These programs are preparing Africa’s young people to meet urgent regional needs, including hunger, sustainable livelihoods, and food security. In 2012, these independent country programs set a three-year goal to equip 250,000 young people in Sub-Saharan Africa with the knowledge and skills needed for improved, sustainable livelihoods. Today, these programs reach more than 320,000 youth (ages 6-24) through 4-H Enterprise Gardens, an Africa-based model that equips young Africans with knowledge and tangible skills—helping to fuel transformational change in their communities. 4-H’s Kenya-based monitoring and evaluation hub documented considerable outcomes from 4-H programs in Ghana, Kenya and Tanzania:

- 85% of respondents want to participate in 4-H projects next year
- 80% of respondents want to pursue agriculture as a career
- 80% of respondents want to pursue agriculture at the tertiary level
- 83% of respondents are interested in staying in school because of 4-H

**4-H ENTERPRISE GARDENS: GHANA’S MODEL OF SUCCESS**

The birth place of the 4-H Enterprise Garden Model, 4-H Ghana, is a local independent NGO that is headquartered in Koforidua, Ghana. Founded in 2000, 4-H Ghana engages 9,500 youth in agriculture and health programs through strategic partnerships with local ministries of agriculture and education in eastern and northern Ghana.

In Ghana, the 4-H Enterprise Gardens are serving as learning laboratories to effectively integrate the science of positive youth development, agriculture and innovative partnerships. This program inspires young people to explore agricultural careers and prepare for a role in feeding Africa and the larger world through market-based, youth-in-agriculture projects and sustainable models for food security.

Youth plan, plant and manage a food-producing, in-school (6-18) or out-of-school (18+) garden, gaining practical, hands-on experience and providing income and food for their communities. Youth also develop a business plan to grow their enterprise. By strengthening their agricultural and entrepreneurial skills, 4-H Enterprise Gardens position youth as leaders in their communities. This ensures that the gardens become self-sustaining while promoting and growing local youth led businesses.
In 2013, Ghana’s 4-H Enterprise Gardens yielded 25 cobs (maize) per row, compared to 10 cobs per row produced by local farmers.

4-H Enterprise Gardens produce tangible results to help youth feed themselves and their families:

- Greater access to nutritious food
- Increased income
- Improved school attendance
- Basic understanding of supply chains
- Entrepreneurial skills

**CAPACITY STRENGTHENING**

Independent 4-H programs in Africa have formed strategic public/private partnerships with several entities to advance Africa’s youth and agriculture agenda. A few are highlighted below:

- **DuPont**: 4-H programs in Ghana and Ethiopia have partnered with Dupont business units to leverage existing public private partnerships between Dupont, USAID and the respective national governments through the Advanced Maize Seed Adoption Program (AMSAP) and the Ghana Advanced Maize Seed Adoption Program (GAMSAP). In addition, programs in the region are working with DuPont Nutrition to develop a nutrition toolkit that leverages the success of the Enterprise Garden model.

- **Government**: 4-H programs in Kenya and Ethiopia have partnered with the ministry of agriculture and education to leverage existing extension and teacher network infrastructure for the purposes of sustainably scaling the 4-H model. In Kenya, this partnership resulted in an increase in 4-H youth engagement from 2,500 to 66,000 in 2012.

- **4-H** partnered with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to insure that resources, commitment, and expertise were in place for country-led 4-H programs and partners in Sub-Saharan Africa to engage youth farmers.

- **Foundations**: Nike Foundation and 4-H Tanzania partnered to conduct an assessment of barriers that exist for girls in education and agriculture. The study discovered that girls face more barriers to social and educational participation due to:
  - A lack of support and awareness from parents,
  - Under-equipped adult 4-H club advisers to engage girls,
  - Deeply rooted cultural practices that prohibit girls from some social and economic activities, and
  - Less access to resources, such as tools and inputs, than male counterparts in 4-H activities.

As a result, a 4-H gender toolkit was developed in partnership with local parents and teachers to address these barriers. The toolkit is now available to 4-H programs across the region.

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