Farm Her:

In a primarily male-dominated business, hearing from these driven, intelligent and gritty women is inspiring and a good reminder that agriculture is an industry where everyone can find success. Phionah Kyomuhendo, or PK as the Hangouts group has coined her, is a city girl who initially made her way into agriculture through a participation in AgriProFocus’ Youth caravan. She was introduced to the farming world and fell in love. Her story reflects on her experiences in agriculture, challenges and everyday life.

1. Tell us about yourself?
Phionah Kyomuhendo is my name. I grew up in Mbarara district, Uganda where I am currently residing. I am a graduate in social sciences and business administration. I love eating, making money and helping out others thus my involvement in agriculture. Growing up, I envied farmers harvesting their crop and also believed farmers have a lot of hope. They hope in things unseen. They understand and expect that certain things will happen, but ultimately they don’t know what will come about, and they hope. I might be different than a lot of the “typical” farmers... because I feel that there is some sort of comfort in hope, in knowing that we don't have complete control. It is that hope that gave me the biggest push into farming and agribusiness.

2. Could you please introduce your Agribusinesses to the AgriProFocus network members in Uganda?
I am a practicing entrepreneur currently involved in piggery and poultry keeping and vegetable growing. The vegetable farming is still at backyard level, and will hopefully expand in future.

3. Could you share the big achievements of your work in Agriculture in Uganda?
My work in agriculture is still starting out and with the tips, best practices, trainings I am receiving within the sector, I believe I have loads more to achieve. Of course the vegetables in my backyard garden have grown and some are sold. A few piglets and chickens are sold quarterly and the eggs obtained from my poultry practice too are bringing in some income.

4. How difficult is it to be a successful entrepreneur in Uganda?
Since I don't count myself as a successful entrepreneur yet but I am aiming at that, I think with government intervention technologically and farmer group follow up everything would be okay.

5. How can we support/promote youth in Agribusiness?
Youth and agriculture is still a tricky idea to conceive. Government together with families could encourage and promote this agribusiness issue. Because if one's parents didn't reap good from it don't expect them to educate their children who will later take interest in agriculture. Schools should also get involved by education children at young age to like agriculture.

6. What can you say about AgriProFocus Uganda?
AgriProFocus is a good relevant platform that is really helpful in terms of information and ideas among others. I think it will go far and see change happen in Uganda in terms of agribusiness and connections it aids with other countries. The AgriProFocus platform also addresses controversial topics of food choices, sustainability, animal welfare and food myths by engaging members to share their daily work to care for their animals, crops and our environment; this knowledge shared by other entrepreneurs has helped me improve in my business.

7. How would you describe your success so far?
My success is not yet close but soon I will be depending on my future targets. As my piggery farm grows and my poultry farm acquires the technology it requires, the future could be bright.

8. With your work in Agribusiness, what problem are you trying to fix in Uganda?
One person fixing Ugandan problems could be a nightmare. But, as small as I am and growing I look forward to feeding my immediate community, solving some unemployment issues for a few youths and becoming financially independent.

9. How did you come up with the idea?
As Phionah, I love livestock and eating pork and using eggs and taking that yummy chicken is how the idea came up and then i later learnt when production increases then selling some would earn extra income to meet other needs.

10. Any closing remarks?
Well I thank the AgriProFocus team for all the support and guidance so far and I believe we the youth slowly but surely will take this agribusiness issue seriously God being our guide.
Thank you.