

Green Jobs: A better future for rural youth

A webinar by the Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth Employment of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development

CONCEPT NOTE

Thursday 16 November 2023, 15.00-16.00 CET

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1. Background and rationale

Young people make up most of the planet’s population and aspire to work in line with their ambitions and values. There are over 1.2 billion persons between 15–24 years of age, with 87 percent living in developing countries. Many youth seek job opportunities in rural areas and are facing major decent work deficits and high unemployment rates, particularly as a result of climate change. While young people are undoubtedly victims of the climate crisis, they are also valuable contributors to a just transition in rural areas. They are agents of change, entrepreneurs and innovators, and are scaling up their efforts and using their skills to accelerate climate action.

Advancing a just transition in agri-food systems and rural economies stands as a priority in the international development community. In 2023, more than 5,000 delegates gathered at the International Labour Conference in Geneva, and developed a resolution that “urgent action to advance just transition is an imperative to achieving social justice, decent work and poverty eradication, and to tackling environmental and climate change.”¹ The resolution underscores the collaborative spirit needed to tackle the challenges of climate change and ensure a bright and fair future for younger generations.

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), investments in the green economy (e.g., clean and renewable energy, construction and sustainable agriculture), will create 8.4 million jobs for young people by 2030², including many in rural areas. Promoting green jobs³ for rural youth can contribute to the much-needed shift towards more inclusive, environmentally sustainable and resilient practices in agri-food systems, while helping to address youth unemployment.

¹ [ILC.111/Resolution V: Resolution concerning a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all \(ilo.org\)](#)

² ILO 2022b [Report: Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022: Investing in transforming futures for young people \(ilo.org\)](#)

³ 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. (See also: ILO, 2023 [Green jobs, green economy, just transition and related concepts](#))

Giving voice to and ensuring the active engagement of rural youth in multilateral discussions on climate change and adaptation strategies is key to a successful [2023 Conference of the Parties \(COP28\)](#). Coordinated responses that hold the greatest potential to boost green jobs for youth are needed to face the challenges ahead.

2. Objective

The [Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth Employment](#) (TWG RYE) was formed following the [2018 Annual General Assembly](#) of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, which was entirely dedicated to empowering rural youth. The TWG RYE advises donors, governments and civil society organizations on the most effective ways to create employment opportunities and empower youth to productively contribute to and benefit from sustainable rural livelihoods.

This webinar will foster knowledge exchange between TWG RYE members, experts, development practitioners, and youth on innovative solutions to boost green jobs for rural youth and hone commitments ahead of COP28. Speakers will discuss effective policy interventions to promote green jobs for rural youth and advance a just transition in agri-food systems and rural areas, with special attention on engaging rural youth in key policy processes.

3. Agenda

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3 min	Welcome & Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Frank Bertelmann, TWG RYE Co-Chair - Elisenda Estruch-Puertas, TWG RYE Co-Chair [Moderator]
15 min	Keynote Presentation: Inspiration for advancing a just transition in rural economies and promoting green jobs for rural youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Camilla Roman, ILO
30 min	Project examples: lessons learned and promising practices to scale up action and engage rural youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sergio Iriate Quezada, Green Jobs Youth Pact, ILO - SeongYoung Lee, FAO - Gerald Kasita, YPARD
10 min	Interactive discussion on the way forward, synergies and potential collaboration
2 min	Wrap-up & Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TWG RYE Co-Chairs