

Youth inclusiveness in agricultural transformation

Quick scan
Mali, Ghana, Kenya



Purpose quick scans

Context specific insights (Mali, Ghana, Kenya)
on:

- Challenges agricultural sector, food security & youth employment
- To what extent addressed in policies & programmes
- Results so far; trends & gaps
- Ways forward for discussion



Challenges to food security and employment

- Stagnating economic growth in Mali and Ghana (but growth in Kenya)
- Climate change → mostly drought
- Explosive population growth & rise in food demand
- Decline agricultural productivity in Mali and Ghana (but growth in Kenya)
- Decline employment in agriculture in Ghana to 47% (but still 60% in Kenya and 65% in Mali)
- Dependence food imports Ghana and Mali (Kenya only 12%) → vulnerable to food price fluctuation
- Aging agricultural workforce

Youth constraints

- Higher unemployment rates amongst youth (particularly women)
- Mismatch education and skills demand
- More employment in rural areas but mostly informal, vulnerable and subsistence level
- Lack of access to finance (for entrepreneurs or farmers)
- Limited use of improved inputs (i.e. seeds, fertilizers)
- Access to land mostly via heritage system

Key findings (1)

- Youth employment and agricultural transformation are high on political agendas (but often not in combination) and results are varied
- Knowledge is fragmented: agricultural transformation, food security, employment etc
- Not clearly defined what is meant with “youth”
- Government, IGO, NGO & private sectorial programs are scattered
- Different forms of partnerships
- Most focus on entrepreneurship and skills training

Governmental Youth Employment Policies in Ghana

- National Youth Employment Policy (NYEP)
 - Implementation is “woefully inadequate” and “elite-prescribed program”
 - **Limited impact:** temporary jobs, lack of broader education, low participation
 - Youth Employment and Entrepreneurial Development Agency (GYEEDA) replaced NYEP in 2013.
 - Similar limitations as NYEP
 - **Corruption** led to official investigation
 - Youth Employment Agency (YEA) replaced GYEEDA in 2015:
(waiting for results)
- No sustainable outcome “plans on paper do not exist on the ground”

Kenya Youth Empowerment Program (KYEP)

- Partnership with KEPSA (Kenya Private Sector Alliance), funded by World Bank
 - Job creation through demand-driven training and internships (**working on supply & demand**)
 - 20,384 youth (47% female) received training and 13,289 youth (49% female) was placed in internships
 - 14 months after internship completion **significant increase in employment**: 11% increase for young men, 8,7% for young women (compared to control group).
- Private sector involved in design and implementation: preparation labor market and entry point for jobs

Farmerline Ltd (Ghana)

- Student-led social enterprise
 - Innovative ICT-solutions
 - for organizations and government bodies: data acquisition on smallholder farming
 - For smallholder farmers: best practices / weather forecasts / regional market prices
 - Skills training for youth
- Private sector working with government and IGOs

PAFP – Swiss Contact (Mali)

- Economic integration of underemployed
 - Involvement of public and private players
 - Vocational training at a local level
 - Contactual factors incl. socio-professional environments, harmonisation of local strategies and national policies
 - Results: income increase 20% (2015)
 - Beneficiaries not only youth
- Not youth-specific, public-private partnership, social context taken into account

Key findings (2)

- Most policies based on assumption that:
 - youth are innovators
 - youth want to become entrepreneurs
 - entrepreneurship creates jobs
 - skills training makes youth more employable
- Obstacles youth in agriculture are not equally tackled, e.g. access to land
- Public-private partnerships seem most successful in long-term effect

A forward looking agenda

- Are constraints structural problems or youth-specific?
- Youth is a diverse group:
 - male/female
 - rural/urban
 - well-educated/low-skilled
- And need different strategies
 - formal/formal employment
 - along the value chain
- Are aspirations of youth in line with current policies?
- How to create more accountability & leadership within programs?



Thank you

To read the complete report, visit:

<http://knowledge4food.net/youth-inclusiveness-agricultural-transformation/>