the sector. The Union has embarked on various activities and projects that are meant to actively involve youths and young people in the farming sector. He emphasized that there was need to encourage young people to pursue agriculture as any other rewarding career path.

Address: Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development

The Director of Economics and Markets within the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development, Mr Bwenje indicated that in order to achieve **a prosperous, diverse and competitive agricultural sector, that ensures food and nutrition security** of the nation, there is need to promote participation and involvement of youth throughout the agriculture value chain and Government remains open to innovative ways of involving the youth in the mainstream economic activity. This is critical in that Sub-Saharan Africa holds the world's largest young population of over 200 million young people of which 70% resides in rural areas. Sub Saharan Africa also employs about 65% of the youth primarily in the agricultural sector as workforce. On average 74% of the youth population in Africa lives on less than US\$2 per day. Therefore, youths are double edged cutting knives of development in Africa and for efforts to ensure food security. They are potential actors as well as beneficiaries of development.

Address: Ministry of State for Liaising on Psychomotor Activities in Education and Vocational Training

The Minister of State for Liaising on Psychomotor Activities in Education and Vocational Training; Honorable J. D Hungwe indicated that the education system of Zimbabwe has a missing link, in that the curriculum zeros on theory and not actual skills that young people can use in the event that the resources are provided. The Minister also mentioned that the ministry advocates for a new education structure for Zimbabwe that 'vocalionalizes' education to familiarize pupils with vocational and technical skill at the basic education level and lay a foundation for specialization.

Address: Ministry of Youth Development, Indigenization and Empowerment

The Ministry of Youth was represented by a senior Director of Youth Development; Mr Fungati. He welcomed the initiative by ZFU mentioning it comes at a critical time when government has committed to support youth in all possible manners. Mention was made on some of the programs the Ministry has designed for youth which include the community share ownership schemes, ZIM ASSET program, Kurera fund which was established to support innovative ideas of youth with startup capital. Regardless of the programs set up under the ministry the Director mentioned there are supportive to all organisations supporting youths as their initiatives might not be able to reach out to the growing youth populace and needs thus concerted efforts will achieve more tangible results.

Key Note Address: Professor Mandivamba Rukuni

Key note address which was delivered by Prof Rukuni identified and categorized barriers affecting youths as internal and external. He further elaborated that 'Poverty' is a state of the mind and can be categorized as follows;

Material poverty – when one relies on things they do not produce and produces things they do not rely on which is clearly eroding their asset base.

Intellectual poverty – when there is no value or leveraging your own knowledge. Action is the only knowledge that matters.

Spiritual poverty – occurs when there is reduced sense of identity, belonging and self-worth.

How to create intellectual and spiritual wealth

High levels of confidence – develop stamina, self-belief and self-reliance.

Boldness –take calculated risks, and never hesitate. Prioritise *savings* and *investment*.

Ambition - set high targets, think big, think positive, learn *fast*, challenge yourself, have fun and be aggressive

The agripreneurs were informed on how to **create material** wealth? The critical step is to identify your **niche** and thereafter;

- **Add value** – to what you have or what you produce;
- Get your **assets** to work for you;
- Do what you love;
- Love what you do;
- Brand yourself;
- Be prepared to start low; and
- Be ready for failure.

FOUNDATIONS OF WEALTH

- Social Capital
- Economic Capital

WEALTH CREATING STRATEGIES

Build physical and biological assets (ABCD)

Local exchange of goods, products and services for example improve quality of trees, herbs, animals etc. He urged youth to make use of extended family as business model

Refuse to be a dog

Do not work for someone else after a certain age, start your own business or projects. It is critical to also bequeath life and survival skills to your children

Self-drive mindset: Enables both individuals and communities to;

- Find answers that lie from within.
- Generate own plans and visions that articulate an attractive future.
- Self-organize to accomplish these plans and vision.
- Demonstrate the confidence in interactions with peers and the powerful.
- Transmute problems and challenges to business opportunities

Conclusion and Thoughts

You are all you have and answers lie within you. The only truth is one, you discover for yourself. These are the highest values that create wealth

Presentation from Multi- Stakeholders

Information Communication Technology for Development (ICT4D) presented by: Mildred Makore (mmakore@zw.mercycorps.org)



Agrifin program

The program facilitates sustainable shared business models between app providers and banks reaching smallholder farmers through development, integration and implementation processes to provide a win/win/win of access to market, technical and financial services.



Start Up Weekend

In the first quarter of 2014 Mercy Corps will facilitate the first **Startup weekend** in Zimbabwe. The main objective is to encourage the inclusion of youth in the agriculture sector through development of ICT based solutions to challenges in the sector.

Impact and Benefits: Mobile and Agriculture

- Increased productivity
- Reducing transport costs
- Reducing price disparity
- Increasing access to information, services, trade & markets

Creating Youth Employment through Entrepreneurship presented by: Martha Nyabadza (marthanyabadza@yahoo.com)



EMPRETEC ZIMBABWE

What is an Entrepreneur?

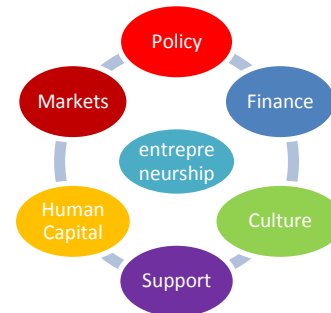
It is the act of being an entrepreneur, meaning *“One who undertakes innovations, finance and business acumen in an effort to transform innovations into economic goods”*

It is the concept in which somebody uses all his energies to find solution to the problem that can serve him and his society in the best possible way.

Or

The process in which you look at things in such a way that nobody has ever imagined when the person provides the solution everybody realizes that it can be done and even followed.

Entrepreneurship Ecosystem



For a good entrepreneurship ecosystem there is need for:-

- Conducive culture;
- Enabling policies and leadership;
- Availability of appropriate finance;
- Quality human capital;
- Venture-friendly markets for products;
- Range of institutional and infrastructural support

Entrepreneurs need the following key competences

- Opportunity seeking
- Demand for efficiency & quality
- Risk taking
- Persistence
- Commitment to the work contract

Entrepreneurship is an exceptional form of employment as well as excellent way of fostering innovation and reinforcing social and environmental values. However young people often find themselves disadvantaged when attempting to embark on entrepreneurial endeavors thereby calling for such platforms to break down barriers.

Agricultural Competitiveness by Godfrey Mudimu (Godfrey.Mudimu@dai.com) of Zimbabwe Agricultural Competitiveness Program (ZIMACP)

The youth agripreneurs were urged to strive to produce competitive products. The presentation emphasized that packaging and consistency in supply are key in ensuring that the produce is competitive. He highlighted that Zimbabwean markets in recent years have been flooded by South African products which are more competitive than the local products. He emphasized that protecting local produce is not the solution but ensuring that Zimbabwean produce competes with foreign produce is the way to go. He urged the youths to be aware of market requirements and standards. Mr. Mudimu also highlighted that the gap in productivity is resulting in the dumping of low quality produce into the Zimbabwean market e.g. flooding of low grade apples on the Zimbabwean markets.

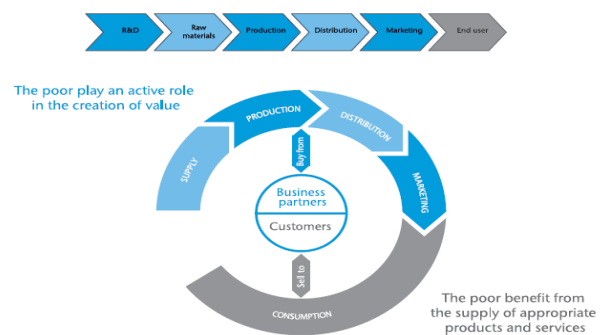
Market Opportunities for Youth Agripreneurs from Market Linkages Association by Michael Dawes (michael@apt.co.zw)

Why Markets?

They provide a key source of *income* for the majority of people who live in rural areas and who are dependent on agriculture, either as labourers or producers.

What are markets?

Putting the poor at the center of the value chain



World business council for sustainable development

Open Markets Systems - are systems in which farmers finance, produce and sell the agricultural product to a market of their choice.

Closed Market Systems - are systems in which farmers embark on an agricultural project, usually having made marketing arrangements before commencing production.

Contract Farming (CF)

CF is contractual arrangement for a fixed term between a farmer and a contractor, agreed verbally or in writing before production begins, which provides resources to the farmer and/or specifies one or more conditions of production, in addition to one or more marketing conditions, for agricultural production on land owned or controlled by the farmer, which is non-transferable and gives the contractor, not the farmer, exclusive rights and legal title to the crop.

EMA ~ Environmental Issues of concern while promoting youth Agripreneurship by: Mr Chinogwenya (chinogwenya@ema.co.zw)

Agripreneurship is a key driver of economic development and a viable livelihood option. However, agripreneurs should utilise natural resources in a sustainable manner that is socially acceptable, economically viable and environmentally friendly.

In view of the above young agripreneurs are encouraged to take heed of the following environmental issues and measures.

Deforestation – There is need to establish woodlots for tobacco curing. Wood should come from fast growing tree species to relieve pressure on indigenous forests/woodlands.

Pollution (Air, Land and Water) – Agripreneurs should not discharge any hazardous substance, chemical, oil or mixture onto any part of the environment.

Veld Fires – Construction of fire guards before fire seasons, and ensure availability of fire fighting equipment.

Soil Degradation - Agripreneurs need to adopt good cropping and farming practices in their farming activities.

Invasive Alien Species - Invasive alien species which include *Lantana Camara*, Kariba weed or water fern, water hyacinth, jointed cactus and many others should be cleared from agripreneurs agricultural land.

Wetland Utilisation - Cultivation in and around wetlands causes severe degradation of these important natural sponges. Agripreneurs should utilise wetlands in a wise way/ sustainable manner.

Stream bank cultivation - Cultivating in river banks in search of nutrient rich soils and water is prohibited. Cultivation should take place 30m away from the bank of the stream.

Opportunities for youths in agriculture and agricultural sustainability through youth development by Dr M Mutema (mmutema@hotmail.com)

Dr. Mutema started off his address citing how the United Nations has predicated a global population growth of approximately 2.5 billion by 2050 which poses an important question of who is there to feed these people? This has become a big challenge which requires innovative solutions, technologies and action oriented youths to spearhead this scenario and develop action plans towards sustaining the population with adequate food security.

Dr. Mutema further elaborated on the need to create a land market which will make land tradable hence owners will be able to use it as collateral; furthermore it will make those who have use for it only to purchase hence preventing hoarding of land.

The agripreneurs were also enlightened on opportunities in agriculture such as the Create Fund, which can assist youth in setting up projects. The youths were also said to be the talk of development, as most development partners are seeking strategies to better the lives of young people.

However, innovation was said to be extremely crucial and is a vital ingredient in identifying and ceasing opportunities available for young people.

More emphasis was made on strategic lobby and advocacy for issues affecting youths but critical steps in lobby and advocacy will entail coordinated and vibrant youth structures. Dr. Mutema encouraged the youths to put up concerted efforts as the power to influence lies within the numbers. He concluded commending ZFU for such an initiative which is crucial at a time when the world seeks solutions to address unemployment among the current youth generation.

Presentations from Youth Organisations

**Organisation of African Youth: Represented by
Jermaine Chapfiwa (jermaine@oayouth.org /
0777399969**



The Organisation of African Youth (OAYouth) is a continental movement that unifies all individual young people in Africa with a view to encourage active participation in policy making channels, economic development, democratic process while promoting peace, openness and good governance. OAYouth was formed in August 2009, just after ratification of the African Union Charter by the 15th African State.

The main aims of OAYouth are as follows:

- 1) Empower African Young People.
- 2) Long term reduction in poverty using the principal of why give man fish when you can teach him to fish for a lifetime.
- 3) Combating Environmental threats.
- 4) Sustainable Agricultural Business Models for youth to apply to their projects thus increase economic development sustainability In the genre of Agribusiness.

**Youth Agrarian Society: Represented by:
Yvonne Muga contact (077 336 3451 /
youthagrariansociety@gmail.com)**



The Youth Agrarian Society (YAS)

is a registered non-profit making organization that was formed in 2007 with the overall goal of promoting the participation of young people in agrarian issues as a means towards poverty alleviation and enhancing food security in Zimbabwe. YAS is a youth oriented institution and has its mainstream membership in tertiary and agricultural institutions as well as in marginalized communities of Zimbabwe where agriculture is the main source of people's livelihoods.

The mission of the YAS is

To promote youth participation, in sustainable land use management through encouraging sustainable agriculture activities.

**Young Professional Platform for Agricultural Research and Development~ (YPARD)
Represented by: Raymond Zvavanyange
(0773294239 / zvavanyanger3@gmail.com)**



Is a movement by youth, in agricultural development. It is global platform of young professionals under 40 years of age active in Agricultural Research for Development (ARD)

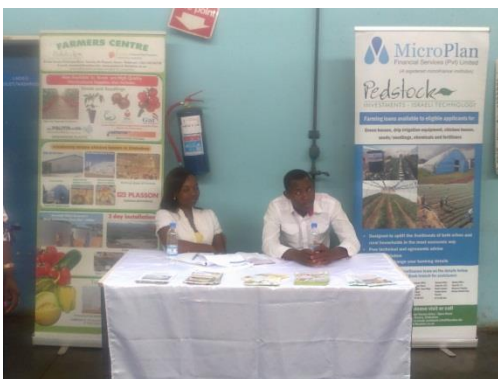
The main objectives of YPARD are as follows

1. Facilitate I&K exchange among Young Peoples (YPs): disciplines, professions, age and regions
2. Broaden opportunities for YPs to contribute to strategic ARD policy debates
3. To promote agriculture among young people
4. To facilitate access to resources and capacity building opportunities

Exhibition

Pedstock Investments (Contact Rachael Mandaza ~ r.mandaza@floraline.biz)

Pedstock Investments showcased the Micro plan facility youth agripreneurs can benefit from. The scheme allows youths to acquire various Israeli technologies such as drip irrigation kits, tunnel kits at 5% interest rate per month.



Empretec (Contact ~ Martha Nyabadza marthanyabadza@gmail.com)

Empretec works on the development of skills for entrepreneurship amongst women, youth and the disadvantaged in the communities.



Mubatsiri (Contact Nyaradzo Mlandeli nmlandeli1@gmail.com)

Mubatsiri administers the Esoko platform that is partnering with Eco farmer in disseminating market information to smallholder farmers in order to assist in securing markets.

D. I Grow Foliar Fertilizers (Contact Mrs. Mayeka on [0772832706](tel:0772832706))

The organization showcased the use of foliar fertilizers to youth agripreneurs, highlighting the benefits, application measures and approaches.



Omnia (Contact Goddie Maturure on goddiamaturure@gmail.com)

Omnia is one of the fastest growing fertilizer houses in Zimbabwe. They are wide spread in all provinces in Zimbabwe and support farmers with after sale services such as extension.



Potato Production Trainings (Contact Mrs. Washaya on [0771792272](tel:0771792272))

Mrs. Washaya facilitates potato sack production trainings and issues certificates to all attendees. The training cost is pegged at a reasonably low price of \$15, in Westlea, Harare

Testimonies from Youth Agripreneurs

My Story (Contact Bright Nezomba 0734231271)

Bright inherited land and started growing sugar beans and maize under contract farming with Agriseeds through the guidance of SNV & Union Project 2007.

SNV with the Union Project 2009 introduced bananas, technical and business relationship training.



To date, Bright has created employment for himself and two full time assistants from his banana project. In the interim he looks forward to exporting and value addition.

Marcus Agro Consultancy (Contact Munyaradzi Shamuyarira marcus01green@gmail.com/ 0775 844 551)



Munyaradzi specializes in sustainable urban agriculture and precision horticultural practice.

Munyaradzai produces a wide range of vegetables (at least 3 at a given time) which

include broccoli, cauliflower, potatoes, lettuce, peas, rape, tomatoes, pepper, marrow etc.

Below is a picture for a greenhouse with tomato and pepper produced at Munyaradzi's back yard in Marlborough.



Between Rivers Farm (Contact Munyaradzi Masiyiwa munya.musiyiwa@yahoo.com / 0737318179)

Afgreen is a collaboration of 4 youths in Banket farming at Between Rivers Farm. All youths have undergone training from Blackforby College and are fully qualified agriculturalist.

In year 2013 they planted 1.7 ha of Cabbages with approximately 35000 head of cabbage. There are currently financing themselves to grow tobacco on 4 ha during this 2013/2014 agricultural season.

Open Space Technology Session

Discussion Topic: How can Young 'Agripreneurs' thrive in Agriculture? Opportunities and Challenges

The OST is a technology that allowed young 'agripreneurs' to identify barriers in thriving in agriculture, then break in to group sessions to unpack the top prioritized issues thus coming up with possible solutions as shown in table 2. The 'agripreneurs' went a step further to rank the top ten critical issues which would be further unpacked in depth. The top ten issues identified have been categorized as shown table 1 in to five major issues namely vibrant youth structure, farming as a business, access to resources, service provision and information communication technology for development (ICT4D). The OST was facilitated by Absolome Mandizvidza who is a certified facilitator from the National Association of Youth Organisations (NAYO).

Table 1: Identified Issues

	Issues	Score	Rankings/ Prioritization
1	Vibrant youth structure	45	1
2	Access to land by female youth	19	2
3	How can one get access to finance especially capital to start projects	17	3
4	Improvement of mechanization, irrigation and farm implements	15	4/5
5	How to break the information skills, capital barriers towards achieving smallholders agriculture	15	4/5
6	How can we revive Young Farmers Clubs so we help each other with ideas, markets and training	13	6
7	How can ZFU assist farmers grow from Subsistence farming to Commercial farming	11	7
8	How can we see an improvement in the support of Young Farmers through agro specialist and financial advisors	10	8
9	Taking farming as a business	9	9/10
10	Use of ICT integration in Agriculture	9	9/10
11	How can ZFU help youth to unlock markets for their produce	7	11
12	How can ZFU assist to get 'Offer Letters'	7	11
13	How can we promote mixed farming as our farming	7	11
14	Empty promises, lack of determination and commitment	6	14
15	Passing on of knowledge from youths to the elders	5	15
16	How can we cope with climate change as youth in agri-business	4	16/17
17	Are there policies that guide young farmers	4	16/17
18	Irrigation and simple irrigation technologies	3	18/19
19	How can access to extension services by rural youths be improved	3	18/19
20	Media	2	20/21
21	What are the crucial limitations of the current agriculture set up that limit youth potential and entrance into farming activities	2	20/21
22	Time Management	1	22/23
23	All crop buyers must do contract farming	1	22/23
24	Centralization of information and resources	0	24/25
25	Mandatory service in agriculture	0	24/25

Table 2: Categorization of Issues, Identification of Causes and Suggestions

VIBRANT YOUTH STRUCTURE			
#	Issue	Causes	Solutions/ Suggestions
1	Vibrant youth structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little awareness on ZFU Young Farmers Clubs (YFCs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of ICTs for communication and coordination. • Land entitled to the YFCs in each province. • Set up an action plan from provincial level in the first quarter. • Establish and utilize Young people’s resource centers at grassroots level. • Young farmers forums for knowledge sharing • YFCs awareness campaigns
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication and coordination 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little commitment and no common goal amongst youth 	
2	How can we revive YFCs aimed at youth so we help each other with ideas, markets and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No awareness of the YFCs at various levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embarking of publicity campaigns for raising awareness of YFCs. • Union to form more strategic partnership with various stakeholders such as seed and fertilizer houses for YFCs services
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No exchange platforms for youths to interact and share experiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create more online exchange platforms and exchange visits
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No access and capacity to comprehend technologies used in conveying information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training young farmers on ICT usages. • Create resource centers at grassroots level.
FARMING AS A BUSINESS			
1	How can ZFU assist farmers grow from Subsistence farming to Commercial farming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of knowledge and skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate social networking platforms, for YFCs to interact with commercial farmers, NGOs, Agritex and service providers. • Have a who is who directory in agriculture to profile young farmers and potential mentors for young farmers
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of produce • Low production per hectare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissemination of production information, • Setting up of extension and advisory services for YFCs

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scarce media opportunities (TV Farming) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate TV exposure, radio, social media trainings, facebook, and twitter and linked for young farmers.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor land utilization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanisation for agriculture for young people. • Form strategic partnerships with institutions such as DDF to support youths with mechanized equipment.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial constraints 	
2	Taking Farming as business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not being taken as a profession thus no career guidance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture should be taught from primary school. • Introduce mentorship program for young farmers across all levels and grassroots structures
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No adequate markets to absorb produces from young farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market information should be made available
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of business skills such as record keeping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train young farmers on business skills such as a record keeping, dates, time, income and expenditures. • Proper management of resources e.g. social capital and economic capital.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of productive capacity • Climate variations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving irrigation uptake and loan facility/ microfinance facility for young agripreneurs.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High costs of setting up agricultural ventures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures to reduces high costs of engaging into agriculture.
ACCESS TO RESOURCES			
1	Access to land by female youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific land allocation for youths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review policies and allocate youth a percentage of land
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communal Land Act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review communal land act with respect to the new constitution which promote gender equality
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No youth representative during land distribution decision making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of youth representatives in all agricultural related decision making forums.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Vibrant youth structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youths to be organized through vibrant YFCs.
2	How can get access to finance especially capital to start	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate inputs, technology and equipment for young farmers clubs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract farming arrangements/ negotiations for young farmers clubs.

	projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No means of harnessing and pulling up of resources from the young people and instilling an appreciation of saving's. Training for transformation for young people that there can start with what there have. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of a Savings and Credit Cooperation for YFCs/ Microfinance facility Raise awareness on Union Discount initiatives for YFCs. Start with what you have.
3	Improvement of mechanization, irrigation and farm implements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualification criteria not favorable for youths. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualification of mechanization should be based on training and capacity of individuals to handle mechanized
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of confidence in young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mentorship programs for young farmers. Need for capacity building seminars, skills development programs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of a database for young farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to set up a youth database for all young people in farming, their activities, and ventures, to allow distribution on merit.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of vibrant youth structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of vibrant youth structures
4	How to break the information skills, capital barriers towards achieving smallholders agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No pool of funds set aside for young farmers clubs to borrow, invest and pay back. No interest and commitment to learn and find information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a youth's savings and lending's systems/ micro finance facility. Profile and identify role models in agriculture and convey information through various platforms to inspire other youths.
SERVICE PROVISION			
1	How can we see an improvement in the support of YFCs through agro Specialist and Financial advisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationship between individual and institutional buyers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressing cultural factors that are an influence. Improvement in working relationship Farmer training and field days Promotion of best practices at community level Assisting in the development of management structures at farms
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not taking farming as a business. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve documentation Taking farming as a business Financial education to counter drawing mentalities. Strategic planning

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (ICT4D)

1	Use of ICT integration in Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low awareness of the usefulness of ICT in agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness through various platforms e.g. radios, flyers • Engagement of Development partners and private sector on establishment of ICT hubs at grassroots level. • ZFU to have technology transfer centers at grassroots level to facilitate ICT agenda.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No information documentation on free text search engines which is locally based thus limiting proper use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation of online life experiences of young farmers, successful agripreneurs etc. • Research in agriculture in vernacular should be put online.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited access to ICT enhancing gadgets. • Low capacity to adopt such technologies by rural youths. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building from primary school level on use of ICT in agriculture. (Adoption of ICT inclusive curriculum.) • User friendly information packaging which is easy to access and use. • Youth to purchase smart phones in order to embrace technology
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor policy implementation and strategy towards full adoption of ICTs in agriculture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage stakeholders such as mobile phone providers, network providers on the issue of full implementation of ICT in agriculture
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tariffs are expensive thus not fully supporting adoption of ICTs. • No adequate network coverage in other parts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing of resources among network providers to improve service delivery towards improving e agriculture.

Way Forward

After all summit proceedings the ZFU Executive Director addressed the youth agripreneurs on the way forward. He highlighted the following issues

- The starting point is to be organized into vibrant youth structures from the villages, through the wards, districts, provincial to national levels to ensure legitimacy and credibility.
- There will be provincial summit held during the year in order to come up with provincial action plans that will feed into the national plan.
- Young people to continue to interact through platforms such as whatsapp, Facebook page www.facebook.com/ZFUYoungFarmersClubs thus motivating and supporting each other.
- Youth were encouraged to document all their activities and to ensure no efforts or ventures go unrecognized.



The Zimbabwe Youth Agripreneurship Summit 2013 Group Photo



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