

BOOK REVIEW

Anthony Egeru, Megan Lindow, and Kay Muir Leresche, eds. *University Engagement with Farming Communities in Africa: Community Action Research Platforms*. New York: Routledge, 2023. 329 pp. Illustrations. \$33.74. Paper. ISBN: 9781032481180.

University Engagement with Farming Communities in Africa shows how Community Action Research Platforms (CARPs) build systems through researchers' and farmers' collaborations to strengthen communities' sustainability, economics, and food security. Egeru, Lindow, and Leresche's work asks us to consider how forms of engagement between universities and farmers in Africa can build away from *ivory tower* concepts and back into the communities with the Agrifood sector. They show how the diverse techniques such as facilitating sustainable, long-term developmental programs, that CARPs engage benefit researchers and farmers improving communities they operate and serve. For example, CARPs' work revitalizes indigenous aspects of farming while looking at restorative practices and advancing the economy, thus bringing together a further essentiality to the multidisciplinary aspect, while also working from a restorative justice lens.

The text delves into CARPs that improve engagement with local communities while addressing social issues to drive positive change in marginalized and rural areas. Universities are increasingly embracing community engagement as a critical function, redefining traditional roles to prioritize meeting community needs. This commitment to addressing issues through the transformative effort of CARP emboldens institutional transformation. It encourages researchers to facilitate as change agents, fostering relationships and devising sustainable solutions. As new practices are adopted, a growing emphasis on promoting entrepreneurship in education continue to educate students beyond the confines of academia. Through collaboration with the community, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are pursued to combat poverty, drive innovation, and enhance the quality of education.

Multidisciplinary methods bring farmers and researchers together to address community issues, illustrating how the system of university engagement with any sector could prove effective in problem-solving within communities. The evidence shown in CARP has brought policy change to African universities. The work demonstrates how communities benefit from cross-disciplinary problem-solving and how opportunity can develop and enrich sustainable methods to strengthen the "value chain" of production. The process of a value chain in agricultural development concerns the dynamic of each value's component from soil to each step of its development. The value chain can be utilized to solve issues

within rural and growing communities to strengthen existing systems. We can examine issues such as climate impact, water, drought, and food security issues and restructure how universities facilitate meeting the needs of their communities.

Another issue Egeru et al. discuss is the redundancy of youth to gain skills needed to develop production such as farming. The global issue in utilizing research as a tool invites students to engage with skills to build and sustain in several sectors by driving multidisciplinary infrastructure. This engagement looks to connect personal experiences to the opportunities within a community, presenting a challenge to problem-solve at the local level.

Interdisciplinary prospects aim to reveal how knowledge, expertise, and intelligence can problem-solve. Researchers and community members can think more critically about interweaving modified and creative approaches or methods when facing local and global issues. The authors' conversations on value chain significance reimagine a powerful narrative, embracing accountability through building partnerships requiring strategizing, planning, and organizing how to engage universities.

Egeru et al. address specific impacts each CARP has implemented from 2016 to 2022. CARP-steered techniques show an auspicious future for farmers, building on how strategies can be utilized in other aspects of community engagement with universities, institutions, and community colleges. Farming has changed significantly and bringing communities into agriculture is not as prominent as it was some time ago. CARPs, therefore, bring a developmental and visionary approach to the issue of food security by involving universities at the local level of problem-solving to integrate real-time shifts for how we think together, and how we weave experience, potential, and intelligence with community-based action-planning.

CARPs research effort of practical application solidifies the university's position as an essential hub for development. They promote an entrepreneurial mindset, encouraging students to develop valuable skills and entrepreneurial confidence. Emphasizing applied learning and innovation, alongside community engagement, leads to the creation of products and services that serve the community. CARPs demonstrate that universities are vital in advancing sustainable development by linking academic efforts to practical applications. They emphasize the importance of community engagement, interdisciplinary collaboration, and experiential learning in addressing complex issues. As higher education institutions progress, they should embrace Education 5.0 principles, serve as catalysts for change, and assume a rigorous and active role in shaping their community's future. This framework can be utilized to potentially create other methods of sustainable effort in changing and affecting community needs. The successes of CARP provides a framework for universities aiming for transformative and meaningful impact for their community's needs.

The interdisciplinary strategies within the text contribute to dismantling academic and systemic barriers to facilitating collaborative problem-solving among students and researchers. The alliances established between universities, technical, vocational education and training (TVET) institutions bolstered capacity-building, and practical skill training for young people, contributing to

resolving unemployment issues. CARP techniques have underscored the importance of community involvement and collaborative effort in advancing sustainable developmental strategies, and in reimagining the roles of universities, research, and the social responsibilities of working collectively.

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