

# Creating opportunities for rural youth

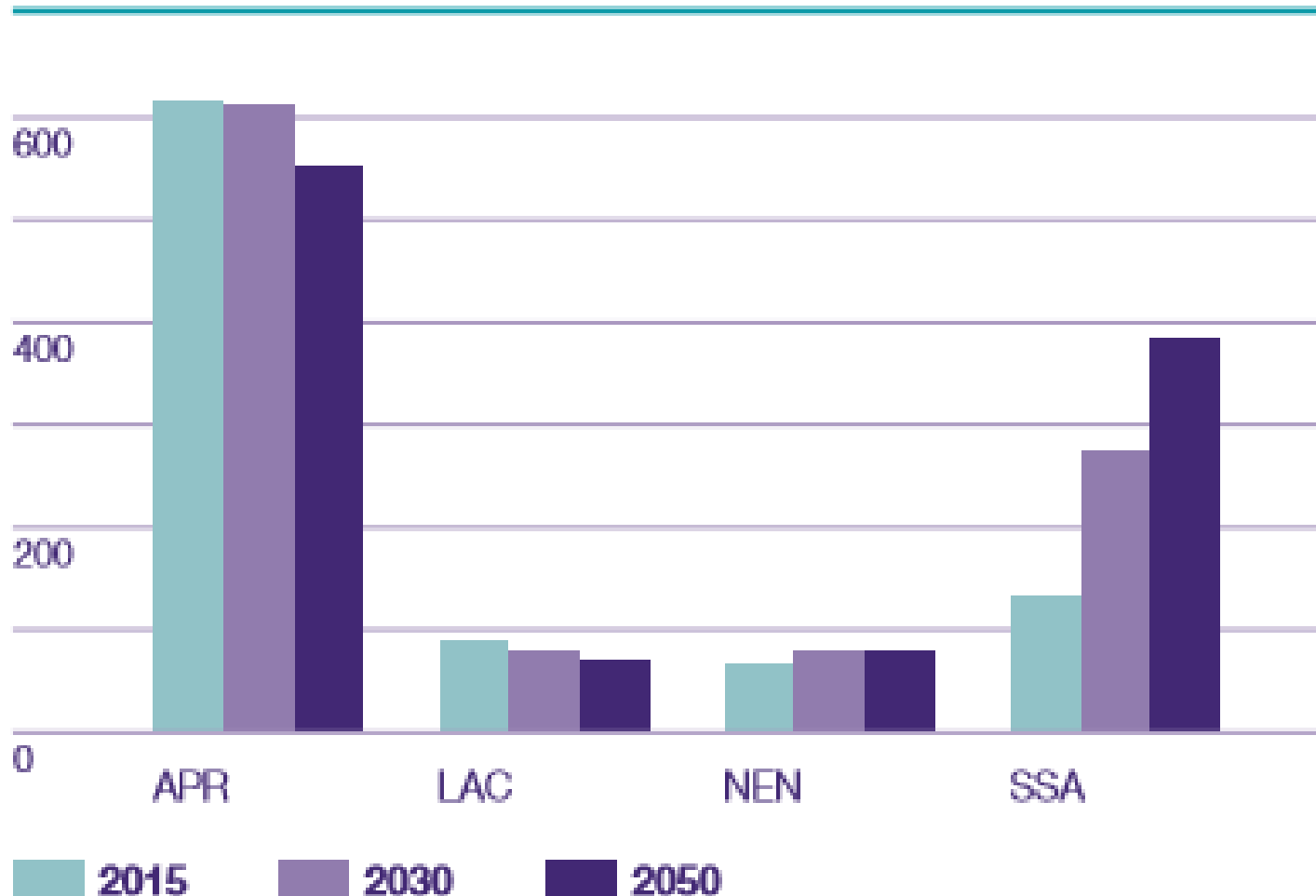
2019 Rural  
Development  
Report

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- 780 million rural young people in developing countries.
- The number is growing rapidly.

Millions of youth by region (2015-2050)

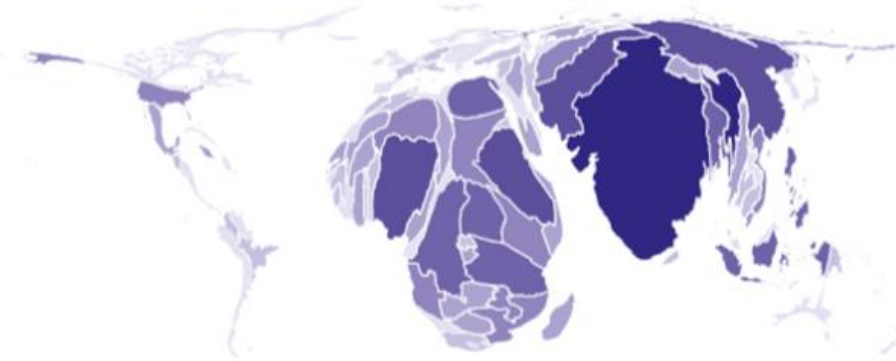


# Why Rural Youth are Important

Percentage share of global rural youth, 2015



Percentage share of global rural youth, 2050



0.00-0.20 0.21-0.50 0.51-1.00 1.01-2.00 2.01-4.10 4.11-14.00 14.01-27.50

Note: This map is an equal area projection (also known as a density equalizing map) of the share of global rural youth, by country.

Speed of Technological Change and Digital Revolution

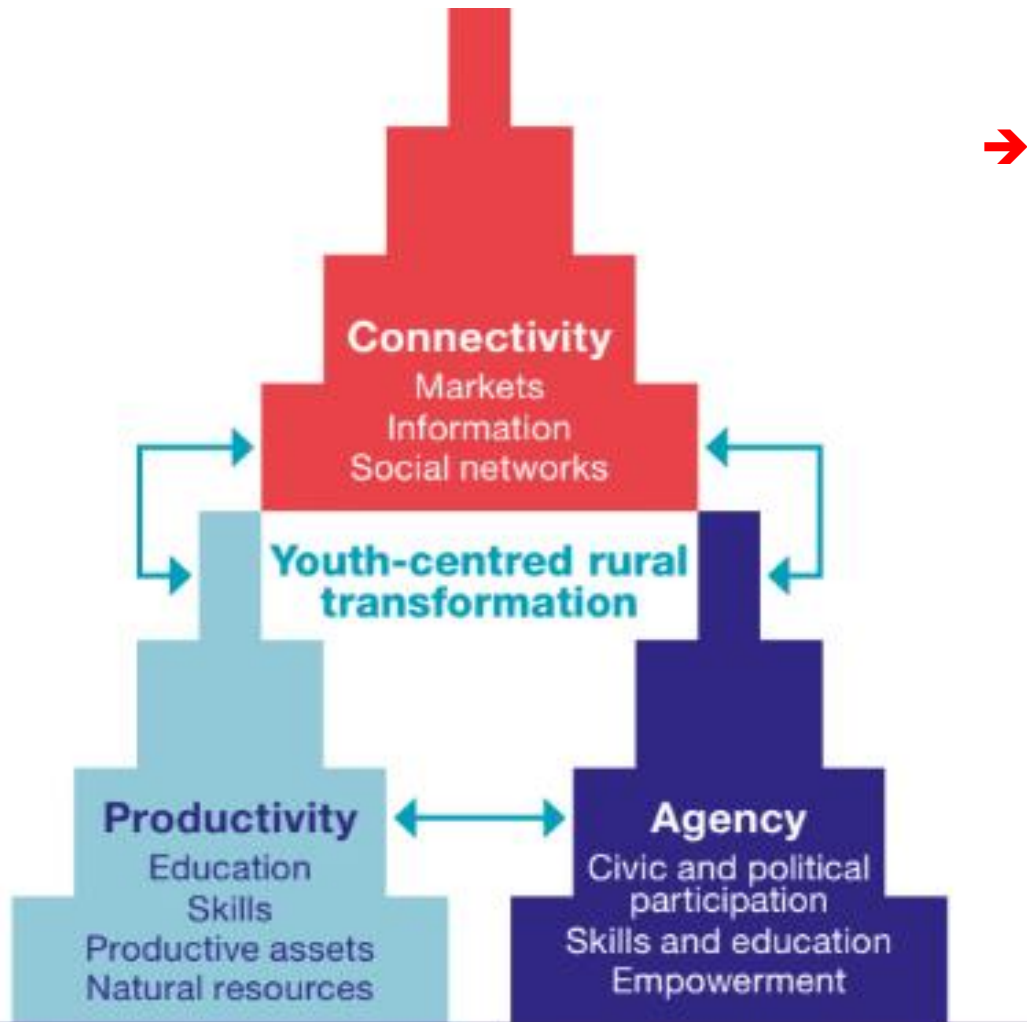
+ youth have higher aspirations

=> more opportunities & challenges from exclusion

# → Foundations of Rural Youth Development

## → Key considerations:

1. **The settings** in which rural youth reside.
2. The **specific constraints** rural young people face.
3. Today's unprecedented and **dynamic nature of change**.



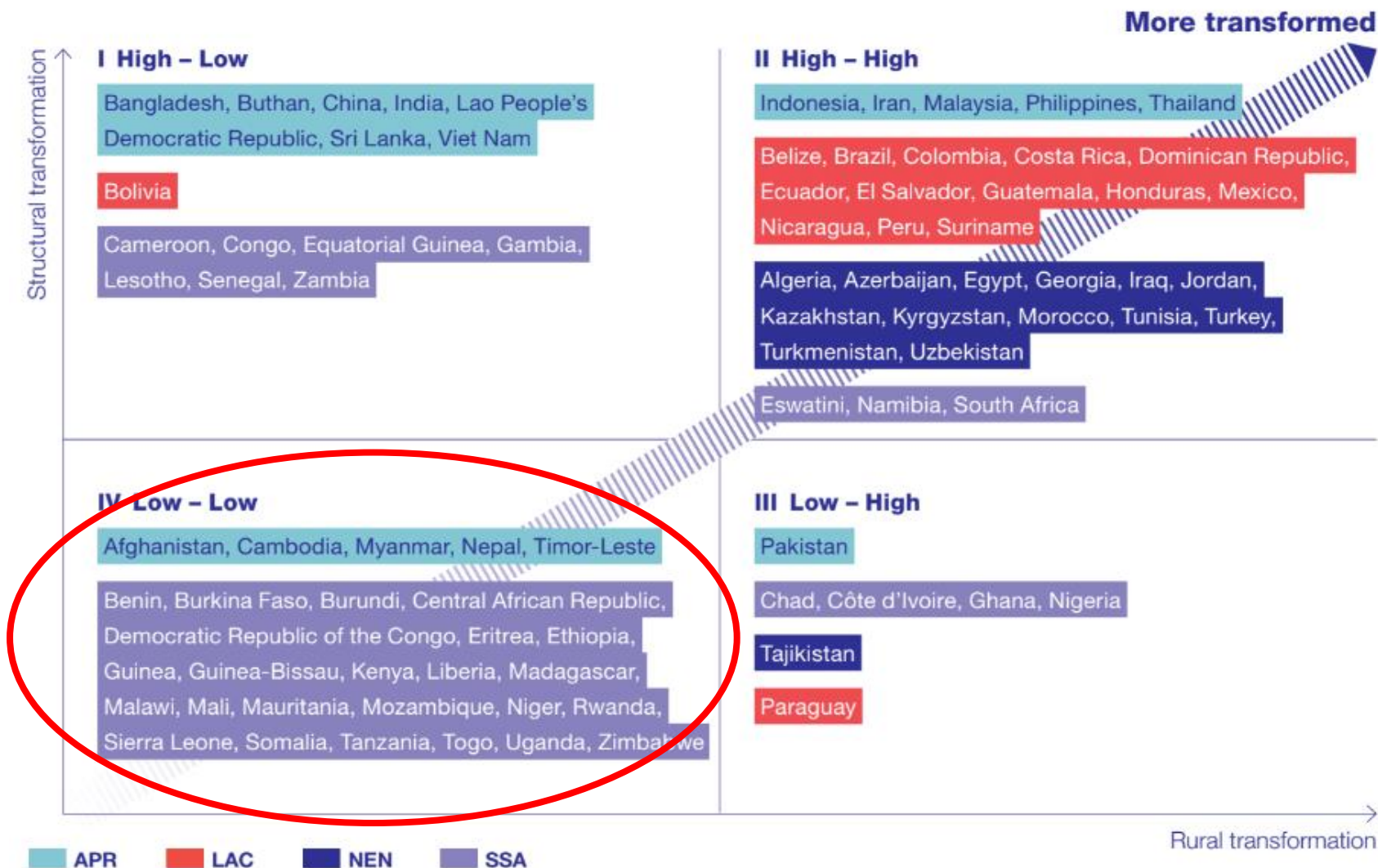
# Opportunities and Challenges of Rural Youth Development

1. National Setting: Structural and Rural Transformation
2. Rural Opportunity Space
3. HH Characteristics

# 1. The National Setting

→ Almost three quarters of rural youth live in countries with low rural transformation.

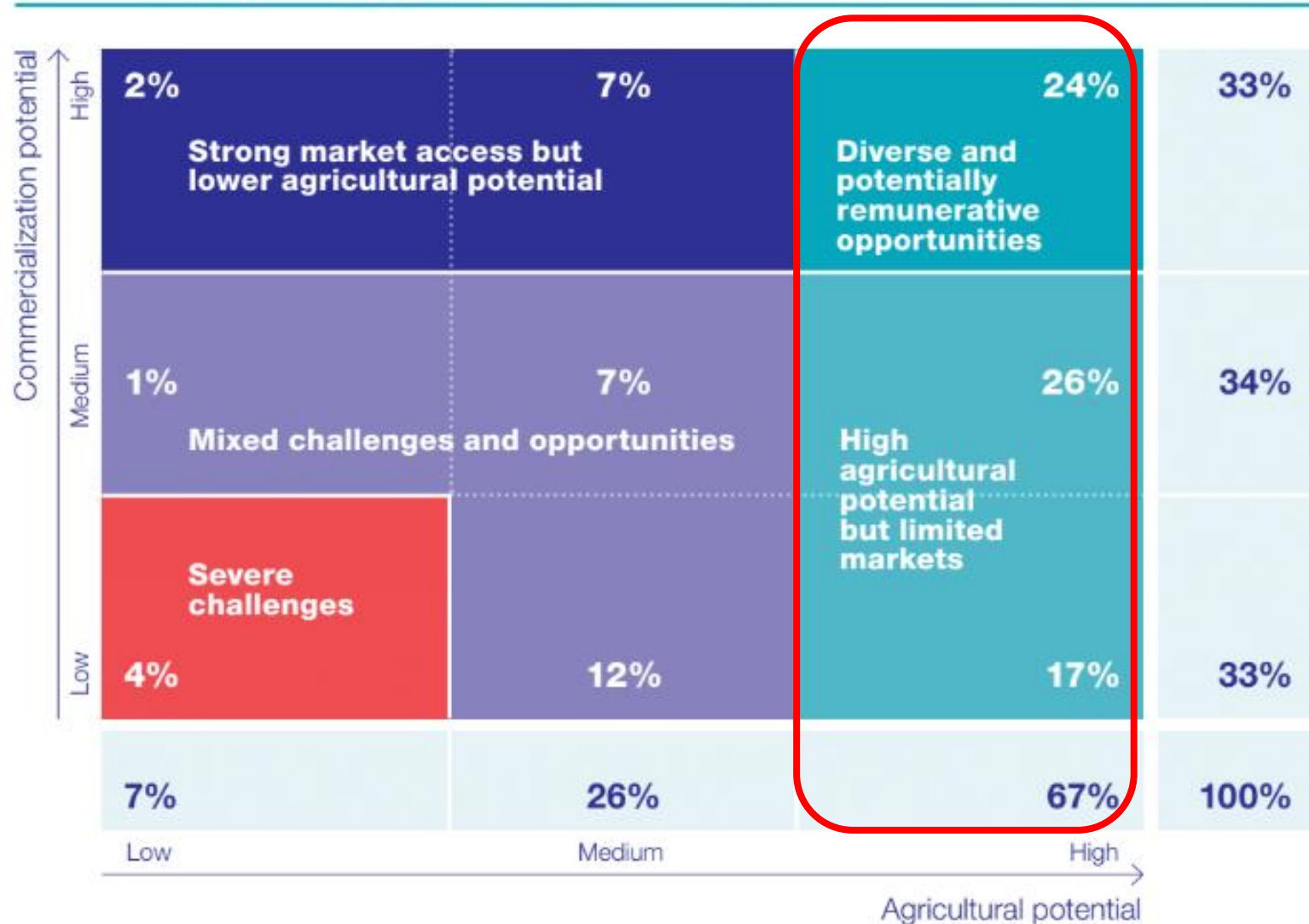
Country transformation typology



## 2. The Rural Opportunity Space

→ Two out of three rural youth in developing countries live in areas with high agricultural potential.

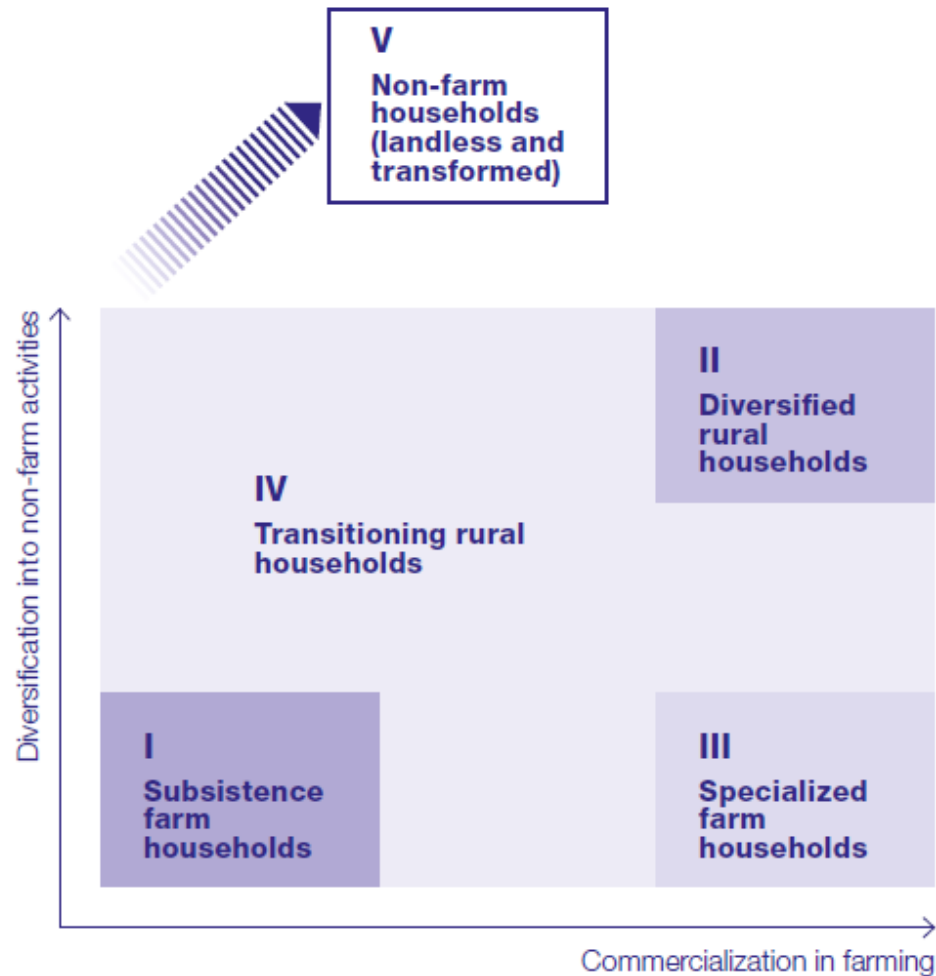
Modified rural opportunity space



### 3. HH Characteristics

- Diversification to non farm income (Y axis)
- Increase farm sales

**FIGURE G** Household transformation categories



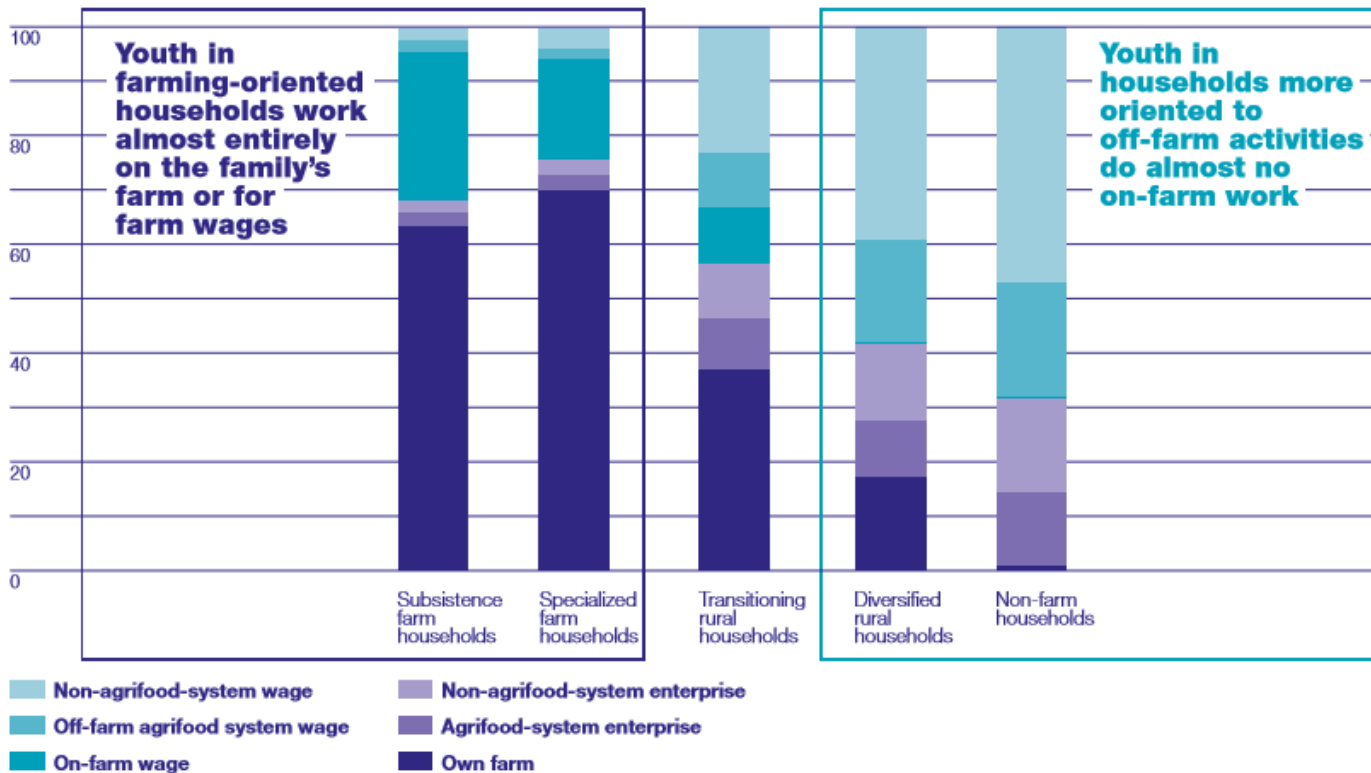
Source: Authors.



### 3. HH Characteristics

→ What rural youth do depends, but only in part, on what the other members of their households do

Distribution of rural youth work effort, by functional and sectoral employment categories, percentage of full-time equivalents



Notes: Full-time equivalents (FTEs) are based on household survey data covering 128,227 individuals representing around 134 million rural youth in 12 countries in 3 regions (SSA, APR and LAC). Indonesia was dropped from the FTE calculations because inconsistent survey weights interfered with comparability.  
 Source: Authors.

## Dynamic nature of change

→ Simultaneous changes are unfolding faster, or in different ways than before, both opening and closing opportunities.



**Demographic Change**



**Climate Change**



**Digital Revolution**

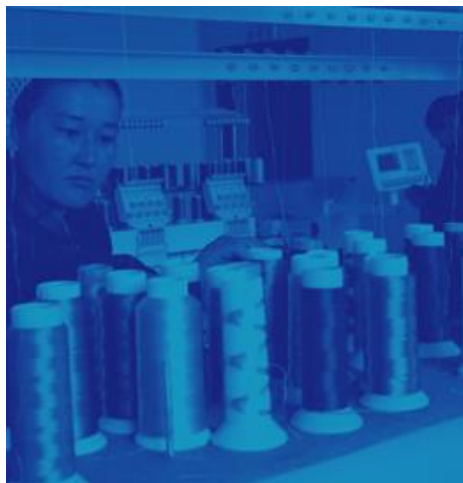
## The constraints

→ Rural youth face particular constraints that need to be addressed simultaneously.

**Capacities  
and skills**



**Access  
to finance**



**Access  
to land**



**Gender  
norms**



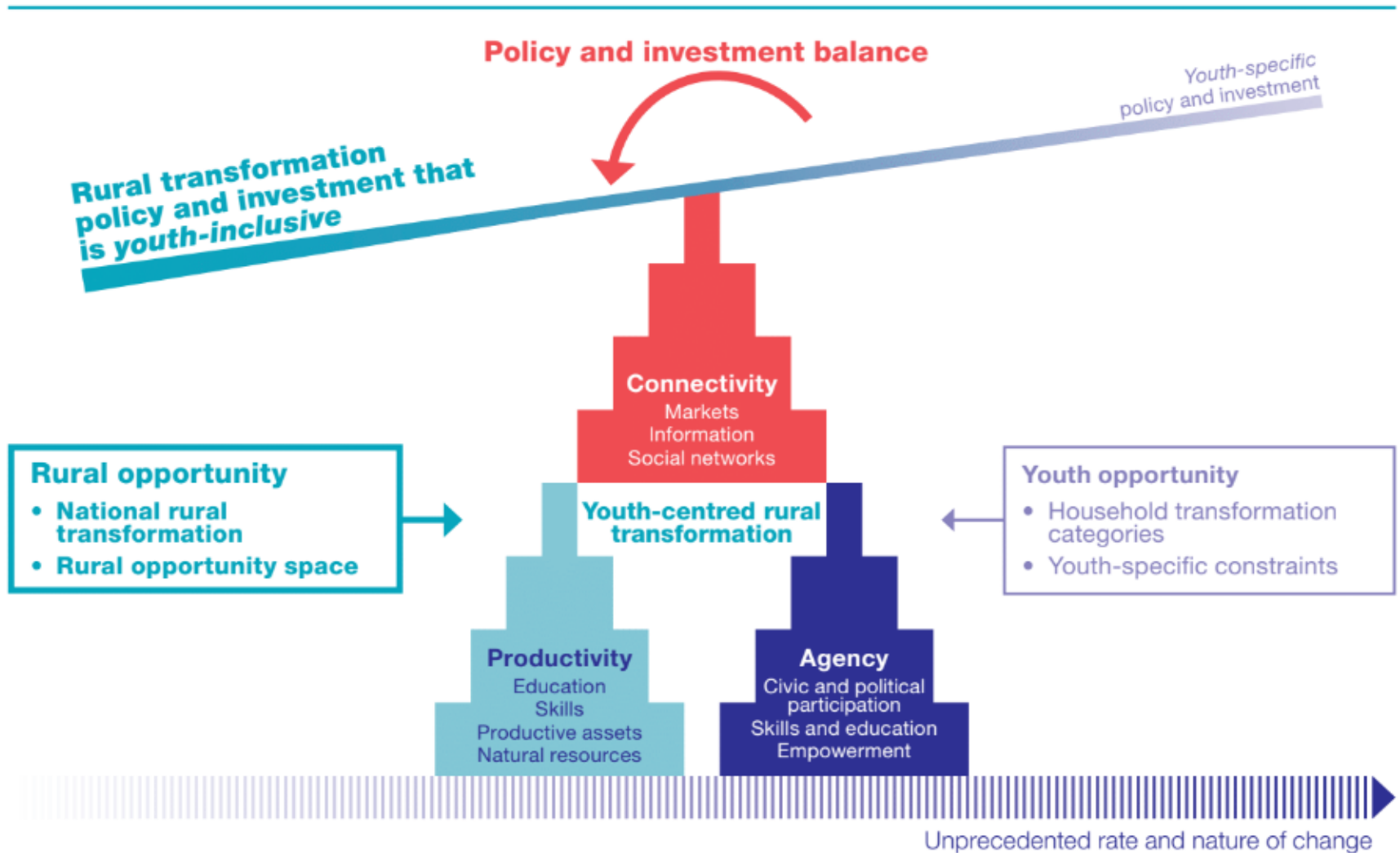
## Main message

→ *Investing in rural youth requires to think differently*

1. Rural youth development policy and investments should be **embedded in broader rural development strategies.**
2. An effective approach to rural youth policy and investment is one that strikes the **"right balance"** between creating broader rural opportunities and fostering youth specific ones.
3. Policies and investments to foster rural transformation that is inclusive of youth and/or youth-centred need to consider the three foundations of rural development: ***productivity, connectivity and agency.***

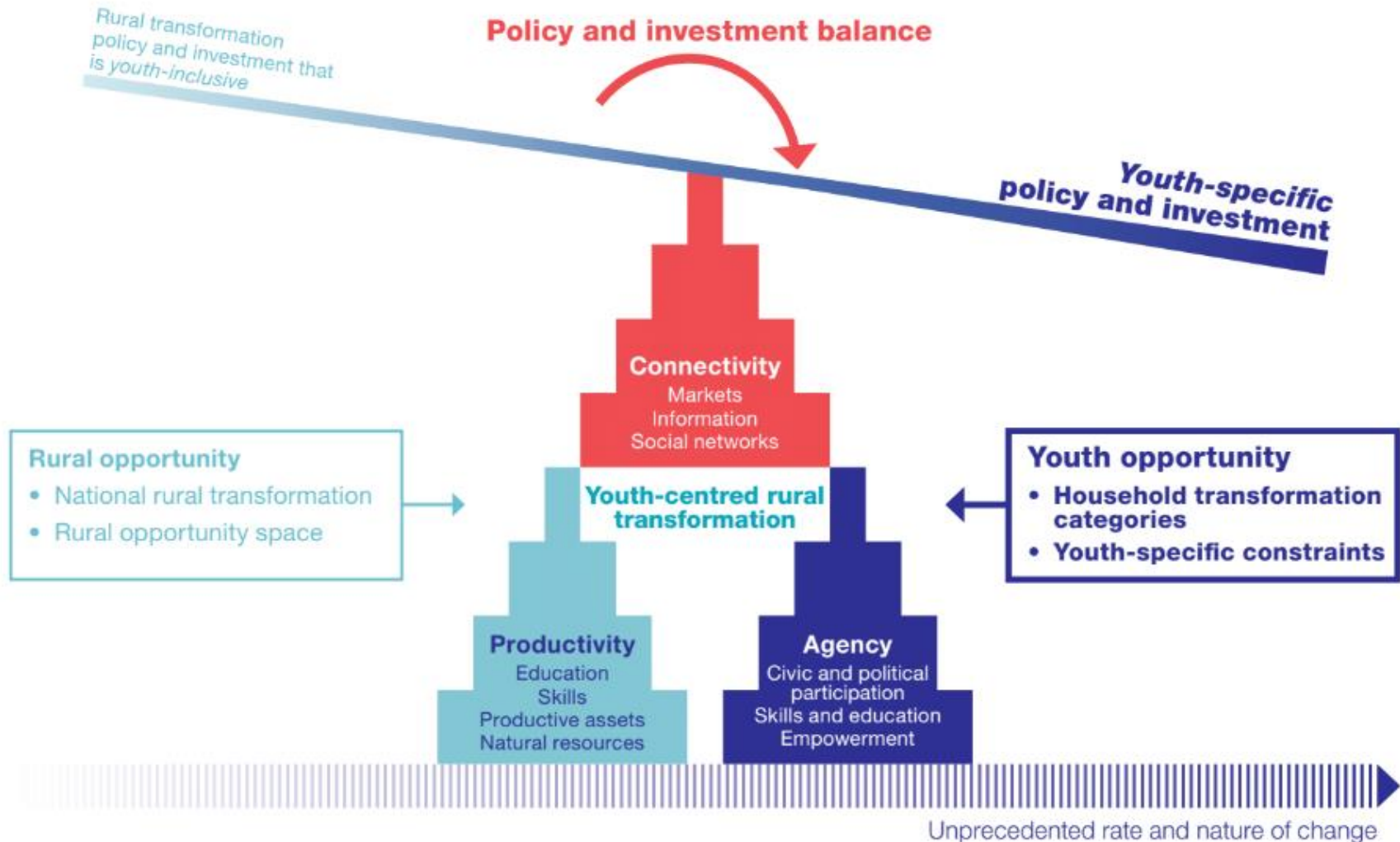
# → Low level of rural opportunity requires focusing on *youth inclusion*

Low level of rural opportunity



# → High level of rural opportunity requires focusing on *youth-specific policies and investments*.

## High level of rural opportunity



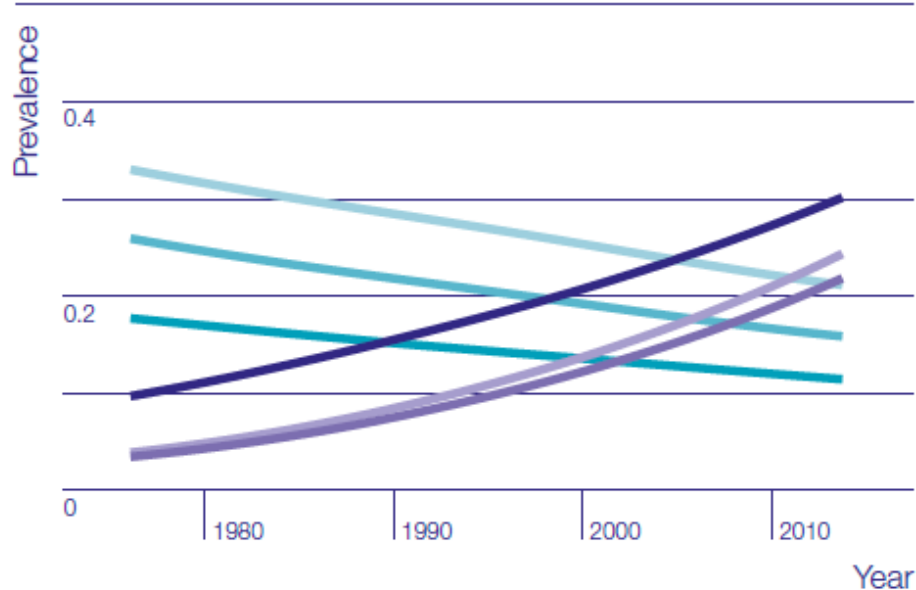
# Across the developing world, diets are changing at an unprecedented rate, making diet-related challenges a youth issue

- Proper nutrition in childhood and adolescence builds a strong foundation for a healthy productive and reproductive life.
- Adolescence and early adulthood are periods of economic, social and biological transitions that have a major impact on dietary choices and thus on biological development of youth.
- During the transition to adulthood, youth start to make independent dietary choices that, in combination with the biological changes that come with puberty, further shape their nutritional outcomes.
- Their dietary choices are influenced by socio-economic status, role transitions, social and cultural norms, and aspirations and lifestyle preferences shaped by exposure to technology and the media.
- These choices are increasingly resulting in unbalanced nutrition, overweight and obesity and related non-communicable diseases.
- However, adolescence can also provide a major window of opportunity for “catch-up” growth by addressing chronic nutritional deficits that began in childhood.

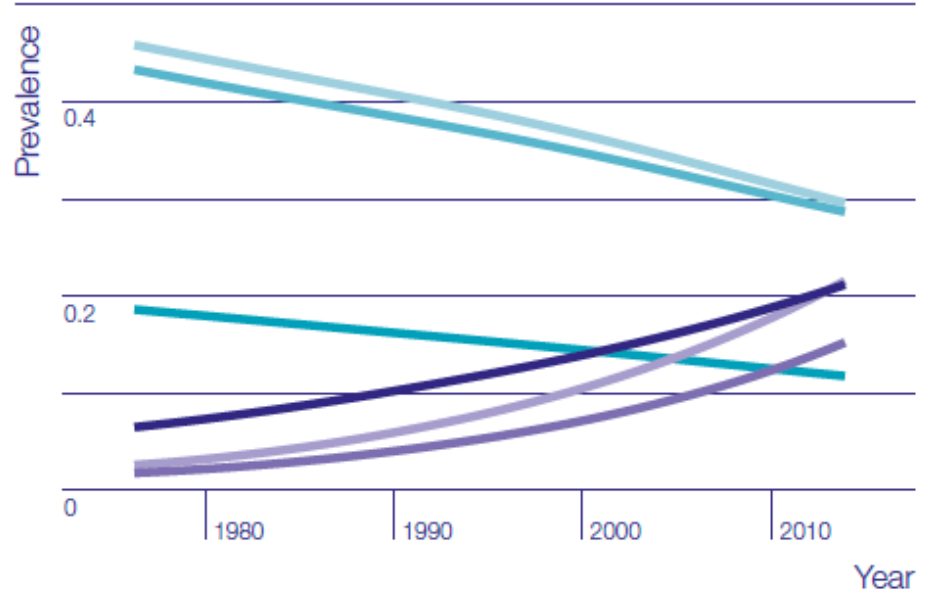
# The rural transformation process has given rise to a double burden of malnutrition for rural youth: underweight and overweight

Trends in the double burden of malnutrition, by age and gender

Female



Male



Underweight (12-14)

Underweight (15-19)

Underweight (20-24)

Overweight/obesity (12-14)

Overweight/obesity (15-19)

Overweight/obesity (20-24)

Source: Kadiyala et al. (2018) based on NCD-RisC data.



