# **AFA YOUNG FARMERs’ REGIONAL FORUM AND WORKSHOP**

Building the Development Agenda of Asian Young Farmers

25-26 November 2014

Brentwood Suites, Quezon City

**Executive Summary**

Hope and future are among the words usually associated with the youth; also passion, innovation, and creativity. These are the words that best describe the two-day workshop of young Asian farmers who worked out the articulation of their own agenda. The delegates’ youthful energy and hopeful outlook are best captured in the vision statement that the young farmers formulated:

*A community of educated, empowered and passionate Young Asian Farmers engaged in sustainable family farming that nurtures a prosperous, resilient, healthy, happy and loving world.*

The two-day workshop somehow exemplified the vision. The delegates are young farmers who are knowledgeable on their craft and their issues as young farmers. They are able to express their ideas with passion and conviction. They understand farming as a mission, a way of life, an important foundation of a society, and an essential element of a healthy society that they want to continue to nurture, an important inheritance from their predecessors.

Despite the difficulty of speaking in a language that is foreign to them all, the young farmers communicated their minds and hearts as manifested in the manner by which they participated in the discussions and activities during the two-day workshop.

However, there is a need to further concretize the plans they formulated to optimize all possible opportunities towards accomplishing the young farmers’ agenda in the economic, environmental, political and socio-cultural aspects. While the issues identified are all valid and important, there is a need to focus the energy towards viable agenda that will benefit the young farmers the most. This is something that has to be worked out first at the country level and eventually at the regional level. An important note surfaced during the discussion, that the key is enticing the youth into farming thus forming a strong base of organized young farmers who are empowered enough to negotiate for support that they would need to nurture a happy and healthy world.

An ad hoc structure composed of a representative to the AFA Executive Committee (Hiro-san of Japan), and two other young farmer representatives to synthesize outputs from the two-day workshop (Philippines, Bangladesh) into doable plans.

The ad hoc committee is expected to push for the young farmers’ agenda at AFA Executive Committee and to monitor the progress of young farmers’ advocacy at the country level.

**Day 1, 25 November 2014, Tuesday**

Opening Program

8:50 – 9:02 AM

To open the session, Mr. Jun Virola called on Ms. Bobet Corral on behalf of PAKISAMA President Rene Cerilla. Ms. Corral apologized for the absence of the president due to two simultaneously held activities – the IYFF and coconut levy campaign. She emphasized PAKISAMA’s aim towards contributing to the agenda of developing young farmers.

Right after Ms. Corral’s welcome, Mr. Rene Cerilla arrived. He welcomed the farmer leaders from different countries in Asia. He congratulated everyone for making it to the Philippines and to the workshop.

The AFA Chairperson, Mr. Shimpei Murakami expounded on the word sustainable, being one of the overused yet strange words nowadays. Stating agriculture as a business of growing food for human beings which started 10,000 years ago, it is strange that it has become unsustainable presently. If agriculture is not sustainable, there will be no more food in the future; it is therefore important that agriculture is sustainable. However, if a farmer is doing sustainable agriculture, other people will find it strange.

Mr. Murakami asserted that if a farmer will only think of himself, then farming will only be for a short period and the future will be uncertain. This makes sustainable agriculture even more unique and strange. The so-called conventional farmers are the majority. Emphasizing that both developed and developing countries need to survive, competition is not the solution because it is not a sustainable attitude.

The call now, he said, is to attract young people to do farming, but there is a need to change the common sense to be able to do so. This is an act that is not for ourselves but for our children, our children’s children, as well as for the neighbors and our environment. He wished everyone a successful workshop for the next two days.

Introduction

9:02 – 9:45 AM

Mr. Virola instructed the participants to introduce themselves by saying the following information:

* Your name
* Your organization
* What you are producing in your farm
* One thing you expect from the workshop
* One word or phrase (in your language) related to youth in agriculture (ex. “kabataang (magsasaka” = young farmer)

The participants introduced themselves as follows:

*I am Kapil from Nepal and I am the translator for Bhunte (official representative).*

*I am Bhunte from Nepal. I grow rice, vegetables and fruits. I want to learn more about family farming, implement this in my country and farm. As a young farmer, I want to enhance skills in family farming. Young farmer in Nepali language is YUWAKESAN.*

*My name is Byambaa and I am translating for Bazar Ch. We are from Mongolia. We expect to get recommendations about the young farmers from this workshop and implement in our country.*

*My name is Ha and I am translating for Yen. We are from the Vietnam National Farmers’ Union or VNFU. VNFU is the only farmers’ organization in Vietnam covering all the area – husbandry, agriculture, etc. We want to learn how to advocate issues for farmers esp. young farmers. Young farmer in Vietnamese is NOM ZAH TIEH.*

*I am Mon from Cambodia. I hope to gain a lot of experiences that we can apply in my country. KASI KO WEK MI is the Cambodian word for young farmer.*

*My name is Saben. I am from Cambodia Seed Organization. I have been working here for 12 years. I hope to get a lot of experiences and knowledge from all of you and choose the best idea to be applied to my organization and farmer leaders.*

*I am Ayen Cerilla from the Philippines. I produce rice and citrus. I want to learn and gain knowledge and hope we can share it to young farmers. My word for today is MITHING BUKID or aspired farm.*

*My name is Eman Sibayan from the Philippines. I raise chicken, fish, rice, diversified vegetables like potato, eggplant and moringa. I expect Asian farmers to raise the issues from each country, learn systematic approach and technology for rice and mushroom, share knowledge and solutions from young farmers’ experience.I*

*I am from Bangladesh and my name is Shalta Begum. I am a member of farmers’ organization. I grow rice, mustard, sweet gourd, sesame and wheat. I want to know how to involve the young farmer in agriculture for more production. ISHIDAY JUGO is young farmer in Bangla.*

*I am Quayum, translator for Shalta. I expect to get knowledge on how to give emphasis to young farmers in agriculture.*

*My name is Mami from Japan. I have a two-hectare land planted with vegetables like raddish. This is my first time to join this conference. I want to learn what people think about the social problem of agriculture.*

*I am Hiro from Japan. One of my projects is using flour as raw material for mosquito coil. I am now studying in a university, focusing on what to do to increase farmers’ production. Young farmer in Japanese is WAKATENOYOGOSHA.*

*I am Sondhey from Indonesia, member of Indonesian Peasant Alliance and I am the Coordinator in Central Java office under which are nine districts. I produce many crops, most important of which is organic rice, vegetables in mountainous areas. I encourage women and mothers to have garden around the house. I expect to share experience and knowledge. Farming is not interesting to young people so I hope to get knowledge and information on how to attract young farmers to do farming. HOMUDA THANI is young farmer in Indonesia.*

*I am Ika from Indonesia. I am working with API as translator and also the secretary of Women Peasant Alliance. I also facilitate market linkage for organic farmers.*

*I am Tung from Taiwan Farmers’ Association. I produce organic rice and tomatoes in my five-hectare land. It is my first time to join after 20 years. Hope I can share some experience in organic farming. SING NONG NAN is young farmer in Taiwanese.*

*I am Shui from Taiwan, translating for Tung. I was AFA secretary six years ago.*

*My name is Alaudin and I am from Bangladesh. I am the Secretary of KKM in Bangladesh.*

*I am Luc from Agriterra. I am curious about the proceedings and process regarding young farmers. I am excited to hear stories from you.*

*Secretariat staff were also introduced: John and Ati from Pakisama; Lysa, Vicky and Jun from AFA. Bernie will document the activity.*

Mr. Virola observed that most came from small family farms doing diversified and organic farming – livestock, rice, vegetables. Most are active youth leaders in their own organizations and everybody wants to learn the situation of young farmers in the region and how to develop young farmers in their areas.

Program of Activities

Mr. Jun Virola

9:45 – 9:57 AM

Objectives

The forum cum workshop hopes to achieve the following specific output:

1. Increase awareness on the issues, challenges and initiatives on young farmer based on shared case studies from each member
2. Validated the regional case study on young farmers based on results from members and a desk report gathered at AFA
3. Identified common actions both for country level and regional level cooperation which will become basis of a young farmers development program in AFA
4. Determine options and formulating clear recommendations to the AFA ExeCom for institutionalizing young farmers agenda within AFA’s structure and programs
5. Foster solidarity with other farmers and CSOs engaged in IYFF

The young coconut farmers have been in a 71-day march and they are now in Manila demanding that the money taken from them as levy be returned to them.

Schedule of activities

Day 1

* Opening Program
* Updating of young farmers’ agenda and advocacy initiatives
* Presentation and validation of regional paper on young farmers
* Visioning exercise: youth in agriculture in the next 10 years
* Pathways/options to attain our vision
* Consensus building on priority action points for short term (2015) and medium term (2015-2025)

Day 2

* Recap of day 1
* Plenary brainstorming on institutionalization of Young Farmer in AFA structure and programs/ activities
* Synthesis and ways forward
* Interaction/visit to farmers’ camp for coco levy advocacy
* Solidarity night with CSOs

Day 3

* IYFF closing at Dusit Thank Hotel

Day 4

* Field visit/city tour (AM)
* ExeCom Meeting (PM)

Day 5

* ExeCom Meeting

Desired Outputs

* Increased awareness on youth issues
* Validated regional paper on young farmers
* Common agenda for young farmers and options for institutionalization in AFA
* Solidarity with coco farmers/other FOs
* Lessons from field experiences
* Decisions on organizational matters

Host Teams

9:51 – 9:57 AM

AFA always promotes participatory management of activities. To do so, each country is assigned to help in certain aspects of the workshop such as time keeping, energizing the group and synthesis of sessions.

Timekeeper will be in charge of gathering participants to come on time

Energizer will be in charge of keeping the participants awake

Synthesis/Recap will be in charge of keeping the participants focused/remember the discussion

For the coming five days, each country will be assigned to the following tasks:

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|  | Timekeeper | Energizer | Synthesis/Recap |
| Day 1 | Vietnam, Philippines | Cambodia, Bangladesh | Mongolia |
| Day 2 | Taiwan (AM), Philippines (PM) | Kyrgyztan | Nepal |
| Day 3 | Indonesia, Pakisama |  |  |
| Day 4 | Philippines (AM), Japan (PM) | Myanmar |  |
| Day 5 | Korea | Thailand |  |

Sharing Session: Updating of young farmers’ agenda and advocacy initiatives

Facilitator: Mr. Jun Virola

9:57 AM – 10:27 AM

Instructions and Workshop

Mr. Virola guided the participants in sharing updates from their organizations with regards agenda and advocacy with young farmers. He shared the following guide questions as format for thinking through and sharing the updates.

Based on the FACT youth process that you are undertaking:

1. What are your priority issues?
2. What are your priority proposals or recommendations?
3. What lobby and advocacy activities have you carried out?
4. What results have you achieved so far?
5. What lessons have you learned?

Break from 10:05 AM to 10:27 AM.

The participants were grouped according to sub-regional groupings:

Southeast Asia Group: Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines, Cambodia

Central/North Asia Group: Mongolia, Taiwan, (Kyrgyztan)

South Asia: Nepal, Bangladesh

Reports

10:27 – 11: 38 AM

**VIETNAM (VNFU)**

The VNFU prioritized vocational training for young farmers. Because of the issue of low level of education, they also focused on education, providing production and business skills to farmers, transfer of technology to young farmers, using cooperative approach. To improve income of young farmers, they also provided loan access for production and business.

They conducted a policy workshop and raised the issues that came up to decision-makers. However, they realized that the policy done was not based on farmers’ needs and real condition of the farmers. They learned that in advocating for a policy, it has to depend on the farmers’ needs and problems. Therefore, they deem it necessary to increase the capacity of farmers’ staff on policy advocacy. They also need to identify the key players and main actors for easier approval of proposed policies.

**INDONESIA (OPMM)**

Farmers from the two mountains of Merapi and Merbaru organized themselves to work on priority issues regarding pests and diseases of vegetables which affected the harvest of cabbage, raddish and broccoli. They are facing vegetable importation issues because the government keeps on importing from China despite availability from the local producers. Control over organic tobacco is another issue they feel the need to prioritize.

To solve the pest and disease problem, OPMM consulted with a university expert. They also discussed with field extension staff/agricultural extension staff and district parliament regarding the importation of vegetables. The farmers find it difficult to compete with the price; it seems like there is no price control on imported vegetables. The organization consulted with an expert from Mie University for their proposal.

Their memb ership is huge and part of their consolidation is data gathering for database so that they will also know their potential.

For advocacy, they are working on the mapping of actors to solve some of the issues they confront. They will deal with the local government to have a district policy regarding tobacco. In a short time, in the next five months, there will be a local regulation for tobacco – presently the government controls the price but the farmers want to have a say about the price; this has been influenced by the organization.

They are also pushing for a new policy to regulate importation and even urged the government to stop vegetable importation. Currently, there is discussion ongoing for their SMART proposal between the farmers’ organization and the expert.

**PHILIPPINES (PAKISAMA)**

Priority issues for Filipino young farmer include land ownership, food security and sustainability and absence of government support for farm inputs like seeds and fertilizer. To address the issue of diminishing number of young people going into farming, Pakisama Youth recommend that agriculture be introduced from elementary to tertiary levels so that young people will be attracted to farming; there is a notion in the Philippines that farming is not a professional job and they are therefore proposing for a Magna Carta.

The young farmers had consultations in February and September cum orientation in some provinces to put up organizations at the provincial level. They had a consultation with YKL and AKBAYAN for the proposed Magna Carta. For the IYFF, young farmers are having dialogue with Senators Koko Pimentel and Bam Aquino for the turn-over of coconut levy. Presently, young farmers are neglected as a sector. They must be seen as second liners, a potent engine of future economy.

**CAMBODIA (FNN)**

Priority for FNN are lobbying for support for agriculture sector for production and market, education of farmers and government support for livelihood. They conducted capability building for agriculture in partnership with NGOs and private sector. They also are pushing for the young farmers to go to the rural areas. Most of them are migrating to other countries like Thailand and Korea. Young farmers need support from government and NGO. As farmer, they cannot cope up with the trend like use of smart phone.

They have started savings and loan for young farmers and some were used for chicken raising. They have campaigned for the importance of agriculture but they need to work more for this and be able to show the better aspect of agriculture. They also need to create opportunities for livelihood, generate work for young famers and teach young farmers the importance of saving money for investment.

**MONGOLIA (NAMAC)**

They focus on livestock production. They have noticed the decrease in young farmers because of the poor financial condition especially of young herders, the big difference between the rural and urban. They also plan to prioritize policy for agriculture.

They would like to work on increasing the number of volunteers who would like to work and live in agriculture sector, more programs for young herders. There have been plans in the past but were not implemented thus, the focus this time is implementation especially the plan to put up farmers’ cooperative all over the country for young herders.

They have engaged the Ministry of Industry and Agriculture. The President now is a member of Mongolian parliament so there could be easier way to influence policy making now. The government gave zero interest loans, a special program for young herders to be repaid with livestock, but some are not interested. They presently have cooperative members supplying to national factory. They also taught planting vegetables to young herders.

They learned that if they work hard and are creative, they can get good results – like the saying, “There is light at the end of the tunnel.”

**NEPAL (NLRF)**

Their priority activities include organizing policy dialogues from grassroots to enhance family farming investments; conduct of case studies for family farming condition in Nepal; sensitizing fundamental rights in economic, social and cultural rights; ensuring farmers’ rights in the new constitution of Nepal and all local policies are included; promoting new technologies in farming; promoting existing and creating new networks to enhance collective voice of young farmers; and sensitizing members on food security, climate change.

Priority proposals and recommendations of NLRF have to do with encouraging involvement of unemployed youth in fair trade and tourism, sustainable agriculture; sensitize local and national media on the importance of family farming; develop IEC material for local and national level dissemination; develop and implemented policies calibrated to farmers’ needs; full participation and leadership of farmers; and organizing farmers’ forum to understand civil rights and democracy.

Presently, they have carried out advocacy activities including research of statistical data about farmers and analysis of the same to be presented to the government. They have carried out rallies to campaign for issues such as land reform. They have campaigned for family farming as well. To address the issue of decreasing number of young people in agriculture, they conducted awareness raising campaigns on the involvement of youth in agriculture. They have done campaigns since October 2014. They recently have SAARC convention in Kathmandu, Nepal.

As a result of their activities, there is now increase in the number of land owned by farmers – joint land certificates increased due to the regular campaign of farmers led by NLRF. There is initial involvement of youth in agriculture. But there is a need to focus more on food security and decrease use of chemical fertilizer.

From years of experience, they realized that family farming is not possible without land reform. There is therefore a need to enhance collaboration, participation and leadership of farmers to enhance family farming and institute land rights and land reform in the new constitution. There also is a need to promote cultural and indigenous knowledge in farming. Important issue to promote as well is increased co-ownership of land between man and woman.

**Open Forum**

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| Shondey |  | Thank you very much for the comprehensive presentation. Which one among the issues listed were you able to advance using the process of FACT? |
| Jun |  | Shondey’s question is how FACT helped your process; which issues were facilitated by using the tools of FACT? |
| Kapil |  | There are three things – land reform which automatically supports family farming; joint land ownership which helps the support of the family and youth; and how to encourage the youth on farming – which resolves problem of unemployment. |
| Jun |  | Because of the FACT process, the NLRF became aware that they need to involve the youth |

**BANGLADESH**

Major issues that they would like to give priority includes control of middleman in market linkage, land ownership, lack of government support to farmers, and decreasing number of youth engaging in farming profession. Therefore, they would like to work on assisting farmers in terms of marketing, establishing model cooperative farm by organizing small farmers through agro-economy and lobby government support to agriculture. Farmers will be consulted in all aspects and at all stages.

**JAPAN**

Priority issues for Japan includes introduction and securing of market for farmers’ products, to facilitate activities by organization and corporation to be able to do so, with the inclusion of youth education in every activity. Priority recommendations for young farmers include skills training, development of market, and tax breaks to support new farmers. They have carried out policy dialogue between local government and young farmer, as well as consumer support

Their achievements include identifying problems using FACT process, development of new market, youth and children education, community supported agriculture, school meal program, and earning from sales from the school.

Lessons learned include looking at agriculture at a bigger picture – agriculture for food production and its other roles in biodiversity and good ecosystem.

**Open Forum**

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| Quayun |  | How did you create interest among the youth in farming? |
| Hiro |  | We have a different case in Japan – economy is increasing now and we can live safe. Young people want to give more opportunity to live in rural area and have safe food. |
| Jun |  | Many young people in Japan are interested to go to farm and live a balanced and quality life. |
| Hiro |  | I am not saying that all countries must go this way. |
| Jun |  | The challenge is how to go back to farming if you were born in the city. |

**TAIWAN**

Priority issues include how to attract young people in agriculture. The proposal by our city government in Tainan, under 45 years old who are landless can join the project with 100% support by city government. The government will provide training, license, and hire professional technology expert to teach farmers. The farmer will select the agricultural product s/he wants to learn, without having to pay anything. The government will find a land which the farmer has to rent. Government will also do the marketing so the farmer does not have to find it. Around 500 people joined with earning of USD 33,0000 per year. Some 80% earn USD 15,000 per year as salary and marketing channel.

The presentations ended at 11:38 AM.

Attracting Youth to Agriculture in Asia

Presenter: Violeta “Bobet” Corral

Presentation: 11:47 AM to 12:36 PM

Open Forum: 12:36 PM to 12:54 PM

Ms. Corral presented the major findings of the research done on the young farmers of Asia. Methods used include secondary data gathering from various websites (desk research) and self-administered questionnaires from AFA members. Major findings include the following:

Why agriculture is not attractive to the youth?

Agriculture is not attractive to the youth because of the general notion that there is no money in farming and therefore not a good source of income. It is also an unstable work, with high risk and does not present other prospects. There is no pride and dignity in farming, leaving the farmers with low self-esteem.

Low regard for farming

It is generally seen as non-prestigious kind of work. Specifically, in the Philippines, it is generally believed to be a job good only for school drop-outs; those with no other option. In Bangladesh, people does not see dignity in farming profession. In Nepal, it is not seen culturally as a respectable profession.

Discrimination, low self-esteem

It is due to lowly regard for farming, lack of role models to motivate young farmers and lack of options for farmers, making it feel like a dead end.

Lack of recognition, participation

Young farmers are not formally recognized as a demographic group by government, thus, there is no venue for their participation in governance. They are generally excluded in agricultural policy formulation and decision-making processes, thus their issues are not prioritized.

Lack of social life, rural youth organizations

There is low social and cultural life potential in rural areas compared to urban. The youth prefer the recreational conditions available in the urban. There is insufficient fund for community social activities, no socio-cultural events among youth in rural areas and at the commune level. Much less, socio-cultural events to promote agriculture. Rural life is seen as boring. There are no solidarity groups as well.

(Mis)perception: No money in farming

Rural youth do not see farming as a way out of poverty, with their families highly indebted. Their parents were poor farmers, they will remain poor farmers. They believe that there is no income from farming.

Farming is hard work

Farming is also not attractive because it is a back-breaking and drudging work. While farm mechanization aims to make farming less laborious and attract youth, huge machines displace farm labor. Presently, the mechanization level in different countries are:

* + Philippines, India, Pakistan: 2.31 hp/ha
  + China: 4.10 hp/ha
  + South Korea: 4.11 hp/ha
  + Japan: 7 hp/ha

Farming is risky business

There are high risks and low returns in farming especially because traders control price.

Migration

Youth in Cambodia generally migrate. In Indonesia, there is imbalanced development between the urban and rural areas. Most youth prefer to stay in the urban areas.

Problems of Youth who Farm

The little number of youth who remained in farming experience problems including access to land, access to credit, lack of support services targeting young farmers (research, extension, affordable seeds, markets), problems related to farm mechanization and the unwanted legacy of chemical farming – which leads to drop of production during transition from chemical to organic farming.

**Open Forum**

12:36-12:54 PM

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| Jun |  | Do you think the paper was able to capture the issues of young farmers in our countries? |
| Eman |  | We should emphasize that farm mechanization is also for climate change adaptation. In Japan, they have technology like harvester, transplanter, and I think it is a big help for farmers all over the world. If we have harvester, we can adjust the farming season according to precipitation, etc. |
| Bobet |  | It is a boon or bane. We just have to be mindful of the consequences of the large machineries. |
| Shazada |  | What do we mean by family farming? |
| Bobet |  | We adopted the FAO definition – members of family doing farming; it is not limited to farms but also fishers, animal raisers and herders. You rely on the family members to work on the farm. It is usually small holdings. We will initiate a program called farm takeover. |
| Luc |  | It is quite inspiring to hear these examples how different organizations try to help young farmers. It is more for you to inspire to decide what kind of recommendation you want to give to AFA. I would like to help. I’ve been here since September. With farmers in Europe to develop policies that’s a bit of a challenge. We have general problems, specific problems. In the end it is important to get recommendations how to improve situations of young farmers. When I listen to the stories, what I find interesting is that, there is no official data on young farmers.  There is one good example from Mongolia on the young farmers’ policy. There are lots of ways to think about to make young farmers the beneficiaries of policies especially for the young people to stay in farming. I suppose you can think of ways to do that. In anticipation of climate change, it is already happening and to be climate change resilient, it will surely be the young famers who would do. Make sure they know what to do and how to do it. We also need show cases of farmers who have really been successful young farmers to inspire young farmers in Asia to go to farming.  We should also see the positive side. My country is different. We see the potential of farming in the future too. There seems to be not enough food in the future so there will always be farmers in the future. |
| Bobet |  | In the final paper, I will collect all stories of young farmers, in the annex or in-box. The stories of young farmers like that of a 21-year old lady who convinced her parents to go organic farming after her training a year ago. Now the family has continued to convert parts of the land that they till to organic production. After training, she continues to train and learn about sustainable agriculture and she shares to her family and neighborhood. She is now invited to speak in conferences like this to showcase how a young farmer can create changes and create ripples of changes in the community |
| Hiro |  | Let me introduce some situation in my country. In Japan there is another situation. There is family management agreement. In Japanese farmers’ case, they do not dislike farming. The father is the boss, so we make family agreement – balance of payments, budgeting – these are very important. They do not make clear what is going on in the management of farm. That is where the young farmer comes in. Young farmer have the skill which we provide to the family farms management. |
| Bobet |  | Send me short information on this so it can be included in the paper |
| Hiro |  | Canada – 165.5 checklist to know what is going on in family farming – time management, machinery, too much payment. In USA, company cannot get the land if it is used in family farming. There is a lot of things to say. We have to know what is happening in the world so maybe we can share that. |
| Bobet |  | In the Philippines, they are also being trained in family farm planning. The entire family is doing it together. |

Lunchbreak from 12:54 to 2:02

Before the visioning exercise started, the emcee requested the newcomers to introduce themselves – one is a guest from the World Rural Forum, Jose Antonio introduced himself and the other is the Advocacy Officer of AFA, Lany Rebagay.

Visioning Exercise

Jun Virola

Workshop 2:05 to 3:35 PM

Mr. Virola explained visioning as an exercise that uses the eyes, clarifying that it is not the external eyes, but the internal eyes. He emphasized that this exercise wants to depict a picture of the future and that it is done to see what we want to happen to the young farmers ten years from now. Ten years is usually the minimum period to establish a vision.

**Guide Question and Workshop Mechanics**

In the next ten years (year 2025), how do you see the youth in agriculture in your farm, in your village, in your country and in Asia?

* Individual exercise (15 minutes)
* Sub-regional workshop (45 minutes)

Outputs can be: collage, picture, drawing, symbol, slogan

Ms. Ha from Vietnam clarified whether they will have to work on four levels – farm, village, country, and Asia. Mr. Virola affirmed that the vision can be on four levels, but they can start at the level most comfortable for them. He added that it usually follows that what one envisions for his/her own farm is reflected on the vision for the other levels. To help the participants reflect, he asked them to picture their own farm, the farm of other people, how young farmers look like, what they feel, how they are doing ten years from now.

After the individual exercise, the participants were grouped in three sub-regions:

Northeast and Central Asia: Taiwan, Japan Mongolia

South Asia: Nepal, Bangladesh, Luc

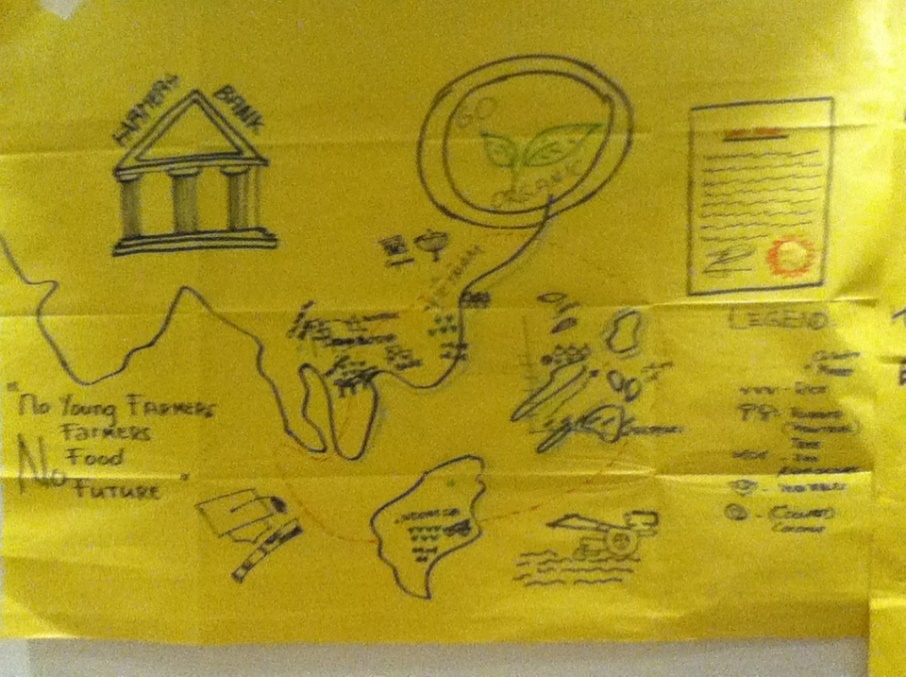
ASEAN: Vietnam, Philippines, Cambodia, Indonesia

Reporting started at 3:35 PM.

## Southeast Asia

Reporter: Ayen Cerilla

Southeast Asia group composed of Vietnam, Philippines, Cambodia and Indonesia came up with this drawing of their vision:



The vision is interpreted as follows: SEA will link with each other. They have their own farmers’ bank, exporting products and also importing with other countries, exchanging organic products. They have their own land titles. Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines have good economy, machineries, young farmers engaged in agriculture, taking up courses in Agriculture. There will be a collective market. No young farmers, no farmers, no food, no future.

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| Jun | It looks like ASEAN integration. |
| Luc | I was wondering why you put other products from different countries – what is the reason behind it? What you will see in ten years are all developed? |
| Ayen | These are the products of the countries because our dream is to export these products. These products will be the major crops for export |
| Eman | There are also seeds which means that farmers should take care of his/her seeds so we put green rice there for sustainable agriculture. We take care of our own plants and the seeds. We value the input of technology in farming but the system must be strictly organic. We also dream of access to land that is why there is title. The academe should increase agriculture courses. We should attract youth to take agriculture towards a real agricultural industry |
| Sondhey | We want to stress on organic – it is not only healthy for producers and consumers, it saves production cost. It is good for the young farmers. |
| Jun | The picture (vision) addresses a lot of issues we are encountering now and there is an integration. |

## North and Central Asia

Reporter: Hiro

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|  | What is important to the farmer? The most important to be a farmer is education. This will be the base of humanity because in this morning’s session, the notion of farming as hard work has not changed; and that it does not give money. Thus, education is important. Children should go to Agricultural High School – Taiwanese, Mongolian and Japanese kids who would become global citizens. The purpose and motivation of farmer is making food for people and it takes a global citizen for that. There are two kinds of farmers: social and \_\_\_. The important concept in family farming is social consumption – for use by school, kindergarten, hospital, and nursing house. It will stop movement from rural to city because they can be healthy. To make healthy food, we have to go organic. The plant symbolizes organic that goes up to the sky with happy sun. |

**Discussion**

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| Jun | This is strong on education and values formation |
| Ika | I am very interested in the concept of social consumption because organic movement is not for farmers only but for society. I want to learn from you – you have school, house, kindergarten, hospital, etc. and it is important to educate them as consumers. We need that in Indonesia. |
| Hiro | Ainokai is having deep experience in education of farming in a unique way. The importance is we need to get good education before you become farmer. As farmer you face issues like mining, producing, marketing, so we need social education before you can become farmer, after ten or 15 years, then one can have education or work in the city. Young people want to go to the city and be educated. They have experience in job, friends. But now they know that if they want a good healthy life, they need to return to farming. |
| Eman | How can you attract youth to enter into agricultural course? Here in the Philippines, after graduating, money is few, opportunity to work is little. |
| Jun | We will answer this in the next session. |
| Luc | What is very good about this picture is that it is looking for the connection with the rest of society. I am from Europe. Now you see, same in Japan, if you have people supporting you from society in a broader sense, it is easier to influence the government. |

## South Asia

Reporter: Shazada and Kapil

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| H:\AFA Young Farmers\pictures\IMG_1723.JPG | I would like to see our farm after ten years like this. The family has garden. There are two kinds of practices – industrial and farm. Family farming practice will be used.  The family needs to understand farming first. Experienced farmer will educate the young farmer. There is skills development training in a facility. Government will provide services. There is a farmers’ market where farmers can sell their products. Farmers’ leadership and participation in policy making for policies that will help them. Practicing sustainable agriculture tactics to preserve natural resources, own knowledge of the kind of seed, seed bank by the community and at the central level. Good practice of chart for their agricultural planning. And practice of farming practice according to the climate. |

**Discussion**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Ayen | It speaks about the culture and family. |
| Luc | I like it because it says a lot of concrete things that should be improved in ten years. |
| Mario | In many of the posters, I have seen aspects beyond Asian countries. I would like to ask if you want to join the world summit it would be good to also participate in the world dimension. |
| Jun | Be ready to introduce it to the world as well. Comparing the three drawings, do you think that this is something that can inspire the young farmers in your country? Is this something that can move people to work together? We can attempt to synthesize it later to have a collective vision. |
| Lany | From what you heard, what common things can you see? Identify top three common themes from the three visions. |

The facilitator asked what top three common ideas can be seen from the visions. The participants gave the following answers:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bazar Ch | Engagement with local community, education, organic |
| Shondey | Family farming is the core the vision; Solidarity among the network; and Technology and information – how to control information technology on farming |
| VNFU | Market access |
| Hiro | Social aspect or function of farming – market, culture |
| Bangladesh | Family farming, land |
| Vong | Organic farming, food safety, education use both brain and heart together |
| Morn | lLnd – no land, no food, no water, no life; funds and capital for investment |
| Taiwan (Tung) | Exchange and networking and solidarity among countries |
| Jun | (1) education/values formation aspect – it is like re-orienting our values with regards farming; the importance of farming and agriculture to society; (2) picture of family farms thus the continuity of family farming; support to family farming; they have a voice; it will not die and in ten years, it will be more successful. (3) Successful and developed agriculture – own bank, land tenure |
| Vong | 4 elements – water, fire, earth, wind |

From the responses, Ms. Rebagay categorized the vision into four – economic, social and cultural, political and environmental and organized the responses according to the categories.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Economic**   * Market access: local, global * Livelihood * Financing/credit/capital | Livelihood – production like processing of agricultural products into candies and other goods  Credit and savings like a bank – we want an access to funds; source for buying seeds |
| **Social/Cultural**   * Education system/values formation * Solidarity/networking * Community support * Family farming * Farmers have passion | It also must include changing the mindset, it is not just an economic activity because it is like a mission of giving food for society. It should be the family doing the farming. |
| **Political**   * ownership of land, water, seeds | Farmers have control over land, water, seeds at the family level |
| **Environmental**   * care for the earth * technology and information | We use technology that does not destroy the environment. Also technology that is related to information that cuts across these elements. |

**Discussion**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Shondey | These are matters related to political issue. It is more internal among us but how about the international politics like WTO, APEC because their policies will influence farmers’ lives and are also related to the governments. |
| Lany | So what is your vision ten years from now? |
| Shondey | It is important for us to push our government first and try to influence the international agency policy to be more pro-farmers. |
| Lany | We are also dreaming of being able to influence our government and bring it to the international level and eventually redound to our very lives. Without too much thinking, what adjectives can you say looking at the vision?   * Healthy world * Resilient – strong and not affected by climate change due to technology; when calamity comes, you are able to bounce back easily like a bamboo; able to cope; ability to withstand stress or crisis – energy crisis, economic crisis; * Sustainable * Community * Prosperous * Happy * Loving |
| Shazada | Farmers should be literate, educated |

**Proposed Vision Statement**

From the key concepts identified from the three pictures, the group came up with the proposed vision statement for the young farmers:

***A community of educated, empowered and passionate Young Asian Farmers engaged in sustainable family farming that nurtures a prosperous, resilient, healthy, happy and loving world.***

Proceeding to the next activity, Ms. Rebagay asked the participants key questions to ponder upon: What are the hindrance to our vision? What are the ways to reach our vision? How do we go there?

This led to the next activity, which is the SWOT workshop.

**Guide Questions**

For us to attain what we have envisioned:

1. What are our existing strengths that we can use to move towards our vision?
2. What are the weaknesses (internal) we have now that we should address so we can better achieve our vision?
3. What are the hindrances (external) to the achievements of our vision?
4. What are the opportunities that are available for us that we can maximize to achieve our mission?
5. Recommendations: Things we need to do to

* Use strengths
* Resolve weaknesses
* Transcend hindrances
* Tap opportunities

For the organization and for AFA

**Workshop Mechanics**

For the workshop proper, Ms. Rebagay asked the participants whether they would like to discuss everything in each group or simply focus on certain aspects thus, the two options:

Option 1: same grouping, discuss everything

Option 2: same grouping, focus on certain categories/aspect – economic, social, political, and environmental

The participants voted for option 2, dividing the aspects according to the following:

Southeast Asia: economic and environmental

Northeast and Central Asia: social and cultural

South Asia: political

The participants were instructed to have their discussion per sub-region in 30 minutes and then assign a reporter who will share the outputs in the plenary.

The workshop started from 5:04 PM and ended at 6:19 PM with Bangladesh facilitating an ice breaker.

To further awaken the participants, Ms. Rebagay facilitated a game called Rabbit, Wall and Arrow. The participants were divided into two groups and are asked to act out any of the three “characters” with the following scoring:

Rabbit vs arrow – arrow wins

Arrow vs wall – wall wins

Wall vs rabbit – rabbit wins

Reporting started from 6:35 PM to 7:10 PM

## ASEAN: Economic and Environmental Aspects

Reporter: Ms. Ha, VNFU

**ECONOMIC ASPECT**

STRENGTHS

There are basically three strengths: one, is being member of an international organization – AFA; second is the indigenous knowledge and third is family farming.

WEAKESSES

Information and education are the major weaknesses which includes lack of training, lack of capacity building (producing, processing, marketing), and financial management.

OPPORTUNITY

Opportunities abound, including presence of network of stakeholders (CSO, BANK, NGO, government agencies, etc.), helpful policies, market access, ASEAN economic community – effective next year and the rising food demand (increase in population).

THREATS

While helpful policies are opportunities, some policies can also pose threat to the vision such as those for implementation or are being implemented by the government and banks that are stringent to farmers. Some governments have good policies but are not implemented so the challenge is how to close the gap between policy formulation and implementation. ASEAN integration poses threat because the farmers are not yet ready to compete with the big producers, especially that there is lack/low consumer awareness on organic products.

RECOMMENDATION:

To address the weaknesses and threats, there is a need for capacity building (processing, marketing, financial management) and market facilitation (knowledge sharing, database information) – the farmers’ unions can have access to the market through database. Research on government/bank policy implementation will also help so that the young farmers can analyze the policies for advocacy. Another thing to be done immediately has to do with public awareness: transparency, accountability and consumers on organic products.

**ENVIRONMENTAL Aspect**

STRENGTHS

Strengths related to environmental aspect are effective mitigation practices/traditional knowledge, human resources or presence of farmers’ organizations (FOs), abundant natural resources, and organic techniques.

WEAKNESSES

Weaknesses identified include lack of access to climate resilient technologies (ex. Solar), lack of climate information for agriculture and vulnerability of farmers.

OPPORTUNITY

Despite weaknesses, there are opportunities that can address like presence of alternative clean energy (biogas), forestry and increasing use of organic agriculture.

THREAT

On the other hand, threats that remain to impinge on farmers’ productivity include climate change, disasters, floods, droughts, industrialization/mechanization of farming, and rising population.

RECOMMENDATION

To maximize strengths and opportunities, the group recommended to showcase about climate change mitigation/adaptation techniques, lobby for financial support from government for farming technology; and risk management reduction plan and methods.

Ms. Rebagay asked the ASEAN sub-region which recommendations they plan to give priority to considering that it is supposed to benefit the young farmers. She further explained that in prioritizing, everybody has to put in mind the young farmers’ concerns. Nonetheless, she affirmed the clarity of the report.

## CENTRAL AND NORTHEAST ASIA

Reporter: Hiro

**SOCIAL AND CULTURAL Aspect**

STRENGTHS

There is solid experience that can be shared from the experience of Ainokai education system. The young farmers are also innovative and proved to have learned (and earned) from food processing, packaging, marketing.

WEAKNESSES

Weaknesses that need to be transcended include lack of communication because of language which can be initially addressed by translation. Some young farmers speak good English but they need to be trained more on key words to say and have more chance for interaction and listening. To do this, a training on facilitating skills for young leaders can be done (part of the recommendation).

HINDRANCES

Lack of partnership between NGO and GO: try to work with big organizations, international organizations; young farmers need to experience this

OPPORTUNITIES

The group identified some of the opportunities like the young farmer leaders’ exchange program. For example, youth can stay in the farm and not in the hotel for a week or a month to experience being a member of the farming family across country and culture; it is good in establishing good relationship as well.

Mr. Virola mentioned that the report seemed to overlook the innovativeness of the youth, taking for example the mosquito repellant from Japan. Hiro shared the experience of young farmers who planted and cooked their own harvest as jam and sauce and sold it to the market.

## SOUTH ASIA

Reporter: Kapil

**POLITICAL Aspect**

EXISTING STRENGTHS

South Asia group identified several strengths including conduct of campaigns and movements related to the issue they confront; the solidarity among the farmers; the conduct of discussions from the community level with the concerning political party leaders, stakeholders and government officials; and alliance with different farmer organizations in national and international levels.

WEAKNESSES TO BE ADDRESSED

Similarly, there are weaknesses that need to be addressed and these are: (1) the government needs to provide farmer-friendly resources in farming (seeds, resources); (2) there is lack of government policy related to farming; (3) lack of implementation of existing policies; (4) lack of participation of farmers in the improvement of generating policies; (5) lack of accountability from government officials; and (6) lack of planning and regional offices of government to carry out the official works for farmers.

HINDRANCES TO ACHIEVE OUR VISION

Potential hindrances to the vision include (1) Illiteracy: lack of knowledge and skills; (2) lack of financial resources; (3) ownership of land; (4) lack of research/statistical data; (5) influence of the corporate sector on the policy makers; and (6) political instability.

OPPORTUNITIES TO MAXIMIZE OUR WAYS FORWARD

Opportunities the group listed down are (1) Increase solidarity between the NGOs working for the farmers; (2) Ensure our agricultural agenda to the political candidates in the upcoming national election (Bangladesh); (3) Assurance of our agenda to be addressed in the “to be constructed” constitution (Nepal); (4) Provision to receive barren land to the farmers by the government; (5) Educating the farmers on the level of opportunities; and (6) Awareness to the government about the raised issues related to the farmers and agriculture.

Luc observed that the statements are good but the weaknesses are supposed to be under hindrances because they are external to the organization. The opportunities are actually plans. Other than that, the points are all relevant.

Observations and Message

Mr. Shimpei Murakami

7:10 PM – 7:16 PM

Mr. Murakami expressed his appreciation of the active participation of the participants. He said that it was his first time to observe such kind of discussion that focuses specifically on young farmers, their situation and surrounding and each country sharing ideas and cooperating on the work at hand. He was sure that the process has been useful for everybody.

At the opening of the session, Mr. Murakami shared about sustainable agriculture and development, emphasizing that for as long as we the word sustainable remain limited to alternative farmers, then there remains a need to change how people think. The farmers are the key, and their work in producing food for the people, in changing the concepts of people. He affirmed the importance of farming as this is a meaningful work as opposed to big companies that produce many products and at the same time exploiting many people. This, he said is a very sad reality.

He emphasized at the end of his message to be proud of farming because this is an important job.

Message from WRF

Mr. Austin

Mr. Austin shared that the same is being done in Latin America – analyzing issues and prioritizing young farmers. He emphasized that young Asian farmers are not alone because this is a worldwide issue and affirmed that this process is necessary for the future of farming and humanity. Moreover, he assured that this movement is a big group of farmers’ organizations, rural NGOs, and research institutions and with everybody tackling the issues together, he is hopeful that this will lead to good results. He urged everybody to keep on working and that there is a whole world working with you.

Day 1 ended at 7:16 PM.

**Day 2, 26 November 2014, Wednesday**

Day 2 session started at 8:28 AM with an ice breaker called *Good Day Song* (to the tune of Kumusta Ka):

Kumusta ka (Filipino)

Konnichiwa (Japanese)

Apa kabar (Indonesian)

Xin chao (Vietnamese)

Arun sus day (Cambodian)

Ms. Byambaa from Mongolia facilitated a participatory recap of yesterday’s session. She requested all participants to form a circle at the back off he hall. Using a rolled paper as ball, she threw it to the participants, one at a time. The one she threw the ball to shared something that s/he remember from yesterday’s session.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Hiro | I could not drink sleeping pill. Ainokai can share its educational system. |
| Tung | Marketing as one of the strength |
| Cambodia | Issues of youth in rural areas |
| Kapil | Ten year mission |
| Shondey | Young farmers are the backbone of agriculture in the future |
| Eman | Goals and dreams of young farmer; cmae up with farmers’ plan; push the university on agriculture courses to attract the youth |
| Nepal | Operations |
| Vietnam | We discussed ten year vision of young farmers – we even see the picture |
| Bangladesh | She learned how to see the scenario after ten years |
| Ayen | Vision and hindrances to achieving it |
| Japan | Understood the love and passion of young farmers |
| Shui | Asian young farmers’ presentation |
| Ha | Happy, prosperous, loving world |
| Bhunte | He is happy to be here and he thought that organic manure was used only in Nepal but happy to know it is used in other countries as well and he is eager to know more about education on agriculture |
| Byambaa | Quick update what we are doing |
| Lany | We had the drawing, envisioned what we want in the next ten years and tried to analyze how to get there, where we are now, our SWOT and make recommendations on how we can get our vision. We break out and had dinner and went where we wanted to go |

Ms. Rebagay explained that part of the program for the day is the possibility of joining the coco levy march. As background, she shared that the coco levy march started in September 21, 2014, the date when Martial Law was declared, back in 1972. To campaign for the establishment of the coco levy trust fund, some 71 marchers marched 71 kilometers to get the USD 71M as trust fund to benefit the coconut farmers. Mr. Jun Virola played the video on coco levy briefer.

Pathways

Lany Rebagay

9:10 AM

Ms. Rebagay reviewed the proposed vision statement for the Young Asian Farmers

**A community of educated, skillful, empowered, self-reliant, proud and passionate young women and men Asian farmers engaged in viable, sustainable and resilient family farming that nurtures a just, prosperous, healthy, happy and loving world.**

The first part (red letters) talks about the kind of farmer that they want to be; the second part (green letters) describes the kind of farming they want to engage into; and the third part (violet letters) describes the kind of world that they want to serve and establish.

Ms. Rebagay explained that the statement describes young Asian farmers, both women and men, as educated and skillful as mentioned by Bangladesh; empowered and self-reliant which means that they are independent.

Vietnam added just as one of the descriptions of society/world. Hiro-san clarified what JUST meant, which Ms. Rebagay defined as the presence of JUSTICE. She noted that just is the adjective for justice; justice is the noun.

Hiro clarified the word community which the other participants defined as a group. Eman clarified the community that describes relationship, a sense of belonging to a group that believes in one goal. Mr. Virola mentioned that it encompasses the spiritual community or a group of people that believes in one value and vision; it is not limited to the physical or geographical community like village, country, etc.

**Four Important Economic Pathways/Strategic Thrusts**

1. Capacity building (processing, marketing, financial management)
2. Facilitation (knowledge sharing, database information) to have access to the market
3. Research on government/bank policy implementation – do research and analyze the policies for advocacy
4. Public awareness: transparency, accountability and consumers on organic products

Around 10:30 AM, the group left the hotel to join the march. They were able to return at 11:40 AM.

Afternoon session started at 1:37 PM with an energizer (to the tune of Kumusta ka):

Sam banu (Mongolia)

Namaste (Nepal)

Amibalos (Bangladesh)

Ni hao ma (Taiwan)

Buenos dias (Spain)

Mr. Wilson from Taiwan arrived and introduced himself.

Ms. Rebagay reviewed the vision statement and the four strategic thrusts under economic aspect. She continued the three other aspects: environmental, socio-cultural, and political.

**Environmental Pathways/Strategic Thrusts**

* Showcase about mitigation/adaptation techniques
* Advocate financial support from the government for sustainable technology
* Training on disaster risk reduction management

**Socio-cultural Pathways/Strategic Thrusts**

* Sharing of good practices on:
  + Sustainable agriculture education (Ainokai education system, experience, knowledge)
  + Innovative: processing, packaging, marketing strategies
* Provide translation support (website, issue papers, manuals)
* Training facilitating skills for young leaders
* Establish link with other international organizations working with young farmers
* Young farmer leaders’ exchange program: example – farm stay (not in the hotel) for a week or a month – experience being a member of the farming family across country country and culture; it is good in establishing good relationship

**Political Pathways/Strategic Options**

* Conduct of campaign and movements engaging community level and employing dialogue with government to address issues on
  + Government policy related to farming (e.g. financial resources, ownership of land)
  + Conduct research (get statistical data as basis for advocacy)
  + Influence of the corporate sector on the policy makers
* Solidarity among the farmers/alliance with different organization

**AFA GA Youth Workshop Output**

* Capability building: at the local level – we need support on budget and links/contacts (training on constructive engagement, etc., youth education or scholarship program)
* Research: e.g. comparative study of the use of organic and non-organic fertilizer in Myanmar; policy research on incentives for young farmers; research on impacts of climate change
* Technical support on seeds, production techniques
* Policy advocacy protecting agriculture; soft loan for young farmers, ASEAN agricultural bank, right to seed, campaign on land
* Regional exchange program (youth farmers’ annual gatherings, farmer exchange, etc.)
* Young farmers’ awards
* ASEAN young farmer annual summer camps with different themes

AFA GA Youth Workshop proposed mechanism: Set-up rural youth committees both at AFA (regional level) and AFA members (national level). The committee could serve as youth farmers’ representation in regional and global forum. We could assess the baseline level of participation of young farmers in our organizations and then monitor the progress of their participation and involvement.

Lany explained that when AFA get invitation from FAO and other organizations for youth activities, AFA cannot send a representative from the young farmers. It will help to have a youth committee to make youth participation official.

**AFA Organizational Structure**

Executive Committee

Secretary General, Secretariat

Member Organization

Member Organization

Member Organization

General Assembly

The participants were instructed to look at the AFA structure and see how the young farmers can be reflected in it. They are to propose and give an explanation to their proposal after the workshop.

At 1:58 PM, Mr. Virola facilitated the activity on identifying activities to achieve the strategic thrusts. The participants are grouped according to sub-region

Workshop Mechanics:

1. For the first 15 minutes, discuss per country and identify activities on four aspects
2. For the second 15 minutes: At the sub-regional level, discuss the activities identified on specific aspects (same aspects as yesterday):
   1. Northeast and Central Asia: socio-cultural
   2. Southeast Asia: economic, environmental
   3. South Asia: political

Guide Questions:

1. Per country: What do you want to do
   1. In you organization by 2015 and by 2016-2017?
   2. In AFA by 2015 and by 2016-2017?
2. Per group: what do you want to do
   1. In you organization by 2015 and by 2016-2017?
   2. In AFA by 2015 and by 2016-2017?
3. What structure/mechanism do we need to set up at
   1. Your own organization
   2. AFA level

The participants grouped according to countries and discussed the guide questions.

At 2:38 PM, Korean delegates arrived and introduced themselves – Mr. Kim from KAF, Mr. Ham Cha KAF Coordinator, and the translator.

At 2:43 PM, the sub-regional workshop started. Stretching at 4:23 PM.

At 4:29 PM, reporting began.

**SOCIO-CULTURAL**

Reporter: Hiro

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| --- | --- |
| Target | Young farmers to be educated |
| Proposal | Establish link with other countries, young farmers and sharing the best practices by providing exchange training program |
| Action | 2015 – Research Analysis: what young farmers need  2016 – Make a progress of training and establish a training center  2017 – Opening Ceremony of the Training Center at Ainokai (training on vegetables, livestock, processing center for vegetables/livestock/bread, and accommodation for students from other places/countries); Students’ Exchange. Ainokai is the chosen place because they have already been doing this for quite some time |

**Discussion**

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| Jun | For many years, Ainokai has been doing this – facilities, trainers, etc. – maybe we can get funds, set criteria, put schedule in the calendar, for AFA to decide on it. Do you think it is a good proposal? |
| Eman | Thank you for emphasizing the need for young farmers to be educated. We like to educate also the Filipino young farmers similar to that in Japan |
| Jun | Eman is interested and thinks Filipino farmers can learn a lot from Japan. It is for AFA also to think about what the young farmers need and how to match it |
| Hiro | We have the equipment, farm machines. You can try how to handle the small and big machines. We promote big scale and small scale organic way. We also focus on how to make good compost. This is very important. We have a relationship with India. We teach India how to make good compost using microorganisms |
| Eman | I should learn the small machine. We have the indigenous microorganism way of composting. |
| Jun | Think of your proposal, what exactly what you need to learn like the Philippines and send your proposal to AFA and Ainokai |
| Shondey | Iit is a very interesting proposal for API. For the first concrete step, Ainokai should provide us your documents – your practice, etc – so we can see what we can learn from Ainokai. |
| Hiro | We have organic high school and training program for Japanese. We have to prepare for other countries. Maybe it is not always good to have a translator. Maybe we can arrange a Japanese who speak your language. We also need to train to speak in English by ourselves |
| Jun | Note that they have a three-year plan. Do you think it will be good to have this program? (nods). What about the second question about the structure? |

**Proposed Position of Young Farmers in AFA Structure**

Executive Committee

Secretary General, Secretariat

Member Organization

Member Organization

Member Organization

General Assembly

Young Farmers’ Committee

Leader of young farmers’ committees – other side of the Secretary General. And under each member organization, put a young farmers’ committee. This means that each member organization need to plan what they need to do. The young farmers have to think by themselves.

The committee leader will sit in the ExeCom; the ExeCom is presently composed of one representative from each of the countries.

Question: How to select the representative to the Execom?

Answer: Get it from the reps from the young farmers’ committees from each member organization.

Question: Who forms the young farmers committee at the AFA level?

Answer: Young farmers committee from each member

Question: Do they meet?

Answer: If funds allow. But there’s no stopping the young farmers

Question (Lany): Can you agree later to choose a temporary or ad hoc representative so that when the ExeCom asks us who to represent the young farmers at AFA, we have a name. This is also because we are not certain when this group is going to meet again.

Choose activities that even without the funds, the plan is doable. If there is fund, then there can be another meeting.

**ECONOMIC**

Reporter: Ika

2015 Plans

Capacity Building

* + - Training on
* Production
* Marketing
* Financial management (accounting)
* Business planning
  + - Knowledge sharing
    - Translation of issue papers (case study, articles)
    - Engagement of young farmers to local authority (forum, meetings, workshop)
    - Studying existing policies (loan, credit)

2016-2017 Plans

* + - Assembly meeting (updates, results)
    - Exchange farm visit
    - Continue on capacity building
    - Adaptation of techniques on success results of capacity building
    - Exhibit and exposure on trades, products

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Hiro |  |
| Kapil |  |
| Ika | Some of the activities have been done like translation of materials |
| Eman | We should do the translation. We should have articles posted at our website. The training on IDOFS is already ongoing under PAKISAMA at the cluster of farmers’ organizations |
| Hiro | I want to make sure that some of the proposals in there have already started but for AFA members, for example, you said that you need to translate. If you need materials to be translated in English, then it is important. But if the training is already ongoing, maybe it is not much needed |
| Eman | If you go to the farm, you can already see how the farmers do the techniques |
| Hiro | So the suggestion is translating the materials according to the need of the country? |
| Arriane | Yes, if there is a need for some countries to translate so that they can understand the materials. |
| Hiro | It is very hard to translate. We ask sometimes the university students. It is also a good training for them |
| Jun | The main comments are –  It is too much  Focus on key thing that matters on the economic aspect  Some of these are already being done in the organization so it can just be translated into your own language. However, it seems like capacity building is what you have been discussing over the past two days.  The farmers’ exhibit is not just to display but to market, to get contacts. It is more social marketing. |
| Mongolia | Engagement of young farmers to local authority because who will support the young farmers? It is the local authority. It is the best way to be connected to the outside world. If you have good relationship with local authorities, that is the way to go. |
| Jun | utilizing the local authorities like local governments, that is what you recommend? |
| Ika | sometimes they don’t even realize that many of the farmers are young farmers and there should be support budget for some of the programs like in Indonesia we have GO ORGANIC |
| Hiro | In Japan, one of my friends arranged music festival and some Taiwanese friends went to my house, cooked food and sold Taiwan food. That was a good experience for them as they had experience of doing it by themselves, and earning some pocket money out of it. It is a very good experience to try to sell the products on your own. Of course it is not business, just experience. You just have the chance to sell by themselves. In AFA’s site, we had a both and just tried to sell |
| Ika | In Germany, the annual fair and exhibition of organic products, Indonesia always send – Indonesian Organic Alliance. They are regular participants to this fair. |
| Jun | The discussion is transferring to marketing. It could be a niche to young farmers. There are emerging concrete suggestions. The AFA booth can be set up by young farmers and sell different products. Same with Indonesia, this can lead to contacts and marketing opportunities. The other points can be further studied. Some of the activities are already being done by AFA. Depending on opportunities and resources, other things may be carried out. These are some proposals and ideas, do you want to support? |
| Ika | I sometime play as the bridge between the farmer and consumer. They ask many requirement to profile the product and I am sometimes frustrated because farmers do not know how to package their products and they do not know how to plan for the farm, etc. and it can be frustrated. So these capacity building line up is necessary but maybe not workable in one year. |

**ENVIRONMENTAL**

Reporter: Eman

**2015 Plans**

* + - Documenting case studies about mitigation and adaptation: dams for flood; during drought, have irrigation
    - Training on disaster risk reduction management
    - Advocate government technology for climate change adaptation (forecast)

**2016-2017 Plans**

* + - Applying the success stories from case studies documented (SMART agriculture) – vegetable farming despite absence of water supply
    - Advocate government to provide financial support for farmers in climate change adaptation

**Discussion**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Eman | Farmers should get the variety that will give him yield despite the climate change |
| Jun | What is the direct connection of these plan to young farmers? |
| Eman | Young farmers are open to new technology. Climate change is existing in the world, in our planet, and there is this big issue in climate change – gas emission, etc. Even if we plant and plant, only 60% prevent or are for mitigation. |
| Ika | Regarding climate change, long time ago, our ancestors know when is the proper time to plant, harvest, etc. If you see the three stars upon sunset, our ancestors believe that there will be rought and therefore need to prepare what we need – water, etc. Now when we see the three stars, no more knowledge about it. Another is forecast. Our fisherfolk friends, it is important tohave climate forecast like remote sensing to see where the fish are – they swim in warm water, fishers should go there. Now, because of climate change, it is hard to predict the season. |
| Jun | Young farmers see CC as a threat that affects the future of farming. Young farmers are also open to new technologies that their parents may not be familiar or comfortable with. They also care traditional knowledge that their forefathers have used before so it is a marriage of old and new knowledge and technology. |

In the future, young farmers’ organization will have a structure similar but separate from AFA’s.

ExeCom members who arrived introduced themselves – Govinda, Som Prasad, and \_\_\_\_\_.

**POLICITICAL**

Reporter: Kapil

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activities | Timeframe | Responsible Organization | Remarks/Target |
| Issue Identification |  |  |  |
| Development of solidarity  -workshop on training on young farmers’ leadership  -workshop with other farmers’ org | 2015 | NLRF-KKM | 300-500 participants (400)  13 trainings |
| Research  -case studies and data collection to gather factual information for advocacy | 2015 |  |  |
| Media advocacy  -sharing workshop/research findings | 2016-2017 |  |  |
| Campaign/movement  -conduct of peaceful campaign from the local to the central level with the participation and leadership of young farmers | 2016-2017 |  |  |

**Discussion**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Hiro | How did you come up with the number? Did you experience this in your training? |
| Kapil | With the number of target participants, one or two trainings may not be efficient so we thought of 13 trainings. |
| Hiro | Is this for AFA young farmer or external |
| Kapil | This is just for the sub-regional level – Nepal and Bangladesh |
| Luc | I just have a few questions. First of all, what is missing in the most presentations is what is the specific. If we want to advocate for young farmers, we need more data on the situation of youth. I urge you to look into that. It is difficult to state the number. It is too strong to focus on the government though  I see that you want to organize many workshops but nothing about the members. We do not talk about communicating and getting the young farmers getting committed to your organization. How to communicate with them, tell them what you’re doing and give them hope. I heard from the Philippines, it is quite ambitious to have a network of young farmers. If there is a young farmers committee, how many young farmers |
| Jun | Need data so that based on data ang plans in AFA and member organizations. |

With regards the structure, South Asia has arrived at the following suggested structure:

General Assembly

Exe Com

Youth Forum

Young Farmers’ Org/Group

Young Farmers’ Org/Group

Young Farmers’ Org/Group

The youth forum is going to be at the national level. The young farmers will be established under the member organization. Their ideas will be taken to the national youth forum. We are quite confused on how it went but we would

GA and EXECOM is regional

YOUTH FORUM AND YOUNG FO is national

Synthesis and Ways Forward

Ms. Lany Rebagay

5:56 – 6:10 PM

Ms. Rebagay expressed gratitude for the good work that the participants have done, despite exhaustion from walking about three kilometers with coconut farmers.

She reviewed the key points, activities and outputs accomplished during the first and second day day: listened to case studies to deepen understanding of young farmers’ situation; sharing about what each country has been doing with regards advocacy agenda; identified threats and difficulties that can potentially hinder the advocacy; the problem in general that young people would rather avoid farming and that it is worsened by unfavorable agricultural policies, lack of support services and absence of incentive for young people to go farming.

She also emphasized that there were good practices shared on sustainable agriculture, sustainable family farming, strong advocacy, something on the ground that are already being done small scale – that is, household level. There is an advocacy agenda. The youth are open and innovative.

Given the difficulties and strengths, these are the ways to go:

* Learning exchange/farm stay program
* Capacity building
* Climate adaptation/mitigation
* Farmers exhibit
* Advocacy/campaign
* Partnership building
* Creation of young farmers committee/forum/mechanism

But as Luc said, there should be a strong base that can support the direction. It is necessary to identify ad hoc representative so that she or he can remind everybody on the plans. As a final note, Ms. Rebagay emphasized that all these are done to have young farmer that nurtures a just, happy, healthy, prosperous, loving world.

Ms. Rebagay summed up her synthesis using the following diagram:



At 6:26 PM Caucus on identifying young farmer committee reps per country

Before the workshop was formally closed, the delegates agree on the following:

1. Hiro will be recommended to sit in the ExeCom as young farmers’ representative.
2. Hiro requested help in summarizing all plans and targets so that he can barrage the ExeCom on the plans
3. To help Hiro in synthesizing the plans per theme/category are:

Economic and Environment: Philippines

Socio-cultural: Japan

Political: Bangladesh

Mr. Mahmod from West Africa suggested to identify right now the representative despite the absence of other countries because these are the representatives who underwent the process and are in the right position to prepare for young farmers’ general assembly. Ms. Rebagay iterated that the ad hoc representatives shall catalyze the process and ensure that things will move.

AFA will discuss who will be the contact person for the young farmers.

To formally close, Luc thanked everybody for coming to the Philippines to discuss their future. It is important for AFA and member organizations to discuss now because it will be difficult in the next 20 years to discuss this.

He suggested that everybody try to work on the focus. Initially, there are many general things mentioned which are important but it is more important to focus on few major things that will directly benefit young farmers; for example, in the Netherlands, there is a special loan rates for young farmers.

The workshop was formally closed at 6:10 PM.