



KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE SHARING SYMPOSIUM

Towards Highly Rewarding and Inclusive Flood-based Livelihoods

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCREASED PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE IN GENERAL AND FBLS SECTOR IN PARTICULAR-AN OVERVIEW FROM AFRICA TO ASIA-THE KENYAN EXPERIENCE.

BY

ESTHER MUSAVI

SADLR/PHD STUDENT ,UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI;KENYA.

4TH TO 8TH MARCH, 2019

VOI WILDLIFE LODGE, TAITA TAVETA COUNTY, KENTA



PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- ❖ Objectives of the presentation
- ❖ Status of youth participation in agriculture and FBLS
- ❖ Challenges to youth participation in agriculture and FBLS
- ❖ Opportunities that exist for increased youth participation in agriculture and FBLS
- ❖ Proposed interventions to the challenges identified.



OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESENTATION

1. To discuss the level of youth participation in Agriculture and FBLS
2. To identify and discuss challenges for youth participation in Agriculture in general and FBLS in Particular.
3. To explore possible interventions on the challenges
4. To explore the opportunities available for increased youth participation in agriculture and FBLS



STATUS OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURE AND FBLS

- In Kenya youth (15-34 years) unemployment(35%) is higher than the overall national unemployment rate(10%).80% of the 2.3 million unemployed Kenyans are youth(World bank,2014). NYC (National Youth Council) Act of 2009 has set the youth age to 18-35 years .In Bungoma and Kakamega counties youth unemployment is 50% to 90% and yet they are agriculturally endowed.
- The agricultural sector offers multiple livelihood and employment opportunities for the youth .Agriculture is the backbone of Kenya's economy; directly contributing 24% of the annual GDP and another 27% indirectly
- Globally, Agriculture accounts for 32% of total employment.However,the sector is yet to fully exploit the potential of the youth and it remains largely unattractive. Majority of those engaged in the agricultural activities are aged between 50 and 65 years.



Challenges To Youth Participation In Agriculture And Fbls

➤ Negative perception to agricultural activities. Most Youths consider agriculture unattractive due to its limited access, low returns and market-led approach with jobs of a strong seasonal component(vulnerable).They consider it as an inferior profession only fit for the illiterate, old retirees, the poor and a profession of the last resort. This perception cuts across genders especially in Bungoma and Siaya. There was low interest in the laborious, dirty and more tedious stages of the value chains.(GlZ Scoping Study).

There is Negative image drawn around agriculture pursuit as means of livelihood

- ❖ Inadequate information on available opportunities
- ❖ Limited exposure through role models & mentors in agriculture. (Most of us (professionals) have children in schools & colleges How many of us have children pursuing courses in agriculture?)
- ❖ drudgery nature of agriculture, low rate & long duration of returns.(PESA PAP”)
- ❖ Agriculture used as a source of punishment & career for non-performing students.



Challenges To Youth Participation In Agriculture And Fbls

- Inadequate skills ,knowledge and information i.e. agricultural training information and cutting edge technologies; not taught in schools and low exposure to practical skills in internships and mentorships.E.g SPATE IRRIGATION. This include expertise in areas such as water supply,pest management and other agronomic practises. This negative perceptions cut across genders. The private sector players indicated the inadequacy and unpreparedness of young graduates to undertake tasks in the job market. The skills gap palpates as the young people go up in the academic ladder where they embrace more theoretical knowledge at the expense of practical knowledge.
- Limited access to financial services. Viable agribusiness or FBLS initiatives require capital investments and insurance as a necessity. Available insurance products don't target youths and yet agriculture is highly vulnerable to external shocks such as extreme weather events,pest, diseases and is of seasonal nature.
- Limited access to land for agribusiness. In KENYA,land,the principle resource for agricultural production is owned by the old. Land ownership in Kenya is absolute. Land is also subdivided beyond economically productive units.
- Limited agricultural innovation, Research and Technology development adoption and utilization.Low demand driven research and technology development. Lack of centralized repository on new and existing technologies.

Challenges To Youth Participation In Agriculture And FBLS

➤ Low productivity of the sector due to limited access to the relevant inputs and services, poor management and inadequate skills makes it a challenge for meaningful and sustainable participation of the youth in the agricultural sector

➤ Limited Value addition

Limited value addition and domestic processing of agricultural commodities in the sector is a constrain for the youth making it less profitable. These constraints are ; Limited knowledge and skills on value addition; limited information in value addition technologies; inadequate capacity to meet greater demand and expectations of customers in terms of quality, standards, quality and consistency. This is further compounded by High capital investment requirement at the higher levels of the value chain e.g. refrigeration and cold storage.



Challenges To Youth Participation In Agriculture And Fbls

➤ Limited access to markets

Youth face bigger challenges in accessing markets due to limited access to marketing information, non-conformity to agricultural produce and products. Standards; inadequate markets and marketing

➤ Infrastructure; Poor post-harvest management, weak farmer organization, limited incentives for quality agricultural products; inefficiencies and high transaction costs along the value chains.

➤ Inadequate policies to support youth in agri-preneurship.

➤ Climate change and Environmental Management

➤ Crosscutting challenges: Alcohol and drug abuse and HIV AIDS, Gender inequalities and cultural barriers, Disability ,Weak governance and value system



Proposed Intervention to the Challenges Identified/Discussed

- Countries to come up with policies and strategies that creates an enabling environment for the youth to participate in agriculture and FBLs as a whole. Institutional rules and arrangements in areas such as infrastructure, finance, research, taxation and political stability are a necessity for agribusiness development.
- ❖ In Kenya, there is a national youth policy (2006) and the NYC Act (2009)
- ❖ We also have developed the Kenya Youth Agribusiness Strategy 2017-2021 “for positioning the youth at the forefront of Agricultural growth and Transformation” “Vijana Tujijenge na Agribiz” July 2017;.
- ❖ The MoA, L ,F&I is committed to creating a conducive environment for the realization of the youth engagement in Agricultural development initiatives. This is in collaboration with the County Governments. eg Embu county recently launched ‘Embu county youth agribusiness strategy 2019 - 2023’
- ❖ ASTGS(Agriculture sector transformation and growth strategy(2019-2023) is in place to guide the sector transformation in the country.



Proposed Intervention to the Challenges Identified/Discussed

- Poor Public sector systems .There has been more concentration on production with limited value addition, processing and marketing thus creating low interest in Agriculture by youth. Therefore: The youth should be involved in designing, planning and implementing programs and policies.
- In Kenya,CIDPs (county integrated development plans), emphasize on employment creation, capacity building and promotion of agribusiness for the youth.FBLS should be incorporated in this CIDPs.
- AN AFFIRMATIVE action by county governments to set aside employment slots for young people on contract basis for two years after which they could venture into either business, and those not interested in agriculture be allowed to pursue their passions.



Proposed Intervention to the Challenges Identified/Discussed

- Beneficiary targeting with internships and mentorships, service provision including training, financial services and market information.
- Resource mobilization
 - ❖ Leverage on resources from available sources including the National Government, County Government development partners, private sector, public benefits organizations (PBO)
 - ❖ Resource mobilization plan
 - ❖ Appropriate Funds Management.
- Communication Plan. Countries should develop an appropriate communication plan for the youths. In Kenya, it is anchored on the overall government communication strategy i.e. National Agribusiness Youth Strategy Coordination Committee. This will increase efficiency in communicating issues on agribusiness to the youth.
- Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation. Youth involvement in M&E of programs will increase participation in agribusiness

Proposed Intervention to the Challenges Identified/Discussed

- Address attitudinal issues by the youth and community towards agriculture and employment opportunities. This can be done through a strong capacity building program that deals with mind-set change.
- Deal comprehensively with the social, economic and political drivers that influence youth non-participation in Agricultural sector.
- Supporting select value chain enterprises and activities with a market driven approach. There is need to modernize farming as a business.
- Enhancing youth organization within the community. All stakeholders need to work together to build capacity and support youth-led and youth owned initiatives that embrace critical nodes of value chains that have promising markets.
- Promoting and implementing enabling policy and institutional frameworks that support youth participation in Agriculture in a holistic manner and intergovernmental relations.
- Horizontal learning. There are some youths who are real agriprenuers e.g. the processing and production of the URBAN BITES and some of the spice crop exporters in Kenya. Majority of the youth prefer receiving agricultural information and other rural activities from peer learning platforms and social media including twitter, WhatsApp and face book applications.

Opportunities that Exist for Increased Youth Participation in Agriculture and FBLS

➤ Transport sector

❖ The youths can transport the produce from the Flood irrigation areas to the markets

➤ Tenderpreneurship

❖ The youths can apply for tenders to carry out the infrastructure development e.g. the spate irrigation structures such as road water harvesting structures, water pans. The government of Kenya has made provision in the procurement Laws to ensure 30% of total tenders is awarded to special groups such as youths, women and people with disabilities. This is well stipulated in the public procurement Preference and Reservations amendment Regulations 2013. We also have the Public procurement and Asset Disposal Act ,2015(PPDA).

➤ Network with other young professionals in FBLS for experience learning and improvement e.g. the Young Professional for Agricultural development (YPARD). This is an international affiliation.

➤ Agripreneurship. The opportunities are in place and are supported by Government and Agenda Four.

Opportunities that Promote Youth Participation in the Agricultural Sector

- ICT Infrastructure, innovations and technologies platforms
- Existence of strong research institutions in Agriculture. Institutions such as KALRO are a source of trustworthy information though unreliable in terms of availability and proximity to the farmers. There is a SDAR
- Some value chains are more appropriate to the youth. The youths are flexible, risk takers and fast adopters. This include herbs which do well under irrigation and can do well on small size of farms, horticultural crops, cereals, pulses, tubers, edible oil crops, Fish production (Siaya, Kakamega), livestock (Poultry, rabbits, dairy cows, goats)
- Youthful population – Educated young people literacy levels (demographic dividends) is higher than the other demographic groups. The youths are more entrepreneurial than the other demographic groups.
- Increasing demand for food and market opportunities, domestic, regional and international.
- ❖ The youth have an opportunity of producing food to match the high population growth rates of Kenya (projected at 49.7 million in 2017) .



Opportunities that Promote Youth Participation in the Agricultural Sector

- Policy environment and government commitment on youth development. A number of policies to favor youth are in place and some of them are being processed.
- High potential for Agro-Processing and value addition. These is a key area under the government's Big Four Agenda.
- ❖ Value addition adds to price , shelf life and aesthetic appearance
- Diverse agro-ecological zones and natural resources
- Improvement of Physical infrastructure and Logistics.
- Review of the education systems and re-introduction of agribusiness studies in the curriculum in Secondary schools, TVET and Universities. In Kenya, a competent based curriculum was rolled out this year.



Areas for Further Study or Action

- The actual status of youth participation in Agriculture. The exact number or percentage of youth involved in agriculture in Kenya was missing in the literature.
- Need for stakeholders and county governments to engage and address youth employment in Agriculture in a holistic and sustainable manner. There is need to develop a model to ensure effective participation of youth in Agriculture and FBLS.



REFERENCES

AGRA; Africa Agriculture Status Report 2018, Catalyzing Govt. capacity to Drive Agricultural transformation

Department Of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries And Cooperatives; 2019, Embu County Youth Agribusiness Strategy 2019 - 2023 “Engaging the Youth to achieve the Food

GIZ; April 2018; Does Agriculture really pay? A scoping study on Realistic Youth Employment Opportunities in Agriculture and Related services in western Kenya.

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries; 2017; KENYA YOUTH AGRIBUSINESS STRATEGY 2017-2021.



THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS.

