

Original Paper

Community Driven Development Projects and Youth Economic Empowerment in Ruangwa District, Tanzania

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Abstract

Tanzania like any other developing countries, has established different policies to promote youth empowerment which might improve the quality of life in terms of economic independent. This call for establishment of the CDD projects for the aim of empowering youth economically. The aim of this paper was to assess the contributions of CDD Horticulture Projects in youth Economic Empowerment in Ruangwa District. Specific objectives were to examine the activities undertaken by youth farmers; determine the modality of implementing CDD horticultural projects; examine the benefits accrued by youth farmers; and examine the constraints facing youth in implementing CDD project. The study adopted Descriptive research design which involved a sample size of 216 respondents. A Purposive sampling was employed in obtaining respondents. Data was collected using structured questionnaires, interview, and focus group discussion. Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics. The study found that youth are engaging in agricultural activities such as horticultural crop production and selling of the produce for income earning. The project was implemented under group basis. Further, about 60% of youth get little benefits from CDD implementation and facing challenges upon implementation of the project. The study concludes that, 40% of the youth has positively empowered. The study recommended that, Ruangwa District Executive Director through youth empowerment projects should continuously offer technical, financial and information supportive to youths aim at increasing quality and quantity of harvest to achieve an everlasting impact of youth economic independent.

Keywords

Community Development, Driven project, youth economic, Empowerment, Ruangwa

1. Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Community-driven development (CDD) is an umbrella term for projects that actively include beneficiaries in their design and management. CDD project receives support from the government and donors that are one of the main characteristics that differentiate the CDD approach from methods used by Community Based Organizations (CBOs). The support that CDD projects receive include strengthening the ability of beneficiaries to plan, implement and manage programs; to facilitate access to services that support the relevant development programs, and to strengthen the link with formal institutions and organization for example, CBOs, Non-Government Organizations, Traders, etc (Dongier, 2012).

Over the past decade CDD projects has become a key operational strategy for many nations, governments, as well as for international aid agencies. The CDD involves many individual projects that cover thousands of villages and has cost billions of dollars (Vanga, 2018). Moreover, CDD projects can be found working across a broad spectrum of developing country environments, from emergency response projects that follow on from natural disasters and armed conflicts, to projects in middle-income countries that are used to close gaps in basic, small-scale infrastructure and that target national programs of social assistance (Duncan, 2018).

In Asia, Philippines in particular, CDD have been introduced in 2002, in which different development projects including horticultural production were carried out (Gorge, 2016; Baldwin et al., 2016). The CDD projects has benefited more than 1.6 million youth households through almost 6,000 projects providing new water systems, school buildings, day care centers, health stations, and post-harvest facilities. Many youths have been employed in the projects and were able to sustain even in the absence of funding donors, (Baldwin et al., 2016).

In sub-Sahara African countries, the CDD projects were covering 23 projects in 21 low and middle-income countries. The CDD in these countries have made substantial contributions by improving the quality of small-scale infrastructure like water supply, roads, housing and resource allocation (Makenzie, 2021). For example, in Madagascar, CDD project were used in response to flooding, for an emergency rice production (Pittmat et al., 2019). The local communities were trained in skills to manage the projects, from pesticide use to financial management (Haider, 2012). The projects were conducted in Cape Verde, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal. In these countries the CDD projects were supported by IFAD which provided funds and technical advice to empower victims recovered from internal conflicts and tribal wars, soldiers, mainly youth who were borrowed by their state to fight for the government (Hannie, 2016; Baldwin et al., 2016).

In Tanzania, CDD projects operates in terms of community-based organizations (CBOs), under the umbrella of partnerships projects either between CBOs and elected local or municipal governments or private support organizations (NGOs), or direct partnerships between CBOs and central government (Mjema, 2017; URT, 2017). Tanzanian government has realised the importance of involving

communities in their own development through the Community Development Policy of 2009 which concerned with also youth empowerment. The policy aimed at creating the enabling environment to build the capacity of the youth and promote development in health, financial services, education and agriculture (URT, 2009). This policy was facilitated by the central government, NGOs, and Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) and operated in Regions and District by involving youth in CDD projects (URT, 2017). Ruangwa District in particular organized and formed CDD projects which were supported by Aga Khan foundation since 2015-2019 (Ruangwa District Report, 2021).

In the study area the CDD horticulture Project was sponsored by Aga Khan Foundation in order to increase income and become economic independent. The aim of the CDD to increase income and become economic independent was not justified on the entire period of the project implementation of which Youth income independent are still unstable (Ruangwa District Council Report, 2021). This study therefore, aimed to assess the contributions of CDD projects on youth economic empowerment in Nkowe Ward located in Ruangwa District, specifically, examining the activities undertaken by youth farmers; determine the modality of implementing CDD horticultural farming projects; examine the benefits, accrued by youth farmers from implementing CDD horticultural project; and examine the challenges facing youth in implementing CDD horticultural farming project.

The study adopted self-determination theory as developed by Ryan (1985) and used by Tom (2018). The theory suggests that “People are able to become self-determined when their needs for competence, connections and autonomy are fulfilled”. The theory is being significantly influenced by the need satisfaction. The strengths of the theory are that, theory focuses on building positive assets, connecting youth with local resources, and engaging youth in community service activities for self-determination and self-development. The theory is relevant to this study, as it explains out how youth can be able to engage them, try out new roles and skills, find a sense of ownership, articulate their own ingenuity and opinions in decision-making processes and increases their income independence. In addition, they can be able to address challenges and experience both failure and success that supporting them to move away from their normal comfort zone (Perkins & Zimmerman, 1995).

Empirically, Mwanga (2018); conducted research on examining the sustainability of community Driven development drilled wells project in Kondoa District; Kayunze (2019) conducted a study in Geita District, to assess the nature of CDD in irrigation) projects in Nzera, Lwenge and Nyamalulu Village; Mjema (2017) conducted a study on the sustainability of community driven agricultural infrastructures irrigation schemes in Korogwe district; Fabian and Kayunga (2015) have conducted research to assess the extent of local participation in community driven development projects in four village of Bahi district, and Morogoro District; and Agufana (2015) conducted a study on the influence of youth empowerment programs on national development in Kenya showed that the importance of youth empowerment programs at the regional, national as well as international levels was evidenced by increased interest among policymakers, researchers as well as practitioners in the participation of youths in different areas of the economy.

The literature above studied on how communities are engaged themselves to different CDD projects to achieve specific goals of participation. However, these studies do not tell the reader on how CDD project contributed to the youth empowerment. Therefore, the current study will fill that gap by assessing the contribution of CDD projects on youth economic empowerment specifically in Ruangwa District, Tanzania.

2. Research Methods

The study adopted cross-section research design that allows data collection at a single point of time and has a greater degree of accuracy and precision in social science studies as compared to other research design (Kumar, 2018). This study was conducted in Nkowe Ward in Ruangwa District. The main economic activities of the youth habitats are agriculture production of cereals, legumes, horticultural farming, Sesame and cashew nuts as commercial and exports crops. The reason for choosing this ward is that it is a potential area for vegetable production in the district. Also, there are dynamic groups of youth formed to implement horticultural activities which were supported by Agha Khan Foundation as CDD projects with the aims of empowering youth in term of technology, information and economic independent. The sample size of this study was 216 respondents determined by Ryan (2013) as adopted in Yamane formula developed in 1967. The study employed purposive sampling of which youths who participated on the CDD in three villages in Nkowe Ward were chosen to be the respondents. The study has been carried out in Nkowe ward which has three (3) villages: of Nkowe, Mpumbe, and Kipindimbi. On the other hand, proportionate sampling was used basing on the village with large number of youths who involved in the implementation of CDD.

Basing on population of youths in three villages computation was done and the following figure were obtained. Nkowe village 126 respondents were selected out 268 youths, Kipindimbi village 59 respondents were selected out of 126 Youths and Mpumbe village 31 respondents were selected out of 66 Youth farmers. Based on the figure which is 126, 59 and 31 simple random sampling were employed provided that the list of Youth farmers was available at the Village Executive Office in their respective villages. The researcher called the respondents by name(s) to participate in dully filled questionnaire in order to supply primary data which were aids to answer the research questions.

The study collected both primary and secondary data. Primary data has been gathered through questionnaire, interview and focus group discussion while secondary data has been obtained through documentary review such as Aga Khan Foundation reports, Community Based Farmer (CBF) attendance forms, group chairperson files, the Youth farmers meeting records and that of Ward Community Development Officer reports. However, interview method and focus group discussion was conducted by using interview check list to key informants who were willing and have time to participate in the interview. This technique has been used to get information from youths who were engaging in CDD horticultural farming project one in which a respondent point of view, experience, feelings, and perception was obtained.

Quantitative data obtained from general information of the respondents has been analysed using descriptive statistics whereby percentage and frequency has been computed with the aid of Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS). Objective one concerning activities undertaken by the Youth in the study area were analysed using descriptive statistics in order to determine the number of respondents engaged in vegetable production, types of crops grown and size of land used in horticulture farming. Objective two concerning project implementation modality were analysed using Chi-square whereby a researcher at the first point determines the situation of the youth in terms of training involved and income earning before the project in order to see if there is any association in terms of income earning after the projects. Objective three concerning the benefits encountered by respondents upon implementing CDD project were analysed using one sample t-test whereby researcher used respondents' responses on checking whether the project brought about benefits or otherwise. And objective four concerning challenges facing youth's farmers during implementation multiple response analysis were used and presented by percentage whereby common challenge were those spoken out by high percentage of respondents among others. On the other hand, qualitative data were analysed using thematic analysis whereby actual words were reported to counter argue quantitative data.

3. Findings and Discussion

3.1 Examination of CDD Project Activities Undertaken by Youth

The study investigated the kinds of activities carried out by youth in Nkowe ward under the CDD horticulture project. The finding revealed that 100% of the respondents claimed that they are engaged in horticulture farming as their project economic activities due to favorable condition for farming. The availability of water, drained soil boosts the growth of horticulture farming. Therefore, on this view, the Aga khan Foundation select Nkowe ward to implement the project aimed at improving economic independent hence youth economic empowerment.

Together with activities undertaken by youth this study aimed at examining how youth in the study area initiated the CDD horticulture projects activities. The study finding revealed that initiative of CDD project has established after knowing the objectives of the project of which the aim was to empower youth on income even if the project phased out. The findings on how the CDD project was initiated in the study area indicated that, 39.4% of the respondents received education assistance from Agha Khan Foundation to join in CDD horticulture project. Respondents reported that during the village meeting the Agha Khan Foundation using the organisation representative has encourage youth to join and form a CDD project, and 39.8% were assisted by experienced farmers (CBF) who realized the importance of horticultural farming in view of income generation. However, one of the aspects of CDD horticulture project activities was to determine types of crops produced in the study area. The findings revealed that Onions were grown by (62.5%) of the respondents. This is followed by tomatoes (18.9%) and cabbage (9.3%). However, notable differences in the proportion of respondents who reported production of the

remaining vegetable products were apparent. For example, relatively small number of youth farmers reported growing sweet pepper (4.6%), night black shed 10 (4.5%) respectively.

The majority of the respondents perceive producing vegetable to be at the moment the new alternative for income generation to them. During data collection the researcher observed that the majority opt to grow vegetable than any other agricultural products. The findings show that 140 (64.8%) of the respondents said onions is in higher demand than any other vegetable, followed by 76 (35.2%) of respondents who agreed that tomato is also one of the demanded products, The findings indicate that onions were the first vegetable with high demand at the market Onions were sold in and out of Ruangwa. These include Nachingwea, Lindi, Masasi and Mtwara markets.

3.2 CDD Horticulture Project Implementation Modality

In order to examine the modality of carrying out the CDD horticulture project the researcher used data obtained from an interview, group discussion and questionnaire. In order to empower the youth Agha Khan Foundation releasing fund for the project by following process in collaboration with government. The Foundation set an approach to obtain youth for CDD project following involvement of youth training on knowledge and skills on horticultural production. The aim was to examine the contributions of these factors to youth economic empowerment.

The funding releasing involved the following procedures: The Project Management Committee (PMC) consisting of Ward Project chairman, and the three Community Based Farmers (CBF) members' one from each village of Nkowe, Mpumbe and Kipindimbi respectively fills and submits a request for funds using CDD grant forms and to the District Agricultural and Irrigation Development Officer (DAIDO) who indorses the form. Secondly, once the funds were approved, then funds are withdrawn from the account by the chairperson after the consent of members. Then, the Project chairperson retains copies of forms to be signed for future reference.

From a momentum view, (93%) of the youth respondents mentioned that the Project Management Committee (PMC) involved them well in writing a fund request report, as one of the main CDD grant application process in the implementation process. Supporting this view is one of the youth representatives, remarked:

"....The PMC involved youth in writing project fund request report, PMC submits the Report to the Aga Khan Chief or directly to the District Council, which is indeed, may be inadequately supervised and organized. But one of its undisputed contributions to the career development is its mobilization of community contribution utilization and the signing of MOUs with the government" (Interviewee, Nkowe Village, July, 2022).

The finding contributes that, facing common problems as a solidary group and finding solutions collectively leads to great self-assurance and pride over the group's ability to act productively. However, during focus group discussion, the study found that the project has already been dictated by the funders and no group benefits from the grants by the project's funders at the District. Respondent reported that:

“.....The leaders have their own projects and we as youth have our own projects but they cannot give us the money for our own projects” (Interviewee, Nkowe Village, July, 2022).

From the response the research reveals that, only leaders group were funded and common youth groups could not access the funds provided by Aga Khan Foundation through the Ruangwa District Council. Moreover, CDD does offer the youth chances and/or opportunity to explore the practical application of the grants to activities that contributes to their capacity building.

The finding in this study suggests that, Central governments may establish localized projects boards, but give them only a narrow scope of responsibility, or make them dependent on government funding, or bind them with government-imposed rules on how they are to operate. There can be no doubt that, because of the subversive potential of community projects, that sort of project may itself be subverted and for the reason it was observed during the group discussion that 85% of youth in the study is couldn't access funding. The findings are in line with that of Kent (2016) who contributed, thus, central powers (or rural elites) may resist community-based development projects.

The Table below represents approaches used by the Aga Khan foundation in empowering youth through the CDD project.

Table 1. Approaches Used by Aga Khan Foundations in Empowering Youth (n=216)

| Modalities for youth involvement | F | % |
|--|------------|--------------|
| Village General Meeting Announcement | 41 | 18.9 |
| Inputs provision and assistance | 52 | 24.1 |
| On Farm training and field visits Farmers) | 64 | 29.6 |
| Farmers Field School (FFS) | 30 | 13.9 |
| Study Tours by CBF (Community based | 29 | 13.5 |
| Total | 216 | 100.0 |

The study findings revealed that, there are mixtures of different approaches and methods asserted by the Agha khan foundations in playing the role as part and partial of CDD fostering a conscientised change with youth in empowerment in the community. During the interview with the key informants, one mentioned that

“...CDD project in its implementation undergo numerous steps that the local government and the Agha Khan Foundations go through to access, utilize and empower youth at Nkowe ward. The village meetings were held in each of the three villages up to at the initial stage of awareness, then inputs such as water tank and water pumps, quality seeds, fertilizers and insecticides were provided to active members in groups having not less than five (5) members but not more than 25 members. The study tour was done only to the selected community members on behalf of other group members. The selected members were called CBF

(community-based Farmers, and attended a visit at Kikafuchini, and Ruvu irrigation sites in Kilimanjaro Region and also a zonal training in Lindi town and Mtwara respectively was carried out". (Interviewee, Nkowe Village, July, 2022)

The farmers' field school was established at the base of the production site for youth farmers to observe; one of the key informants reported;

"....We established the farm field school as the Aga Khan believes that seeing believes rather than hearing only" (Interviewee, Mpumbe Village, July, 2022).

On farm training was also carried out by the CBF who has been undergone prior stud from Aga Khan. One of the CBF at Mpumbe Village reported that;

"...I attended the training at Moshi, Arusha and Lindi, I learnt how other youth farmers in Kilimanjaro and Arusha are working, the seminars and observations were very interesting. When I come back I explained this to my Fellow youth, but could not understand until I practiced what I learnt to my farm. The yield I got was a lesson to them and a motivational factor that some youth has taken into action. Now they are great at work and their income are high. Now are self-sustaining through horticultural project" (Interviewee, Nkowe Village, July, 2022).

The study results indicate that 41(18.9%) responded have been involved in village general meeting and announcement, while 52 (24.1 %) respondents reported to have been assisted with inputs, whereas on farm training was the major project method applied by the project supporters in involving youth in the project as 64(29.6%) respondents have been involved, farmers field school targeted 30 (13.9%) respondent and study tour was conducted top only 29 (3.9%) respondents. The findings reveals that the Aga• Khan Foundation has equipped youth with proper information, and awareness. Also has given input assistance to CDD youth Groups in each of the tree villages. For famers to observe the Aga Khan established so called *Shamba Darasa* (Famers Field School) for those reluctant to changes could observe the results of skill used. Moreover, few Youth leaders were attending special courses outside Nkowe ward and become key teachers to fellow youth in the CDD project. Therefore, youth in the project were positively involved in the empowerment process.

3.3 Benefits Encountered by Youth through the CDD Project

The study has attempted to find out whether or not does youth has gained any benefit through their participation in CDD horticulture Projects. The results from the study shows that youth respondents' participation in monitoring and evaluation as one of the benefits, also respondents have some income gained through horticulture project although was inadequate to support their progressiveness in the project as follows: Youth's participation in monitoring and evaluation of the project has been tested among youth to whether or not they do participate. The study reveals that, youth were engaged in different evaluation process of the project. 69% of respondents reported to have participated in simple objective achievement analysis by the use of cost of inputs and other expenses incurred in relations to income gained after sells of the horticultural products. 18.5% of respondents reported to have ability to

determine whether the farming activities will be sustainable in the future. 3.7% of the respondents were able to evaluate the efficiency of technology used and 2.3% were able to go through yield estimation respectively.

These findings are supported by Shaun *et al.* (2014) in a paper on small holder growers being linked to evaluation of the activities in farming and the effects to advisory and extension services which was done to explore the agricultural extension services responsibilities and the developing emphasis on the business and marketing need of small holder growers.

Concerning level of income gained by the youth, the study indicated that the income gained by youth who are launched the project varies from very high income to at least low income. The results found out that, the majority of youth 40.7% has income above TZS 50,000/= to 450,000/= per week during a harvesting period, relatively 21.8% of the respondent has 10,000/= to 20,000/= per week and 21.8% has 40,000 to 50,000/= in a week, while only 16.2% has low income of 30,000 to 40, 000/= per week. The results indicate that the incomes generated by the farmers after the project ending up have had some impact in their livelihoods. Youth were able to reach some satisfactory level for their basic needs on food, shelter and health. Access different types of foods have increased number of meals and were able to improve the status of the housing. This was the positive impact of CDD project in youth empowerment.

These findings are in line with the theory of Maslow's Hierarchy of needs theory (1970) that states that each need must be satisfied in turn, starting with the first, most obvious needs for survival itself, one should reach some satisfactory level for their basic needs on food, shelter and health.

3.4 Challenges Facing Youth Community Driven Development Project

The finding revealed that despite the Agha Khan Foundations support to Youth CDD Project in the study area, members were found to encounter different challenges that probably limit their chances to empowerment success. The finding shows that 59 (27.3%) of the respondents complain about lack of skilled personnel at the project farm level in mobilizing the community to participate in the development activities. The study revealed that lack of horticultural skills among the youths who engaged in horticulture production is responsible for the low quantity of vegetables produced. Extension officers argued that the number of extension officers at the village level is not adequate for the vegetable growers in the given villages in the ward. This makes it difficult for the farmers to get consultation from these experts. This has been supported by Onger (2014) that the challenges in skills mismatching between horticulture production and the requirement of accessing expert knowledge in the production. This led to low production of horticultural crops and also reduces the return on investment (ROI). This has made them turn into other business that will bring them more returns.

Higher cost of running projects among youth has been reported as the major factor contributes to high rates of challenges in youth empowerment projects in the study i' area. 50 (23.1%) respondents said that producing vegetables, especially onions, needs seeds, and fertilizer to be used. Although the Aga Khan Foundation produced in put for the horticulture projects, there was a biased provision of inputs

complained by the youth in the project area. The Aga Khan Management team in the study area used to provide inputs only to key farmers (CBF), and to farmers field school members in the study areas while leaving some of the youth facing inadequate inputs, hence lowered production and low income generated which forces youth to drop out horticulture and engage in other petty business.

Furthermore, the study revealed that the respondents interviewed said that lack of capital was another challenge; as most rural youth lack capital for investing in horticulture production. Moreover, lack of capital reported by 32 (14.8%) respondents. The respondents interviewed said that that producing horticulture crops, especially onions, needs seeds, and fertilizer to be used. But these small-scale farmers do not have access to capital hence they fail to achieve maximum production. The finding reveals that only key farmers (CBF) one from each village and few selected early adopters and project leaders were funded as explained earlier.

Another challenge reported was inadequate marketing information was reported by 20 (9.3%) of respondents. The study reveals that youth lacks marketing information to sell their horticulture crops. The local marketing was the only prevailing. The local export market was very low; this has made youth products to deteriorate in the farm hence lower its quality and reduced prices. When extension officers were asked, they all agreed that market is one of the major problems in the study area. They said if there were to be a constant market producers could produce enough products to meet the demand. Instead, most of the horticultural crops grower produces only what they believe it is possible to sell. These findings concur with the findings of Khaoya and Makori (2016) research findings where they emphasized on the need of exposing the rural youth to marketing networks for their products. It was seen that marketing was a challenge especially after the youth's had been provided with loan as working capital, fail to sell their produce leading to loan defaults and youth financial frustrations.

Another challenge was poor management and workmanship on the projects which made the project not constructed according to prescribed standards. The findings on project management indicate that supervision and monitoring of projects implementation was inadequate. 6.0% respondents reported that there was poor project management and there were early cut off of the project before the agreeable time frame in Mpumbe and Kipindimbi villages and completed project was only at Nkowe village however, even the completed one was not put in use as most of youth has quitted the horticulture farming. In reporting this, one of the CBF said;

"..... There we abrupt cut of the project. The project was expected to take three (3) years. But all of the sudden in two years and a half, we could no longer access the Aga Khan team Leader; when we asked our CBF chairperson he told us that the project has been terminated"
(Interviewee, Nkowe Village, July, 2022).

These findings concur with that of Grace (2014) on investigating factors affecting success of projects funded by youth enterprises development projects in Kenya using a case study of Kigumo District which revealed that most failure in the project which causes youth withdraw is based on poor

management and supervision of the project managers which lead to weak project implementation in terms of achievable time, costs, quality targets, and poor community mobilization.

Moreover, the findings are at hand with that of Denika (2018) that, CDD has all the bones to be a really terrific way to do development, but ensuring that objectives are clear and what the ‘benefit’ is expected to be, and how to obtain, and collect evidence to determine if intended beneficiaries are actually benefitting that’s where CDD tends to fall well short of the mark.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

4.1 Conclusion

On activities undertaken in CDD youth project, the study concluded that complex interventions like CDD have uncertain courses of change. Consequently, they do much better with very long-term engagement, good monitoring systems with feedback loops, and an adaptive approach to implementation. In this study the length of the project was short which is about three (3) years which is was not enough over has terminated in the middle of the project at 2 years. There were no good monitoring system and adaptive methodology to the implementation of the project.

On project modality, was not relevant to the objective of youth economic empowerment. CDD also works best when the efforts at enhancing bottom-up engagement are actively supported by a capable central state that has the back of local activists who are confronting local elites.

On benefit accrued it requires an “insert” of capable institutions at the bottom and the top and full integration with the relevant line ministries. These pre-requisites are often absent in the Nkowe youth CDD horticultural Project, which means that CDD, like many other development interventions, becomes very difficult to implement.

On challenges faced CDD, CDD has all the bones to be a really remarkable way to do development, but ensuring that objectives are clear and what the ‘benefit’ is expected to be, and to collect evidence to determine if intended beneficiaries are actually benefitting that’s where CDD tends to fall well short of the mark leading to youth quitting from horticulture farming instead of being economically empowered.

4.2 Recommendations

Basing on the finding, this study recommended that, on activities carried out in CDD projects on economic bases, the study recommends that export crops like onions and tomatoes should be considered as an income raising product. The marketing availability to export crops especially onions should be taken into consideration for positive empowerment of youth. Youth should be equipped with financial literacy training as it is a vital in finding reliable marketing. Financial training should be conducted to help youth save enough to provide adequate capital to invest in their horticultural projects and in finding reliable markets. Financial literacy training should be based on income and marketing in consideration to education levels because highly educated consumers with high incomes can be just as ignorant about financial issues as less educated and lower income youth. Youth should be asked to

choose among various investment and savings products because the financial landscape is very dynamic. The Government, through youth empowerment projects should continuously offer training to youths especially those with no technical skills, information skills and financial skills on horticultural production techniques that aim at increasing quality and quantity of harvest to achieve lasting impacts. On startup capital, this study recommends that public partnerships should be fostered between the government, development partners, non-governmental organizations, financial institutions and other relevant financial institutions to ensure that youth are provided with low conditional loans that can help them access capital towards investing in horticulture production.

On project modality and information bases, the on-farm training could be the best way in which individual farmers could be reached apart from village meetings. Moreover, information should be provided in advance, like traders' supporting terms, probable array of prices, availability of horticultural inputs, marketing information and availability of other companies worth contacting.

On benefit from CDD horticulture farming empowerment through technological bases, this study recommends that industrialization should be boosted to create more marketing opportunities. The marketing opportunities may increase youth's income through industrialization of horticulture produce like chill sauce industries, tomato cunnig industries and others to overcome marketing problems and the ever-rising number of lacks of economic bases among youths in the country. Since horticulture farming is not a holistic solution to lack income among the youths and not every youth is interested in horticulture farming, but horticulture farming industrialization will encourage more youth to participate in CDD projects and rise up their economic independence.

In general, the study recommends that youth empowerment through CDD projects must be supported by the willingness to share knowledge and collectively work together so that to expand outreach to the youth growing populations enabling a collective environment that will maximize the impact of the rush forward of youth entering the horticultural workforce instead of quitting hence empowering of youth in terms of economic, technological and information bases.

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