Integrating Food and Nutrition Security into Economic Transformation and Industrialization Agenda: How can agriculture be the driver rather than follower of economic transformation in Tanzania?

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Increase Youth Participation in Agribusiness in Tanzania

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Increasing Youth Inclusion in Agribusiness in Tanzania

Focus: Enhancing Enabling Environment to Increase Youth Participation in Agribusiness in Tanzania.

Presentation Structure:

i. Youth Status
ii. About the Project and Observations
iii. Agricultural Hub and Results.
iv. Way Forward.
The total youth population aged 15-35 years is comprised of 14.8 million persons of whom only 12.5 million (84.5 percent) are economically active.

And out of those economically active youth population, only 11.0 million (88.3 percent) persons are employed and 11.7 percent of youth remained are unemployed.
i. Youth Status

Unemployment is more proportional to young female Tanzanians at 14.5 percent. Compared to 8.9 percent of young males who are unemployed.

Depending on the angle of view, the youth unemployment is even higher with 12.0 percent of youths who are employed are underemployed.
In 2006 the number of employed youth was 4,166,620 persons. Majority of them worked in agriculture sector in the rural areas, primarily on smallholdings as self-employed or unpaid family workers.

In over decade time, despite the effort to improve enabling environment of youth inclusion in agribusiness, still employment among the young Tanzanians has been growing at low rate.

Hence increasing of youth rural – urban migration.
ii. About the Project and Observations

This Ongoing East Africa Youth Inclusion Program (EAYIP), implemented by HEIFER international in collaboration with ESRF and other partner institutions has focused in identifying barriers and recommend appropriate policies that will catalyze youth participation and inclusion in economic activities particularly in agriculture sector.

In Tanzania the program has established youth agricultural hubs in 11 districts; (Mufindi, Mufindi, Iringa rural, Njombe TC, Njombe DC, Mbozi, Busokelo, Wanging’ombe, Mbeya rural, Rungwe and Mafinga).
Observations

According to the youth interviewed, as of 2017 the following are still the major challenges preventing youth from engaging in agribusiness.

a) Lack of adequate working capital.
b) Low knowledge in agribusiness.
c) Land access problems.
d) Restrictive bank landing conditions
e) Subsidized Govt inputs don’t reach the youth.
f) Unfavorable commodity markets.
g) Lack of youths platforms to channel their views.
iii. Agricultural Hub and Results

The idea of establishing agricultural hubs centered around; Enabling environment for youths to engage in agribusiness through providing:

Skills development, Access to finance, access to markets and mindset change towards agriculture.
iii. Agricultural Hub and Results

Successes: employment creation, agriculture value addition, dissemination of skills and transfer of technology.

Hence: Stakeholders should support hub-replication initiatives.
iv. Way Forward

The Tanzania’s Vision to attain MIC status by 2025 remains; however, must be a shift to higher Value and Faster Growth Path.
iv. Way Forward

Policies:

• Land policy: our land policy through LGAs should accommodate the needs of the youths (i.e. setting aside land as agricultural parks for hire to youths).

• Youth Policy: Establish youth platforms at village, ward and district levels. To enable skills dissemination and mindset change.

• Industrialisation: Enabling youths access to finance in agriculture value chain: Commercial banks should continue to more to support youth agribusiness initiatives.
THANK YOU