Youth participation is the key to a sustainable future for agriculture and cooperatives. That is why Agriterra developed the Kick-Off Workshop Youth Participation, as part of the Agriterra Youth Programme. The two day workshop stimulates interactive discussions and sharing of knowledge, by creating an environment of mutual understanding and openness among the participants. The moderator and agripooler will inform participants on youth participation and provide them with plenty of opportunities to share their own ideas and input on the topic. Through this approach, participants will follow a path along different aspects of youth participation on the first day. On the second day, they will make an action plan for which the input, discussions and answers to the exercises on the first day will be used as a source of inspiration.

**PARTICIPANTS**

Per training four cooperatives may participate. Every cooperative is to send six participants to the workshop: one manager, one board member and four young members of the cooperative. The training will be conducted by a moderator (guide for the group), Dutch Agripooler (expert on youth participation) and an Agriterra business advisor.

**OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the workshop are as follows:

- Inform participants about youth participation and ways to organise it.
- Inform participants about youth councils, their aim, structure and place in the cooperative, illustrated by examples of successful Dutch cooperative youth councils.
- Stimulate an interactive discussion between the board members and management versus young members on youth participation, their interests and possible concerns.
- List opportunities, benefits and challenges related to youth participation and interact about the outcome.

**COSTS**

Available on request.

Youth participation is key to a sustainable future for agriculture and cooperatives.
**PROGRAMME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHEN?</th>
<th>WHAT?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day before workshop</td>
<td>Participants arrive, informal dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
<td>Introduction, benefits and opportunities of youth participation, mutual needs and expectations for enabling youth participation, experience sharing from an agripooler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day 2</td>
<td>Experience sharing from an agripooler and making a 6-month action plan for youth participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>After 6 months</td>
<td>Follow up day to assess what progress has been made per organisation</td>
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**REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION**

The participating cooperatives can be very distinct. Every cooperative has its own history, origin, culture and all are in their own stage of development. During the training, the focus will be on the exchange of experiences, best practices and mutual learning. Openness and willingness to share are crucial. Because the group is made up of various functions and roles - board members, managers and young members - it is important that participants are aware of this diversity in advance and that they are willing to put themselves in the position of others, both in their personal function and in their organisational role. During this process, the moderator acts as a guide and facilitator.

**WHAT’S IN IT FOR YOU?**

Youth participation is the key to sustaining your cooperative in the future. Communication between youngsters, older members, management and the board of the cooperative is of vital importance in creating trust and enabling youth to share their ideas, innovative thinking and access to new technologies.

**OUTCOMES AND FOLLOW-UP**

An action plan for the coming 6 months, including first steps that will be taken by the participating organisation in order to increase youth participation. Follow-up is of vital importance; there are two training courses in development: a Youth Council Training and a Youth Leadership Training. Follow-up on the Kick-Off Workshop will be done by the local business advisor, who will regularly monitor and evaluate action plans with the client to ensure sustainability and continuity. Six months after the programme, the participating cooperatives will come back for a follow-up day. A presentation will be given on the progress made in the field of youth participation.

Agriterra is an agri-agency founded by the Dutch agricultural sector that professionalises farmer organisations and cooperatives worldwide in order to better serve the needs and interests of their member farmers.