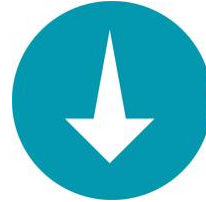




Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# FAO's Work on Decent Rural Youth Employment

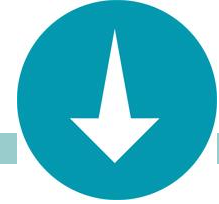
**Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth**  
*Annual General Assembly of  
the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development*  
*19 June 2019, Zürich, Switzerland*

**Peter Wobst**  
**Senior Economist**

**Social Policies and Rural Institution Division**

***Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations***

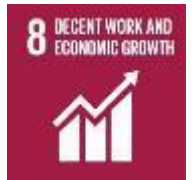




# Rural poverty and decent work deficits

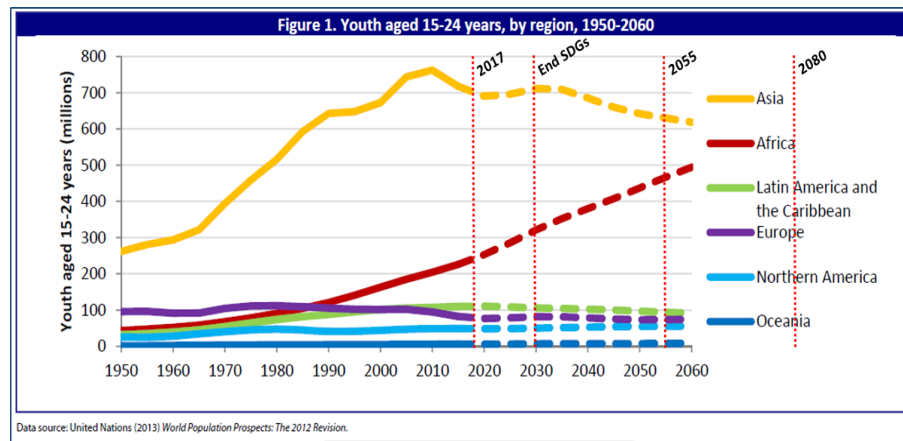
## Poverty remains predominantly rural

- 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



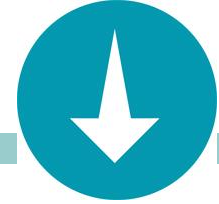
# Youth employment issues

- **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

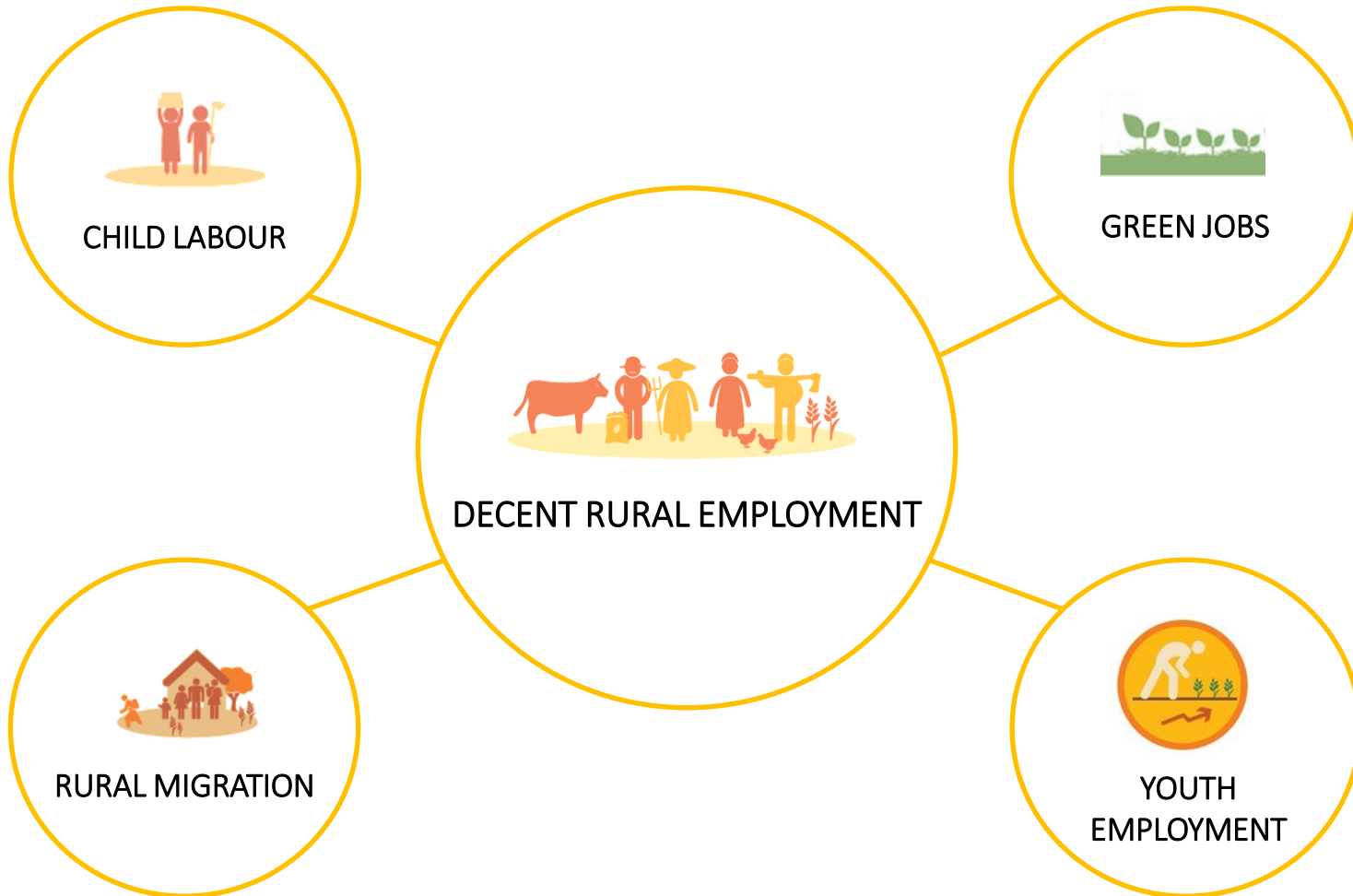
## Main challenges faced by young people in agriculture

- 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**





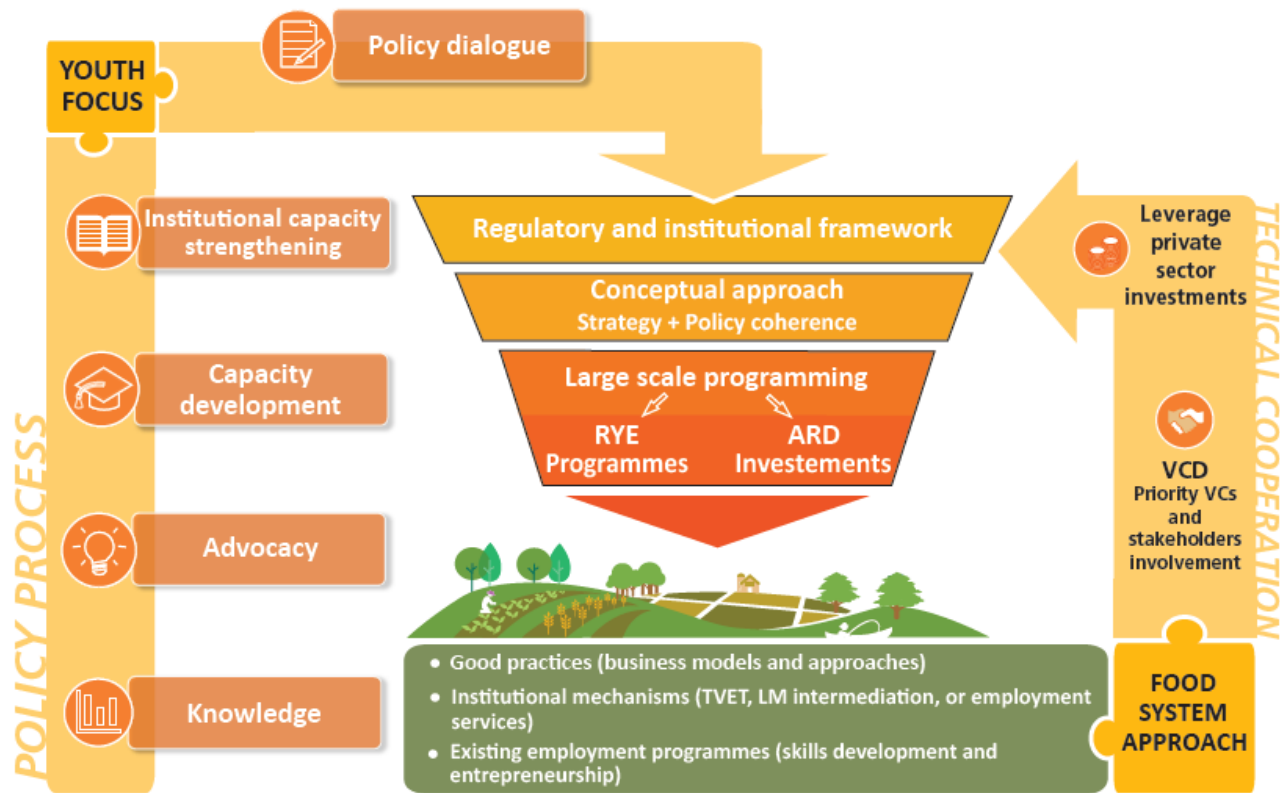
# Decent rural employment – main work areas





# 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

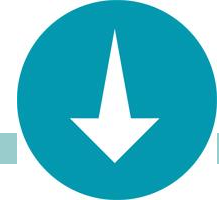
Development of a **tool for assessing the youth-employment potential of agri-food value chains**, which is piloted in the coffee value chain in Uganda

## 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

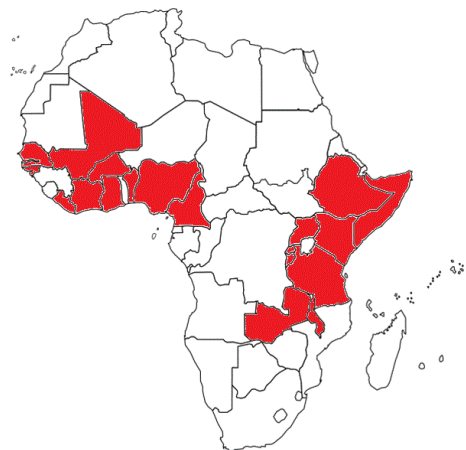
Benin	Central African	Gambia	Liberia	Senegal
Burundi	Republic	Ghana	Mali	Somalia
Burkina Faso	Congo	Guinea Bissau	Niger	Uganda
Cameroon	Côte d'Ivoire	Kenya	Nigeria	Zambia
	Ethiopia		Rwanda	



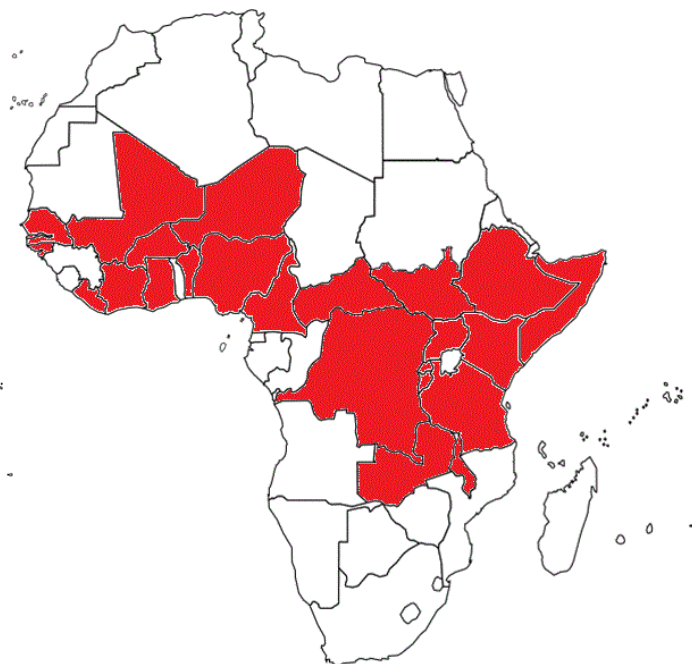
2000 - 2003



2004 - 2010



2011 - 2017



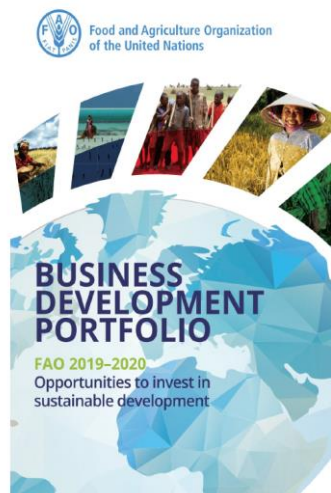
2018 - 2019





# 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

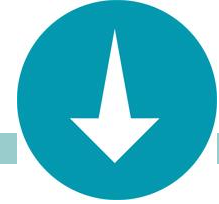
Aims to **better prepare young people to access decent work and entrepreneurial opportunities** in agriculture-related activities and strengthen the livelihoods of rural households, so they **do not rely on child labour**



## 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



## 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



## Green Jobs for Youth

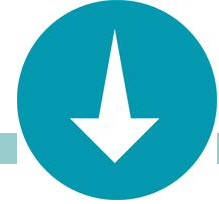
The programme aims at adapting to climate change through green enterprise and creating green jobs for rural youth across agri-food and other rural economic sectors



## 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](http://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](http://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.

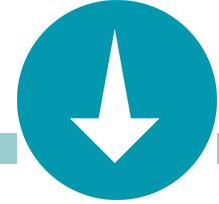
> [fao.org/rural-employment/policies/en/](http://fao.org/rural-employment/policies/en/)



### 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](http://fao.org/elearning/#/elc/en/course/DRE)



# Thank you!

**Peter Wobst, Senior Economist**

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