

# FAO, IFAD, UNCTAD AND WORLD BANK Workshop On Responsible Principles Guiding New Investments In Agriculture

Youth Inclusion & Participation  
Coordinated by  
**Concerned Africans Youth Forum**



# The need for more radical inclusion

- **AFRICA by 2050 will have the world's youngest population**
- To ensure food security and the eradication of poverty and hunger, there is the need to take pragmatic measures to implement appropriate policies and projects aimed at promoting/increasing productivity
- We are beginning to see increasing interest of the youth in agribusiness

**Examples: AGRIPRO's club activities in University of Ghana, KNUST, Ashesi University, Central University College, and the University of Cape Coast**



# The need for more radical inclusion

- ▶ According to the World bank agriculture and agribusiness in Africa trade projections will be around US\$ 1 trillion by 2030. Holds half of the world's fertile and as-yet unused land- and yet it spends US\$25 billion yearly importing food.
- ▶ Development must include the youth as the average age of farmer in Ghana is 55 years.
- ▶ Ghana's food import bill continues to rise and if this trend continues, food availability in the near future will depend on imports making the country vulnerable to catastrophic events and other exogenous shocks that have negative impact on food production from external source.
- ▶ How can responsible agriculture investment targeted at empowering farmers and the youth help reduce the heavy dependence on food importation?

# Dealing with the Challenges

So many barriers to entry for the Youth.

- Deep social inequality and scarce recognition of land rights
- Public under-investment in the agricultural sector
- Access to reliable information
- Agriculture as an outdated profession or misconceptions
- Government policies connected to responsible agriculture investment for the youth



# Dealing with the Challenges

So many barriers to entry for the Youth.

- Lack of Technical know how /knowledge in the field
- Infrastructure for agricultural production
- Ready market
- Technologies for Agric Modernization & Mechanization
- External market competition
- Market linkages
- Lack of entrepreneurial education in agriculture
- Minimal Inputs and resources for startups





**The challenge is actual implementation of the fine blue print of the “principles of responsible agricultural investment” by the youth.**

How can we make the youth a major player in the actualization of responsible agricultural investment in communities?



# Recommendations

- ▶ Financial literacy for all and sundry
- ▶ Access to real time data on land availabilities and authenticity
- ▶ Storage and Agro-Processing facilities
- ▶ Increased government support in the application of the principles of responsible agricultural investment
- ▶ Strengthen Market access and connections (Accra Green Market as an example)
- ▶ Training for Increased knowledge
- ▶ Improve business environment through policies, information & incentives that help markets function better
- ▶ Community of youth in agribusiness sharing knowledge and skill (Agripro's cluster/clubs in the universities as a model that can be adopted in communities)



Special thanks to  *agripro.* for your input

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