



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development



GREEN JOBS FOR RURAL YOUTH IN AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS

A webinar by the Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth Employment

- **Date:** 25 April 2022
- **Time:** 15.00 - 16.30 CEST
- **Venue:** Zoom
- **Language:** English
- **Participants:** Members of the TWG Rural Youth Employment and their networks
- **Moderator:** (tbc)

1 BACKGROUND

The pervasive and negative impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on agriculture and food systems are growing, and are felt especially hard in developing countries where the agricultural sector provides the most employment. In addition, greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, forestry and fisheries have nearly doubled over the past fifty years driven principally by practices within developed countries. Yet increasing production in the agricultural sector will be necessary to drive economic transformation in developing, rural economies. In order to address these issues, the agriculture and food system economies and its trajectory need to transform towards more environmentally sustainable modes of production and consumption. Such transitions will be unique across diverse contexts and may entail big implications for the number and quality of jobs in the agriculture and food systems sectors (ILO, 2018).

In the meantime, today's generation of young people is the largest in history: over 1.2 billion persons are 15–24 years of age, and 87 percent of them are in developing countries. Globally, nearly two-thirds of youth live in extreme, moderate or near poverty conditions, reaching over 90 per cent in South Asia and

sub-Saharan Africa (ILO, 2015). Women are more likely than men to hold low-wage, part-time, seasonal or casual employment (FAO, 2015). The world's youth population is expected to grow, most rapidly in sub-Saharan Africa, where the number and quality of jobs remains low particularly in rural areas, but the opportunities for economic growth are high. Across all regions, young women are especially overrepresented in the NEET category (not in employment, education or training) due to a variety of gender-related factors, including sociocultural norms and practices. At the same time, youth are often more likely to adopt the new technologies needed to sustainably transform the agriculture and food systems. Youth are agents of change and active in many roles and spaces across food systems. Across these spaces, the world's young people seek economically rewarding, intellectually stimulating and meaningful careers, and creating opportunities for young people will require a significant redistribution of resources towards sustainable, inclusive, healthy and climate resilient food systems.

Agriculture and food systems thus need to transform in ways that produce sustainable and inclusive practices and outcomes, including more and better jobs for young women and young men. Promoting green jobs¹ for and with rural youth can contribute to such a transformation, while helping address the underemployment crisis and acknowledging and further engaging youth in agriculture, food and associated sectors. Strengthening youth engagement, however, requires addressing the numerous constraints and decent work deficits that they face when seeking productive economic opportunities, but also building knowledge and skills required for green jobs and enterprise development that lead to green(er) outcomes. In the meantime, investments in green technologies, innovations, sustainable enterprises, and social dialogue are a few of the necessary steps towards a just transition².

The Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD) Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Rural Youth Employment (RYE) was initially formed following the 2018 AGA that focused on Rural Youth. It is meant to be a donor-catalysed TWG to advise donors, governments and civil society organisations on the most effective ways to create employment opportunities and to support the empowerment of youth to productively contribute to and benefit from sustainable rural livelihoods.

2 OBJECTIVES

The objective of this webinar is to facilitate an action-oriented exchange on the promotion of “green jobs” for sustainable agriculture and food systems among members of the TWG on RYE, experts, development practitioners, government representatives and youth themselves.

The webinar will introduce and discuss effective approaches, data gaps, and entry points for policy intervention to support green skills and create jobs for rural youth employment to drive an inclusive and sustainable agri-food system transformation. It will be enriched by a panel discussion including practical experiences from government, development partners, and youth perspectives providing insight into their specific challenges as well as examples of good practice.

The webinar will also provide ample room for discussion with the audience, through the chat functions as well as direct interaction with the speakers/panellists.

¹ Understanding what the concept of “green jobs” is and the implications is the subject of this discussion. According to the ILO definition, a green job is a decent job in the production of environmental outputs and contributes to preserve or restore the environment, as well as employment in environmental processes.

² ILO (2015) Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies or all

3 AGENDA

Time	Topic	Speakers/PIC
5 min	Welcome & Introduction	Co-chair of the TWG
15 min	Keynote & Setting the Scene: Promoting “green jobs” for rural youth to drive inclusive agriculture and food systems transformation	Prof. Dr. Peter Poschen
20 min	Project examples and lessons learned for creating “green jobs” in agriculture and food systems for rural youth employment (10 minutes per presentation)	Moderator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ms. Mette Grangaard Lund, ILO o Ms. Jeongha Kim, FAO
10 min	Questions & Answers to the Keynote and Presentations	Moderator
35 min	Panel discussion: The impact on job creation (entrepreneurs vs. wage employment), challenges and successes, and implication for policies. Open discussion with the audience	Moderator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ms. Mette Grangaard Lund, ILO o Ms. Jeongha Kim, FAO o USAID (tbd) o o Ms Faustina Obeng Adomaa, African young scholar and YARA member o Janet Edeme, AU (tbc)
5 min	Wrap-up and closing remarks - Poll on the outlook	Co-chair of the TWG

Speakers' profiles

Faustina Obeng Adomaa is a gender, youth and social inclusion enthusiast. She is a critical geographer whose work is at the intersection of micro and macro level agrarian changes in rural Africa. She is particularly interested in agriculture commodity chains and climate change, and their ramifications on agrarian relations, local livelihoods, food security and inequalities. She is a member of the Network of Young African Researchers in Agriculture (YARA). Faustina is currently finalising her PhD in inclusive value chains at Wageningen University, Netherlands.

Janet Edeme is the Head of Rural Development Division, in the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment of the African Union Commission. Her Division coordinates the implementation of the African Union Continental Agribusiness Strategy and the African Agribusiness Youth Strategy, Private Sector Engagement in the implementation of the AU Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and improved livelihoods. Her Division also leverages partnerships and alliances with Farmer Organisations, Women and Youth Organizations in implementing a key Malabo declaration of creating job opportunities for at least 30% of the youth in agricultural value chains.

Jeongha Kim is a Programme Officer of Green Jobs in the Decent Rural Employment Team of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN. Her work areas include green jobs, rural youth employment, and innovative technologies (artificial intelligence, automation, and appropriate technologies) in agriculture. Prior to joining FAO, she worked as a Programme Officer at the Korean National Commission for UNESCO. She holds an M.A. in Sociology, B.A. in Communications, and is currently finishing her M.Sc. thesis on agricultural microbiology.

Jane Lowicki-Zucca serves as Senior Youth Advisor within USAID's Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, where she works to strengthen the Agency's efforts to engage youth in inclusive agriculture-led growth, nutrition, resilience and water security, sanitation and hygiene activities. She previously served as Program Director with GOAL Uganda, leading the \$21M Driving Youth-led New Agribusiness and Microenterprise in Northern Uganda (DYNAMIC) program, a flagship youth-focused market systems development program that was part of Mastercard Foundation's Youth Forward initiative. Jane has held various positions with NGOs and the United Nations across three decades of humanitarian and development service, with an emphasis on youth development. Jane has authored numerous studies and reports, including the seminal Untapped Potential, Adolescents Affected by Armed Conflict.

Mette Grangaard Lund works in the Green Jobs Unit at the International Labour Organisation supporting constituents on topics of green jobs and just transition. In particular, she is covering work streams of private sector engagement, circular economy, and green jobs for youth. Before joining the ILO, Mette worked for a Danish employers organisation on private sector development and job creation in more than 15 countries. She holds a master degree in Business and Development Studies from Copenhagen Business School.

Peter Poschen is currently Professor for socio-economic sustainability at the Environment Faculty of the University of Freiburg, Germany. From 1986 – 2016, Peter worked at the ILO, including as coordinator of the ILO's Green Jobs Program, Director of the Enterprise Department and of the Country Office for Brazil. He has been active in international development for some 40 years, working in Africa, Asia and the Americas with a focus on land use, natural resources, rural development and private

sector engagement. A particular interest has been the interaction between labor markets, livelihoods and the environment.

Michael Sudarkasa is the CEO of Africa Business Group, a South Africa based continentally active, African economic development company. ABG promotes private sector development, trade and investment within Africa and between Africa and the global business community. ABG focuses on three key areas: 1) economic and business development consulting, 2) agriculture, tourism and renewable energy projects, and 3) capacity development. Michael has lived, travelled, and worked in 50 countries around the world (including 35 in Africa), and is the author of several publications. He serves as the Chair of Impact@Africa, a continentally focused impact investment ecosystem development platform. He holds a B.A. degree from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and a J.D. degree from Harvard Law School.