



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

**G7 International Forum for
*Empowering Women and Youth in the Agriculture
and Food Systems***

Tokyo, 12 December 2016



**Empowering women and
youth in agriculture
and food systems**

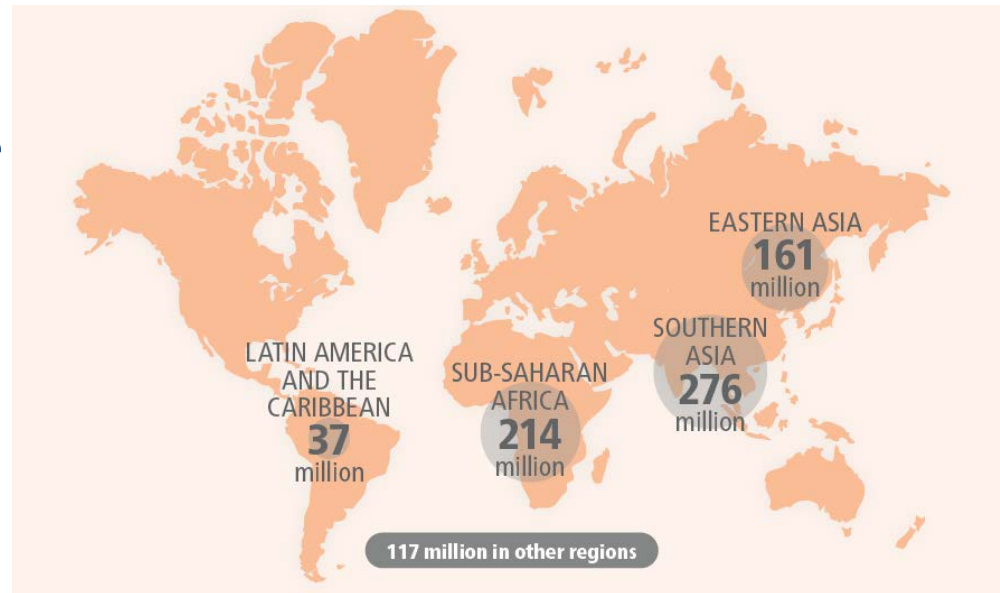
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Global context in relation to agriculture and food systems

- 795 million people are still **chronically hungry** worldwide and rising **triple nutritional burden** issue (undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and obesity)
- **Structural transformation:** rapid urbanization, declining share of agriculture GDP, urban to rural migration, raising inequalities
- **Changing agri-food systems:** commercialization and globalization, trade agreements, diet diversification
- Impacts of **climate change** on agriculture and emerging new risks (pests and disease problems)



Most of the world's undernourished people are still found in Southern Asia followed by sub-Saharan Africa Eastern Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean



Current status of women and youth in agriculture and food systems

- **Women make significant contributions in agriculture and food systems worldwide:**
 - ✓ Represent 43 % of the agriculture labour force
 - ✓ Have a wide range of roles (in-and outside the hh)
 - ✓ Expanding role of women in agriculture around the world leading to the feminization of agriculture
- **Youth in agriculture and food systems:**
 - ✓ Almost 88% of the world's 1.2 billion youth live in developing countries
 - ✓ Most migrants between 15-34 years old and employment is the main driver of migration
 - ✓ Ageing of agricultural workforce
 - ✓ Youth overrepresented among the working poor and in vulnerable employment, informality and self-employment (72% of the unemployed)





Serious constraints faced by women and youth in agriculture and food systems

Common challenges:

- ✓ Limited access to productive resources (land, water, inputs, technology) and information
- ✓ Limited access to extension services and credit
- ✓ Participation in rural institutions and decision-making, lack of voice
- ✓ Limited access to decent rural employment opportunities



Rural women's specific constraints include:

- ✓ Triple work burden in the productive, reproductive and social spheres and lack of recognition

Youth's specific challenges include:

- ✓ Lack of incentives and interest in agriculture
- ✓ Limited skills and education to meet demand
- ✓ Social pressure to migrate for household income





Consequences of gender and youth inequalities

Constraints faced by women and youth in agriculture and food systems impact negatively on:

- ✓ Overall agricultural production
- ✓ Household food security and well-being
- ✓ Women and youth's capacity to contribute to and benefit from rural development
- ✓ Brain drain and insufficient labour force in areas of origin
- ✓ Distress migration, unemployment and social exclusion in areas of destination
- ✓ Rural sector's resilience (e.g. to climate change, economic shocks, natural disasters) and sustainability





Why is FAO supporting women and youth empowerment in agriculture?

- **Universality** is at the core of the UN mandate (*no one should be left behind* principle)
- **Women play a key role in rural economies** where the fight against poverty is most pressing
- **Women are central to family food security and nutrition** being responsible for food selection and preparation and care and health of children and family members
- Women are often the custodians of **biodiversity**
- **Youth** are the potential **farmers of tomorrow**
- **Women and youth's empowerment** in agriculture and food systems has a huge **potential to end poverty and hunger**
- Mainstreaming gender equality and targeting youth is a must in order to **unlock agriculture full productive potential and contribute to rural development**



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How does FAO empower rural women?

Developing a strong enabling environment for gender equality and women's empowerment through awareness-raising, policy assistance and technical assistance



Creating knowledge and awareness at the global but also at the country level

Advocacy and support to policy making with technical line ministries and other stakeholders

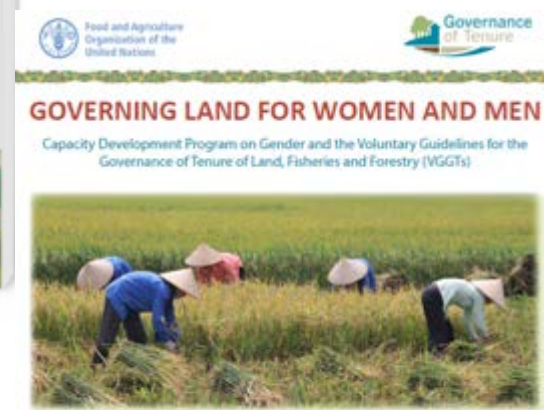
Strengthening capacities (individual, group and institutional) on different issues including SDD

Implementing projects programs that support equal access to resources, services, voice and representation



Governance of natural resources

- **The Gender and Land Rights Database (GLRD) serves as a hub of information for policy-makers and provides updated gender and land-related statistics**
- **GLRD includes country profiles on 84 countries** and helps identify the major political, legal and cultural factors that affect gender equality in land tenure
- **VGGT: Technical Guide on Gender and E-learning**
- **VGSSSF: Technical Guide on Gender**





Policy making and policy dialouge

- **FAO-ECOWAS programme “*Gender Responsive National and Regional Agricultural Investment Plans*”**
 - ✓ Contributes to the achievement of the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Vision 2020** focusing on men’s and women’s equal access to resources, eliminating hunger, achieving sustainable development and environment preservation
- **Gender Strategy of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication 2025**
 - ✓ Recognizes contribution of women in FNS and commits to empowering rural women in the processes of the food and nutrition production chain
- **FAO Country Gender Assessments** a tool for evidence-based policy and programming





Sex-disaggregated data - 1

FAO collaborates with national statistical systems and global research institutions to integrate gender into agricultural surveys

▪ **World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020: Strengthening institutional capacities to collect, analyze and use sex-disaggregated data on food and agriculture**

✓ Provision of guidelines and standards for sex-disaggregated data collection

▪ **Agri-Gender Statistics Toolkit**

✓ Targeted at NSO and Min of Agr to ensure evidence-based and informed policy-making processes





Sex-disaggregated data - 2

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



Goal 5: *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*

5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

FAO supports countries to develop methodologies for the collection of indicators under SDG5

- 5.a.1 (a) Percentage of people with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure
- 5.a.2 Percentage of countries where the legal framework guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control



Legal Assessment Tool
FAO Gender and Land Rights Database



Women's access to extension and trainings

Promoting women's participation in Conservation agriculture and IPM

■ Tajikistan

- ✓ Organizing single-sex training
- ✓ Engaging female trainers
- ✓ Situating training close to the learners:
Agreeing the timing of training:
- ✓ Mobilizing female farmers through local women leaders
- ✓ Strengthening personal skills and confidence

■ Kirgizstan

- ✓ FFS created and located close to the farmers' homes
- ✓ 50% of all trainers and FFS leaders were women





Gender-sensitive value chains and women's entrepreneurship

- **Afghanistan:** an Integrated Dairy Scheme approach with a strong women's empowerment effect
- **Africa** programme “**Enable women to benefit more equally from agri-food value chains**” ” works to create an enabling institutional environment to expand women's economic opportunities and gains from more efficient and inclusive value chains in fisheries, dairy, roots/tubers



The Dairy project enabled me to build my own house and support my children to get better education

Mrs. Qudsia (project beneficiary, Dehsabz village)





Supporting livelihood recovery

- **Philippines: Livelihood recovery assistance** to small-scale fishers and seaweed growers, particularly women and youth affected by armed clashes
 - ✓ A total of 200 women were trained in good manufacturing practices for fish post-harvest handling and processing as well as preservation and value-addition
- **Fiji: Support to market vendors**
 - ✓ Around 1 000 women market vendors – farmers affected by Cyclone Winston – have received agriculture supplies that will help in their efforts to replant their crops. The produce will eventually be sold to market





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Rural women's economic empowerment

UN Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (RWEE)

■ Five-year programme started in 2012 in seven countries: Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda

■ Objectives

- ✓ improve food and nutrition security
- ✓ increase incomes to sustain livelihoods and create wealth
- ✓ enhance participation and leadership in rural institutions/organizations
- ✓ gender responsive policy environments





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How does FAO empower rural youth?

Developing a strong enabling environment for youth decent rural employment through awareness-raising and policy assistance



Generate more country-specific research to advice about employment conditions and opportunities in their respective countries



Develop innovative and field-tested approaches that address the constraints rural youth face in accessing decent work



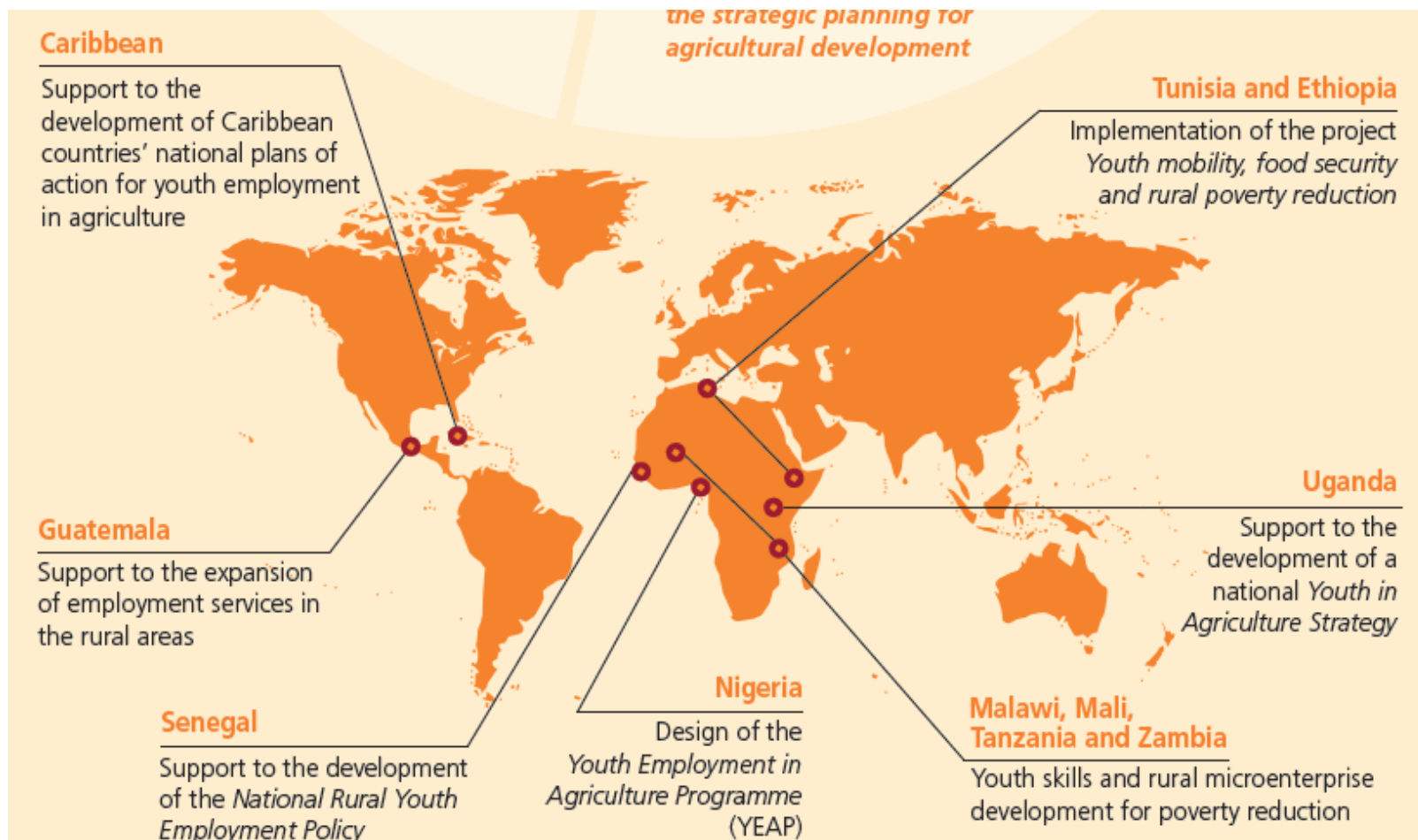
Support governments in the design and implementation of strategies that more effectively target rural youth



Advocate and further rural youth needs at global level



YE: Examples from LA and Africa





Youth mobility, food security and poverty reduction

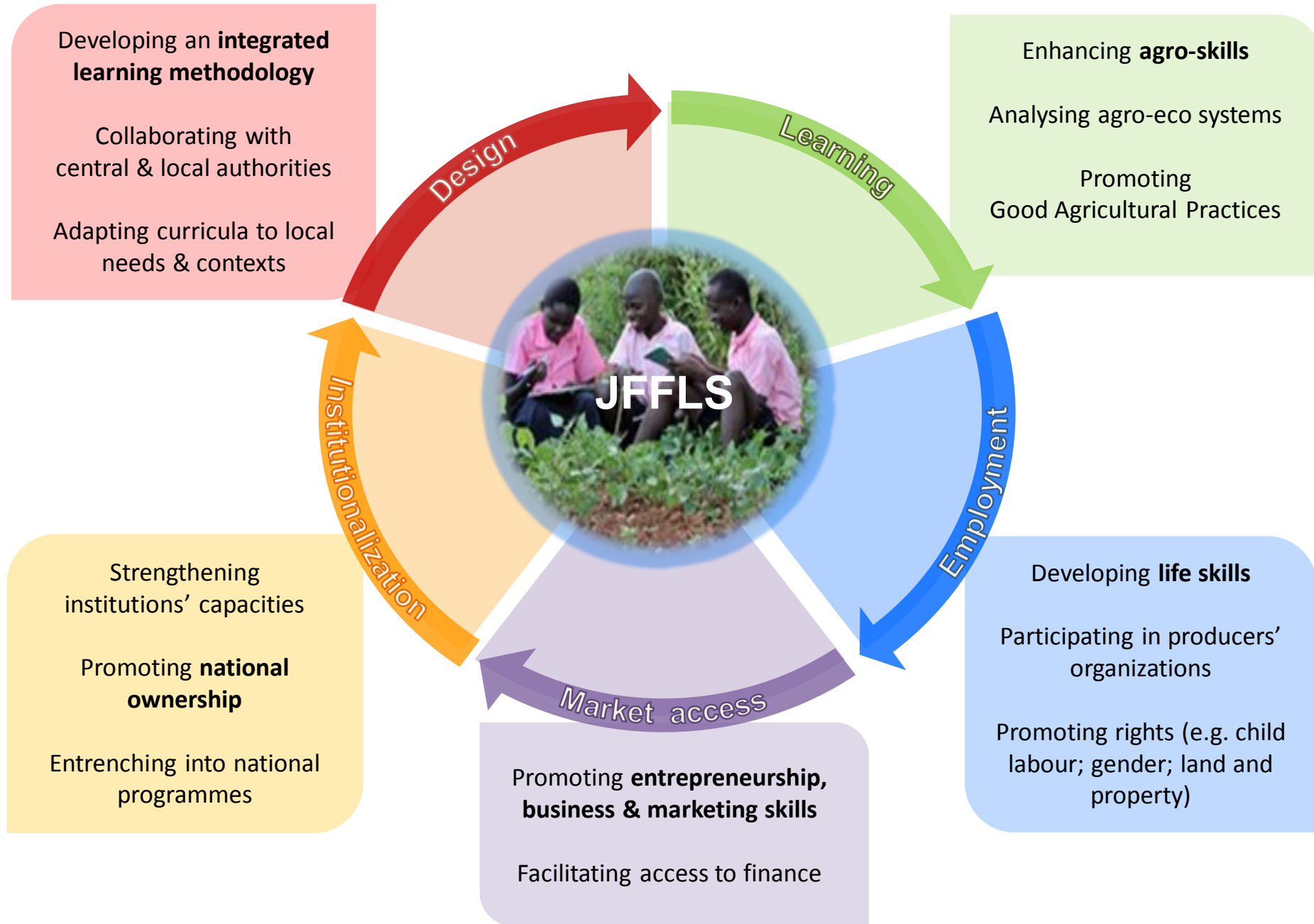
Tunisia and Ethiopia: *Youth mobility, food security and rural poverty reduction: fostering rural diversification through enhanced youth employment and better labour mobility*, supported by the Italian Development Cooperation

■ Objectives:

- ✓ Better understand the root causes of migration in rural areas and prevent distress migration
- ✓ Pilote innovative mechanisms for rural employment (including seasonal employment and value chains) and enhance the productive use of remittances
- ✓ Inform policy to better integrate migration in agriculture and rural development



FAO's methodology for Youth Capacity Development





Call for action

We all have a role to play to increase impact on the ground
to empower rural women and youth

Raise awareness and
create knowledge,
strengthen sex-
disaggregated statistics,
share lessons

Knowledge and data

Normative
frameworks and
institutional
mechanisms

Promote evidence-based
policies, strengthened
attention to women and
youth in all policies and
institutional mechanisms
for implementation

Promote gender and
youth earmarked
resources and gender-
responsive budgeting

Budgets and funding

Cooperation and
partnership

Strengthen collaboration
across sectors (public,
private, academia, civil
society)

Increase
impact





Thank you!

<http://www.fao.org/gender/gender-home/>

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