

The Youth Advantage

Engaging young people in green growth

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Introduction

In 2030, young people will make up around 15 per cent of the world's population, and rural youth about 6 per cent. Some regions are even expected to see a "youth bulge" or a significantly higher proportion of young people.¹ However, the proportion of young people in rural areas is set to decrease compared with their counterparts in urban areas. This means that agriculture, already under threat from natural resource degradation, decreasing agrobiodiversity and climate change, is also at risk of missing out on the energy and innovation of young people.

IFAD's commitment to young women and men

IFAD has long recognized the importance of engaging with and investing in youth.² In the last ten years, IFAD has actively scaled up its investments in youth-related activities. It approved 50 projects with youth-related initiatives from 2008 to 2012. The projects predominantly targeted youth in West and Central Africa (WCA), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), and the Near East, North Africa and Europe (NEN). The majority of these projects targeted the human, social and/or financial capital of rural youth.

A recent review of over 80 projects approved between 2013 and 2015 reveals that at least 5.8 per cent of the total funding during the Ninth Replenishment of

¹ Sources: FAO. 2010. *Youth Employment in Developing Countries: A global view*. World Bank DataBank. <http://databank.worldbank.org/>

² IFAD takes into account national contexts and policy when defining "youth" in investments, which can differ from the definition of the United Nations as people between the ages of 15 and 24 years.

IFAD's Resources was allocated to rural youth, especially in business development, access to markets and access to finance, but also in sustainable land management. This is second only to climate change adaptation, in terms of IFAD investment in cross-cutting themes. These investments are driven by IFAD's Strategic Framework to 2025, which includes the creation of viable opportunities for rural youth among its core principles of engagement. Within the context of Agenda 2030, IFAD is gearing up to contribute significantly to Sustainable Development Goal 8 for decent jobs for young people and economic growth fuelled by them. IFAD's strategic vision of "inclusive and sustainable rural transformation" includes giving "young rural people hope to realize their aspirations for a better life in their own communities". At the time of writing, an IFAD action plan on youth is being developed, based on extensive consultations across IFAD and with partners on what is needed, what works and opportunities for IFAD to make a difference for rural youth. The goal is to mainstream youth dimensions into IFAD-supported investments, and one of the themes emerging as key to empowering rural youth is access to land and natural resources.

The "Y-factor" in climate change and the environment

Access to land and other natural resources, such as water and seeds, is fundamental to success for young women and men, yet increasing fragmentation and degradation, among other factors, combine to make this one of the biggest challenges faced by young rural people today. What little land they can access is also under threat from climate change, which means that long-term investments in small land parcels appear ever less attractive. Other challenges include a lack of extension services and vocational training, internet connectivity and productive technologies. Agriculture is seen as an isolated, dirty and backbreaking option by young people – and often is. Small wonder, then, that they are abandoning a future in agriculture and moving away to cities and other countries in search of a better life. In IFAD's experience, this has complex impacts, such as increasing the burden on women left behind to manage lands as well as families, but also offering a life-saving flow of remittances back to rural areas.

Yet, paradoxically, it is precisely the passion of young people for their natural environment, as well as their early adoption of new technologies and approaches, that can boost more sustainable agriculture. IFAD is therefore committed to stepping up efforts to make sure that young people are an integral part of the rural transformation agenda, and indeed empowered as agents of change.

Case studies

The case studies in the following pages offer some insights into how IFAD has been striving to put young women and men at the centre of agriculture. The projects featured in the case studies are financed by a mix of partners, such as IFAD, including its Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP; Bhutan, Egypt), the Global Environment Facility (GEF; Chad, Kenya) and the private sector (Kenya). Rural young women and men also contribute in cash or in kind.

While all the case studies are of ongoing projects or projects that are starting up now, most are based on past successes in engaging youth, for example, in Egypt. In

their different ways, they also support young people's access to natural resources, education and training, finance, as well as employment and entrepreneurship. In addition, they mainstream multisectoral thematic issues such as climate change, gender equality and nutrition, reflecting IFAD's focus on holistic projects.



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Bhutan: bringing young farmers back to agriculture, nurturing child nutrition

Key facts

Project name	Commercial Agriculture and Resilient Livelihoods Enhancement Programme (CARLEP)
Dates	2015-2022
Financing	IFAD loan and grant including ASAP, Government of Bhutan, Food Corporation of Bhutan Ltd, community members
Targeting	29 000 households in 6 dzongkhags (Lhuentse, Mongar, Pemagatshel, Samdrup-Jonkhar, Trashigang and Trashi Yangtse) with possible scaling up after mid-term review. Youth and gender emphasis within overall poverty focus
Programme objective	To sustainably increase smallholder producers' incomes and reduce poverty through commercialization of production by programme households

Development challenges

Located on the southern slopes of the eastern Himalayas, Bhutan is mostly mountainous and heavily forested, with 70 per cent of its geographical area covered in forests. Natural resource challenges affecting agricultural production include natural disasters and heavy dependence on rainfed agriculture. In addition, climate change is projected to have a significant impact on agricultural productivity as a result



of changes in water availability, soil fertility, and incidence of pests and disease. In recent years, Bhutan has seen an increase in landslides due to heavier rains, and some glacial lake outburst floods as glaciers retreat. Weather stations show a rise in temperature of about 1°C in summer and 2°C in winter since 2000.³

Poverty is a distinctly rural phenomenon, with the eastern parts significantly poorer than the rest of the country. Many villages are still isolated, and lack of access to technology, business development services, markets and suitable financial products as well as a lack of farm labour constrain rural enterprise. The country's population is relatively young, but in rural Bhutan the outlook can be bleak for young people. Many drop out of school and are engaged in casual unskilled wage labour. Even those who complete their schooling may not find employment and many are reluctant to take up agriculture or forest-based livelihoods. According to the National Youth Policy (2011), early motherhood takes its toll on young women and therefore the nutritional status of children, and young boys can turn to alcohol in the absence of opportunities. Agriculture is practised on scattered and scarce arable land, resulting in migration away from rural areas and a labour shortage.

Project response

The National Youth Policy encourages farming for young people, as well as youth sensitization on environmental issues; these important provisions guide IFAD's support, which specifically targets young women and men by making climate-resilient agriculture more attractive through better incomes and less drudgery.

One project component aims to bring about a sustainable increase in resilient agriculture including promoting diversified production, irrigation efficiency, agrobiodiversity, protection from exotic pests and diseases, and climate-resilient seeds. This involves establishing new groups for farmers and strengthening those already in existence, as well as supporting "lead farmers" to reach more people.

3 See <http://www.unct.org.bt/bhutan-dialogues/> (accessed May 2018).



The Gulibi Youth Farm Entrepreneurs visited Wengkhar and Lingmethang to learn how to preserve and store seeds, as well as about livestock production, marketing and farming technologies, among other issues.

Young women and men are being targeted as lead farmers and beneficiaries, with special attention given to increasing youth access to technologies, such as sprinklers and electric fences that keep wild boar out without harming them, in order to boost production, reduce human-wildlife conflict and also make farming more attractive and less labour-intensive. Young women in particular are expected to benefit, as they can reduce the time spent on guarding their plots and increase time spent in caring for their children, with likely benefits in child nutrition.

Another component, focusing on value chains and marketing systems for vegetable and dairy products, will collaborate with the Food Corporation of Bhutan, and again target youth in particular. "Three windows shops" with multiple functions will make it much easier to access farm inputs as well as sell their produce more readily, and reduce the workload of young women and men. The project's Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy⁴ provides for supporting young women to access credit for enterprise development, and the project will build the capacities of young male and female entrepreneurs in group organization, business planning, finance and marketing skills. Young farmers' access to infrastructure such as processing, collection and bulking will also be supported. Community cow sheds can potentially reduce transport time for milk as well as improve the nutrition of local households. Linkages between young farmers' groups and schools will be supported to help farmers gain a steady market and young children in schools to have a more nutritious diet.

Training of young farmers will also be carried out via specialized agencies, for example, the Bhutan Association of Women Entrepreneurs. Furthermore, multi-stakeholder platforms will also support targeting, including through dialogue for pro-poor development that promotes women and youth, and environmental sustainability.

4 See http://www.carlep.gov.bt/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/GM-Strategy_Final.pdf (accessed May 2018).

Expected impacts

Expected impacts include increased returns to smallholder farmers through climate-resilient production, with a special focus on women and youth, including the following.

- Vegetable and dairy production will increase by 30 per cent, directly benefiting 5,000 households, and household incomes will increase by at least 25 per cent.
- Over 20,000 households will have access to more water, including through enhanced engineering norms for building climate-resilient irrigation systems, 6,000 households will adopt sustainable agricultural practices and 23,000 households will be supported to cope with climate change impacts.
- A total of 115 marketing groups and 200 agricultural enterprises, 300 new vegetable farmer groups and 150 smallholder dairy farmer groups will be established or revitalized.
- Child malnutrition will be reduced by 15 per cent through a combination of better access to a more nutritious and varied diet in community households and schools, more income and nutrition education to promote consumption of foods produced by households, and women's empowerment, for example, easing their work burdens.



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Chad: education and outreach for young women and men

Key facts

Project name	Project to Improve the Resilience of Agricultural Systems in Chad (PARSAT ⁵)
Dates	2014-2021
Financing	IFAD including ASAP, Global Environment Facility (GEF), Government of Chad, community members
Targeting	35 000 households or 175 000 direct beneficiaries, of whom 40 per cent will be women and 30 per cent will be young people
Programme objective	To contribute to the sustainable improvement of food security and income of rural households in the project area

Development challenges

Chad is a food-deficit and low-income country, set to suffer greatly from climate change, and average temperatures are expected to increase significantly. The Sahelian belt of the country, where the project is located, is one of the areas most affected by food insecurity, and agriculture is the main source of income. Climate change is

Extracting oil from sesame seeds in the village of Mangalmé, Chad. The extraction equipment was acquired with the support of IFAD. The PARSAT project supports the development of sustainable micro-business such as oil extraction.

5 *Projet d'Amélioration de la Résilience des Systèmes Agricoles au Tchad.*



exacerbating natural resource degradation and reducing the potential of productive lands. In addition, vast areas of fertile lowlands are now no longer prosperous during rainy seasons because of the increase in flooding risks. The population is mainly rural (72 per cent) and young, with 45 per cent of the population under 15 years of age. However, poor prospects in agriculture are driving young men away, leaving an increasing number of women heads of household behind and even more vulnerable than before.

Project responses

The project targets young people, including newly established young couples and schools. Young families will be priority recipients of support for income-generating activities to help diversify livelihoods as a climate change adaptation strategy as well as a pathway to better nutrition. This focuses on a limited number of areas, such as preserving vegetables and fruit, oil production (e.g. groundnut, sesame, desert date), bee-keeping, and the drying and preservation of fish in the Lake Fitri region. The aim is to provide training, technical and economic support, and productive capital, so that they can develop economic activity that is profitable during the dry season.

These income-generating activities will be set up on the shared-cost principle, whereby community members contribute, and also through better management of natural resources, especially water. With regard to marketing, the project will support (i) awareness-raising and the organization of volunteer producers to help market their produce, (ii) the identification of markets and (iii) the participation of farmers in regional or national trade fairs.

A cross-cutting line of support is a holistic educational strategy. This area of the project builds on the lessons of previous projects in the country, where this kind of complementary educational measure was crucial in enabling beneficiaries to participate in productive activities. PARSAT therefore offers three educational modules, in literacy, nutrition and environmental education. Literacy is particularly important in order to reduce the illiteracy rate among young women, and offer them better prospects and independence among the community. The nutrition module

focuses on better use of local crops to improve local diets and especially for children. Finally, environmental education, particularly for young people, is helping educate farmers and students on how to live and farm sustainably, including how to adapt to a rapidly changing climate.

Expected impacts

- Over 2,300 young people have already benefited from environmental education (well over target), and 27 “environment clubs” have been established in schools and are being engaged in creating school gardens and plant nurseries. The project also supports teachers interested in environmental education.
- The project has reached just over half of its target of 2,400 young people to benefit from access to better agroclimatic information.
- The project aims to support over 1,000 young people to establish income-generating activities – almost 900 have been reached already.
- By the end of the project, 6,400 young women and men will be able to read and write.
- In the 30 villages targeted, almost 4,400 people have received training on various nutrition-related topics such as good child-feeding practices, iron and vitamin A supplements, and nutrition issues relating to pregnant and lactating women.



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Egypt: new lands rendering hope for young people

Key facts

Project name	Sustainable Agriculture Investments and Livelihoods Project (SAIL)
Dates	2014-2023
Financing	IFAD loan and grant including ASAP, GEF, Government of Egypt, community members
Targeting	40 000 households, with a focus on gender and youth
Programme objective	To contribute to poverty reduction and to foster increased food and nutrition security for poor rural women and men

Egypt is located in an arid region and is expected to suffer from the impacts of climate change, specifically increases in the severity and frequency of dry periods and droughts. The country is also exposed to various hazards such as dust storms, flooding and even, very rarely, snowfall. Agriculture is key in Egypt and is a source of employment for around a third of Egypt's labour force – but is very vulnerable to climate change impacts. The lack of access to land and water presents crippling problems when rearing crops and livestock.

Although the government has managed to bring down the poverty rate, extreme poverty remains endemic. Regional instability is causing many Egyptians working in the Middle East region to return home, which is an aggravating factor.

Rami Abdel Sadeg Mohamed, aged 23, harvests forage in West Noubaria; successes in supporting rural youth from an IFAD-supported project there are being scaled up in SAIL.



The employment rate is only around 43 per cent.⁶ Egypt’s population has a high proportion of young people and the country is struggling with a “youth bulge”; around 70 per cent of its young people are unemployed. Young women and men face challenges in accessing education and vocational training. Unemployment among young men is high in most villages; they work as farm labourers during peak seasons and seek work elsewhere in the country at other times of the year. The cost of accessing capital and of training in cities is prohibitive for most young people, who are therefore held back from starting a business. Opportunities for young women are even more limited because of early marriage, household responsibilities and cultural barriers such as restrictions on their mobility.

Project responses

Currently, “old lands” are overcrowded and face a combination of excessive fragmentation and degradation, yet this is where most of the agricultural work takes place. The government, supported by IFAD, supports the settlement of “new lands”, to be rehabilitated and then developed by new farming communities. SAIL is focusing on (i) community and livelihood development, (ii) agricultural development and diversification and (iii) rural financial services. The project’s youth focus is supported by gender and youth specialists and guided by a gender, targeting and youth strategy.

Community development will scale up the successful experience of the IFAD-supported West Noubaria Rural Development Project in establishing and strengthening rural institutions, especially community development associations. They focus in particular on women, who are otherwise barely present in agriculture cooperatives, and youth, who generally lack any type of institutional membership. Community development associations are supported by the project to help them better meet the needs of women and youth. They are responsible for services such as literacy classes, basic health services, initiation of savings groups and the provision

6 See <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/EGY> (accessed May 2018).

of credit; they also engage enterprising young people in innovative opportunities for economic and social enterprise. Opportunities for village-based enterprises for young women include tailoring, small shops for women's clothes, raising livestock, food processing and post-harvest activities.

The project also provides buildings and financing for schools, health clinics, youth and community centres, and clean water infrastructure. This support is expected to make these areas attractive to young people and others living on unproductive land. The project also offers specially designed vocational training and extension support, supports enterprise development, and funds job creation for unemployed women and youth. Farming technologies such as solar energy pumps, solar panels for lighting shared by groups of farmers and drip irrigation are also making agriculture less burdensome and more attractive for young people.

Expected impacts

Environmental benefits will flow from sustainable farming. Support for climate change adaptation will include the installation of weather stations and the development of a Dynamic Agriculture Information and Response System to improve long-term management of climate change related hazards. Water savings are also expected, enabling more farmers to grow food. Specific youth-focused impacts include the following.

- Rural employment (424 permanent jobs, with 806,462 labour days over 20 years) will be generated, especially for unemployed young people.
- In total, 30 community development associations and 20 youth community development associations are to be established and trained.
- Women's empowerment, clean drinking water, better health services, solid waste management, diversified crops and livestock, increased incomes and training to enable informed nutritional choices will help to improve the nutritional status of children, women and men in the project area.



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Grenada: rural employment for entrepreneurial youth

Key facts

Project name	Climate-Smart Agriculture and Rural Enterprise Programme (SAEP)
Dates	2018-2024
Financing	IFAD, Caribbean Development Bank, Grenada Investment Development Corporation, Government of Grenada, community members
Targeting	7500 individuals from 7500 poor households; 75 per cent of beneficiaries are expected to be young people, and 50 per cent women, with priority given to young female heads of households and single mothers
Programme objective	To help project beneficiaries improve their livelihoods and resilience by accessing new jobs, starting up/consolidating businesses and adopting climate-smart agricultural practices

Development challenges

The small island developing state of Grenada is already experiencing changes in its climate, such as more drought, longer dry seasons, higher temperatures, coastal degradation and intrusion of saline water, leading to a greater risk of crop failures and great challenges for ecotourism and other sectors. Another important constraint for agriculture is the ageing farming community using traditional technologies. Young people are not attracted to agriculture and consider that there are better prospects



in urban areas. The lack of skills of rural youth makes it difficult for them to find jobs, and rural communities are deprived of the energy and innovation that young members could provide. As a result of young men migrating from their communities, there is also a high percentage of single mothers who interrupt their education to sustain their children, which reduces their chances of accessing better jobs and poses an additional burden on their families.

Project responses

A focus on youth, as a driver of inclusive and sustainable change, is central to IFAD's strategy for reducing poverty in Grenada. The participatory project design process for SAEP involved discussions with young people, which indicated that, even though agriculture is strongly stigmatized as "dirty and back-breaking", many young men and women are interested in farming if (i) it is profitable, (ii) it has a quick turnover, (iii) it uses modern technology and (iv) training is available. These insights provided the basis for targeting young people to take up climate-resilient agriculture.

A key SAEP action to reduce unemployment in rural areas is to promote sustainable self-employment, targeting youth. It will boost the entrepreneurial potential of young people with massive training, hand-holding and grant financing for market-led business ideas, until the business becomes sustainable, with the capacity to grow, invest and create employment. A number of businesses will be linked to new technologies in on- and off-farm production in a bid to make them more attractive for young people, such as hydroponics, aquaponics, organic production, agroprocessing, ecotourism, and solar system installation and maintenance.

SAEP places great importance on partnering with specialized national organizations to ensure success. The Grenada Investment Development Corporation is specialized in providing entrepreneurship and business development services, and has led a Caribbean Youth Empowerment Programme. It will be a key implementing partner to provide young rural women and men with high-quality technical support for their start-ups. Other partners supporting youth, such as the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Religious Affairs, will also be engaged in the selection process. A strong



Vocational skills training gives young people a fresh start in Grenada.

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communication strategy that targets youth mass media, social networks and youth organizations is intended to ensure extensive outreach and uptake of these opportunities. The training will be holistic, including nutrition and other life skills.

Another strategy of SAEP is to promote the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices by young farmers, including through the adoption of more efficient water management and conservation measures in the face of changing rainfall patterns, including irrigation, rainwater-harvesting systems, terracing, drainage, mulching and small drainage works. Feeder roads and drainage systems at risk from increasingly extreme events will also be rehabilitated. The project will also build the capacity of young farmers to understand the effects of climate change in agriculture, and to implement climate-smart practices.

SAEP takes seriously the risk of low levels of youth participation, so fast and effective programme services are an important mitigation mechanism, as is the promotion of more technological approaches. SAEP will also tackle negative perceptions of agriculture by showcasing success stories and working with children in primary and secondary schools through activities in collaboration with the 4H department at the Ministry of Agriculture, which promotes educational activities in schools.⁷

Expected impacts

Expected impacts include the following.

- The results framework commits to supporting 400 young women and men receiving vocational employment skills training, 400 youth start-up businesses accessing grant financing and 500 young people accessing technical support services for start-ups.
- In addition to these specific impacts, many indicators are to be disaggregated by sex and age, such as the number of farmers, Ministry of Agriculture extension workers and vulnerable people in poor rural communities who receive training on climate change, climate-smart agriculture and improving marketing links.

⁷ 4H stands for Head, Heart, Hand and Health and is an international organization.

- In total, SAEP will support 3,000 farmers to have more access to climate-smart agricultural practices, and the indicator of “farmers increase production by 20 per cent” will be disaggregated by the sex and age of the head of the household.
- SAEP will contribute to reducing malnutrition by strengthening extension services to young farmers, including a nutrition module to promote nutrition-sensitive agriculture.



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Kenya: school greening supports ecosystem services

Key facts

Project name	Upper Tana Catchment Natural Resource Management Project (UTaNRMP)
Dates	2012-2020
Financing	IFAD, GEF, Government of Kenya, community members, counties, private sector, NGOs, The Nature Conservancy, Water Fund Consortium
Targeting	205 000 poor rural households including smallholders, agropastoralists, fishers, rural traders, and community groups involved in natural resource management, with a focus on gender and youth
Programme objective	To contribute to reduction of rural poverty in the Upper Tana river catchment, including through the sustainable management of natural resources for provision of environmental services

Development challenges

Forest cover in Kenya is about 1.7 per cent and the country's vision is to achieve 10 per cent by 2030. Overexploitation and encroachment on forests have contributed to reducing forest cover. Biomass accounts for over 95 per cent of all energy used in the country, and 89 per cent of rural households use firewood, all exerting heavy

Perhaps one of the most promising results is that the school-greening programme is being scaled up by the Government of Kenya as a national programme for all public schools.



pressure on protected forest areas and farmlands. Mount Kenya is one of Kenya's water towers and the Upper Tana ecosystem contains forests and wetlands, where runoff water and sediment are stored and filtered naturally. However, since the 1970s, forests on steep hillsides and areas of wetlands have been converted to agriculture. Ongoing environmental degradation is linked closely to high levels of poverty in the area, as well as lack of employment opportunities for young women and men.

Project responses

One of the project components is about community empowerment, and another focuses on sustainable water and natural resource management to support the government objective of increasing forest cover. One of the project priorities is working with school-level children and encouraging them to "adopt a tree". Each student receives one tree seedling to plant and nurture during their time in school, and each school receives an average of 500 assorted tree seedlings, in line with the average number of students in a school in the project area.

The school-greening programme is not limited to schools, and also encompasses tree planting in other public institutions as well as creating awareness about environmental governance among students, their teachers and even their parents. The programme aims to embed a culture of environmental governance through tree planting from an early age, and the school is seen as a centre for ongoing environmental education for different generations in the community, covering issues such as tree husbandry, as well as the economic uses and environmental benefits of trees.

The project has also been working to sustainably improve natural resource-based rural livelihoods for rural youth, including through grants targeting young women and men to develop income-generating activities.

Impacts

The grants to community groups have reached youth groups, and success stories include the Esteem Eagles Welfare Youth Group, which received training and a grant



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to grow vegetables using hydroponics, a technique that does not use manure and therefore helped to restore soils that had become toxic as well as boost profits: “We are doing well. Unlike others who depend on rainfall and soils, we are able to harvest several times a year. When the other farmers exit the market we are always in the market!”⁸ Similarly, Joshua Mutethia got together with 13 friends to form the Ruimba Equator Bodaboda Youth Group; they accessed project funding to set up a dairy cow enterprise. The group was also assigned a livestock officer, who supported them in record keeping, financial literacy and management as well as livestock matters. “The support we got from UTaNRMP marked a turning point in my life and that of the group members,” says Joshua. He was able to get 20 litres of milk a day from his cow, which he would sell to a dairy society that channelled his payments to his Savings and Credit Cooperative Organisation (Sacco) account. The Sacco soon advanced him a loan, with which he also set up a taxi business. With this regular income, Joshua is working towards his dream of buying a 3-acre farm to expand his dairy and taxi business.⁹

In terms of the school-greening programme:

- Some 853,000 assorted tree seedlings have been planted in 1,706 schools at an average cost of KSH 20 (US\$0.20) per seedling and a survival rate of between 75 and 90 per cent.
- Students have also been transferring this knowledge to their homesteads, with small satellite tree nurseries emerging there.
- Parents and neighbouring farmers have been learning about tree management in the schools, after which 4,400 farmers planted trees on their farms; each farmer has planted an average of 100 seedlings, with an average survival rate of 77 per cent according to an impact assessment in 2017.
- Cooking times and fuel use in the school feeding programme have been approximately halved through fuel-efficient stoves, and the health of cooks has also improved.

8 Source: <https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/business/article/2001259254/we-started-as-fun-group-now-we-re-a-force> (accessed May 2018).

9 Source: <http://www.utanrmp.or.ke/blog/dairy-farming-drives-young-farmer-out-poverty---aug-2017> (accessed May 2018).



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Conclusions and looking ahead

As we have seen, although the case studies have elements in common, they each illustrate a specific issue. In Chad, there is a big focus on holistic education, while in Bhutan access to technology is a key strategy. The Kenya case study shows how IFAD is trying to empower schoolchildren as the future guardians of our planet, and Grenada is actively tackling negative stereotypes of agriculture among young people. Finally, Egypt is an example of where IFAD supports community-level investments that make rural life more attractive for young people, such as schools, health clinics, and youth and community centres.

The five preceding case studies indicate some important dimensions of IFAD's youth-oriented programming in a number of areas, but IFAD is not standing still and will keep emerging areas, such as indigenous youth, under the spotlight. For example, in Bolivia, IFAD targets indigenous young people with support to help them establish sustainable activities and manage their natural resources. The nexus between youth migration, climate change and the environment is another area that IFAD is striving to better understand and support. Some projects, such as the one in Bolivia, are proving effective at keeping young families in their communities; for example, a young family in Filadelfia was about to move to the city of Cobija, but now their chicken business is making enough money for them to improve their living conditions and stay.¹⁰

¹⁰ IFAD. 2015. *Rural Development: Economic Inclusion Programme for Families and Rural Communities in the Territory of Plurinational State of Bolivia*. Project Supervision Report.

IFAD is also trying to catalyse remittances from migrants to build the climate resilience of families left behind. In Mali, for example, one project gives priority to young people – particularly young women – who lack technical skills and access to financing for income-generating activities.¹¹ Vocational training and microenterprise development are helping them gain access to attractive jobs in agriculture and related enterprises in order to build their capacities as actors in modern agricultural value chains that are responsive to market demand and resilient to climate change. The project has created an innovative “Babyloan Mali platform,” which enables the Malian community in France to lend even very small amounts to young rural microentrepreneurs in Mali to help them develop their activities and small businesses. The value of the platform is that it enables the generous Malian diaspora to be confident that their money is being used effectively, as the IFAD-supported project helps young Malians with training as well as with setting up businesses.

It is also important to ensure that the commitment to mainstreaming youth issues is operationalized in projects. For example, a number of the case studies (e.g. Chad) provide for youth-disaggregated data in the results framework, but some (e.g. Grenada) go beyond this to have youth-specific indicators. In addition to the case studies, the IFAD-supported portfolio includes good examples of other important measures, such as policy advocacy at the national level. For example, in El Salvador, IFAD supports the Ministry for Agriculture and the National Youth Institute to strengthen public policies related to climate change.¹² Youth and indigenous peoples are engaged in policy debates and implementation. IFAD is also engaged in global forums such as the UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process – see Box 1.

Box 1: IFAD partners with rural youth to get their voices heard at Bonn Climate Summit

IFAD’s partnership with the Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network (CSAYN) at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in Bonn created opportunities for young farmers to talk to delegates and highlight the importance of considering agriculture as a major aspect of climate change negotiations. It also raised awareness among UNFCCC Parties about the central role that youth and global agriculture play in finding solutions for climate change challenges. IFAD’s partnership with CSAYN arose because of their shared passion for raising awareness of climate change impacts and for action among young people in rural communities.

Source: IFAD. 2017. “IFAD partners with rural youth to get their voices heard at Bonn Climate Summit”.

11 Agricultural Development: Rural Youth Vocational Training, Employment and Entrepreneurship Support Project (FIER).

12 National Programme to Transform the Rural Economy for Wellbeing (Rural Adelante).

At the corporate level, IFAD is committed to developing an integrated framework use in the Eleventh Replenishment of IFAD's Resources, which will provide hands-on guidance, framed by an action plan on youth, to project teams in order to link the environment/climate change and youth dimensions as well as gender and nutrition. The second phase of ASAP, for example, will support thematic windows as an additional avenue for donors to contribute to the advancement of specific topics that are essential for climate-resilient agriculture, including the promotion of young people's participation in climate action, and renewable energy technologies that could make agriculture more attractive to them.

The emerging Youth Action Plan will guide IFAD's work in youth, which will include a focus on unlocking the green economy and green jobs. Green jobs could include environmentally friendly food production, energy production from renewable sources, landscape maintenance and biodiversity protection and activities such as ecotourism and on-farm agroprocessing (FAO, 2014). Skills development has been identified as a big challenge for young people aspiring to access green jobs (ILO, 2009, in FAO, 2014). Some skills will become redundant, some skills will need to be more widely acquired and new skills will also be needed. IFAD will work to support young people in playing a full part in the green economy and in diversifying their livelihoods.

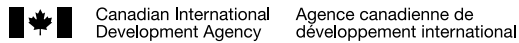
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ASAP Donors and Partners

IFAD's Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) is a multi-donor programme that helps smallholder farmers cope with the impacts of climate change so they can increase their resilience.

As of 1 October 2017, the total commitments from ten donor countries (Belgium, Canada, France, Finland, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom) amount to US\$366,498,858 (subject to market currency fluctuations).





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