



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

RURAL EMPLOYMENT

Integrated Country Approach (ICA)

for boosting
decent jobs
for youth in
the agri-food
system



THE ISSUE

The youth population (15–24 years old) has reached the unprecedented figure of 1.2 billion, accounting for 16 percent of the world's population (31 percent when adopting the 15–35 age range). Almost 85 percent of youth live in the developing regions of Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. The high number of youth represents an enormous potential and should be harnessed as a demographic dividend.

Yet, youth are three times as likely as adults to be unemployed, and are overrepresented among the most vulnerable categories of workers. Generating better jobs for them is an urgent priority, as confirmed by the inclusion of dedicated youth targets in the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 “Decent Work and Economic Growth”.

The development of sustainable agriculture and food value chains has the potential to create profitable entrepreneurship and wage employment opportunities for young women and men in both farm and off-farm value-adding activities. The sector is predicted to grow in tandem with the population and rising food



©Luis Sanchez Diaz

demand. For youth to harness these opportunities, action has to focus on addressing critical constraints, including rural youth's limited access to training, credit, markets and business development services, and poor policy and programmatic coordination.

THE ACTION

Since 2011, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) implements the programme **Integrated Country Approach (ICA) for boosting decent jobs for youth in the agri-food system**.

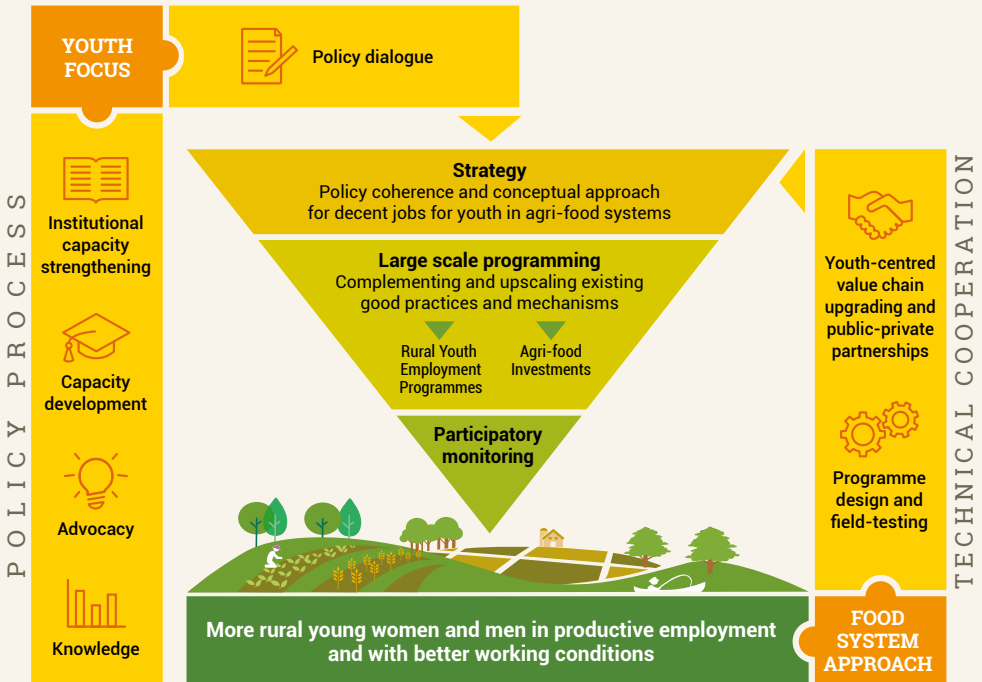
The programme assists countries in developing more youth-inclusive and employment-centred agri-food-system development policies, strategies and programmes. Strong emphasis is placed on job creation – **more jobs!** – and entrepreneurship development, but also on the quality of jobs in the sector – **better jobs!**

The ICA programme leverages a set of FAO's core functions, namely:

- policy advice and dialogue;
- technical support and capacity development;
- knowledge generation;
- partnerships facilitation;
- advocacy and communication.

In-depth scoping exercises are conducted during the inception phase of the programme to better tailor the interventions to country demands and capacity development needs.

Innovative approaches are piloted for skills development, mentoring and incubation, financial and digital inclusion, and youth-centred public-private partnerships along the value chain.



ICA phases since 2011

1

2011–2014

Malawi and Tanzania

2

2015–2018

Guatemala, Senegal and Uganda

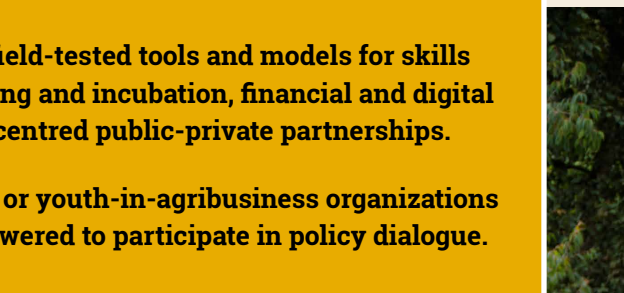
3

2019–2022 (current phase)

Guatemala, Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal and Uganda

ICA expected results

- Countries adopt and implement strategies for decent jobs for youth in agri-food systems.
- Countries dispose of field-tested tools and models for skills development, mentoring and incubation, financial and digital inclusion, and youth-centred public-private partnerships.
- Rural youth networks or youth-in-agribusiness organizations are in place and empowered to participate in policy dialogue.



Are you a resource
or development partner,
a national institution or a
youth organization?

Join us!



The ICA programme has already supported **seven countries** in developing dedicated youth in agri-food strategies or programmes.

The ICA programme already partners with more than **ten youth networks** to reach more rural youth.

The ICA programme has already benefitted more than **3 000 young people** through awareness raising, skills development and technical support.

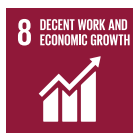
The ICA programme has developed capacity building tools and models for **mentorship, incubation and training** that can be easily replicated in other countries.

PARTNERS



Ministries of agriculture, labour, economy and youth; financial institutions; youth, workers and producers' organizations, such as the Eastern African Farmers Federation (EAFF); the private sector; development organizations such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); the Inter Agency Network for Youth Development (IANYD); the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

SDG CONTRIBUTION



ONLINE RESOURCES

FAO ICA webpage

www.fao.org/rural-employment/work-areas/youth-employment/ica-programme

Decent Rural Employment (DRE) Toolbox

www.fao.org/rural-employment/toolbox

DRE Policy database

www.fao.org/rural-employment/policies

FAO Rural employment, decent work and migration e-Learning Courses

<https://elearning.fao.org/course/index.php?categoryid=81>

CONTACTS

Peter Wobst

Senior Economist, Economic and Social Development Stream
email: peter.wobst@fao.org

Ileana Grandelis

ICA Coordinator, Economic and Social Development Stream
email: ileana.grandelis@fao.org

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

www.fao.org



Some rights reserved. This work is available under a CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO licence