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“Empowering Youth through Horticulture” an International Positive Youth Development Perspective

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“ The Ingredients”

- Dirt
- Seeds
- Water
- Youth

Science of Learning

- Intentionally Framed Learning Experiences
- Facilitation of Learning
- Development of Learning Processes
 - Experiential Learning
 - Inquiry Based Learning
- Bridges Formal & Non-Formal Learning



Science of Engagement

- Youth-Adult Partnerships
- Personal Growth & Development
 - Of Youth
 - Of Adults
- Bridges Individuals & Communities



Youth as Partners

- Developmentally Appropriate Activities
- Offer Authentic Participation
- Provide Responsibility & Decision-making

Effective Youth Engagement Strategies

- Meet youth's needs through horticulture-based learning experiences - "I can"
- Cultivate relationships - "I belong"
- Power –engagement & decision-making " I matter"
- Generosity – shared responsibility – "I can make a difference"



Benefits

- Greater interest in horticulture
- Increased sense of ownership & responsibility
- Builds transferable skills
- *Reduces time and costs* *
- Develops a sense of Confidence and pride

Barriers

- Adults have all the knowledge
- Power disconnects & distances
- Perceptions
- *Takes too long **
- *It's not always easy**

Science of Change

- Learning + Engagement = Change

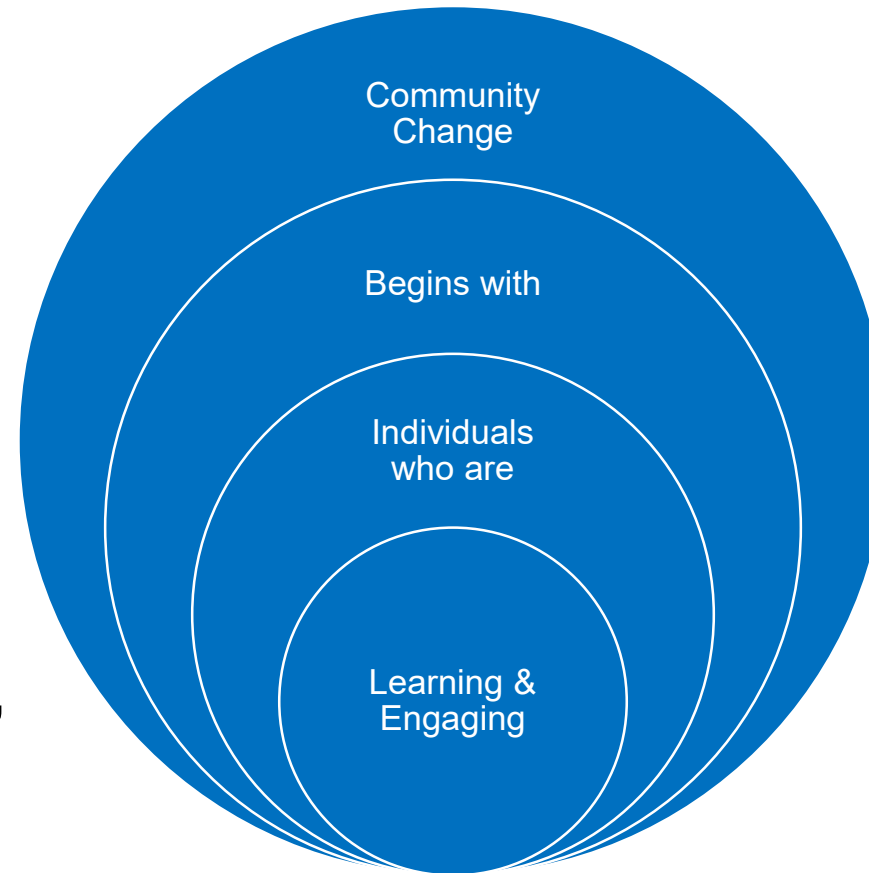
- Knowledge & Skills

- Application



- Adoption

= “ How to feed the world”



USDA Programs - Domestic

Examples from the Land-grant University Cooperative Extension

- Expanded Foods and Nutrition Programs (EFNEP)
- Children, Youth and Families at Risk Programs (CYFAR)
- Junior Master Gardeners (JMG)
- 4-H



USDA Programs - International

- McGovern-Dole Food for Education Program
- Food for Progress

Challenges and Opportunities

- Access and Equity
 - Resources - land, water, access to capital
 - Education – training for adults and older youth
- Sustainability