



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

“Reducing the adverse drivers of migration through local value chain development”



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Representation in Kenya

“with better employment opportunities, there would be less migration”.

“migration helps improve the financial and social status of the household back home”

“migration brings new ideas and practices to the community when migrants return back home”

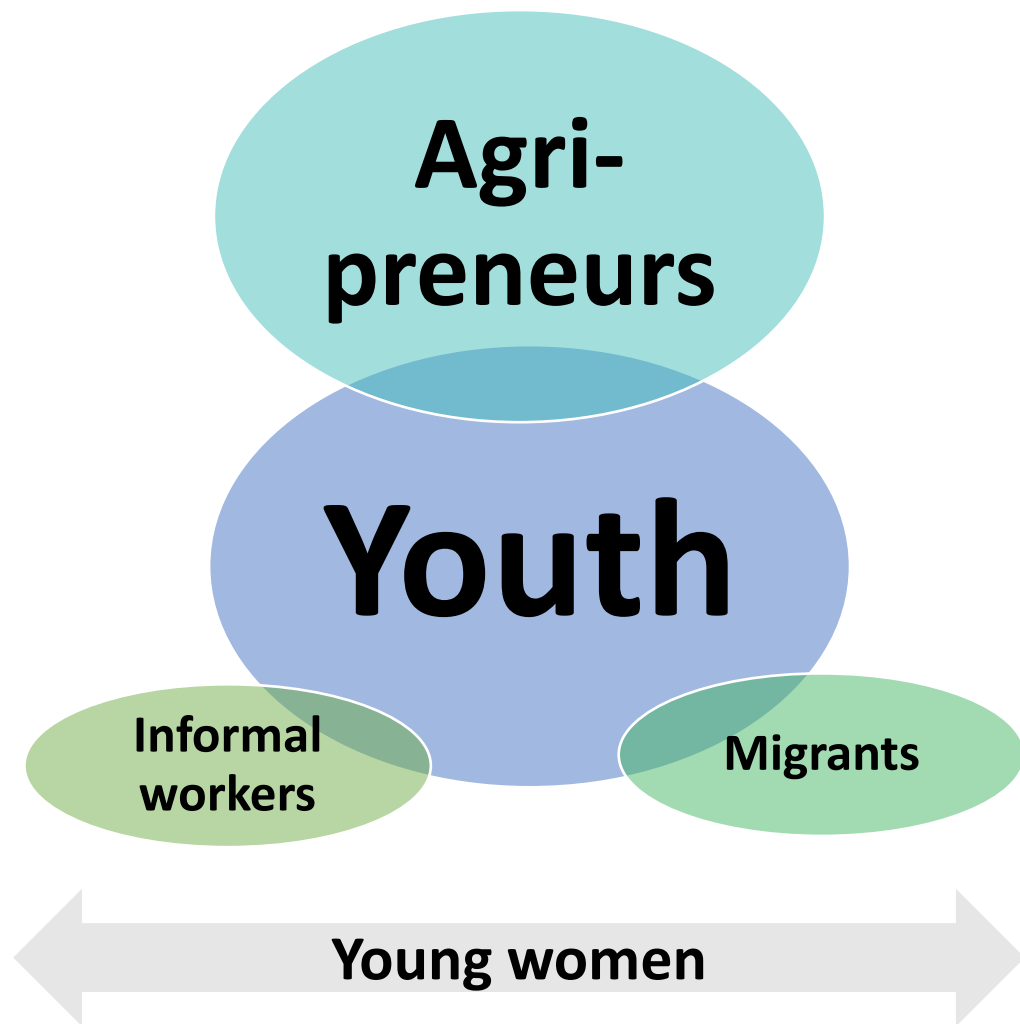
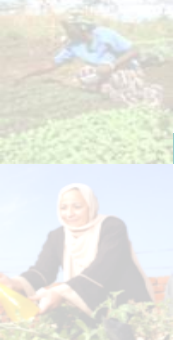
“Migration improves migrants’ social status”



“Migration means there are not enough young people in the community back home”

“Migrants have greater economic and social security than non-migrants”

Who are we talking about and why?



70% of youth considered working poor (< US\$2 per day)



75% are in vulnerable employment, esp. in agriculture



Large share of migrants are youth aged 15-34



Young people have limited access to land, markets, finance, information, etc. to become agripreneurs.

Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development

- **Three-quarters of the extreme poor and food insecure** live in rural areas and base their livelihoods on agriculture and other rural activities
- **Rural poverty** and the unattractiveness of low-productivity agriculture are **among the main causes of rural migration**
- **Investing in ARD is critical** to provide rural people, especially rural youth, with an alternative to migration
- Agriculture presents a huge opportunity for the creation of employment to absorb the youth and provide alternative viable livelihoods to youth rural out migration. However, the sector is yet to fully exploit its potential, hence a strong motivation for youth to migrate to the cities in search for better prospects.

Drivers of Migration

- The main flows of internal migration go from rural to urban areas, as **migrants are attracted by employment opportunities in the cities as well access to other social services.**
- From rural to rural areas, with **migrants searching for resources (e.g. pasture) or due to landlessness or population pressure at their place of origin.**
- Urban to rural migration, most often **return migration.**
- For international migration, for **employment and education purposes.**
- The presence of **well-established social networks** could be another contributing factor facilitating international migration.

Impacts (Positive)

- In terms of migration and engagement in agriculture, internal migrants (both men and women) provide on-farm labour migration.
- New opportunities are also emerging as urban markets are growing (from rural towns to larger cities).
- Increasing demand for food and value-added products especially in urban areas creates significant business and job opportunities for the youth.
- The Kenyan diaspora is a major contributor to the economy of the country. In August 2021, Kenyans abroad remitted KSh 34.4 billion. This in itself was a 7.1 percent decrease from the KSh 37.1 billion remittances sent in July 2021 due to seasonal factors linked to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Diaspora, migrant networks and return migrants can also foster the transfer of skills, know-how and technology and support projects that promote employment and local development in the areas of origin.

Impacts (Negative)

- Youth are drawn to tertiary markets in urban areas depriving agricultural production and growth of labour and innovation.
- If not adequately managed, rural to urban migration may create pressures on urban areas, contributing to informal settlements and urban poverty.
- The informal labour market in secondary towns often lead migrants to take up casual and precarious jobs.
- Unemployed youth risk ending up living in informal urban slums, where they are vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity, crime, exploitation and radicalization.

...continued

- Rural Kenyans who migrate to informal settlements and become part of the **urban poor** face significant disadvantages with respect to **morbidity, mortality, access to health services, and risky sexual behaviors.**
- Residents from environmentally vulnerable communities, such as pastoral communities, are migrating due to changes in climate and environment that adversely affect their livelihoods. Movements resulting from climate change are becoming increasingly common, causing **conflicts between pastoral and agro-pastoral communities**

Case study of Kiambu County

- Characterized by high levels of both inward and outward-migration. Many migrants, often from rural areas of Kenya, are attracted by its proximity to Nairobi. Many work in Nairobi but reside in Kiambu.
- Kiambu is one of the counties with the highest number of international migrants (Uganda, Tanzania and Somalia), as many migrants that have moved internally from rural areas to Kiambu, subsequently embark on international migration.
- There is an established culture of international out-migration in Kiambu, where those who can afford prefer to migrate internationally than within Kenya.
- The majority of international migrants who are abroad are employed in skilled jobs, students or working in hospitality.



Rural Youth Migration, Social Protection & Agriculture

The project aims to address the adverse drivers of rural out-migration of youth, by creating additional and improved employment and entrepreneurship opportunities in agri-business.

This has been done by:

- i. strengthening the policy and institutional environment to provide alternatives to distress migration and harness the potential of migration for local development- **champion for policy coherence, inter-ministerial dialogue, improve coordination mechanisms at both the national and county level e.g CIDPS**
- ii. enhancing the **employability of youth and creating opportunities for employment** and entrepreneurship development in local value chains.

Project Design...

- Building the capacity of rural youth and value chain stakeholders. How can the youth tap into the opportunities along the value chain in its entirety (farm to folk)? How can they scale up their agri-businesses?
- Business training/coaching/mentoring; facilitating access to markets, credit, input provision and non-financial support services.
- Transfers of skills, technologies and resources and foster peer-to-peer learning and information sharing - organizing learning exchanges among youth agro-entrepreneurs

Achievements



- **1,563 youth trained** on good agricultural practices, agribusiness, value chain analysis/mapping and market research in support of their agricultural enterprises.
- **Distribution** of agricultural packages worth USD 200,000 to support on and off farm activities.
- Youth have been supported to tap into **contract-based markets agreements** for better bargaining power
- Promoting peer to peer learning through **experiential tours to farms** in Kiambu County and its surroundings for **681 youth and 45 extension officers**.
- Youth trained on **Village Community Banking** which has promoted group cohesion.
- **Establishment of Youth Network/Cooperatives** to support key project activities (e.g. market access) and augment sustainability of the interventions upon phase out of the project.



- **58 youth** trained as Village Based Agricultural Advisors to be service providers along their value chains.
- **35 youth** capacitated on entrepreneurship i.e. business planning, proposal writing, resource mobilization, business pitching (elevator pitch), leadership, partnership building, negotiation and business savings.
- **38 (19 Male 19 Female) youth** inked to **8 mentors (5 Male 3 Female)** as part of an inaugural Agribusiness Mentoring Program
- **800 youth** (40 youth groups from 29 wards across the 6 Sub-Counties) benefited from a **Ksh 5.7 million loan** disbursed by Youth Enterprise Development Fund

Mainstreaming Migration into Rural Development Planning

- There is need for policy makers and practitioners to understand how migration impacts and is impacted by rural development.
- Guidance tools needed for development of cooperation plans, policies projects/programmes, strategies, as related to migration and rural development (adopting a multi-sectorial approach)
- Create awareness and build capacity on the linkages between migration and development.
- Strengthen the role of institutions, including producers' and migrants' organizations. This would eventually support scale-up and institutionalization of an integrated development approach.

FAO E-LEARNING ACADEMY (2030 Agenda)

- Learning opportunities and multilingual e-learning courses for professionals working in food and nutrition security, social and economic development and sustainable management of natural resources.
- Free access to content on a variety of topics of global interest.
- Available in a range of formats, including e-learning courses for self-paced learning, blended learning programmes, massive open online courses (MOOCs), technical webinars, online tutored courses, mobile learning, face to face training workshops, as well as University Master's Degree programmes and post graduate degrees
- Transfer of competencies, development of expertise and promoting innovation, to strengthen human resources and institutions .

FAO elearning Academy related courses

elearning courses related to the thematic area
covered in the Webinar



Migration and Youth in Rural Areas

APRIL 2018

50 m



Migration and gender

DECEMBER 2018

55 m



Migration and protracted crisis

SEPTEMBER 2019

55 m



Understanding rural poverty

JUNE 2019

4 h

- <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=376>

- <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=445>

- <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=492>

- <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=459>



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

“Let us reflect innovatively and strategically on opportunities presented in promoting youth employment and empowerment through transformation of agriculture globally”



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Representation in Kenya