



CONCEPT NOTE

Youth in Agrifood Systems in EAC (YASE) Platform - Awareness Webinar for Ugandan Youth in Agrifood Systems

Theme: Amplifying Ugandan youth voice and participation in the Youth in Agrifood Systems in EAC (YASE) Platform

Date: Monday 31st August 2026

Time (EAT): 11:00am - 1:00pm

Format: Virtual webinar (online), via (Zoom / Microsoft Teams - platform and link to be confirmed)

Target participants: Ugandan youth in agrifood systems, open to youth across all EAC Partner States

Host / Organizing committee: YASE Uganda & East Africa Agritech Youth Ecosystem Alliance (EAAYEA) - Uganda.

Collaboration/Partnership: AGRA, World Food Forum (WFF) Uganda

Registration: (Registration link to be shared)

Contact Person: Prossy Among Eyabu, eyabuamong@gmail.com / prossyeyabu@boreshamavuno.com +256751901441. Nakalema Assumpta, nakalemaassumpta@gmail.com +256785580597

1. Background and Context

The EAC Regional Agrifood Systems Investment Plan (RASIP 2026-2035) is the East African Community's main vehicle for implementing the CAADP Kampala Declaration on Building Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems in Africa. RASIP places inclusive agrifood systems transformation at the center of the region's efforts to achieve food and nutrition security, expand intra-regional trade, create decent jobs and build resilience. Among the lessons that shaped RASIP is the recognition that explicit targeting of women, youth and persons with disabilities (PWDs) is essential to boost employment, entrepreneurship and participation in agrifood value chains, a recommendation further reinforced by Partner States during the RASIP validation workshop held in Dar es Salaam in April 2026.

Building on the momentum generated at the East African Youth in Agrifood Systems Expo (EAYASE-25) and the resulting Communiqué, the EAC Secretariat established the Youth in Agrifood Systems in EAC (YASE) Platform a regional multi-stakeholder mechanism under the RASIP implementation architecture. YASE is designed to mobilize, coordinate and amplify youth contributions to agrifood production, intra-regional trade, resilience and transboundary resource stewardship, knowledge management and digitalization, and advocacy and governance across the EAC.



The YASE Platform's Terms of Reference were subsequently validated at the Regional Workshop to establish the YASE Platform, held in Nairobi, Kenya from 9th to 11th June 2026, which brought together CAADP Focal Points and youth representatives from across the EAC Partner States, together with AGRA and the EAC Secretariat. The workshop formally validated the Terms of Reference refining provisions on nomination, eligibility, tenure and country-level architecture and recommended that the Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security (SCAFS) formally establish the Platform. This recommendation was subsequently acted upon; the YASE Platform was officially endorsed by the EAC Ministers responsible for Agriculture and Food Security during the 19th Session of SCAFS, held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. YASE is therefore no longer a proposal but a formally validated and ministerially endorsed regional mechanism under the RASIP implementation architecture.

The Nairobi workshop also inducted Partner States on the EAC Youth in Agribusiness web portal, which has moved from concept to a live, operational platform accessible at <http://yase.eac.int/>. The portal is a one-stop digital entry point for young agripreneurs across the EAC, offering an opportunities area (jobs, internships, grants and calls), a learn space, a community section for peer and mentor interaction, a resources library, and a marketplace linking producers to buyers; giving Ugandan youth a practical, ready-to-use tool alongside the YASE Platform itself.

A central pillar of the YASE architecture is the network of national YASE affiliates, through which youth representatives are nominated to the regional Platform and through which country-level priorities including those of PWDs and youth in conflict-affected or marginalized areas are channeled upward. The Nairobi validation workshop specifically flagged the absence of formally established national affiliates as a structural gap and recommended that each Partner State formally establish, or recognize where one already exists, a national YASE affiliate as the country-level institutional counterpart to the regional Platform. For a one-year transitional period, Uganda's two youth representatives (one male, one female) will be nominated through a country-level multi-stakeholder process pending formal establishment of its national affiliate. For Ugandan youth to seize this window, to shape the national affiliate, put themselves forward for nomination, and fully benefit from YASE's opportunities in trade facilitation, finance, Centers of Excellence and digital agriculture; they first need to understand what YASE is, how it works and how to get involved.

2. Rationale for the Webinar

Awareness of the YASE Platform among Ugandan youth in agrifood systems remains low, despite the significant opportunities it presents. Many youth-led agribusinesses, cooperatives and networks that could benefit from YASE's trade facilitation support, Centers of Excellence,



access-to-finance mechanisms and regional visibility are not yet aware that the Platform exists, how its governance works, or how they can nominate representatives or affiliate nationally.

This webinar is therefore designed as an entry point: an accessible, practical session that introduces Ugandan youth to RASIP and the YASE Platform, clarifies the process for establishing and engaging with Uganda's national YASE Affiliate, and connects participants directly with regional actors East African Community (EAC) secretariat, AGRA, the World Food Forum chapters in Uganda and Kenya, and national youth structures who are shaping the Platform's rollout. Ugandan youth who organize and engage early are best placed to shape the national affiliate and be considered for nomination as one of Uganda's two youth representatives to the regional Platform. While the session is tailored to the needs and context of Ugandan youth, it is deliberately opened to youth across all EAC Partner States, in keeping with YASE's character as a regional, cross-border mechanism and to encourage peer learning among youth agrifood actors in the region.

3. Objectives

Overall objective: To raise awareness among Ugandan youth in agrifood systems and the wider EAC youth agribusiness community about the YASE Platform, and to mobilize their active participation in its structures and opportunities.

Specific objectives:

- To introduce participants to RASIP 2026-2035 and the rationale for youth inclusion in EAC agrifood systems transformation.
- To explain the mandate, structure, governance and functions of the YASE Platform, including national and regional representation.
- To clarify the process, criteria and timelines for nominating Uganda's youth representatives and for establishing/strengthening Uganda's National YASE Affiliate.
- To showcase concrete opportunities available to youth through YASE and the live EAC Youth in Agribusiness Portal (<http://yase.eac.int/>) in production and value addition, intra-regional trade, climate resilience, digitalization and access to finance.
- To create a direct dialogue between Ugandan/EAC youth and regional stakeholders (EAC secretariat, AGRA, World Food Forum, National Youth Council of Uganda) driving the YASE agenda.
- To generate a pool of informed, engaged youth who can champion YASE within their networks, cooperatives and communities.



4. Target Audience

- Ugandan youth (under 35) engaged in agrifood systems, agribusiness, agro-processing, agri-trade, Agritech and related services along the agrifood value chain: primary audience.
- Youth-led agrifood organizations, cooperatives, associations and innovation hubs in Uganda.
- Youth in agrifood systems from the other EAC Partner States (Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, DR Congo, Somalia): secondary/open audience.
- Representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (Uganda) and the Ministry responsible for Youth.
- Development partners, private sector actors and youth-serving organizations with interest in agrifood systems and youth economic empowerment.

5. Expected Outcomes

- Increased awareness and understanding of RASIP and the YASE Platform among Ugandan and wider EAC youth in agrifood systems.
- A clearer pathway for Ugandan youth to establish or strengthen the National YASE Affiliate and to nominate youth representatives to the regional Platform, including clarity on the transitional nomination arrangements.
- Strengthened linkages between Ugandan youth agribusiness actors and regional partners (AGRA, World Food Forum, National Youth Council of Uganda, EAC Secretariat).
- A list of interested and engaged youth participants who can be mobilized for follow-up actions, including national consultations ahead of regional YASE meetings.
- Increased visibility of youth-led agrifood innovations and enterprises for potential linkage to RASIP flagship programmes.

6. Format & Logistics

- The webinar will be conducted virtually to maximize accessibility for youth across Uganda and the wider EAC region.
- Simultaneous promotion through social media, WhatsApp/Telegram youth networks, and partner organizations' communication channels.
- Registration will be free and open, with a registration link shared ahead of the event.
- The session will be recorded and key resources (this concept note, the YASE Terms of Reference, and presentation materials) will be shared with participants and made available for follow-up.



Name	Role / Affiliation	Status
Stella Massawe Clara	Policy and State Capability Senior Specialist for Eastern and Southern Africa - AGRA	Confirmed
Kimathi Githachuri	EAC Youth in Agribusiness Advisor - AGRA	Confirmed
Stephen Kayongo	Statistician/CAADP Focal Person - Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industries and Fisheries (MAAIF)	Confirmed
Elizabeth Gakinya	Youth Advocacy & Policy Engagement Lead - World Food Forum (WFF) Kenya, Founder & Executive Director, East Africa Agritech Youth Ecosystem Alliance (EAAYEA)	Confirmed
Elizabeth Kabakoyo	Team Lead - World Food Forum (WFF) Uganda	Confirmed
Moderators	Prossy Among Eyabu & Nakalema Assumpta - YASE Uganda	Confirmed