



RYAF
Rwanda Youth in
Agribusiness Forum



RYAF Quarterly Newsletter:

July–September 2025

Prepared by RYAF Communication and Public Relations

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www.ryaf.rw

RYAF NEWSLETTER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rwanda Youth in Agribusiness Forum (RYAF) was established in 2016 to serve as a nationwide forum of youth involved in agriculture. Formed under the Government of Rwanda's initiative, RYAF, was founded through the collaboration of five key ministries: the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), the Ministry of Youth and Culture (MYCULTURE), Ministry of Public Service and Labour (MIFOTRA), Ministry of Education (MINEDUC), and the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MINICOM) with support FAO.

RYAF Mandate

RYAF was established to promote youth employment and entrepreneurship in agribusiness by offering a platform aimed at establishing business linkage opportunities and changing the youth's mind-set on agribusiness.

RYAF operation is based on coping with potential challenges hindering youth come and do profitable agribusiness, including limited knowledge, skills, information, and communication, limited access to finance to boost their investment, limited access to land to boost their production potential, limited access to market due to limited investment and quality compliance and so on. Most intervention goes on through practical advocacy and young people influencing in the agriculture policies review to create an enabling environment allowing young people to be strong and competitive market actors, after accessing all possible factors of production.

Coverage area

RYAF operates in all 30 districts of Rwanda and brings together different youth organizations, individual young farmers and entrepreneurs engaged in agriculture sector; specifically, the youth in agriculture primary production, livestock production, agro-processing, inputs and agro-services and ICT for Agriculture.

Objectives

1. Change youth mindset vis-à-vis opportunities in agribusiness for job creation and economic development,
2. Ensure development and promotion of youth in agribusiness sector at national and international level;
3. Facilitate and collaborate with youth operating professionally in the agribusiness sector across the country;
4. Ensure compliance with collective international agreements and conventions regulating agribusiness sector;

Our Vision

A future where youth are inclusive leading agribusiness ecosystem at national and regional level.

Our Mission

To sustainably promotes, informs, advocates, mobilizes and empower Rwandan youth to engage in agribusiness resulting on a stable food availability, market access, decent jobs and sustainable and inclusive development.

RYAF NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM RYAF CHAIRPERSON

YOUTH LEADING THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE

• Innovation • Resilience • Partnership
From Local Impact to Global Influence
Dear Readers,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the RYAF Quarterly Newsletter (July–September 2025 Edition). This edition celebrates the inspiring journeys of young Rwandans who continue to redefine our agriculture sector through innovation, resilience, and collaboration. From transforming waste into organic fertilizer to producing nutritious foods and promoting sustainable farming practices, our youth are proving every day that agribusiness is not just a livelihood; it is a powerful engine for national development and climate resilience. This quarter also marked a remarkable representation of Rwandan youth on regional and international platforms, including the Africa Food Systems Forum in Senegal and the Eastern Africa Farmers Congress in Kigali. At these forums, young agripreneurs and changemakers amplified their voices, influencing key discussions on the future of food and farming. These milestones reaffirm Rwanda's leadership in youth inclusion and highlight the strength of partnership in building sustainable agri-food systems. As we look ahead, RYAF remains steadfast in its mission to empower young people with knowledge, networks, and opportunities ensuring that every young agripreneur can thrive and contribute meaningfully to Rwanda's vision of a modern, competitive, and inclusive agriculture sector. In the same spirit, our Special Youth Umuganda

continues Youth at the Agribusiness Forum (RYAF) to demonstrate practical climate action, from combating soil erosion to planting trees and restoring degraded lands, reminding us that true progress begins with collective effort and community spirit. I invite you to explore the inspiring stories featured in this edition and join us in celebrating the progress made by young people who are redefining agriculture in Rwanda and beyond.

With appreciation and hope,
Sakina Usengimana /RYAF Chairperson



Sakina Usengimana /RYAF Chairperson

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



What RYAF Members Gained at the AFS Forum (Senegal)

Knowledge, networks, and opportunities shaping Africa's agrifood future.



Special Youth Umuganda

Youth-led community action for reforestation & climate adaptation



Partnerships Driving Agribusiness Opportunities

Collaborations unlocking new markets, finance & skills for young farmers



Success Stories

Inspiring journeys of young agripreneurs transforming Rwanda's agriculture

OUR COMMITMENT



RYAF continues to:

- ✓ Empower youth in agriculture
- ✓ Strengthen agribusiness networks
- ✓ Promote innovation for sustainable development

→ Stay connected, get inspired, and join us in shaping the future of agribusiness.

Youth Voices from the Africa Food Systems Forum(2025) – Senegal By Rwandan Young Agripreneurs

These 2 pages present the experiences and insights of Rwandan youth who attended the Africa Food Systems (AFS) Summit in Senegal. Their voices reflect passion, innovation, and the potential of young agripreneurs shaping Rwanda's food sector.

Niyitanga Grace, Young Rwandan Farmer



Attending the Africa Food Systems (AFS) Summit in Dakar, Senegal was a transformative experience.

I gained confidence and recognition as a passionate young farmer, interacted with youth from all corners of Africa, and exchanged ideas about how agriculture is practiced in their countries.

- Gaining confidence and recognition as a passionate young farmer.
- Interacting with the youth from Africa from all corners of the continent, exchanging ideas about how agriculture is practiced in their countries
- Sharing expertise on greenhouse farming, which was otherwise new to many of the participants.
- Learning the importance of innovations in agriculture, to remain competitive, reduce post-harvest losses, and meet market demands.

I returned home motivated to begin developing new solutions, some of which I look forward to sharing with RYAF in collaboration with partners like AGRA and FAO.

I thank God for this journey, the Government of Rwanda for its visionary leadership, and RTV for supporting youth voices.

This experience reminded me that agriculture has unending opportunities, and I encourage my fellow young folks, especially young women and persons with disabilities, to embrace agribusiness and create jobs.



*Grace showcasing the fruits of her hard work in the greenhouse
a true testament to youth in agribusiness!"*

Saleh Ahishakiye, Founder of TTT Processing Agency



“Attending the Africa Food Systems Forum in Senegal was a transformative experience. I gained practical knowledge on adding value and reducing food loss and waste in agriculture.

I also discovered pathways to access international markets through proper certification and quality standards insights that will directly strengthen our operations at TTT Processing Agency.

The forum allowed me to build strong networks with investors, policymakers, and fellow youth entrepreneurs, opening doors for future collaborations. Above all, this experience renewed my motivation to enhance quality and drive market growth in Rwanda’s food sector”



Felice Karangwa, Coffee Connect Centre Ltd

From the Africa Food Systems Forum in Senegal, I gained invaluable insights into how youth can drive the transformation of Africa’s agri-food systems. I also discovered innovative practices in the coffee sector that will strengthen our work at Coffee Connect Centre.

The forum was an incredible opportunity to showcase our coffee brands and represent Rwandan coffee on an international stage highlighting the potential of Rwanda’s youth in agriculture.

Beyond the sessions, I connected with ambassadors, policymakers, investors, and young agripreneurs from across Africa. These interactions opened doors for future partnerships and financing opportunities.

I return home inspired and empowered, ready to translate these learnings into greater impact within Rwanda’s coffee value chain.

Youth from Northern province came together to fight soil erosion in Gicumbi



During at special Youth Umuganda

Gicumbi, Sept 26, 2025; Over 600 youth in the Northern Province of Rwanda gathered in Gicumbi District for a youth Umuganda focused on soil erosion. This event highlighted their environmental role in adapting to climate change.

It was organized by the RYAF Forum in collaboration with Green Gicumbi and the Gicumbi District. The forestry trees and Napier grass were planted during this Umuganda, which provides fodder for cows, goats, and sheep while preventing soil erosion on steep terraces.

RYAF Chief Executive Officer Rwiririza Jean Marie Vianney said, during Umuganda, "You witnessed the youth contribution (of RYAF members) in the battle against erosion through the planting of agroforestry trees and Napier grasses on radical terraces." He added that the awareness of local landowners about sustainability standards of land management was raised; in addition, he urged youth to keep their active involvement within their communities.



RYAF /CEO

Coordinator for the Green Gicumbi Project, Jean Marie Vianney Kagenza, stated that youth are a stronghold for economic status and productive sustenance for Rwanda. He said, "In terms of efficient land management, youth are the stronghold of the nation and are today's and tomorrow's farmers," and he encouraged them to strengthen collaboration with farmers to modernize agriculture.



Green Gicumbi Coordinator

Youth participants from across the northern province of Rwanda expressed appreciation to Rwanda Youth in Agribusiness Forum and Green Gicumbi for bringing them together, pledging to apply the knowledge gained in their own districts to advance Rwanda's vision of becoming a green nation and to boost agricultural productivity.

Umuganda produced fantastic results: well over 2 million Napier grasses were planted on radical terraces, and also around 1,000 grevillea trees. Besides, 1,000 avocado trees were given to local households, thus linking environmental protection with food security.



Youth planting Napier Grass

RYAF Leadership in Action: Sakina Usengimana Elected to EAFF Council and Board



RYAF Chairperson during #EAFat20

RYAF Chairperson, Sakina Usengimana, delivered an inspiring message at the 6th Eastern Africa Farmers Congress and Convention 2025 in Kigali. She highlighted that youth are the backbone of East Africa's food systems, with over 60% of the region's population under 35.

Since 2016, RYAF has empowered young agripreneurs with knowledge, networks, and opportunities to succeed. Ms. Usengimana emphasized:

- Mentorship and role models to inspire youth and women in agribusiness.
- Policies that expand access to land and affordable financing for young farmers.
- Partnerships with governments, development partners, and EAFF.
- Innovation to make farming modern, viable, and attractive.

In a landmark achievement, Chairperson Sakina Usengimana was elected as Regional Youth Representative and Member of the Council of the Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF) under the leadership of the re-elected President, Mrs. Elizabeth Nsimadala.

This recognition goes beyond organizational success it is a prize for Rwanda and the region, reflecting the strong support of the Government ..

of Rwanda in championing youth inclusion and the trust of regional partners in the capacity of young people to shape the future of agriculture.

It also underscores RYAF's tremendous success in building youth leadership, creating pathways for agripreneurs, and amplifying farmer voices at every level. This moment reinforced the vital role of youth in driving sustainable and prosperous food systems across East Africa.



RYAF Chairperson elected as Regional Youth Representative and Member of the Council of Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF)



Group photos with Hon Minister Dr Mark Bagabe Cyubahiro

In Nyanza cassava peels become soap and fertilizer: Sibobugingo's dream turns into solution



Sibobugingo Evariste Founder of IgisubizoLtd

In Nyanza district, Sibobugingo Evariste transformed cassava peels into soap and organic fertilizer through his company Igisubizo 1 Ltd. What began as an idea in 2019 became a registered business in 2021, blending technology with traditional knowledge.

Today, the project provides 20 jobs, supports 200+ farmers with affordable organic fertilizer, and promotes waste recycling. Despite challenges like limited capital and equipment, Evariste's vision is clear: to build a larger factory and reach international markets within the next decade.

He encourages youth to "start with what you have, collaborate, and focus on solutions that benefit the community." With strong backing from RYAF, his journey shows how innovation can turn waste into value and opportunities. Read more at RYAF web.

Read more at https://ryaf.rw/news-and-updates/details?tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&tx_news_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Bnews%5D=213&cHash=b428c7ebbe37aaf8b0bf7a6d53e4e1ad

From crisis to creation: The story of Zean Ltd

During the COVID-19 pandemic, while many businesses struggled, Nimukuze Angelique saw an opportunity. In 2021, she founded ZEAN Ltd in Gakenke District to turn wasted maize harvests into flour (Kawunga), supplying schools, markets, and households across Rwanda.

The company has also innovated by drying cassava leaves, ensuring this popular food is available all year round. Today, ZEAN Ltd creates jobs for youth and women, supports farmers, and reduces post-harvest losses.

Challenges remain—such as investment, permits, packaging, and certification but Angelique's vision is clear: to expand to national and international markets. Her advice to youth: "Be innovative. No one else will prepare a future for us. We can change our lives and those of others."

Read more at RYAF web

Read more at https://ryaf.rw/news-and-updates/details?tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&tx_news_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Bnews%5D=213&cHash=b428c7ebbe37aaf8b0bf7a6d53e4e1ad



Nimukuze Angelique /CEO of Zean Ltd

RYAF and FAO conclude the vertical farming training for RYAF members



Group photo of RYAF Members and FAO Leader

On July 30, 2025, the Rwanda Youth in Agribusiness Forum (RYAF) and FAO Rwanda organized a three-day vertical farming training for 39 young agripreneurs. Participants were divided into two cohorts and received hands-on training in the design, installation, and management of vertical farming systems, including hydroponics and greenhouse techniques.

Youth participants shared their appreciation for the impactful training

noting that they gained practical skills to enhance sustainable urban agriculture and build competitive agribusinesses. Among them, Donatille Mukandayisenga, founder of Dona Farm Fresh Ltd, highlighted learning valuable techniques for maximizing small plots of land through vertical farming.

The training's core objective was to empower youth with innovative agricultural skills, address market gaps, and strengthen Rwanda's agribusiness competitiveness.

Read more at RYAF web.

Read more at https://ryaf.rw/news-and-updates/details?tx_news_pil%5Baction%5D=detail&tx_news_pil%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pil%5Bnews%5D=196&cHash=d3e52aa468c09b39ad5abf4961b34afb

How Amaboko y'u Rwanda turns crops into soap and cosmetics.

Founded in 2021 by Nsengukuri Elie in Musanze District, Amaboko y'u Rwanda Ltd transforms local crops like avocados, carrots, and sweet potatoes into soaps and cosmetics such as MERUN Star Soap, MERUN Body Gel, and MERUN Hair Gel. The company's mission is to reduce post-harvest losses, create jobs, and provide affordable, locally made products.

Elie highlights the role of youth in agro-processing: "We have innovations, technology, and the capacity to create jobs and provide sustainable solutions." Despite challenges like limited capital and market access, he believes collaboration can overcome them.

In 2024, the company showcased its products at the Rwanda Agrishow, gaining partners and expanding access to Kigali markets. Today, it employs 12 permanent and 26 casual workers, while indirectly supporting over 400



Nsengiyumva Elie/Founder of Amaboko yacu Ltd

farmers and 80 avocado suppliers. By 2026, Elie aims to supply all provinces, and by 2028, all districts nationwide.

He credits RYAF for training, exhibitions, and networking support: "RYAF is a platform that empowers us to grow and run agribusiness with a clear vision."

Read more at https://ryaf.rw/news-and-updates/details?tx_news_pil%5Baction%5D=detail&tx_news_pil%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pil%5Bnews%5D=197&cHash=b7085c35a9c71fc972abbb600432a9c3

How Chantal Kamashazi is transforming Rwanda's Agriculture by turning waste into fertilizer



Kamashazi Chantal founder of Mind Valley Rwanda Ltd

Kamashazi Chantal is an agribusiness and environmental entrepreneur, and the founder of Mind Valley Rwanda Ltd, a company based in Mwiri Sector, Kayonza District in eastern province of Rwanda.

Her goal is to transform waste into high-quality fertilizer that helps farmers increase their yields while preserving soil health. The idea of founding Mind Valley Rwanda Ltd began in 2013 when Chantal was studying environmental chemistry at KIST, later continuing her research in South Korea for her master's program.

"I wanted to create a recognized, legitimate, profitable, and unique business. Through my Master's research, I realized that waste could be turned into high-quality fertilizer and even help with water purification." She explains. Upon returning to Rwanda, she started producing fertilizer to test its markets,

and her first trial of two tons was tested, found to be of high quality, and immediately sold out. After winning the Imali Agribusiness Challenge, she gained the financial capacity to produce 100 tons of fertilizer in 2023; by 2025, she is producing over 800 tons, with a target of 5000 tons within the next five years. Despite challenges like climate change and drought, she continues to innovate, solve problems, and expand her business.

"I launched a campaign against food wastage because most of the waste in landfills is food. While we can recycle it into fertilizer, the priority is to prevent food waste in the first place," she says.

Read more at https://ryaf.rw/news-and-updates/details?tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&tx_news_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Bnews%5D=206&cHash=c8d8fbc140f21122492e6338bbbc1de0

Meet Kamanzi Jean Paul, a young agripreneur and founder of Nutrinest Foods Ltd



Kamanzi Jean Paul founder of Nutrinest Food Ltd

Meet Kamanzi Jean Paul, a young agripreneur and founder of Nutrinest Food Ltd, located in Gasabo District, Rusororo Sector, Kabuga II, Mataba.

With this in mind, Kamanzi Jean Paul founded Nutrinest Foods Ltd in 2025. Jean Paul, who has a heart for the fight against malnutrition and improving the value of local crops, established Nutrinest Foods to make composite nutritious flours. The company today has two products: Nutrinest Composite Flour is a mixture of maize, sorghum,

millet, soybeans, and wheat, while Nutrimilk Composite Flour has had milk sourced locally in Rwanda added to it.

The purpose of these flours is to provide cheap, complete, and quality food to children, mothers, young people, and families at large.

Although Jean Paul faces some challenges, including limited resources and competition, he is committed to promoting food security and creating job opportunities for youth while empowering farmers through value addition.

Nutrinest Foods Ltd hopes to be one of the leading agribusiness enterprises by contributing significantly to improved nutrition, food safety, and youth employment in Rwanda and beyond.

Agriculture is a significant area of development; therefore, the Government of Rwanda is emphasizing motivating the youth to see it as their way to entrepreneurship.

[Read more at https://ryaf.rw/news-and-updates/details?](https://ryaf.rw/news-and-updates/details?tx_news_pil%5Baction%5D=detail&tx_news_pil%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pil%5Bnews%5D=205&cHash=14a8c3d8e7d69e40075fc716e98633d7)

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MahwiYacu brings quality potato seeds and supports community growth in northern Rwanda

Founded by Isaac Niyonizye in Rugarama Sector, Burera District, MahwiYacu Ltd specializes in producing high-quality seed Irish potatoes and beans, now operating in Gicumbi and Musanze districts. The company pioneered the minituber, a potato seed never planted directly in soil, ensuring healthy, high-yield crops.

Despite challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic, MahwiYacu Ltd restarted activities in 2022, receiving RDB certification and official authorization for seed production. The company collaborates with cooperatives and agronomists to monitor seed growth from greenhouses to farmers' fields, creating jobs for 6 permanent staff and 40 casual workers, boosting youth employment and community livelihoods.

Isaac shares: "My office is the farm. All my income comes from agriculture, and I don't let discouragement stop me. This is what I studied,



Isaac Niyonizye founder of MahwiYacu Ltd

what I love, and what I am committed to continue doing."

Looking ahead, MahwiYacu aims to establish its own greenhouses within two years and develop an agricultural laboratory within five years. In September 2025, the company also launched Obet Bright Academy, a nursery school to expand its community impact.

[Read more at https://ryaf.rw/news-and-updates/details?](https://ryaf.rw/news-and-updates/details?tx_news_pil%5Baction%5D=detail&tx_news_pil%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pil%5Bnews%5D=210&cHash=6f902f8d01c5f317f4800a769783af5a)

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Vermifarm Ltd turns waste into affordable organic fertilizer



Vincent Sindukubwabo Founder of VermiFarm Ltd

Vincent Sindukubwabo, founder of VermiFarm Ltd in Nyamata, Bugesera District, is tackling waste management and soil degradation by producing organic vermicompost fertilizer using earthworms. With a background in plant science and environmental management from the University of Rwanda and a Master's degree from Antwerp University in Belgium, Vincent turned his academic knowledge into a practical solution for smallholder farmers struggling with expensive and scarce fertilizers. VermiFarm collects food waste and manure, processes them with earthworms, and produces nutrient-rich compost in 6–8 weeks.

The fertilizer improves crop yields by 30–40%, restores soil fertility, and is sold at only Rwf 300–400 per kilo, making it affordable for small farmers.

The company promotes its innovations through cooperatives, schools, and the National Agriculture Show, while also creating jobs for youth and women in the community.

Looking ahead, VermiFarm plans to establish new production sites across Rwanda and expand into Burundi and Uganda. Vincent advises young people: “Start small, use available resources. Organic fertilizer has a constant market; it is a business with a future.”



Read more at <https://ryaf.rw/news-and-updates/details/>

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From waste to wealth: How a local company is solving a key agricultural challenge



Patrick Ndagijimana /managing director of Feed Plant Company Ltd

After completing a hands-on agricultural internship at Agrostudies, Rupin College in Israel (2023–2024), Patrick Ndagijimana, Managing Director of Feed Plant Company Ltd, returned to Rwanda determined to transform agriculture.

A graduate in Crop Production from UTAB and currently pursuing an MSc in Agribusiness at the University of Rwanda, Patrick focuses on turning livestock waste into organic fertilizers that boost productivity without harming the soil. Based in Gicumbi District, Feed Plant Company operates a modern piggery valued at 10 million RWF and a factory worth 30 million RWF

that produces high-quality organic fertilizers enriched with NPK, calcium, and magnesium. The company rears improved pig breeds Landrace, Large White, and Duroc using nutrient-rich feeds tailored to growth stages. Despite challenges such as irregular feed supply, fluctuating prices, and animal diseases, the company has thrived through innovation and skilled staff.

The enterprise benefits the local community by creating jobs, offering affordable fertilizers and pigs, providing market access for farm waste, and training farmers in composting and best practices. Looking ahead, Feed Plant Company aims to expand across Rwanda with modern livestock technologies and position

itself as a center of excellence in sustainable farming. Patrick shares: “Be patient, learn every day, collaborate with those who have more experience, and turn problems into solutions. That’s how you create impact.”



Patrick Ndagijimana at his farms



Factory

[Read more at https://ryaf.rw/news-and-updates/details?tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&tx_news_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Bnews%5D=211&cHash=b89649779bab642f25a1cb8f337e10a9](https://ryaf.rw/news-and-updates/details?tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&tx_news_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Bnews%5D=211&cHash=b89649779bab642f25a1cb8f337e10a9)



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