

ESRF POLICY BRIEF

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Enhancing Enabling Environment to Increase Youth Participation in Agriculture in Tanzania.

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Key Policy Advocacy Messages to be Spearheaded by Village Governments

A - Village Governments to take charge in implementing the following:

- ✓ Village Government and Ward Development Committees to support district initiative to allocate land for agricultural and industrial parks for Youth engagement in agribusiness.
- ✓ Enact Village by-laws and regulations for the formation of Youth Platforms at Village and Ward level and their engagements at the District level.
- ✓ Help to organize the youth to be aware of, and qualify to access the Youth Development Fund (YDF).
- ✓ Support the establishment of Cultural Groups for influencing the youth entry into agribusiness.
- ✓ Village government to aside land for setting up of training centres such as VETA and SIDO.
- ✓ Youth to have representation in the Village Government setup so that they effectively participate in the development planning process (currently only women have a quota in village government structure).
- ✓ Initiate programs to empower the youth to use ICT in accessing developmental knowledge and accessing market information for inputs and outputs.

B - Village and Ward Leaders to Continue to convince District and National Leaders to initiate the following among other matters:

- ✓ Allocation of national resources to establish vocational training centres for skills development of the youth in agro-processing in the districts
- ✓ Establish effective One-Stop Youth Windows for supporting all youth interested in agriculture and agribusiness value chain engagements at the district-level
- ✓ Enact by-laws for allocating land for agricultural and industrial parks for youth owned agribusiness and small-scale industries

Executive summary

Village Governments have a special frontline role to solve practical challenges the youth encounter and encourage them to engage in commercial agriculture and agri-business. This should help to ensure they are self-employed or employed and therefore contribute to solve youth unemployment and rural-urban migration. By so doing, Village Governments will be supporting national policies, which recognize the need to create enabling environment for increased youth participation in agriculture and agribusiness value chains.

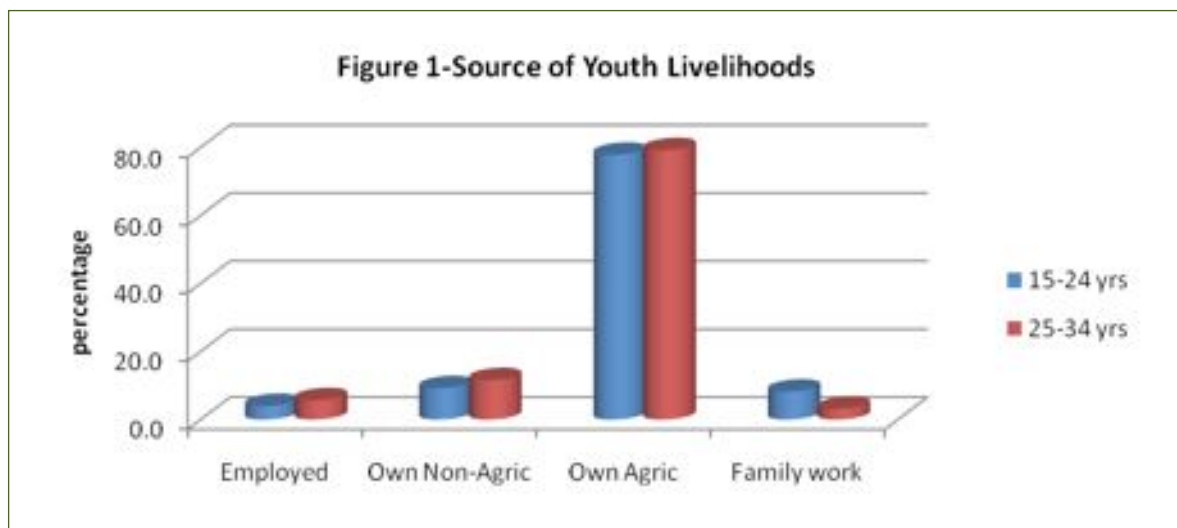
Village Governments should take advantage of existing programs such as HEIFER International's East Africa Youth Inclusion Program (EAYIP), which seeks, among others, to catalyze youth participation and inclusion in economic activities, particularly in agriculture sector.

To start with, there are some pilot villages selected from the districts of Iringa Rural, Kilolo, Mufindi, Mafinga Town Council, Njombe Town Council, Njombe District Council, Wanging'ombe, Rungwe, Busokelo, and Mbozi.

Context and importance of the problem

According to Tanzania's 2007 Youth Policy, youth category is people in the age group of 15 to 35 years. In 2015 the category constituted one in every three Tanzanians (33 percent of the population). However, the EAYIP will target

only those aged 15 to 24 years, which is about a half of the wider category of 15-34 years (see figure 1). The 2012 census, showed the proportion of people depending on agriculture for the livelihood increased according to age groups from 76.2 percent for those between 15 and 19 years, 79.4 percent for age group 20-24 years.



National Policies on Youth Empowerment

The Village Government is supposed to understand requirements of lead policies on youth, which are the National Youth Development Policy (NYDP 2007) and the National Strategy for Youth Involvement in Agriculture (2016-2021). They provide guidance on equipping the youth with necessary skills, competences and attitudes for the job market and self employment. Other national policies in support of the youth to engage in agribusiness include the National Employment Act (2017 draft) which commits the government to strengthen prerequisite socio-economic infrastructure for enhancing youth employment in addition to skills development.

Role of Village Governments in Support the Youth



Village leaders should liaise with Ward Councilors (Madiwani) to make some close follow-ups in getting a share of the Youth Development Fund (YDF) for their youth groups. They should insist fulfillment of the law that 5 percent of LGA own revenue should be dedicated to the Youth Development Fund (YDF).. This is important to note because experience so far shows that most LGAs disburse only part of this commitment due to failure to reach annual revenue targets. In some LGAs youth groups, with membership of 5 or more people, get as little as TZS 500,000 per year, normally a fraction of what they apply for their income-earning projects in farming and agribusiness. The actual amount, however, depends on the type and size of enterprise involved by

group members. The interviewed youth are engaged in raising poultry (mostly chicken for eggs and meat); goats; pigs; small retail businesses (mostly buying and selling agricultural commodities) and a few engaged in dairy farming and selling milk.

Challenges Faced by the Youth

It will be interesting to Village Leaders to note that most of the youth interviewed by ESRF in 2017 in preparation for the EAYIP, listed the following issues as the most pressing challenges they were facing in their engagements in agribusiness:

(a) Inadequate working capital to expand and/or modernize operations; (b) Some of them were unaware of the existence of the YDF, but for those who applied said the loans given were too small to have impact on their agribusinesses; (c) Low knowledge base for adoption of improved husbandry practices or search for markets and prepare bankable proposals; (d) Land access problems due to different reasons such as cultural restrictions to land transfer to unmarried youth and women; (e) Restrictive access to bank loans due to several reasons (e.g. high interest rates and collateral requirements); (f) prohibitive prices of agricultural inputs and implements; (g) inequitable distribution of subsidized government inputs leaving the youth; (h) Unfavorable commodity market prices caused by among others seasonal fluctuations of prices e.g. too low during post-harvest period; and (i) restricted movement of commodities across districts and outside the country.



Other challenges, which Village Governments should help to solve included (a) failure by parents to support them; (b) youth mindset believing that agribusiness takes too long to uplift their livelihoods (c) lack of a common platform for them to engage with government and channel their views. Existing community platforms such as the Village Assembly are usually dominated by voices of the elderly.

The Future is Bright for the Youth

The increasing population and the growth of industrial and service sectors where more and more people will be depending on salaries, offers a growing market for



food products produced in the villages. The youth should therefore be supported to engage in agribusiness to take advantage of this opportunity of a growing working class. Rural energy programme supports rural industries. The Banks are also gradually warming up to the idea of lending to agribusiness.

How the Village Government help the Youth

Village Governments have the ability to set aside land for agricultural and industrial parks and designated market places, which are among the most critical requirements for youth engagement in agribusiness. They should also help the youth to organize themselves in economic venture groups, establish a Village Youth Platform to enable them share their aspirations their needs with leaders. The youth should also be linked to capacity building programs in order to broaden and sharpen their business management, financial literacy and entrepreneurship skills. This includes linking them with programs that promote use of ICT in accessing market information. Creating a more positive attitude towards agribusiness requires collaboration from the youth, which should be supported to form cultural groups and participate in study tours to learn from other successful peers.



RECOMMENDATIONS OF ACTIONS BY VILLAGE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES

Policy Reforms at Village Levels	<p>Land policy: Village Assembly to support requirement that each village should set aside special parks for agricultural, industrial and business for youth projects</p> <p>Youth Policy: Village Assembly to approve creation of Youth Platform</p>
Legal Reforms at Village Levels	<p>Land policy: Village Assembly to approve the allocation of land area for youth projects</p> <p>Youth Development Fund: Village Assemblies to pass a resolution for setting aside some of its revenue for supporting youth programs</p> <p>Designated Market Place: Villages to enforce marketing rules, especially curbing the use of illegal weights and measures such as “lumbesa” (topped up bags of produce)</p>
Institutional alignment at the Village levels	<p>Youth Groups and Culture of Savings: Village governments to support efforts to motivate youth in groups, mobilize savings and link with commercial banks for loans. Village government assets could be used for group collateral with banks.</p> <p>Require religious institutions, political parties and civil society organizations to include knowledge for the youth to be organized in economic and social groups</p> <p>Inform the youth on merits of warehouse receipt system for some crops</p> <p>Invite private sector initiatives that support youth business ventures</p> <p>Village government to support the establishment of village youth platforms and support their participation at ward and district levels</p> <p>Provide space for youth to participate in development planning processes</p>
Mindset Change at Village Level	<p>Support formation of cultural youth groups and establishment of community centers where the youth can interact and also read newspapers, books and listen to mass media programs aired on radio and television aimed at changing stereotype and motivating the youth to engage in agribusiness</p> <p>Keep on educating parents on the need to support young people</p> <p>Invite role models who have succeeded in agribusiness to visit and interact with village youth in groups and through established Youth Platforms</p> <p>Adoption of ICT platforms by the youth to access different types of information: markets, technologies and different business models</p>

Actions that Village Governments should continue to put pressure on district and national-level institutions include: (a) Policy and Law requiring Banks and other financial institutions to set aside a proportion of net income to the Youth Development Fund (b) private companies to use part of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

resources for youth programs (c) better staffing of government personnel to provide education to the youth; (d) agricultural education curriculum to be introduced for primary and secondary schools; (e) establish VETA and SIDO branches in each of the districts to ease access by youth.



East Africa Youth Inclusion Program

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