



AGRF 2016 – PRE-EVENT REPORT TWGs

Day 2 - Tuesday, September 6

11:30am- 13:00pm

TWG: Capacity Development, Women and Youth in Agriculture
Title: Positioning Women and Youth as Drivers of African Agricultural Transformation

SESSION BRIEF

Context: In the past decade, the face of the African farmer has been changing to reflect rural demographics as well as evolving gender and generational dynamics. Women in Africa produce 80% of household food (World Bank, 2014) and play a key role in household food security. Yet, women – as well as youth – have less access to productive resources, capital, and fewer opportunities to apply their skills and knowledge. FAO estimates that around 55% of youth worldwide reside in rural areas, however this figure is as high as 70% in sub-Saharan Africa.

It is often assumed that these young men and women will be the ‘farmers of tomorrow’, but evidence suggests otherwise considering that for the majority of the youth, agriculture simply is not seen as being attractive. Forging solutions to the challenge of food and nutrition security in the decades ahead thus demands a social analysis alongside an economic and technological lens. Given the current demographics, solutions must also focus on women and youth as the farmers of tomorrow and on balancing the benefits of their participation in driving the Region’s agricultural transformation.

Session objectives:

- Look at how inclusive agricultural transformation is in Africa today,
- Explore the challenges and potential opportunities for women and youth in a transformed agricultural environment on the continent,
- Use a youth and gender lens to interrogate (regional and national) strategies and interventions that need to be adopted to not only drive, but also hasten an inclusive agricultural transformation.
- Highlight challenges and opportunities for youth and women inclusion and participation;
- Facilitate the sharing of experiences/models that have led to increased inclusion and participation of women and youth in the sector and the impact as a result; and,
- Offer a platform for building consensus on specific responsibilities and follow-up actions for various actors (AUC, NEPAD, government, private sector, non-state actors, donors) that would advance the inclusion of youth and women in the region’s agricultural transformation.

Key Issues/ Questions:

- What are the key gaps that hinder women and youth from effectively participating in agricultural value chains?
- What are the key investments and milestones towards achieving increased youth and women participation in agriculture?



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- What synergies are required between governments, development partners and private sector to leverage increased investments in the agricultural value chain that would lead to employment opportunities for the youth and women?

Outcome Desired:

- Put forth firm and actionable commitments to support increased participation of youth and women
- investments to enhance participation of women and youth (at least one champion);
- Develop clear performance metrics and timelines for delivering results;
- AGRF communique carries along youth resolution for adoption.
- Organizer(s): Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) and International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

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Name	Picture	Discussion
Dr. Jemimah Njuki, Program Manager, IDRC		Dr. Njuki opened this discussion by noting the fact that today on the continent, women are providing at least 50% of the labor in agriculture and at least 62% of the economically active women in Africa are in agriculture. This tells us that women are important for agriculture. Agriculture is the largest employer of women on the continent.
Role: Moderator		<p>She posed a rhetorical question to the group to get everyone thinking about what is working and how do we take that to scale?</p> <p>“We aren’t going to transform agriculture on the backs of women, because while they have a hoe in their hand they have a baby on their back” (quoted Tsegenet Kelemu)</p> <p>She asked, how we can position our women and youth and set them up for success.</p>



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<p>Dr. Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenberg, CEO, African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD)</p> <p>Role: Keynote Speaker</p>		<p>Dr. Kamau-Rutenberg is CEO of AWARD, an organization that works in agriculture research to support the development of women scientists. She is trained in political science so she set the scene from that perspective.</p> <p>She believes in the Africa Rising story as 5 of 10 of the fastest growing economies remain on the continent. The AfDB she further noted has named agriculture as the continent’s largest sector as it provides 65% of employment.</p> <p>Strengthening African agriculture will help the continent address economic growth, unemployment, and even support industrialization - “You fix agriculture you alleviate poverty.”</p> <p>But she cautioned it is not 100% guaranteed that the growth of agriculture will lead to increased prosperity among all Africans as we will still have to work to be inclusive to ensure that small holder farmers and women and youth in agriculture are part of the rising tide.</p> <p>There are also challenges to be addressed – such as infrastructure. The rail network on the continent isn’t actually a network. The ‘network’ was built during the colonial era and was built to taking things out, not to facilitate transport of goods and people between countries or to encourage intra African trade. “Today, we have to connect those dots.”</p> <p>She also noted that “Africa currently has a tremendous and growing youth bulge.” Today’s youth in Africa have the potential to be a powerful workforce. However, they need guidance and to think of the continent as a large integrated market. Developing our connecting infrastructure and working to promote regional trade will determine whether we are prosperous or not and whether our young people realize their potential . . .or not.</p> <p>Agriculture is also a magnifier of gender inequality. The wage gap in agriculture is 62%. In Rwanda 96% of economically active women are in agriculture. In the Ivorian cocoa and Ethiopian coffee sectors, women earn only 21% and 35% of the income</p>
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		<p>generated. Closing the wage gap can increase productivity by 30 to 40%. In fact, if we don't use a gender lens you can end up exacerbating the gap. Structural inequality has to be addressed.</p> <p>In closing she noted that we must mitigate three critical risks: 1) agriculture cannot be simply an extractive industry for export off the continent and as such 2) we must focus on improving our infrastructure linkages and promote regional trade; and 3) we must ensure that growth in agriculture is inclusive involving women and youth and more equitable in compensation from a gender standpoint.</p>
<p>Panelists</p>		
<p>Prof. Ruth Oniang'o, Editor, African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development, Kenya</p>		<p>Dr. Oniang'o commenced her remarks by stressing to the delegates that "You win the relay by passing the baton." As such, Dr. Oniang'o insisted that she was ready and actively looking to "pass the baton" to the young ladies on the panel and let them do most of the talking.</p> <p>As a young woman, Ruth decided, "[she] would not leave this world complaining," and she started her NGO. She also wanted to publish and determined that the best way to ensure that her research had a voice was to start her own publication. Today she helps give visibility to other African scientists by publishing their research in her journal.</p> <p>She warned that as the continent is growing economically, we may yet witness another scramble for Africa. As such, it is important that we work to develop our younger generation in agriculture and elsewhere so that they can build competitive enterprises and benefit appropriately from the continent's development.</p>



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<p>Ms. Beauty Manake, Managing Director, Kunga Farms</p>		<p>Ms. Beauty Manake spoke to the delegates about the challenges she has encountered in the area of food waste as a result of not having adequate information about market opportunities.</p> <p>She noted that she has also found that other farmers have had challenges in producing goods that never make it off the farm. She said this waste is as a result of focusing too much on the production side and not enough on the market development side.</p> <p>There is a huge difference between business and agribusiness. It is important to understand the differences in order to run a successful enterprise.</p> <p>There are many opportunities but young people don't know about them. She also emphasized the importance of training and agribusiness education. Her reasons are outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If one has financing but doesn't understand how to utilize it, it's useless. • If there is no understanding of markets, this results in food waste. • If there is no understanding of soil science, the soil nutrients will be depleted. <p>Market information and linkage are particularly important for small holders. Ms. Manake gave the example of when she lost 50,000 USD in tomatoes while Nigeria is experiencing a tomato shortage. If she had good market information she could have processed and exported her tomatoes there.</p>
<p>Ms. Elizabeth Mbogo, Director, Botanic Treasures</p>		<p>Elizabeth Mbogo is the director of Botanic Treasures which is a specialty health foods company that sources its raw materials from Kenyan farmers. She works with over 500 farmers, who produce moringa, chia seeds and hibiscus for her.</p> <p>She provides training for women on nutrition and safe agriculture practices. She introduced hibiscus and chia seed to the farmers she works with. Growing crops other than wheat and maize brings variety to their product offering. In the past she has worked with kiva for financing.</p>



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		<p>Her products can be found in about 100 outlets and she has started exporting. Her export market could be larger if she could obtain organic and/or fair trade certification, but these are costly.</p>
<p>Ms. Karen Musikoyo - Nguru, Agribusiness Program Manager, GAM & EC, USIU</p>		<p>Ms. Nguru, explained in her presentation that young people are actually interested in agriculture - but they don't know how to get involved.</p> <p>Mentorship, counseling and incubation are critical for getting youth and women into agriculture. The way to take all three things to scale is to look at best practices and see how methods that have proved successful can be applied elsewhere.</p>
<p>Mr. Edson Mpyisi, Principal Agricultural Economist & Coordinator, ENABLE Youth Initiative, AfDB</p>		<p>Mr. Mpyisi began his remarks by noting that today 40% of the continent's working age population is considered youth. However, among this community unemployment is three times greater than among any other age group. There are just simply not enough jobs. To address capacity building for women and youth, there must be policy changes. Right now a huge challenge is a lack of credit for growing businesses.</p> <p>Additionally, pointed out the fact that the education system is not demand driven, meaning students are not learning the skills that are required by the job market.</p> <p>The AfDB has launched the Enable Youth Program which is primarily working on getting youth involved in Agriculture. The program has three pillars: 1) fostering an enabling environment 2) agribusiness incubation and entrepreneurship, 3) providing financing for people who go through the incubation process.</p>

Q & A



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- Land policy, there is no policy that addresses land allocation to youth.
- If these problems are going to be addressed, we must encourage youth to seek out opportunities. How do we get the youth to seek out information?.
- Question for Beauty: What next after production? When going into agriculture as a value chain, how do you address losses? How did Beauty address this wastage? Can we learn from her?
- Suggestion: events like this that attempt to address youth must include more youth
- Most of the money is spent on big salaries, etc. What is being done to engage youth? Women are discussed, but youth are often left out.
- There is a lot of opportunity in technology and science in agriculture. Challenging the youth and women in the room to create something of their own to employ others.
- Wanjiru, “Power Is never given, it’s taken.” If you have a direction you want to go in, there is no prefix. The people who need to be at AGRF aren’t here. Ministers of Infrastructure, etc must be here to address these other issues.
- Beauty: we need to be innovative in the way we disseminate information. Online, social media, etc.
- Ruth: Its important to have more than just youth in these conferences. Emphasized the importance of nutrition. Education must address this gap in nutritionists.
- Karen: 300 applications, 68% were men. The rest were women. There is nothing you can get without working for it. Ruth had to work hard for it. Whatever you have in your heart, work towards it.
- Edison: They are working on \$50,000 for financing for agribusinesses.
- Moderator: So what are we going to do? What do we want to accomplish?