

CFS Policy Convergence Process on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems

Call for written inputs on the Zero Draft of Policy Recommendation

Rationale:

Para 1:

- Instead of using “developing countries”, refer to “Global South” countries
- Explicitly refer to both wage and self-employment opportunities instead of using the more general expression “employment opportunities”
- Also add, “low skill” when major challenges are listed (“*poor access to land, natural resources, infrastructure, finance, technology, knowledge, and poor remuneration*”) as well as “employment security” and “uncertain profit margin”
- Suggest to reconsider the sentence “*turn youth away from agriculture and from remaining rural areas*” and recalibrate its focus since the point here is promoting agriculture as a viable livelihood and job option for youth and try to get them more engaged there (while others may have understandable aspirations to leave); the suggestion here is the following: “*make it hard for young people to invest in agriculture and in the broader rural economy and get a decent job and livelihood option out of it*”

Para 2:

- Some potentiality from the youth to be reflected:
 - (i) their levels of ambition and creativity reflected in aspiring to economic advancement and public participation
 - (ii) being risk takers and early adopters of technologies
 - (iii) contributing positively within their societies by generation both social and economic returns
 - (iv) contributing in reaching Agenda 2030.

Para 3: Explicitly mention “agribusiness” in the sentence : “*that engage more youth in agriculture and agricultural professions*”

Para 5: Include “and create avenues for rural youth prosperity” after “*.. to improve food systems.*”

1. Provide an enabling environment for youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems

- Include a para that acknowledges the importance of working together across public and private sectors and civil society as a central feature of the enabling ecosystem for youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems and its bearings on youth programming by examining the state of the ecosystem supporting young agripreneurs (employers, training institutions, employment agencies, financial institutions, etc.). Such analysis will be key in understanding the needs of young agripreneurs while also identifying areas of opportunity (*#enabling ecosystem*)
- On data collection, consider to add a para that points to the need to capture meaningful data to build evidence on **how effective** youth employment/engagement interventions are.

4. Enhance knowledge, educations and skills

- **Point 4.b:** include “with up to date knowledge and skills relevant to the labour market”

5. Foster sustainable and inclusive innovation

Consider to also reflect and include the promotion of the following innovative agricultural activities: climate-smart agriculture, hydroponic farming, among others.