



GDPRD Thematic Working Group on Youth – Empowering Youth for Today and Tomorrow

Concept note

1. The GDPRD Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Youth is meant to be a donor-catalysed TWG with significant youth participation to advise donors, governments and civil society organizations on the most effective ways to support and empower youth to productively contribute to and benefit from sustainable rural livelihoods and food value chain systems.
2. The objectives of the TWG are to promote meaningful youth engagement in all stages of donor initiatives on agriculture and rural development, through:
 - Achieving youth mainstreaming in all donor activities.
 - Sharing evidence-based approaches to effectively promote youth inclusive programming to create meaningful, decent, profitable, innovative and inclusive work along diverse value chains.
 - Identifying the gaps in youth programming and best practices.
 - Promoting learning and collaboration across a variety of means, including South-to-South and North-to-South youth cooperation, rural and urban linkages, intergenerational linkages and innovative partnerships.
 - Promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships among donors, multilaterals, regional and national institutions working with the diverse actors including youth, donors, governments, universities and civil society organizations.
 - Resource mobilization for catalytic and niche activities aimed at engaging and empowering youth and those that enhance coordination of donor youth programmes, for developing knowledge sharing products and sponsoring youth participation in relevant meetings and fora.
 - Creating effective and innovative communication systems and channels for knowledge, information and opportunity sharing (such as mentorships for young people) between donors and youth as well as with other strategic stakeholders.
3. The [Compendium](#) on donor engagement with rural youth shall be one of the core documents to be further analysed with recommendations translated into activities, taking into account perceptions, knowledge gaps, and challenges.
As it states, achieving the targets set by the G20 Rural Youth Employment Initiative will require the TWG to:
 - a) Engage and empower youth from diverse backgrounds;
 - b) Support building the capacity of national and local institutions;
 - c) Collaborate with the private sector and agri-preneur organisations;
 - d) Evaluate and re-think how donors approach rural youth issues across their operations;
and
 - e) Increased (strategic) coherence and coordination among donors and development agencies, national and local institutions.



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4. Participation (at least 50% youth – under 35 years): The TWG was established by the GDPRD with leadership from the AfDB, IADC, USAID, NORAD and several youth leaders and organisations (see annex) representing various geographical regions.
 - Group participation is open to all GDPRD members and participants.
 - The group will meet via skype once every second month, on the basis of a shared agenda, current emerging issues, questions and documentation and report to the GDPRD Board.
 - Additional relevant groups (youth organisations, private sector, farmer organisations, donors, etc.) and other actors will be invited to participate on an adhoc basis to support specific TWG components or specific actions.
5. Documentation: The Secretariat will create a dedicated space on the Platform website for the work on youth. This will include relevant resources, knowledge sharing and information on donors' work around youth.
6. Deliverables over the next 6-12 months will include:
 - Developing knowledge products to fill data and programing gaps around youth issues;
 - Organising TWG meetings and sponsored side events at relevant conferences to highlight emerging topics or new data;
 - Establishing partnerships and projects among donors and multilaterals around youth programs;
 - Developing an effective communication strategy/system for sharing relevant information among GDPRD members and youth networks;
 - Providing networking and opportunities for youth in agriculture and rural development;
 - Liaise with existing platforms that are already active in this space such as the ILO's Global Youth Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth and other TWG like-minded Platforms.

Upcoming Relevant Event/Projects

- 1) 15 – 19 October 2018, Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in Rome. - The Secretariat will be present and will attend youth related side events.



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Annex

Youth Thematic Working Group Members

| Donor agency representatives | |
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| <p>Emanuela Benini Youth Issues Italian Agency for Development Cooperation</p> | <p>emanuela.benini@aics.gov.it</p> |
| <p>Edson Mpyisi Chief Financial Economist Coordinator, ENABLE Youth Program African Development Bank Group</p> | <p>e.mpyisi@afdb.org</p> |
| <p>Meredith McCormack Global Engagement & Strategy Bureau for Food Security USAID</p> | <p>mmccormack@usaid.gov</p> |
| <p>Odd Arnesen Senior Adviser Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation</p> | <p>Odd.Eirik.Arnese@norad.no</p> |
| Youth representatives <i>Representatives from farmers organisations, youth networks, agriprenuers</i> | |
| <p>Ibrahim Ceesay – The Gambia President, CAADP Youth Network</p> | <p>ceesaydigital@gmail.com</p> |
| <p>Nono Sekhoto – South Africa Managing Director, Growthshoot</p> | <p>nono@growthshoot.co.za</p> |
| <p>Lanz Espacio – Philippines Program Manager, Legal, Policy and Advocacy Development Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (PAKISAMA)</p> | <p>lanzespacio@gmail.com</p> |



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| <p>Alpha Sennon – Trinidad and Tobago</p> <p>Founder and Executive Director, WHYFARM</p> <p>and</p> <p>Keron Bascombe – Trinidad and Tobago</p> <p>Founder Tech4Agri</p> | <p>alphasennon1@gmail.com</p> <p>keronbascombe@gmail.com</p> |