Youth un- and under-employment are critical issues facing Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). In spite of urbanisation and industrialisation, agriculture remains the principal employer and producer throughout SSA. Thus, a more modern and profitable agriculture sector (including aquaculture, fisheries, forestry and livestock) is required to generate much needed decent employment opportunities for the Continent’s youth.

**THE DEMOGRAPHIC SITUATION**

- **Over 50%** of Africa’s population is below 25 years old
- **50-70%** rely on agriculture for food, nutrition and employment

**HOW ARE THE YOUTH INVOLVED IN AQUACULTURE?**

- **Young men** are often involved as **casual part-time** employers e.g. pond construction and harvesting
- **Young women** play a large role in **post-harvest** but are often limited to sales and marketing

**WHAT MUST BE DONE?**

- **Create Job Opportunities**
  - **In Egypt**, for every 100 tons of fish produced, 14 full time jobs are created.
  - **In Nigeria**, for every 100 tons of fish produced, 150 jobs are created.

- **Adapt existing training/extension to cater to the needs of young women and men**. Proven field capacity building methodologies such as Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and Junior Farmer Field Schools (JFFS) can be used on-the-group capacity building and outreach approaches.

- **Support development of youth focused SME’s** by creating an enabling environment for small businesses in the aquaculture sub sector
- Facilitate information sharing and networking

**SOURCE**

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- FAO. 2012. State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture, FAO.