



Mekong Youth Farm Network

Y-Farm

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Luang Prabang, Lao PDR

26-28 March, 2024



For a Resilient Mekong Region

YEQRM



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1. Y-Farm Introduction

The Mekong Youth Farm Network (Y-Farm) was created by a group of determined youth from countries in the Mekong Region.

Mission and vision:

Mission: Y-Farm works to develop a sustainable future for organic agriculture in the Mekong Region by teaching the young generation in a variety of ways, including demonstrating organic practices, and providing agri-tourism opportunities.

Vision: We **envision** a new generation of young farmers and consumers who are adopting sustainable practices on their farms, in their purchases, and in their communities.

Y-Farm is an initiative for a resilient Mekong Community which focusses on **youth engagement** and **organic farming development** as well as **sustainable agriculture education**, specifically for younger generation.



For a Resilient Mekong Region

Y F Q R M



2. Y-Farm's Themes

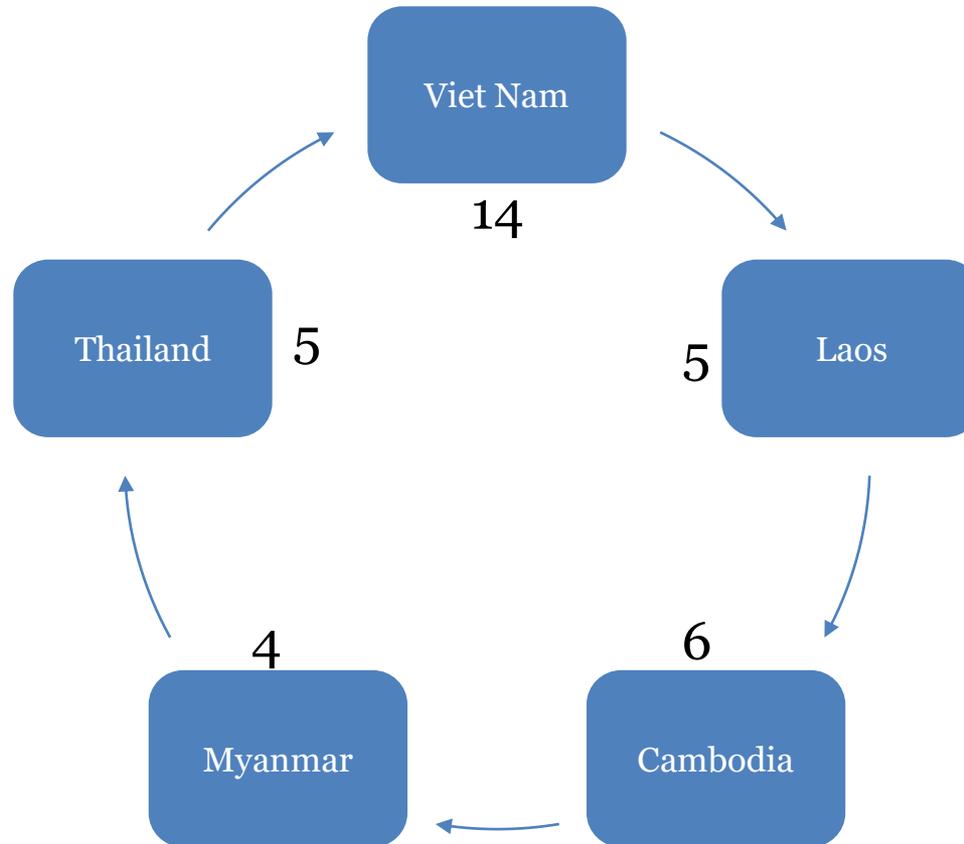
- (i) training courses and farm improvement;
- (ii) youth exchange on farming and sustainable agriculture;
- (iii) startup/agriculture innovation upon student's return home;
- (iv) agri-tourism;
- (v) youth volunteerism



3. Y-Farm's Activities

- Teach farm and youth engagement in Mekong Sub-Region
- 1st Y-Farm Camp 2017 in Lao PDR
- 2nd Y-Farm Camp 2019 in Vietnam
- Staying at home and growing own food during Covid 19 in Mekong Sub-region
- Safe food for children during Covid 19 in Vietnam
- WATSAN Program and blind people in Soc Trang Province, Vietnam
- Young farmers interaction in sustainable farming activity in Mekong Sub-region

4. Y-Farm's Members & Achievements



...34 members across Mekong Countries



5. Y-Farm Supporters

- The YSEALI Seeds for Future 2017 (USA)
- Russell E. Train Education (WWF)
- The Samdhana Institute (the Philippines)
- Mansfield Center (University of Montana)
- Mekong Delta Development Research Institute (Can Tho University)
- Eastern Vision/GLO Travel
- SEARCA (the Philippines)
- Individual Donors crossing the world.

- Future of Y-Farm is an initiative for a Resilient Mekong Community and **working together with related groups, communities, networks and multi-organizations to deal and engage into sustainable development** in the region, Y-Farm would like to be responsible into development with the others.
- Young generation in our network is innovative and resilient living to **make changes** in their communities through **food security and sustainable future** as well as being able to **make sustainable income** from Y-Farm.

6. Youth - Agent of Change in Sustainable Farming Activities



Y-Farm's argument is *“Youth are agent of change. They can change the world. It means youth and young farmers have knowledge which can gain from their everyday life practices in order to make better lives”*.

Myanmar's young farmer during the 2nd YFarm Camp 2019 in Vietnam (photo by Ly Quoc Dang, Dec 2019)

* Agency or Agent of change - a key dimension of empowerment theory

- Anderson & Eswaran (2009) demonstrated that **empowerment** is the ability to make choices/decisions in their family and community.
- Kabeer (1999, 2017) showed that that **empowerment** should reflect a **process of change**, or **a process of power shifts**. In other words, empowerment refers to the expansion of **youth's ability and capacity to make strategic and meaningful life choices**.
- In another perspectives, **empowerment** relates to **youth's sense of self-awareness; the ability to make strategic life choices** in order to control their own lives; **the ability to negotiate their relationships with others** (Kabeer, 1999; Gupta & Yesudian, 2006)

* Power -

a core dimension of empowerment theory

- Power is the **root concept of empowerment**, a discussion of the **concept of power is inevitable**. The sociological standard defines power as **the ability to make decisions**, or as **the ability to influence and persuade by imposing their ideas onto others**. Thus, if youth could bring the capacity to make decisions, or if they are able to impose their ideas onto others, they are seen as empowered (Dahl, 1957).
- Kabeer (1999) demonstrated that **power** is about **capacity** that defines **their life of choices**. **Power is the agency which** is about the ability that youth use to change themselves and influence the others.

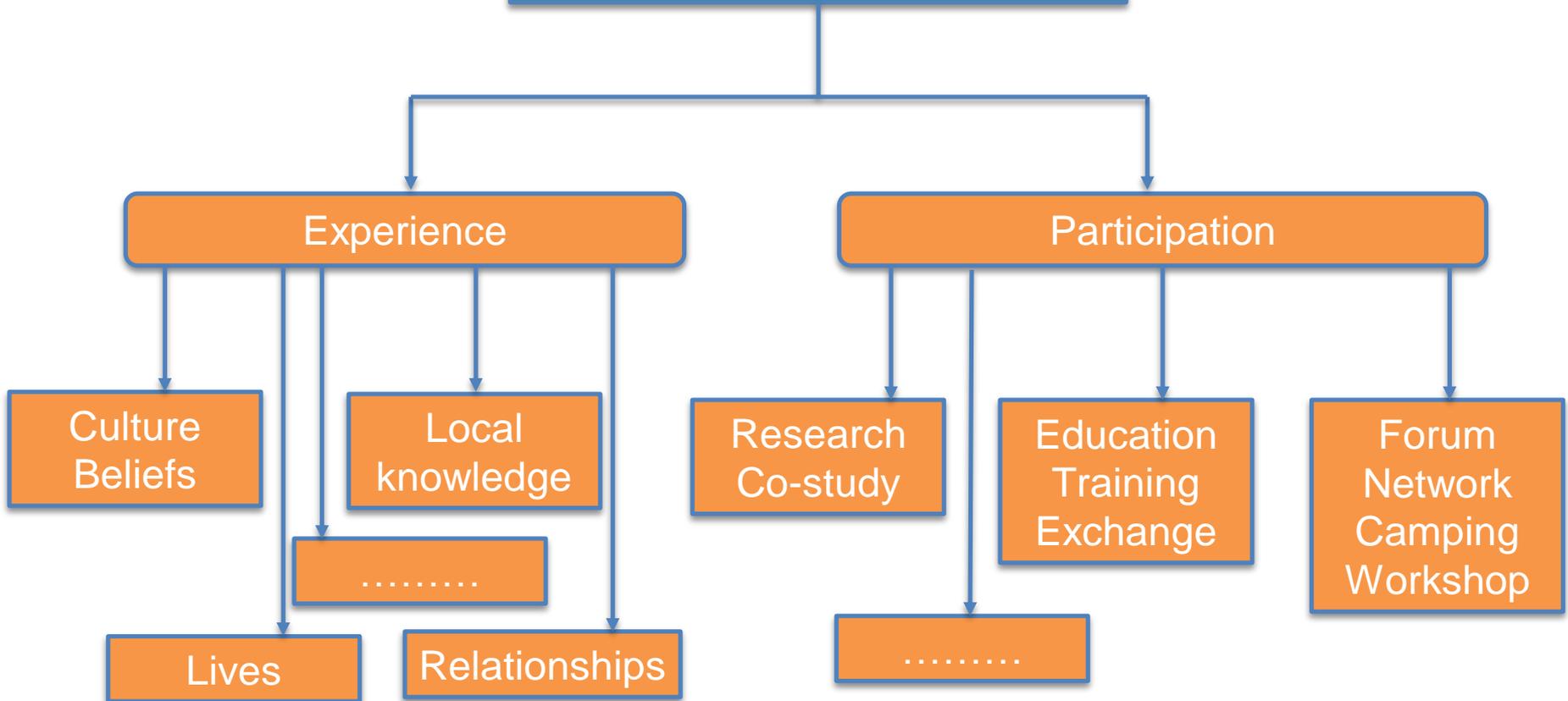
* Knowledge -

a process of experience and participation

- Chidle (1956) demonstrated that **knowledge** is derived from common **experiences** in respective societies.
- In another perspective, Agrawal (1995) presented that **knowledge systems** can be divided as modern, scientific, traditional, indigenous and **local knowledge**. And, **knowledge** is a complex process involving social, situational, cultural and institutional factors, and the **knowledge production process** can be affected by skills, orientations, **experiences**, interests, resources and **patterns of social interaction** (Study, 1998). Dang (2021) recorded that **knowledge** come from **both experience and participation**.

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Youth Empowerment in Sustainable Farming Activity





Y-Farm Camp

The 1st Y-Farm Camp in Laos 2017



The 2nd Y-Farm Camp in Vietnam 2019





**Y-Farm
Youth Exchange**

Youth exchange in Thailand



Youth exchange in Vietnam





**Y-Farm
Capacity Training**

Making compost for high school students in Ben Tre Province in the Vietnamese Mekong Delta



Making compost for high school students in Ben Tre Province in the Vietnamese Mekong Delta





Training Course for Secondary Students in Soc Trang of Vietnam



**Y-Farm
Agri-Tourism**



Agri-Tourism for International Students



Agri-Tourism for International Students



Agri-Tourism for International Students



Du lịch văn hóa Việt Mekong



**Y-Farm
Farm
Improvement**



With students at Can Tho University, making compost from agriculture waste



With students at Can Tho University, Mekong Nursery of Local Species



**Y-Farm
Research and
Scholarships**



Let's GROW
CO-CREATE
ISAAN
YFARMER

Mekong Nomad Farm

Indigenous Seed Bank





Field trip Exchange in Da Lat of Vietnam, 2021



Knowledge exchange with international students at Can To University

Tập huấn

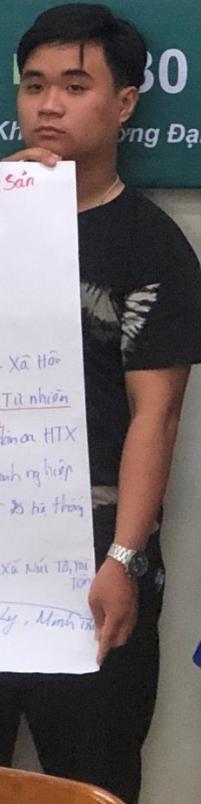
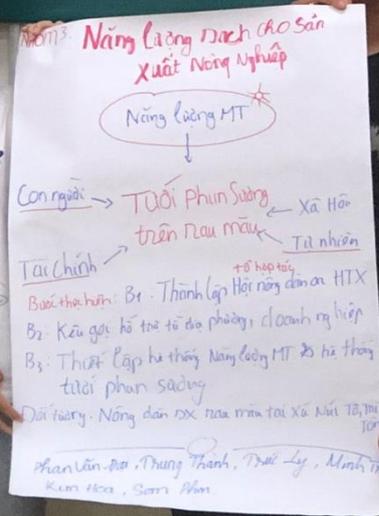
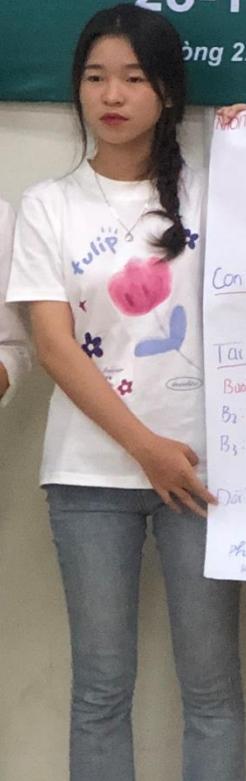
VAI TRÒ THANH NIÊN

TRONG HÀNH ĐỘNG THÍCH ỨNG KHÍ HẬU TẠI AN GIANG

28-10-2023

08:30 - 17:00

Phòng 222, Khu văn phòng Khoa Công nghệ và Môi trường, Trường Đại học An Giang



Training workshop on sustainable development in 4 universities in the Vietnamese Mekong Delta



**Y-Farm
.....but also**







Thank you for your attention!



*Contact us: contact@youthfarmnetwork.org or
yfarmnetwork@gmail.com*