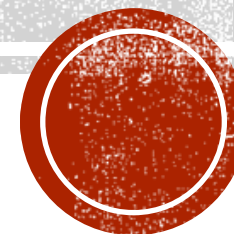


PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE OF YOUNG FARMERS DOING ACTION RESEARCH IN LAOS.



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Background

- From 2015 until now, LURAS has been working on promoting agro-forestry coffee with Lao Upland communities in Meuang Khoun, Xiengkhouang province.
- Since 2015, there are 5 pilot villages with total 30 households. A further 154 households are interested to join, and they've started by creating coffee nurseries.
- LURAS provided capacity building to farmers in terms of techniques, including action research /experiments by the farmers themselves to improve their coffee farming.
- The action research is implemented by young active volunteers working together with farmers.





Situation of young people in Keoseth community

- Some young people in the community ***graduated*** but they are ***jobless***
- They are awaiting for working with the government
- During awaiting the job, they just come back to live in their home villages and help parents do farming.
- This situation created frustration in the community. Parents compare their child to others, and the youth feel helpless and hopeless.





What's is the point of view or aspiration of rural people to their children in the future ?



#Aspiration of the youth & parents in the rural community, Laos.

Aspiration of rural parents

- In 2015, LURAS carried out the FGD in 8 villages. In all villages, parents said they did not want their children to continued in farming.
- The value of education as stated by parents, is to ensure that children get a job (preferably government)

Aspiration of rural youth

- A study in 2015 of students at Agricultural College showed that most of them want to work for the Government, rather than returning to their village. Education is a means for escaping farming, not becoming a better farmer!
- The search for a cash income may involve migration to urban areas (eg. construction, textiles) but equally important is paid labour in the agric sector (eg. plantations, processing).



#Aspiration of the youth & parents in rural community, Laos (Cont.)

Aspiration of rural parents

- Villagers repeatedly stated that farming was hard and dirty work, with uncertain returns. They see themselves as having low social status and few opportunities for advancement.

Aspiration of rural youth

- Employment in Govt. is only possible for a minority, but this is not the only escape route for rural youth. Other studies in Laos show that the aspiration for a 'better life' leads to paid employment rather than unpaid labor on the family farm.



What Action Research can do in order to empower and help youth in the community ?

- They facilitate other farmers in the community to conduct research on coffee
- They also directly collect data on coffee together with other villagers
- They act as link with project advisers
- They are both recipients and providers of knowledge (2-way connection)



First start of being coffee researchers



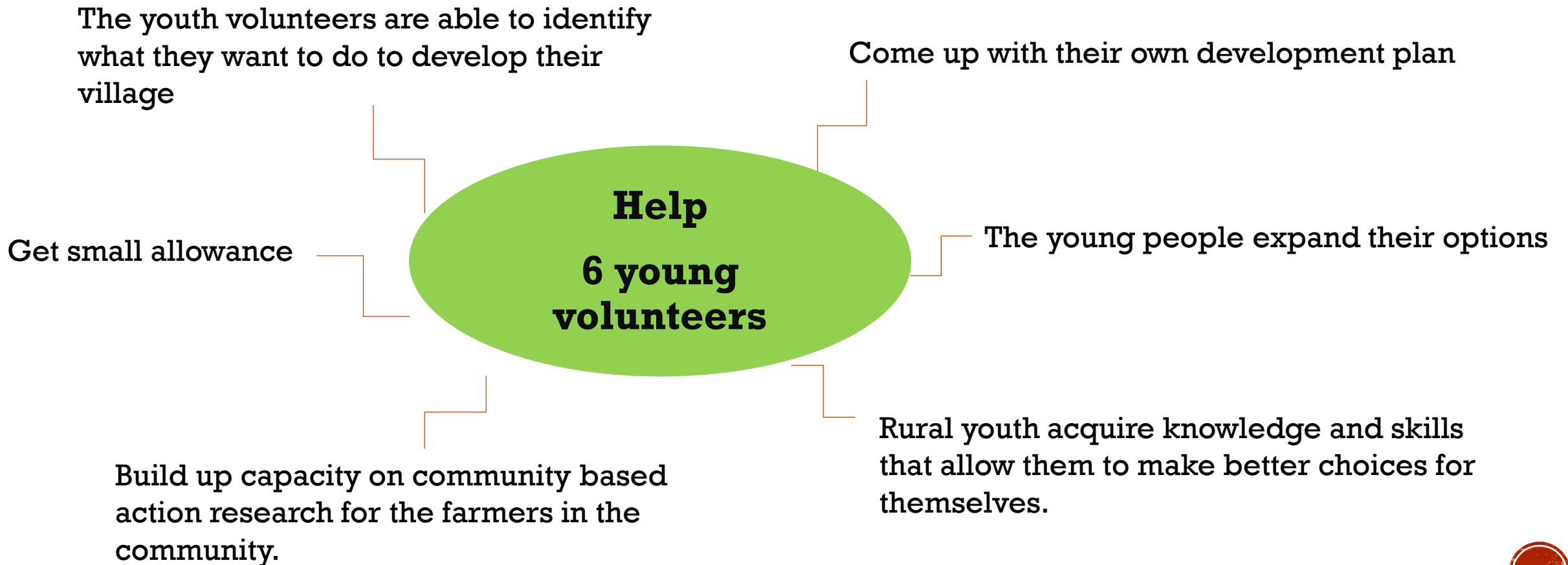
#Keoeth cluster

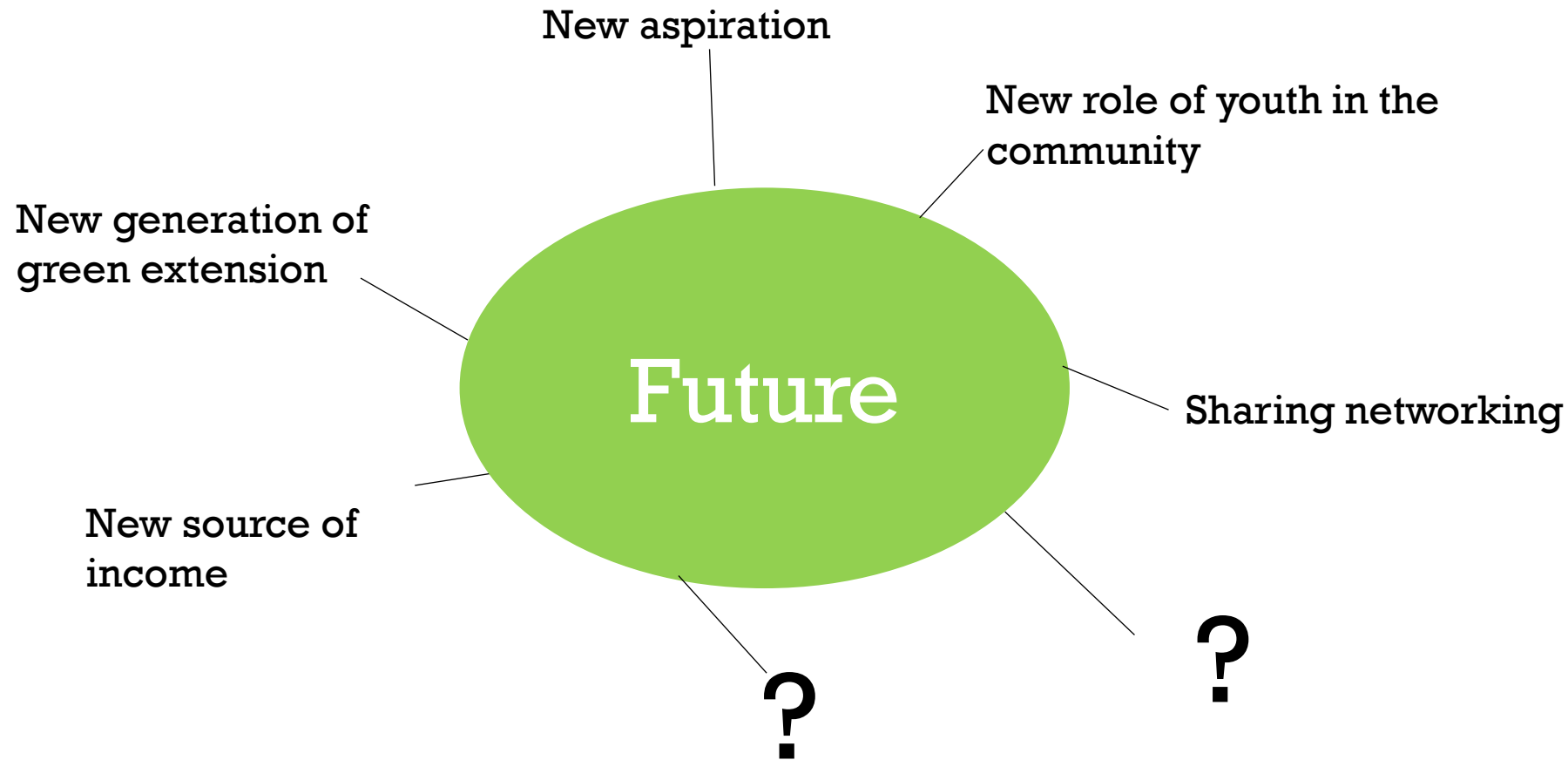


Learning sharing between *sister to sisters, young and elderly- farmers*



#Action Research can help the youth in the community to overcome their frustrations





What else do you think those **#young people** can do more ???

