

Welcome to Parallel Session:

USAID Partnerships



Youth Roles in Building Climate-resilient Agriculture and Food Systems Panel: *Examples of Farmer-to-Farmer Approaches to Youth Engagement in Guatemala and Ethiopia, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Partnership*



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Youth Roles in Building Climate-resilient Agriculture & Food Systems

*Examples from the USAID Farmer-to-Farmer Program
in Guatemala and Ethiopia*

Moderator: Jane Lowicki-Zucca, Senior Youth Advisor, USAID's Bureau for Resilience and Food Security

Panelist: Peggy Carlson, Program Manager, USAID's Bureau for Resilience, Environment, and Food Security

Panelist: Jose Cano, Country Director, Guatemala Farmer-to-Farmer Program, Partners of the Americas

Panelist: Haile Deressa, Country Director, Ethiopia Farmer-to-Farmer Program, Catholic Relief Services

Session Objectives:

1. Share learning and experiences on Farmer-to-Farmer approaches to youth engagement in agriculture and food systems. Examples from Guatemala and Ethiopia will be discussed.
2. Explore considerations for strengthening youth skills and capacities for climate resilience and work in agriculture that leads to greener outcomes
3. Generate lively discussion among the audience on opportunities and incentives for promoting green skills and employment in agriculture



Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) Program

- F2F was initially authorized by Congress in the 1985 Farm Bill and is funded through Public Law 480.
- F2F send US agricultural volunteers to provide technical assistance to farmers, farm groups, agribusinesses, NGO, educational institutions, and other agriculture sector institutions in developing and transitional countries.
- Since F2F's inception, the program has completed more than 21,000 volunteer assignments with 14,000 host organizations in 117 countries, directly assisting more than 2.5 million agricultural professionals and impacting over 178 million indirect beneficiaries.



Ethiopia: Youth in Agriculture

Major challenges and opportunities of young people addressed through F2F in Ethiopia

- Lack of interest to engage in productive agriculture - awareness creation/training.
- Rural to urban migration – promoting employment in agriculture & creating youth champion.
- Climate change - climate resilient agricultural practices.
- Limited access to finance and market – capacity building on resource mobilization & marketing, and facilitating access.

F2F approaches to youth employment in agriculture, climate resilient farming, and food systems

- Capacity building of institutions working on youth development, particularly Agricultural Universities
- Youth sensitive volunteer technical supports (43% of the persons directly trained are youths)
- Targeting and supporting agribusinesses owned by youths



Ethiopia: Mohammed Abuna Dairy Farm

F2F supported a young farmer, as a host partner, to develop an integrated and climate resilient dairy farm that contributes to food/nutritional security of the local community.

- Mohammed established an integrated and climate resilient dairy. Current capacity: 80 dairy cattle and 600 liters of milk day-1.
- Created 40 permanent employment opportunities (mostly youth).
- Contributes to food and nutritional security.
- The dairy and forage farms are used by MoA as demonstration sites to disseminate best practice.
- Received a youth model farmer award from government.



Guatemala: ASPROC Example

- The Association of Comagapenses Producers supports small and medium producers, young students, and organizations from Mayan descendants, mestizos, or ladino communities with greenhouse construction and making bio-inputs using native plants and low cost materials.
- F2F has provided technical assistance in organic agriculture, composting, vermicomposting, liquid, and solid biofertilizers as well as bioinsecticides and bio fungicides.
- Young people can produce and eat healthier food, improve their GAPs, improve yields and quality, reduce carbon footprint, have access to markets, generate employments and income and prevent migration.



Guatemala: JEPLÉ Example

- JEPLÉ Guatemala works with young people to promote sustainable development, support agroforestry and commercial enterprises, mitigate climate change, and helping reduce chronic malnutrition in the country.
- The organization is led by young leaders and all the office and production staff are young people from the area.
- JEPLÉ seeks to connect with international and national organizations who are interested in their work and needed assistance searching for grants and financial support opportunities.
- Through the F2F program, in 2022, volunteer Kathlee Freeman provided training on how to create successful grant applications. An application was submitted to the Inter-American Foundation, and JEPLÉ is in discussions with the foundation now.



Interactive Activity:

Please sit with three other people and discuss these questions (or form four groups with which a panelist and the moderator will join). (Panelists can join the groups). Please jot down notes on your answers on the paper provided and be prepared to share one answer for each of these questions:

- **What are some of the climate-related challenges and opportunities affecting agriculture and food systems you are experiencing in your area?**
- **What skills, capacities and opportunities do you think young people need to address the impacts of climate change on agriculture and food systems?**
- **What learning can you share about the approaches you are trying for engaging youth?**

Thank you!



Visit the F2F Website:
farmer-to-farmer.org