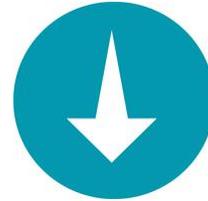




Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



FAO's Work on Decent Rural Youth Employment

Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth
*Annual General Assembly of
the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development*
19 June 2019, Zürich, Switzerland

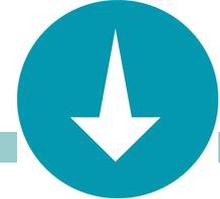
Peter Wobst

Senior Economist

Social Policies and Rural Institution Division

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



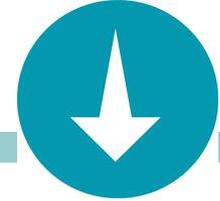


Rural poverty and decent work deficits

Poverty remains predominantly rural

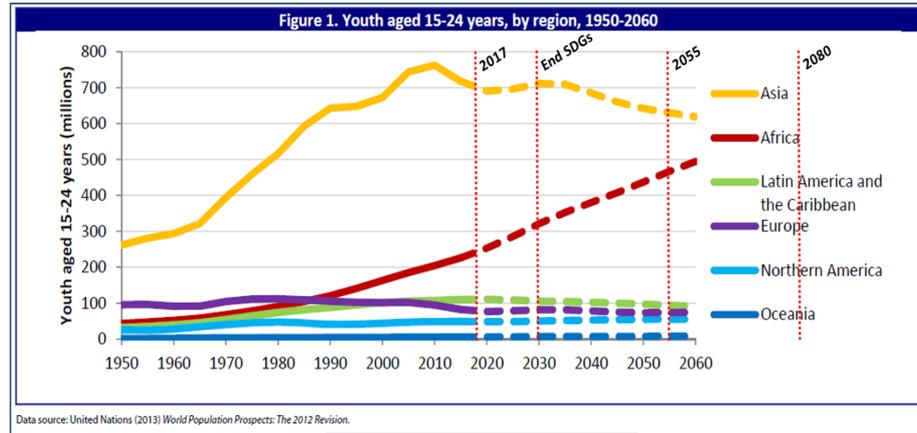
- While globally now 46% of the population lives in rural areas, in **Africa and Asia its 60% and 52%** respectively
- **80% of the world's extreme poor live in rural areas** where most depend on agriculture
- **Income inequality has risen** within countries with rural areas being disadvantaged, which leads to **spatial poverty traps**
- **Poor job prospects and decent work deficits** are among the determinants of rural poverty and adverse drivers of migration
- **Women, youth, migrants, people with disabilities and indigenous people** continue to face particular inequalities and discrimination
- **Climate change and conflict** are exacerbating the current situation





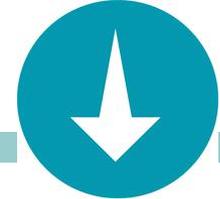
Youth employment issues

- **1.2 billion** youth (15-24 years) – **87%** are living in **developing countries**, **55%** of them in **rural areas**
- The youth population is expected to grow, while **employment opportunities remain limited and of poor quality**
- Young people are **overrepresented** among the **unemployed** (24% of working poor)
- Youth are mostly working in **the informal sector** and **vulnerable jobs**
- They typically earn **low wages**, are employed under **casual or seasonal work** arrangements, and face **unsafe, often exploitive working conditions**



- **Agriculture and rural areas** provide ample employment opportunities to youth
- **Investments and a conducive policy and regulatory framework** is required to address the numerous constraints rural youth are facing





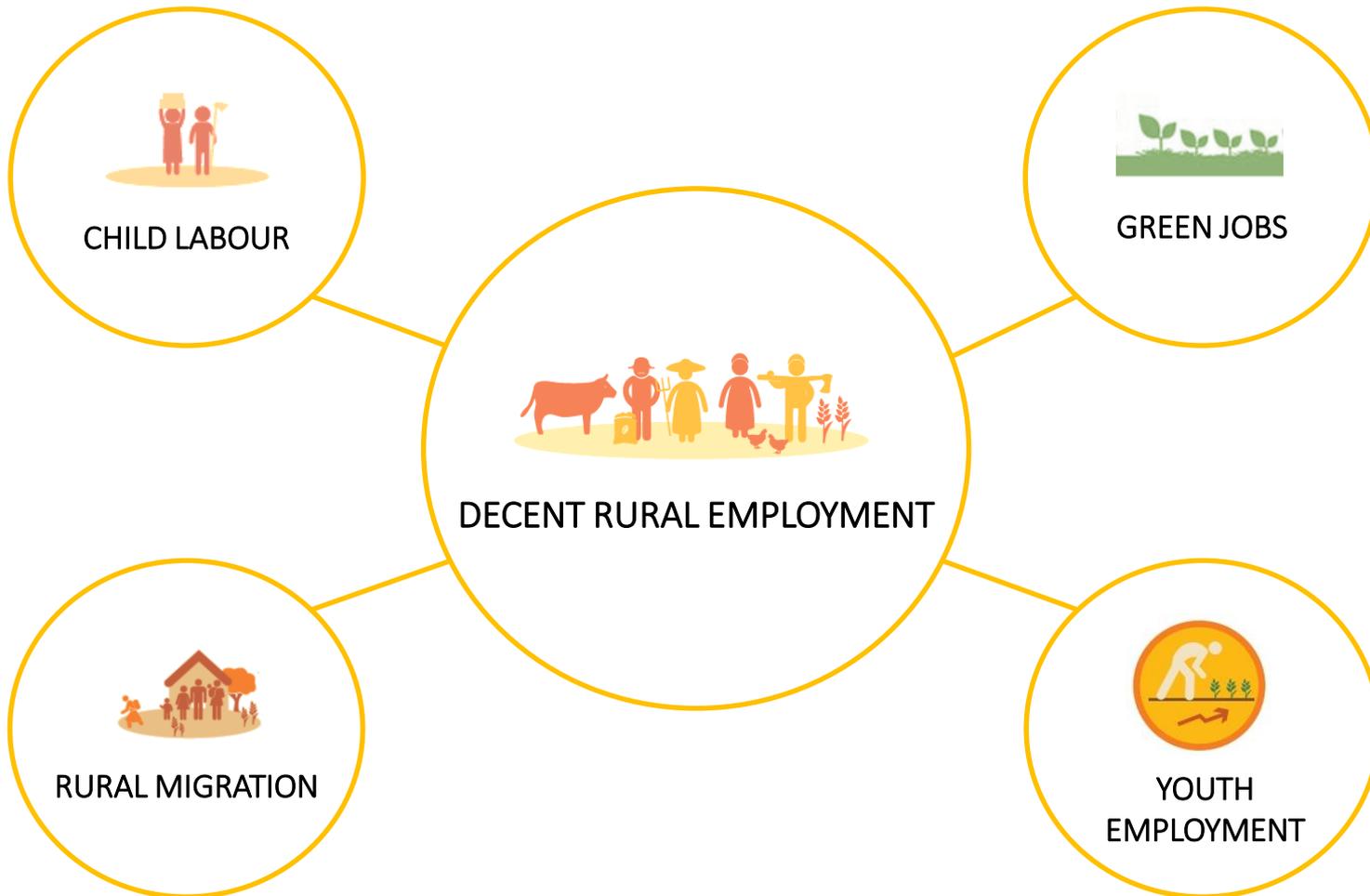
Youth employment challenges

Main challenges faced by young people in agriculture

- Insufficient access to **skills development, education, information, and knowledge**
- Limited access to resources such as **land**
- Inadequate access to **financial services**
- Limited access to **markets**
- Limited **inclusion in social and policy dialogue**, such as involvement in decision-making processes
- Difficult access to **green jobs** due to the lack of skills
- Despite the **potential of the agricultural sector**, rural areas are progressively losing a vital part of their **work force**

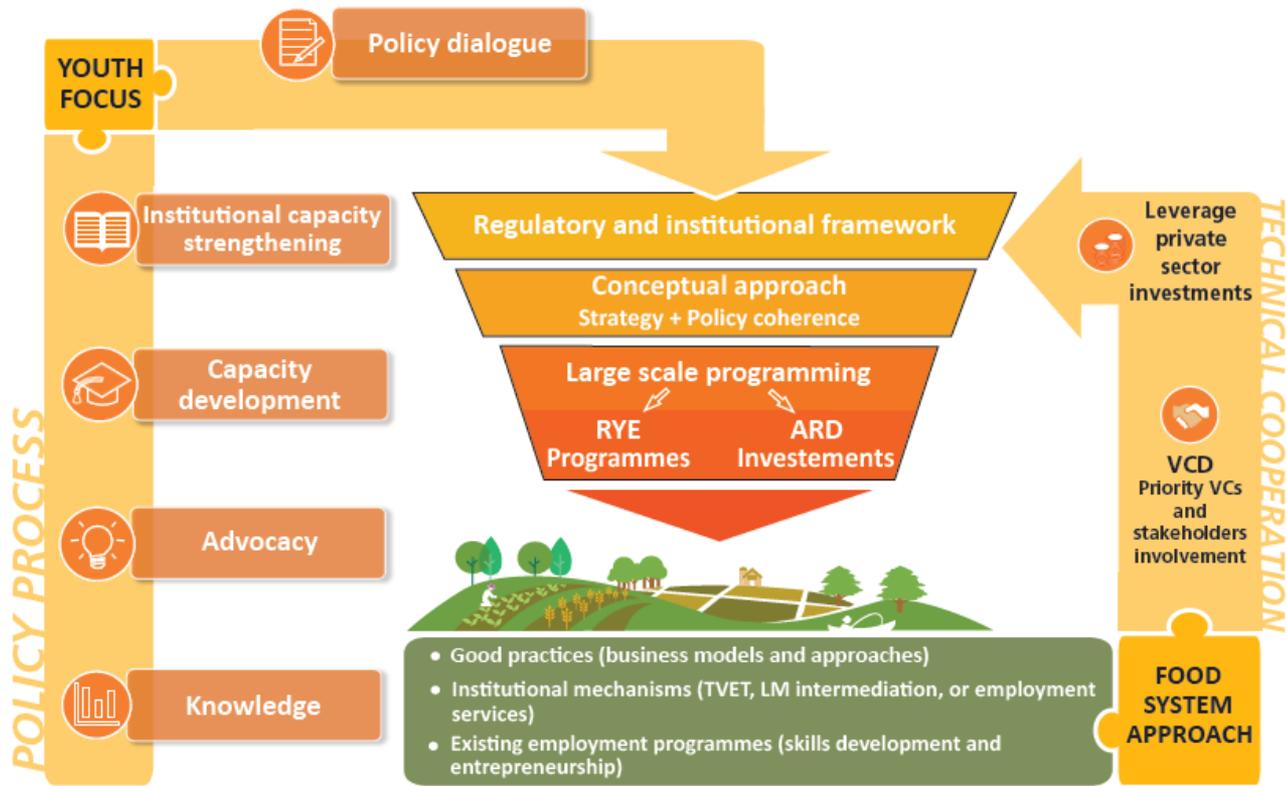


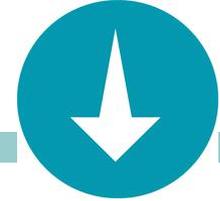
Decent rural employment – main work areas



Integrated Country Approach(ICA)

- Decent rural youth employment at the heart of FAO’s efforts to **reduce rural poverty**
- The Integrated Country Approach (ICA) has the overall objective to help youth access **more and better employment opportunities** in rural areas and agri-food systems
- On a global and regional level, it contributes efforts to integrate employment issues in the **agricultural and rural development discourse**
- At country level it supports governments in developing **strategies, policies, and programmes** to improve the quantity and quality of on-farm and off-farm job opportunities for rural youth





Country example: ICA in Uganda



Policy dialogue

Support of design and implementation of the **National Strategy for Youth Employment in Agriculture**. **Policy dialogue** with relevant stakeholders to identify the best strategies was an essential part of these efforts



Knowledge

Study focusing on **employment related challenges and needs of rural youth aged 14-17**, an age group often neglected in many policy interventions



Institutional capacity strengthening

Strengthening of **national agricultural data collection tools** by integrating gender, youth and employment dimensions



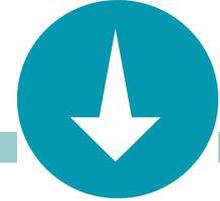
VCD Priority VCs and stakeholders involvement

Development of a **tool for assessing the youth-employment potential of agri-food value chains**, which is piloted in the coffee value chain in Uganda

Good practices

In line with NSYEA, launch of **Youth inspiring youth in agriculture initiative to identify youth champions** who act as role models for their peers





FAO rural youth employment projects in SSA

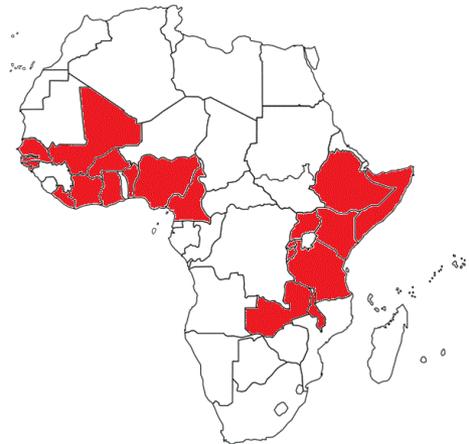
Benin	Central African Republic	Gambia	Liberia	Senegal
Burundi	Congo	Ghana	Mali	Somalia
Burkina Faso	Côte d'Ivoire	Guinea Bissau	Niger	Uganda
Cameroon	Ethiopia	Kenya	Nigeria	Zambia
			Rwanda	



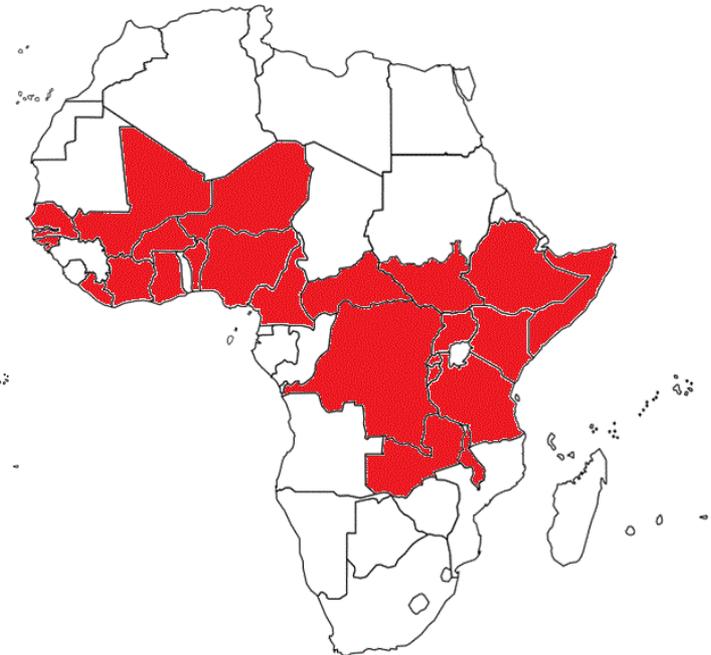
2000 - 2003



2004 - 2010



2011 - 2017



2018 - 2019



Opportunities for engagement

Business Development Portfolio



The BDP presents opportunities for partnership and invites partners to increase their investments. Besides migration, **youth employment** is one of the 12 **focal areas** of the portfolio



From School to Work

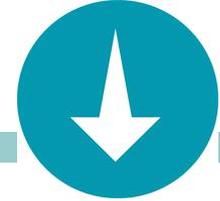
Aims to **better prepare young people to access decent work and entrepreneurial opportunities** in agriculture-related activities and strengthen the livelihoods of rural households, so they **do not rely on child labour**



ICA (extension)

FAO aims at expanding the ICA approach to further countries. The approach could be adapted to the context of the North African region and related countries





Opportunities for engagement



Jobs for Peace

The programme **contributes to national peace-building processes and helps to reduce poverty** by engaging young women and men in **business- and social development activities**



Green Jobs for Youth

The programme aims at **adapting to climate change through green enterprise and creating green jobs for rural youth** across agri-food and other rural economic sectors



Boosting Job Creation for Rural Youth in the Sahel

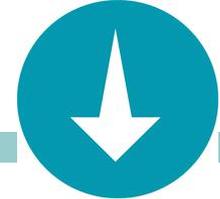
The programme aims to improve the livelihoods of young people in the Sahel region, including **Mauritania**, with a **combination of rapid employment generation schemes and longer-term development solutions**



Yes Africa

Aims to address sustainable development and rural poverty reduction **in Africa** by supporting **job creation, national and regional capacities to implement solutions at scale for more youth-inclusive rural transformation**





Green Jobs

- Decent jobs that result in more **environmentally friendly processes, products and services**
 - Tapping into the developmental potential of the **Green Economy**
 - Transition to Green Economy could yield up to **60 million jobs** (ILO, 2012)
 - Low-carbon, green growth estimated to bring 26 trillion USD by 2030
 - **GDP of primary sector**: GA 20% above BAU at 1,850 billion USD by 2050
-
- Rural youth often lack **education and skills** to access gainful employment and entrepreneurial opportunities in agriculture
 - Agriculture has not been the most attractive sector for young people to build viable careers

The rural economy and the agricultural sector need to take a leading role in simultaneously addressing demographic developments and climate change.

Green jobs for rural youth is an important pathway towards reduced rural poverty and counteracting the impacts of climate change.





Tools and resources

www.fao.org/rural-employment



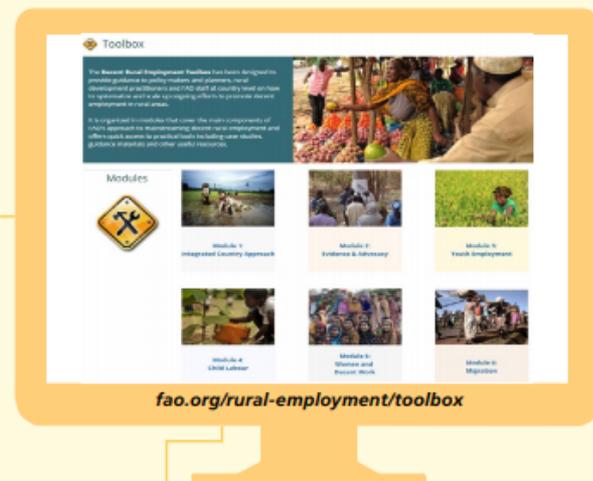
DRE Toolbox

The main **FAO publications and resources** on decent rural employment are systematized in the **online Decent Rural Employment Toolbox**.

The Toolbox has been designed to **provide guidance** to policy makers, rural development practitioners and FAO staff.

It is organized in **modules** that cover the main components of FAO's approach to mainstreaming decent rural employment.

An integrated set of tools and resources



Incorporating decent rural employment in the strategic planning for agricultural development

This guidance document aims to assist policy makers in incorporating decent rural employment priorities in the design of agricultural development interventions, across different subsectors and value chains. It includes a Rapid Guide to quickly identify the most relevant contents.

> fao.org/3/a-i5471e.pdf



Policy database on employment and decent work in rural areas

The Policy Database is an online inventory of current national, regional and global policies, programmes and studies that are relevant to promoting decent jobs in the rural areas of developing countries. The tool is aimed at policy makers and advisors of agricultural and employment-related planning, programme managers in ministries of agriculture and rural development and employment, as well as other national and regional stakeholders.

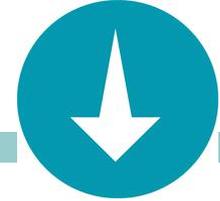
> fao.org/rural-employment/policies/en/



E-learning course on promoting productive employment and decent work in rural areas

This course introduces the concepts of productive employment and decent work and their relevance for food and nutrition security and rural poverty reduction. It also explains how to integrate employment and decent work considerations into agricultural strategies and programmes, with focus on specific groups such as rural women, youth and children.

> fao.org/elearning/#/elc/en/course/DRE



Thank you!

Peter Wobst, Senior Economist

Peter.Wobst@fao.org

- Visit us: <http://www.fao.org/rural-employment/en/>
- Learn with us: www.fao.org/rural-employment/resources/e-learning/en/
- Contact us: Decent-Work@fao.org

