



# Exploring Youth Development Outcomes in Agri-Based Youth Clubs: Insights for Rural Youth Investments and Engagement in Agriculture

**SONNY PASIONA**

Southeast Asian Regional Center for  
Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture

A T T A I N  
ACCELERATING TRANSFORMATION THROUGH AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION





# Background

- Youth as a critical resource for the world's development agenda.
- 90% of the youth are in developing countries, roughly half in rural areas.
- Too much focus on youth engagement in agriculture, less investigation on the role of adults.
- Need to examine outcomes of youth engagement in agriculture to young people themselves.



# Background

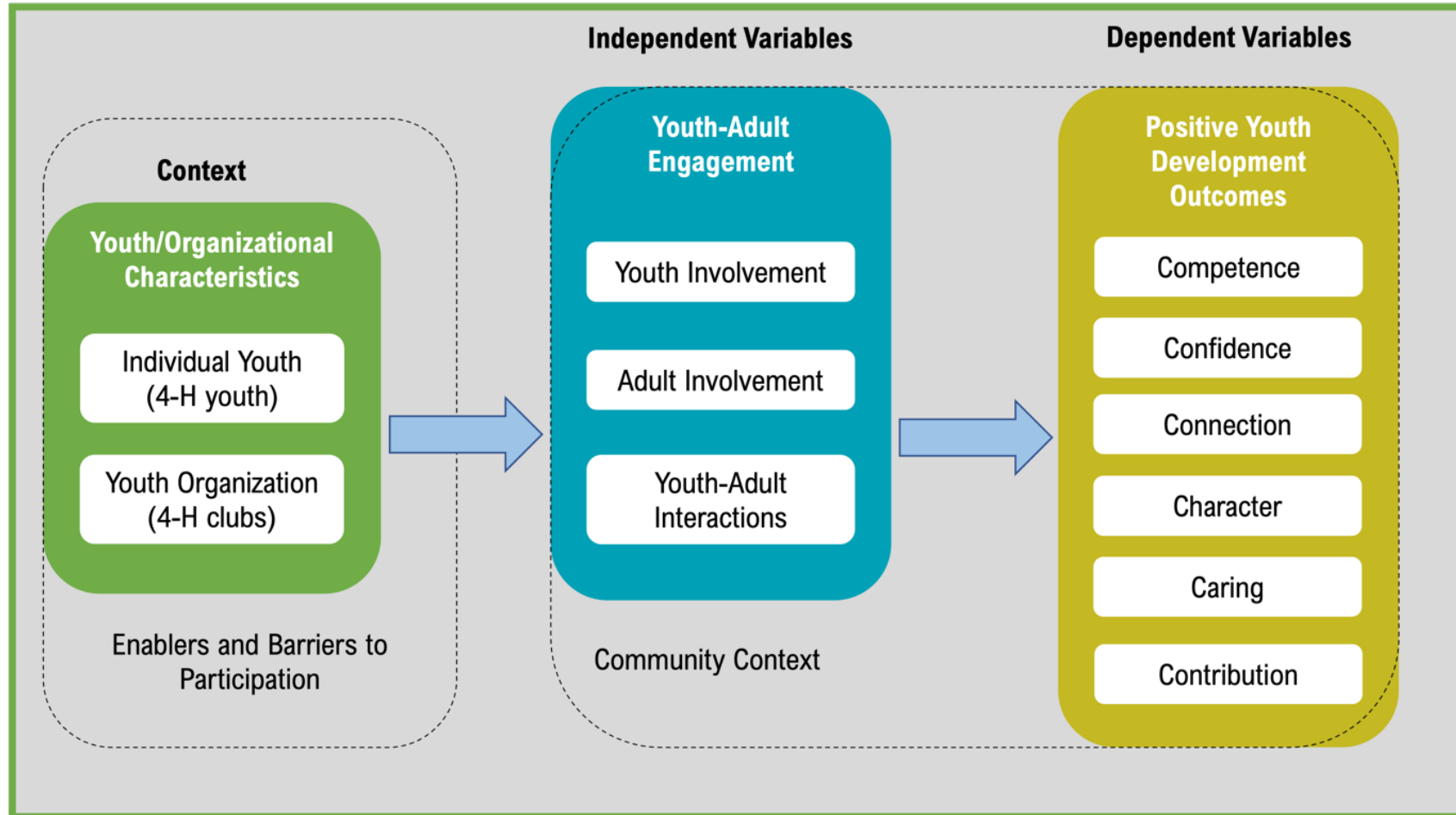
## Main Objective

Examine **youth-adult engagement** in community-based agriculture projects and its link to **positive youth development outcomes** among the 4-H youth of Bicol, Philippines.

## Specific Objectives

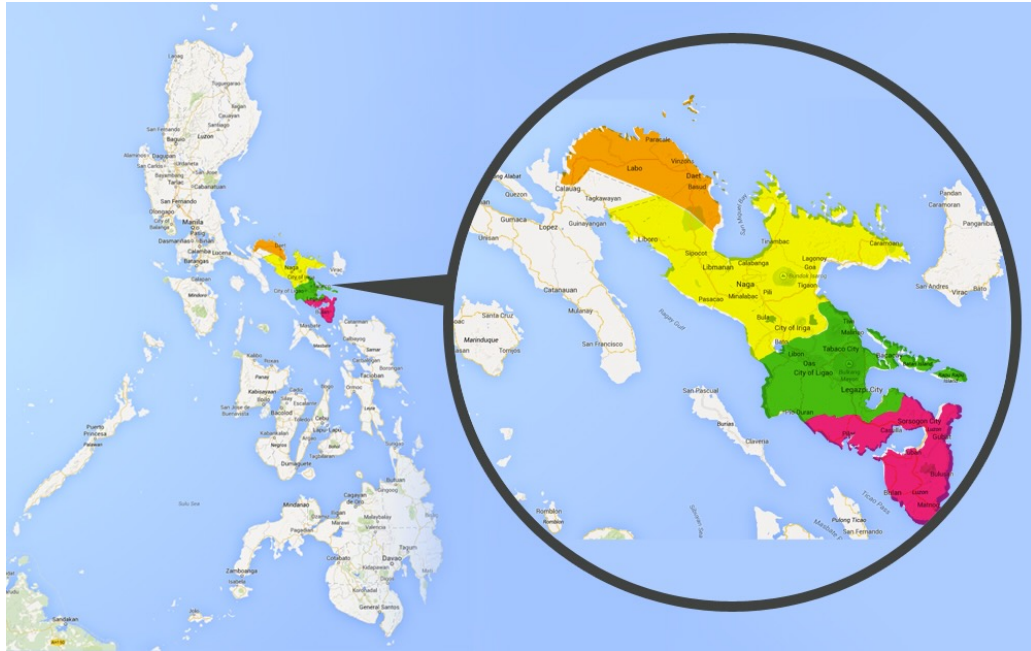
1. Describe the **organizational contexts and dynamics** of 4-H clubs, and the **socio-demographic characteristics** of the 4-H youth.
2. Identify the **enablers** and **barriers** of youth participation to 4-H Club.
3. Determine and describe the level of perceived **youth-adult engagement and positive youth development outcomes** in the planning and implementation of community-based agriculture projects.
4. Test and describe the **relationship between** youth-adult engagement and the perceived positive youth development outcomes of 4-H youth.

# Conceptual Framework



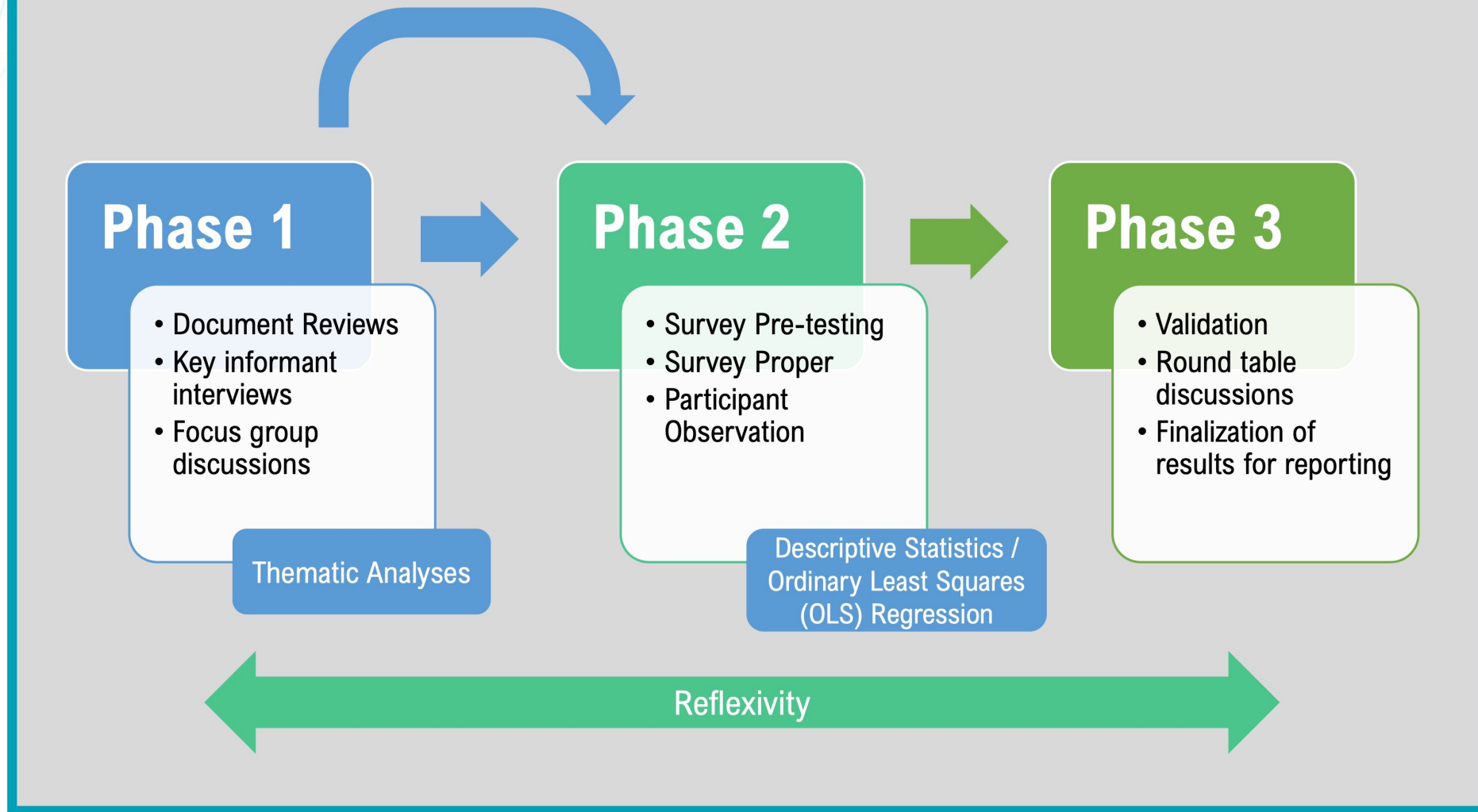


# Methodology



- Exploratory sequential mixed-methods (KIIs, FGDs, document reviews, non-participant observation, survey)
- Provinces of Camarines Norte and Albay, Bicol, Philippines
- 5 youth clubs in each province
- 154 respondents

## Survey Instrument Development





# What is 4-H club?

- An organization of out-of-school youth and in-school youth involved in agriculture programs and livelihood projects for the four-fold development of the "Head, Heart, Hands, and Health."
- For single youth, aged 15-30 years old.
- Membership is open and voluntary.
- Emphasizes community-based projects in agriculture and homemaking.
- An avenue for farm family development.



# What is 4-H club?



**Trainings Programs**  
**Internships**  
**Youth Summit**



# What is 4-H club?

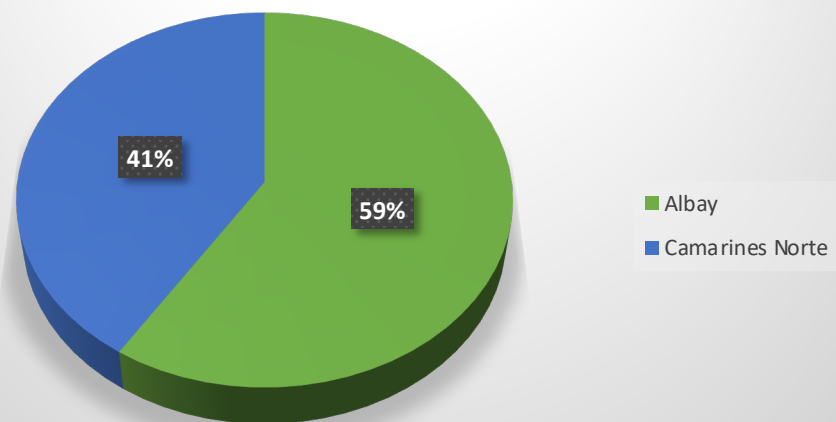
Clubs have a set of officers and a volunteer leader.



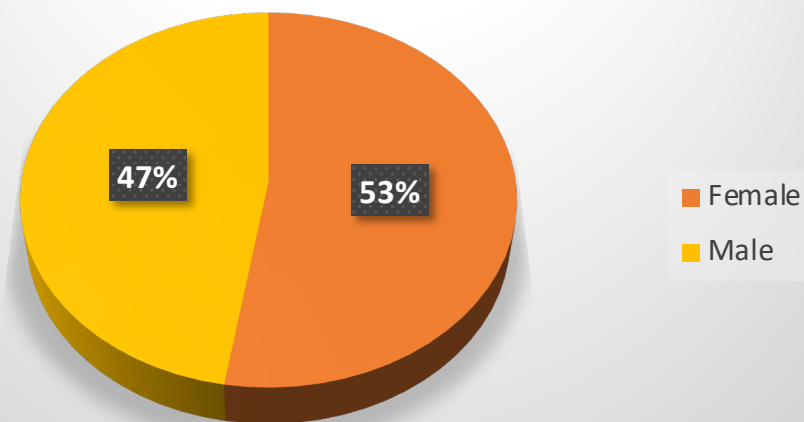
Members engage in community-based agriculture projects (e.g. crops, broiler, poultry, hydroponics etc.)

# Profiling the 4-H youth

Respondents (N=154)



Sex



Average Age: 21



# Profiling the 4-H youth

Youth Classification		
OSY	20	12.99%
ISY	122	79.22%
Graduated	12	7.79%
ISY (N=122)		
High School	44	36.07%
College	78	63.93%
Years in 4-H		
<1 year	13	8.44%
1-3 years	93	60.39%
4-6 years	38	24.68%
> 6 years	10	6.49%

Almost 80% are in-school youth

64% are in college

2.72 average years with 4-H,  
majority within 1-3 years

# Profiling the 4-H youth

Membership		
Member	92	59.74%
Officer	62	40.26%
Affiliation with other youth orgs		
No	112	72.73%
Yes	42	27.27%
Agri as primary source of income		
No	43	27.92%
Yes	111	72.08%

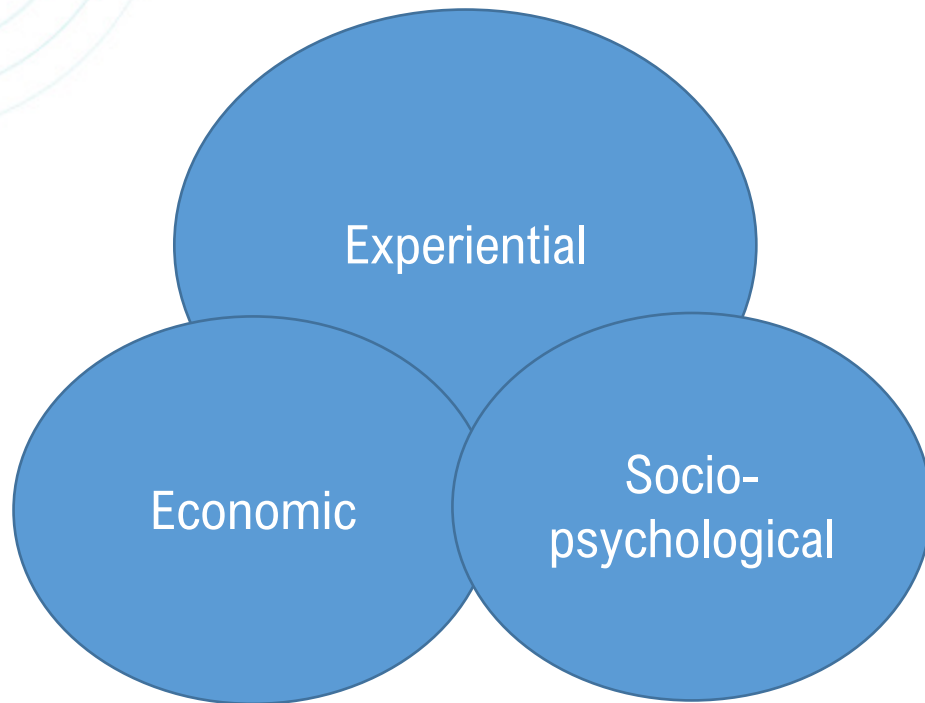
40% hold leadership positions

27% are with other youth organizations

72% come from a farming family



# Enablers of participation



Enabling environment  
(Support from adults: 4-H coordinators, volunteer leaders, parents, local officials, etc.)



# Barriers of participation



Academic  
commitments

Household/  
Family duties

Religious  
commitments

Occupational  
(work outside the  
community)

Political  
commitments

# Youth-Adult Engagement (YAE)

Mean scores of youth involvement, adult involvement, and youth-adult interaction	Mean score	Adjectival Rating
1. Adults listen to the suggestions of 4-H youth.	4.29	High
2. Adults volunteer time and resources to 4-H projects and activities.	4.31	High
3. 4-H youth take the lead in designing and implementing projects and activities.	4.22	High
4. 4-H youth have a voice in decision-making processes.	4.45	High
5. Adults encourage 4-H youth to come up with their own ideas.	4.48	High
6. 4-H youth and adults trust each other in making decisions.	4.61	High
7. 4-H youth share ideas during projects and activity planning.	4.51	High
8. Adults provide guidance to 4-H youth in planning and implementing projects and activities.	4.56	High
9. 4-H youth and adults work well together.	4.53	High
<b>Youth Involvement (YI - 3,4,7)</b>	<b>4.39</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>Adult Involvement (AI - 1,2,5)</b>	<b>4.36</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>Youth-Adult Interaction (YAI - 6,8,9)</b>	<b>4.57</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>Overall average</b>	<b>4.44</b>	<b>High</b>



# Youth-Adult Engagement (YAE)



## Dimensions of youth-adult engagement

## Descriptive themes of youth-adult engagement

Youth involvement

Youth provide leadership and mobilization

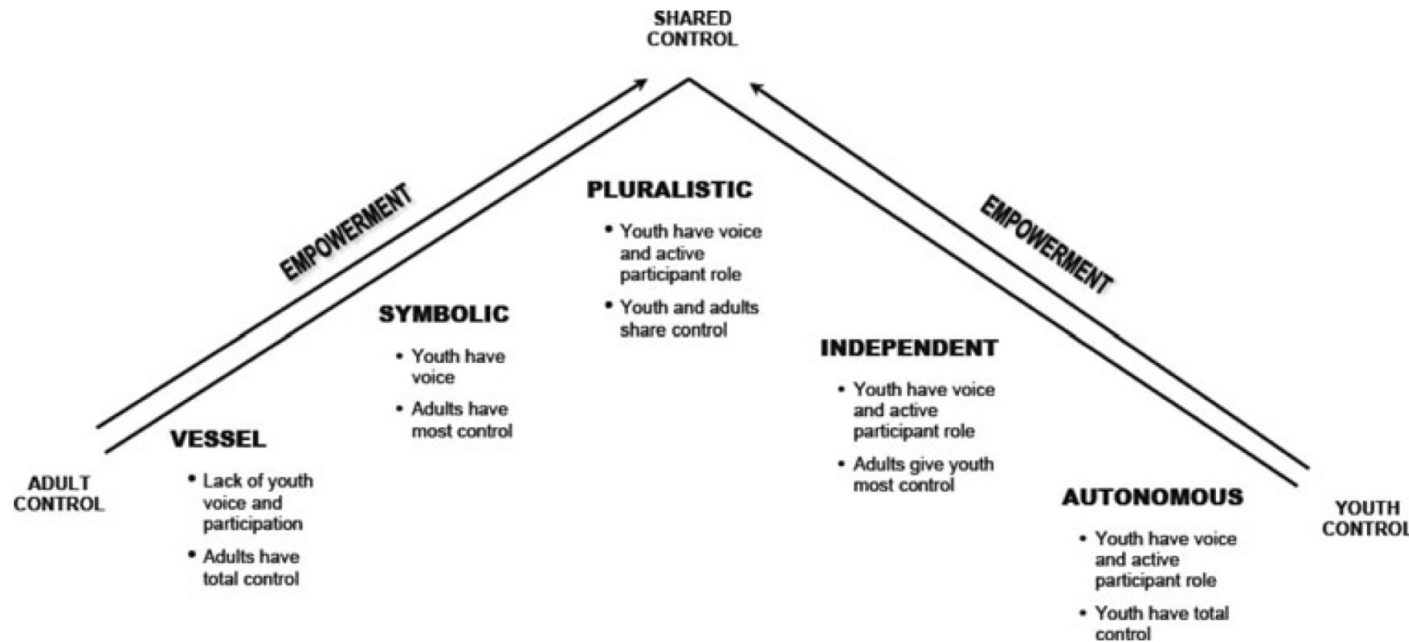
Adult involvement

Adults provide advisory and resource-sharing roles

Youth-adult interaction

Youth and adults interact through mentorship built in a **high level of trust** and the process resulting to good camaraderie

# Youth-Adult Engagement (YAE)



*Typology of Youth Participation and Empowerment Model  
(Wong et. al, 2010)*

- Results show the **pluralistic type of participation** (shared control over decision-making)
- An ideal social arrangement for positive youth development and empowerment.
- Youth have voice and active participant role.
- Adults' presence is to maximize conditions and opportunities for youth.
- Adults are not overly dominant nor under-involved.



# Positive Youth Development (PYD) Outcomes

## PYD Theory (Lerner et. al, 2005)

- A strengths-based perspective that views adolescents as “resources to be developed” rather than “problems to be solved”
- Maximizing youth potentials rather than addressing problems.
- PYD is a process that promotes 5Cs: competence, confidence, connection, caring, character

Survey statements (Because of 4-H...)	Mean score	Adjectival Rating
1. I became more helpful.	4.27	High
2. I developed stronger ties with other community members	4.28	High
3. I have an enhanced belief to myself and my abilities.	4.32	High
4. I became closer to my family and friends.	4.25	High
5. I improved my leadership and interpersonal skills.	4.19	High
6. I now have more knowledge and skills in agriculture.	4.51	High
7. I feel that I have important contributions to community and agricultural development.	4.25	High
8. I feel that I am part of the success of 4-H projects and activities.	4.36	High
9. I became a more responsible person.	4.16	High
10. My self-confidence has increased.	4.17	High
11. My character has become more positive.	4.11	High
12. I empathize better with what other people are going through.	4.24	High
13. I understand better the problems of Filipino farmers and the agriculture sector.	4.51	High
<b>Competence (5, 6)</b>	<b>4.35</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>Confidence (3, 10)</b>	<b>4.25</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>Connection (2, 4)</b>	<b>4.22</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>Character (9, 11)</b>	<b>4.14</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>Caring (1, 12)</b>	<b>4.19</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>Contribution (7, 8)</b>	<b>4.31</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>General (13)</b>	<b>4.51</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>Overall mean score</b>	<b>4.28</b>	<b>High</b>

# OLS Regression of YAE and PYD

VARIABLES / MODELS	MODEL 1	MODEL 2	MODEL 3
Independent Variables:	Dependent Variable: PYD		
Youth-Adult Engagement (YAE)	0.7359* (0.0720)		
Youth Involvement (YI)		0.3481* (0.0901)	0.3615* (0.0871)
Adult Involvement (AI)		0.2752* (0.0989)	0.3088* (0.0812)
Youth-Adult Interaction (YAI)		0.0742 <sup>ns</sup> (0.1248)	
R-squared	0.4073	0.4176	0.4162
Adjusted R2	0.4034	0.4059	0.4085
N	154	154	154

\*significant at  $\alpha = 1\%$   
<sup>ns</sup> = not significant

**Model 1:** YAE is a predictor of PYD.

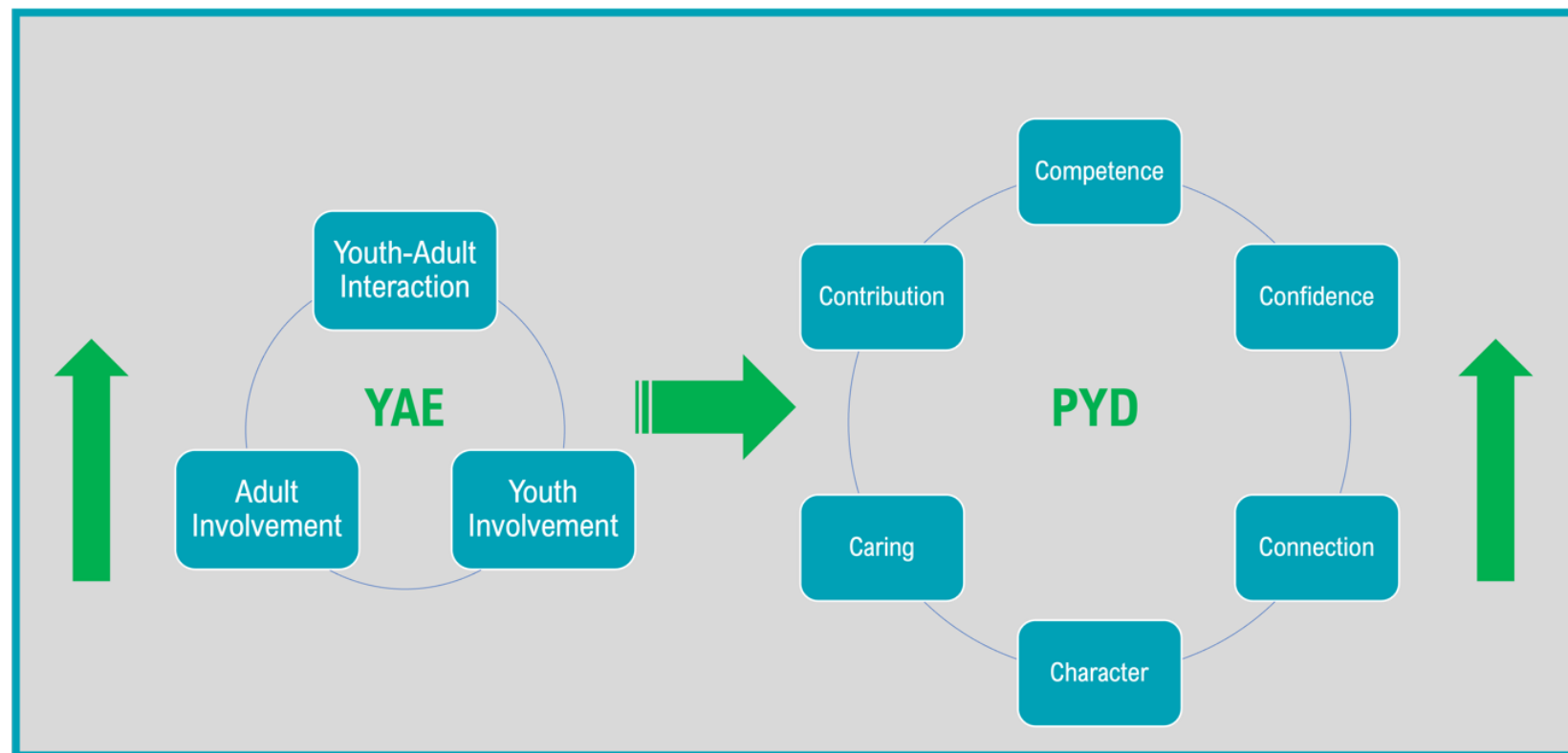
**Model 2:** Only YI and AI are significant explanatory variables of PYD outcomes.

**Model 3:** Without YAI, YI and AI remain significant with improved coefficients; confirms that YAI is not a mediating variable.



# Positive Youth Development (PYD) Outcomes

Enhancing YAE yields improved PYD outcomes among the 4-H youth.



# Career intentions of 4-H youth

- 75% are likely to pursue agriculture-related courses in the university.
- Half of the respondents are likely to pursue agriculture on a part-time basis; 26% full-time.
- IF given the economic opportunities in their community, 69% intends to stay; 22% might stay; 9% are not sure at this time; none said no to this scenario.





## Key messages

- **Youth engagement in agriculture goes beyond the youth themselves.** Adults, especially in the communities, play a meaningful and enabling role for both the positive development of the youth and their communities.
- *“Youth cannot be expected to carry the full burden of empowering themselves and their communities. Adults ought to share in this responsibility.” (Wong et al, 2010).*
- **Critical foundations for rural youth empowerment** can be nurtured in agri-based youth clubs – socio-psychological skills, social capital, and sense of appreciation of and contribution to agriculture, among others.
- Enhancing youth involvement and adult involvement enhances the dynamics of youth-adult interactions critical for the **youth’s transition to adulthood.**
- 4-H club has a **positive influence to the career intentions** of the youth that are in favor to agriculture and rural development.

# Recommendations

- Emphasize the food systems approach in the curriculum, trainings, and other capacity-building activities to expand awareness and interest on **career pathways in agriculture**.
- Strengthen youth leadership, organizational development, and project management skills of the 4-H youth.
- Include trainings for adults, especially on topics on **how to work with young people**.
- Improve access to capital and capacity for value-adding activities.
- **Enhance youth participation in the policy process**, both at the local and national level (inputs to PYDP).
- Nurture relationships of 4-H with local institutions, such as SK and the LYDOs, for policy action to help them sustain their community-based projects.

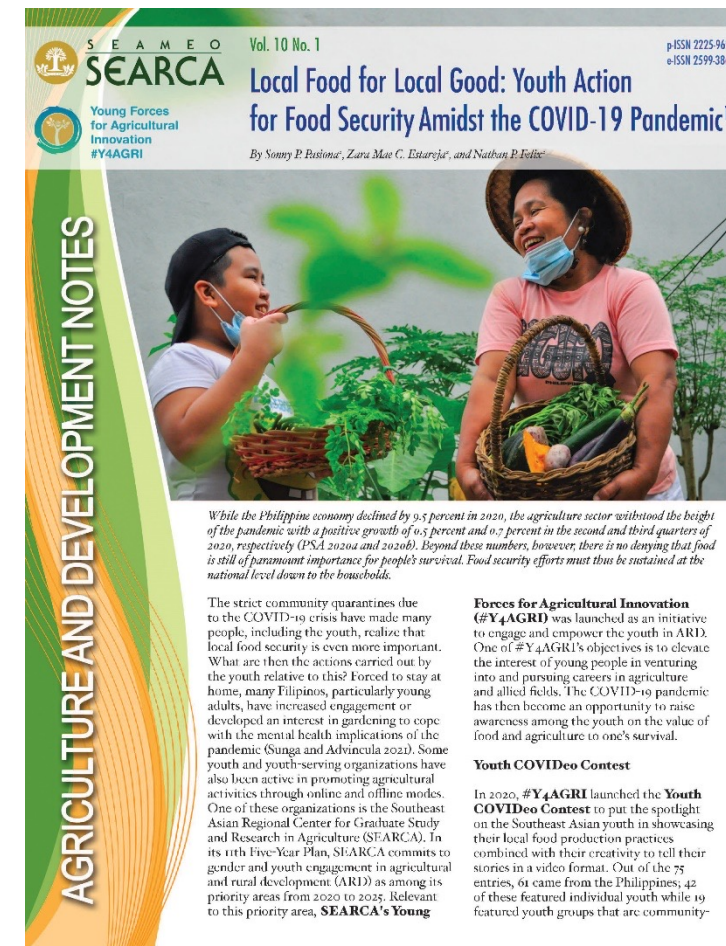
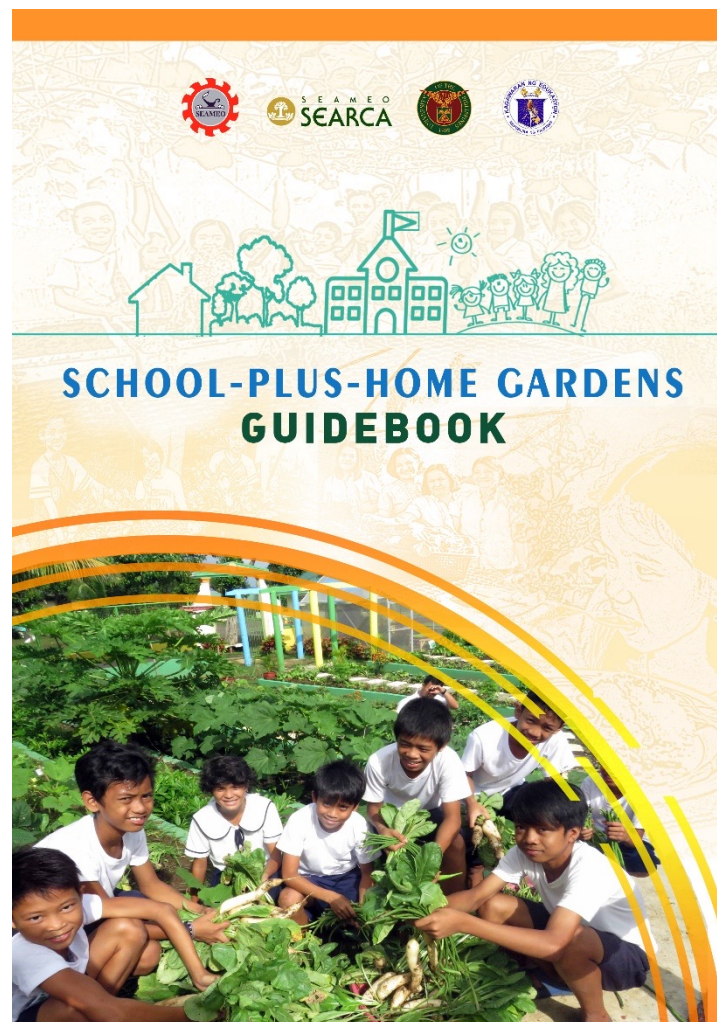


# SEARCA Publications

Visit [www.searca.org](http://www.searca.org) and Like us on Facebook @seameo.searca



## Young Forces For Agricultural Innovation (#Y4AGRI)







**Dios mabalos, have a  
be-YOUTH-iful day!**



S E A M E O  
**SEARCA**

Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture  
College, Los Baños, Laguna 4031, Philippines

+63 (49) 536 2554; 536 2631

post@searca.org

/seameo.searca

SEARCAseminars

