



Summary of Roundtable Dialogue Workshop Discussion SIANI Annual meeting 2020

More than 60 enthusiastic participants took part in the SIANI Annual meeting 2020, which focused on the effective inclusion of rural youth. The meeting explored different ways to increase the interest and participation of youth in the food system as well as the connections between young people, food security and agriculture.

All participants at the meeting were invited to take part in round table discussions to share their ideas on how to ensure that young people who live in rural areas can seize opportunities, achieve their life goals and shape development of their countries. The discussions were revolved around the question:

How can you and your organization help build an attractive future together with rural youth?

Vivid and fruitful conversations at all tables produced many great ideas. The participants stressed the critical role of secured land rights, appropriate insurance systems and access to social services. However, “soft measures” were considered equally important. Shifting the perception about farming as a low-status activity was a key issue in many discussions, together with youth empowerment and an increased inclusion of youth in decision-making at all levels.

Examples from the category of most important and impactful ideas

- Break the stigma associated with farming and rural life. Change the perception that farming and agriculture are only for unqualified people.
- Provide functioning infrastructure such as schools, healthcare, telecommunication, distance studies and alternative employment in rural areas.
- Create space and opportunity for young people to engage in decision-making. Offer youth participation in decision organs, why not 50/50?
- Assist succession from old to young farmers, both in terms of knowledge and in physical assets.
- Enable structural changes, such as secured access to land and policies counteracting the urban norm.

