

## **Drivers of Youth Participation in Groundnut Value Chains in Tororo and Nwoya Districts, Uganda**

**D.KEMIGISHA\***, S. LWASA, J. MUGISHA, Department of Agribusiness and Natural Resource Economics, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda; A. KAAAYA, R.M. MIREMBE, Department of Food Technology and Nutrition, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda; D. MUSOKE, Department of Disease Control and Environmental Health, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda; C.A. STEPHENS, Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville; D.K. OKELLO, National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO), NaSARRI.

The human capacity of Uganda depends on agriculture and yet most youth (75% of Uganda's population) are still unemployed (at 13.3%). Groundnut is staple in Uganda (253,279mt, covering 4% of all arable land) with new varieties being released often, given Uganda's rich climate and ready market. Employment provision through groundnut value chains could potentially contribute to partial resolve of the youth problem. However, very little has been done to find out the drivers and barriers of youth participation in groundnut value chains. The goal of this study was to establish the incentives and disincentives for youth participation at the different levels of the groundnut value chain utilizing Photovoice. Photovoice is a unique visual research method of collecting qualitative data using photography, captions and follow-up discussions .

Fifteen (15) youth groups aged 20-24 & 25-29 years were purposively selected per district (Nwoya and Tororo). The youth participants were trained in Photovoice and then tasked to take photos that capture the different groundnut value chain activities right from input dealing, production and harvesting practices, post-harvest handling, storage and distribution, processing, marketing and consumption from which themes emerged that highlighted the incentives and disincentives of youth participation in groundnut value chains.

Thematic content analysis was used to summarize the findings of the study using Atlas ti version 6. The preliminary results show that land size, working hours, garden ownership, access to extension services, gender and farmer group membership are major factors that either attract or push away youth from participating in groundnut value chains. The study also revealed the challenges in groundnut value chains which also act as disincentives for youth participation in groundnut value chains. These challenges include inadequate storage equipment, pests and diseases, cultural myths, erratic weather (drought), inadequate inputs, and drudgery. Based on the study findings, increasing access to extension services, farmer groups, inputs and mechanization is likely to drive youth to participate more in groundnut value chains.