



MINUTES THEMATIC WORKING GROUP ON RURAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

DATE: 20 JANUARY 2022

PARTICIPANTS

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- Julie Rødje, Spire
- Marwan Benali, FAO
- Myline Macabuhay, AFA

- Nick Goetschalckz, EU
- Pietro Del Sette, AICS
- Sven Braulik, GIZ

GDP RD Secretariat:

- Maurizio Navarra
- Michelle Tang
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- Monique Amar
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AGENDA

Issue	Item	Details
1.	Welcome and Introduction	Anna/FAO
2.	Green Jobs for Rural Youth Employment	Marwan/FAO
3.	Update from the Secretariat	Maurizio/GDP RD
4.	AGA Session	Frank/GIZ
5.	2022 Work Plan	Sven/GIZ
6.	Follow-up on Political Processes	All
7.	Updates/Miscellaneous	Anna/FAO

KEY HIGHLIGHTS/ISSUES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- Pietro Del Sette joined for the first time. He works for the Italian Cooperation Agency (AICS) and is in charge of the agricultural sector for Pakistan and Afghanistan projects and programmes, with a focus on rural youth.

2. GREEN JOBS FOR RURAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Marwan Benali (FAO) gave a presentation on Green Jobs for Rural Youth Employment. The PowerPoint presentation is attached in the email.

- Youth are overrepresented among the poor and working poor, and agriculture employs a large share of the world's labour force. However, agricultural systems both responsible for GHG and affected by climate change. Green jobs are decent jobs that can contribute to preserving or restoring the environment. They can provide solutions to the problems youth under/unemployment and climate change.
- FAO has ongoing projects to develop policy solutions that encourage sustainable agriculture practices with employment prospects for youth.
- Currently, a FAO project (funded by KOICA) in Sierra Leone, Timor Leste and Zimbabwe is training youth to address local issues through green employment and entrepreneurship solutions based on identified solutions / business models. The goal is to provide skills training opportunities to youth, as well as green jobs and employment opportunities. The project has two streams to support youth for a 2-year period. First, the entrepreneurship and self-employment track where youth are coached and mentored and receive seed money for their green start-up based on green ideas for local environmental issues. Second, the wage opportunity track where youth are hired for green waged employment opportunities. The project welcomes feedback from local communities and has received great responses so far. There are networks and collaboration happening, and the potential to scale up the initiatives and expand to other countries.
 - Statistical approaches are not within the scope of the project and have thus not been used so far, but the goal is to develop a monitoring system.
 - Opportunities are being explored to work with private-sector involvement in green jobs. Practical arrangements must be made, but the interest already exists. The work must be commercially successful beyond the scope of the project implementation.
- As the topic raised a lot of interest, it was proposed to organize a dedicated TWG-RYE webinar on green jobs for rural youth employment. USAID, FAO, ILO, GIZ and OECD agreed to contribute to the organization with concurrence that the webinar's focus should not be too broad, fit in the context of the inclusive food system transformation and/or on a specific aspect of green jobs.

3. UPDATE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- The White Paper on donor coordination in food systems, with the title 'Transforming Food Systems - Directions for Enhancing the Catalytic Role of Donors' is currently being reviewed by the GDPRD Board. The document will be sent to the TWG for timely feedback, as it will be released at the beginning of March.
- The 2022 Annual General Assembly (AGA) was supposed to take place 7-8 March as a hybrid online/in-person event. Because of the Omicron variant outbreak, a hybrid event in March will not be possible. Therefore, the AGA is postponed to May or June.

- It was initially proposed that the thematic working groups hold special sessions during the AGA. The question now is whether the working group would like to hold a special session in the postponed AGA, but also organize a special session at the beginning of March. The March event would have to be entirely virtual, while the hope is to have a hybrid event in May/June.

4. AGA SESSION

The TWG will organize a session for the AGA in May/June and could also organize a virtual session in March.

- The March session could be a technical “pre-event” (such as the green jobs webinar), whereas the AGA session will be for a broader, higher-level audience.
- The idea for the AGA is to focus on connections and overlap between food systems and RYE, and to facilitate for discussions on implementation of RYE in food systems.
 - One suggestion is to base (part of) the AGA session on Kenya as a country case, with examples from ongoing member projects and coordination efforts.
 - One suggestion for the pre-event could be to organize a form of marketplace where members share approaches, good practices, and lessons.
- A draft outline for the AGA session is attached to the minutes for feedback by the group.

5. 2022 WORK PLAN

- A draft work plan for 2022 was presented using the format proposed by the GDPRD Secretariat. The new format is output-oriented, and the output areas are structured around the five intervention areas defined for the TWG, including alignment with international processes, strategic coordination, evaluation and co-creation of innovative approaches, contributions, and cooperation with other groups. Two outcome areas are not yet fully established: the strategic engagement and empowerment of rural youth, and the collaboration with other stakeholders such as private sector.
- It was suggested that because of the already ambitious number of activities and targets, the current draft should be re-visited and updated over the course of the year. Because of the uncertainties with COVID-19, the aim should be to prioritize and select the most feasible activities. It will be critical to actively track how the individual activities contribute to the strategic functions of the TWG.
- A new outcome area, related to reaching out to new members to include in the working group was also highlighted. The cross-cutting target to improve youth involvement by seeking youth participation in all TWG activities was emphasised. Connecting with local labour unions and associations should be added to a target on private sector involvement. The group could reach out to the knowledge hub on decent jobs for youth called [Youth Foresight](#) on youth participation in institutions and sharing tools and good practices.

6. FOLLOW-UP ON POLITICAL PROCESSES

- The CFS will release the zero draft for the policy recommendations on Youth Engagement and Employment on 31 January. Written inputs and feedback will be accepted until 18 March.
- Each of the members should reach out to local youth networks which are associated with own organizations to ensure that their feedback and ample input is provided to the CFS process.
- It would be beneficial for TWG RYE to participate and provide feedback on the policy process. A short session with interested members will be organized to discuss options for coordinated feedback from the TWG.

7. UPDATES

- **USAID** is undergoing a shift in policy framework to focus on inclusivity, with special attention to gender equity. The strategies for [global food security](#) and [climate](#) are being refreshed, and the nexus of youth, jobs, and agriculture are being discussed.
 - The refreshed [USAID Youth in Development Policy](#) will be released early this year.
- **GIZ:** [The African Agri-Business Youth Strategy](#) that was previously discussed and supported by the group is now formally endorsed by the Special Technical Committee.
 - The [EU African Business Forum](#) will take place 14-18 February. GIZ/BMZ submitted a proposal for a session on youth employment and invitations will be sent out to members of the TWG.
- **FAO:** The [Integrated Country Approach](#) (ICA) E-learning course has now been adapted for Latin American and the Caribbean.
- **OECD:** The report [Jobs for Rural Youth – The Role of Local Food Economies](#) is now available.
- **ILO:** A Technical Meeting with a corresponding [background report](#) was held by ILO in December on the future of work in aquaculture with a focus on the potential for youth.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Agenda item/Issue	Action	Timeline	Responsible Person(s)
2	Share ideas and availability for green jobs webinar	ASAP	All
2	Send ideas and information on publications and projects for technical inputs in future calls.	ASAP	All
3	Circulate White Paper to TWG	TBD	GDPRD
4	Share concept note for March session and AGA session	TBD	Frank
5	Provide feedback on the 2022 Work Plan	ASAP	All
6	Organize meeting to formulate feedback on the zero draft for the CFS Policy convergence process on Youth Engagement and Employment	After 31 January	Frank