

## **Takeaways for young changemakers on how data revolution will deliver better agronomy for smallholder farmers**

My first session was held at the Volta Conference room which was centred on how data revolution will deliver better agronomy for smallholder farmers. Representatives from the FAO, USAID and AfDB emphasised the need for a data-driven agricultural sector that may propel farmers and other professionals to work smarter and more efficient instead of just working harder. I appreciated the extent to which these developmental agencies understood the need to rely on quality data for all planning purposes. Right from at the farm, such data may include soil and weather information that may enlighten farmers to know when and what crop to cultivate. While leveraging on such data, I also realised how speakers passionately discussed the use of mobile platforms as a conduit in accessing such data. Of course, the value of data is revealed when such data reaches an end-user and generate a conversation. Having heard this discussion, I felt content knowing that my contributions as a youthmapper were helping to build a stronger and efficient agriculture sector in Ghana and across the globe. In fact, our effort to deploy free and open data software in capturing farmers profile and mapping farmlands was cited by the panellist as one of the key information that forms the basis for agricultural-related decision. For instance, farmers profile afford the opportunity for developmental agencies to understand local farmers and also offer interventions that meet each farmer's specific needs. Also, the output of the mapping activities gave farmers a precise idea of their farm sizes which was enough to make farm decisions like predicting yearly output and planning other logistics. Just as I am excited for my efforts in keeping Ghana fed, I am also challenged to extend my activities to many small-scale farmers in other parts of the country who may require such data to make the needed farm decision. Attendance at this conference has been an eye-opening experience and am grateful to Youthlead for the invitation.