RURAL YOUTH AND DECENT JOBS CREATION IN FOOD SYSTEMS

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
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THE G7 FRAMEWORK ON DECENT JOB CREATION FOR RURAL YOUTH IN THE SAHEl

1. Decent job creation for rural youth momentum

2. G7 food security working group discussions

3. The G7 framework:
   1. Overarching principles
   2. New inclusive paradigms
   3. Main focus of areas
1- THE MOMENTUM

• Building upon previous G7 commitments and other ongoing initiative: Global initiative on decent jobs for youth (ILO, 2016), G20 initiative for rural youth employment (2017), the Africa-Europe Alliance for sustainable investment and jobs (2019). IFAD annual rural development report (2019)

• 440 million young people will enter the labour market by 2030 in Africa and has enormous potential. In the same time, the majority of them live in rural areas and have constraints on access to production resources' making it difficult for them to seize opportunities.

• Noting the driving force of the food economy in Africa and its role in inclusive rural development, the G7 decided to concentrate their efforts on decent job creation for rural youth through all upstream and downstream activities.
2- G7 FOOD SECURITY WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS

• This year, the French presidency proposed to put on the agenda the creation of decent jobs for rural youth.

• Two meetings were held: one in Paris and one in Ouagadougou to include our colleagues from the G5 countries.

• Based on a working paper of the 3 RBAs (FAO, IFAD, WFP), promoting rural youth employment in the Sahel, the G7 elaborated a framework on decent job creation for rural youth in the Sahel.

• Framework was endorsed by Ministers of Development the 4th of July in Paris, reaffirming their mobilization on this subject.
3- THE G7 FRAMEWORK

• An overarching principles: G7 coordination and alignment with G5 Sahel countries’ policies
  • G7 recall the importance of country ownership, alignment with partner’s strategies and harmonized action by donors.

• Two new paradigms: sustainable food systems and territorial approaches
  • Adopting a food systems approach to agri-food policies and investments makes it possible to seek economic, environmental and social sustainability simultaneously.
  • Territorial approaches mean supporting and enabling governments and local authorities as well as local civil society to design together policies that are tailored to specific territorial challenges. It can be a powerful tool for improving development outcomes and the G7 will encourage active youth participation.
3- THE G7 FRAMEWORK

• Two main focus areas to create jobs for rural youth:

• Supporting opportunities for decent jobs creation to respond to the entrance of the youth buldge into the labour market. To boost opportunities many actions can be envisaged:
  • secure land tenure (VGGT);
  • support access to financial services, advisory services, markets and ICT => for family farmers, agripreneurs and MSMEs
  • Promote diversification of livelihoods (on farm and off-farm)

• Strengthening rural youth capabilities: there is great potential for youth to contribute to development, poverty eradication and food security, but realization of this potential is contingent on the capabilities provided, particularly:
  • Education: agricultural and rural training, TVET
  • Nutrition: an adequate, nutritious, safe and healthy diet notably at early stage has a life-long positive impact
  • Women’s empowerment and gender equality: gender-responsive approaches in agriculture is needed to address the underlying conditions that limit women’s actions.
CONCLUSION

• Decent jobs creation for rural youth must address the twin challenges of food insecurity and poverty while providing new economic opportunities for young people.

• This G7 framework is a way to reaffirm G7 mobilization for youth, for rural areas and for agricultural and livestock value-chain development.

• Through this G7 framework, G7 members showed their will to advance together on this topics whether in project implementation or politically.
Thank you for your attention