



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

CAPACITY ASSESSMENT TOOL

EMPOWERING YOUTH TO ENGAGE IN RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENTS IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

Although today's youth will determine tomorrow's food security, few present-day youth view agriculture as a source of viable livelihoods. With limited access to investment opportunities, productive resources, financial services and markets, most young people try their luck in urban areas rather than in the agricultural sector that seems rife with obstacles and drudgery.

Recognizing the obstacles faced by young aspiring farmers and entrepreneurs, the UN Committee on World Food Security has dedicated one of the ten *Principles for Responsible Investments in Agriculture and Food Systems* (CFS-RAI) entirely to youth (principle 4). The principles establish that, among other social, environmental and economic issues, responsible investments should empower and engage youth.

Nevertheless, even though the principles provide suggestions, they will not by themselves make agriculture more attractive for youth without concrete actions by all stakeholders. This is why FAO, with support from the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture, has developed a new tool to support governments, youth, enterprises, farmer organizations and other relevant actors to apply the CFS-RAI with a particular focus on the youth principle.

The tool guides stakeholders through a set of questions to assess the existing and needed capacities for youth to carry out and benefit from responsible investments in agriculture and food systems in four different domains:

- The institutional set-up for agricultural investment related policy processes



- Policies, laws and incentives
- Organizations and services that empower youth
- Individual capacities to engage and empower youth

FAO has applied and enhanced the capacity assessment tool in a series of workshops with youth, their organizations, government representatives and other stakeholders. These workshops, which took place in Uganda, Côte d'Ivoire and the Southern African Development Community (with participants from Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa), clearly showed that there are plenty of opportunities to support investments by and for youth.

Now that the capacity assessment tool has been launched together with a guidance document for organizers and facilitators, stakeholders can apply the tool autonomously and identify what can be done to improve capacities to engage and empower youth in agriculture. The tool will be available soon on www.fao.org/capacity-development/

The Youth Principle of the CFS-RAI Engage and Empower Youth

Responsible investment in agriculture and food systems engages and empowers youth by:

- Advancing their access to productive land, natural resources, inputs, productive tools, extension, advisory, and financial services, education, training, markets, information, and inclusion in decision-making;
- Providing appropriate training, education, and mentorship programs for youth to increase their capacity and/or access to decent work and entrepreneurship opportunities, and foster their contribution to local development;
- Promoting development and access to innovation and new technologies, combined with traditional knowledge, to attract and enable youth to be drivers of improvement in agriculture and food system.

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