



Opportunities
for **Youth in Africa**

PREPCOM1 SIDE EVENT: How to stimulate youth employment while promoting a sustainable economic recovery of the agriculture and agribusiness sector Post-Covid19 that is effective, equitable, and inclusive in Africa's LDCs

Tuesday, May 25th, 2021
12-13:30 NYT (18:00-19:30 CET)

REGISTER



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



African
Union



The first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

side-event organized by UNIDO and FAO on:

How to stimulate youth employment while promoting a sustainable economic recovery of the agriculture and agribusiness sector in the post Covid-19 era that is effective, equitable, and inclusive in Africa's LDCs

May 25th; from 12:00 - 13:30 New York Time (18:00 - 19:30 CET)

Registration Link:

https://unido.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yeBnKoxIRG2FN0ZKjb51lw

Context:

The agricultural sector is at the heart of the economies of the least-developed countries (LDCs). It accounts for a large share of gross domestic product (GDP), employs a large proportion of the labour force, represents a major source of foreign exchange, supplies the bulk of basic food and provides subsistence and other income to more than half of the LDCs' population. Therefore, the role of agricultural development in overall economic development and in eradicating poverty and food insecurity in LDCs is crucial. Hence, significant progress in promoting economic growth, reducing poverty and attaining food security and improved nutrition for all cannot be achieved in most of these countries without drawing more fully upon the potential productive capacity of agriculture and its contribution to overall economic development.

Moreover, LDCs face a stark demographic challenge, as their population is projected to double to 1.7 billion by 2050. The LDC youth population (aged 15 to 24 years) is expected to soar to 300 million by 2050, when one in four youths worldwide will live in an LDC (UNCTAD). Most of the youth in LDCs live in rural areas where agricultural and non-farm activities are currently unable to provide the quantity and quality of jobs to meet their employment demands. As a result, the problem of youth unemployment and underemployment (informal sector) is a serious concern for LDCs.

Therefore, there is an urge to promote agri-food systems' transformation in order to provide the engine for growth, which can create the required jobs for young people. However, this strategy must take into consideration policy makers who need to give renewed emphasis to understanding and promoting processes supportive of youth



inclusion in the agriculture and agribusiness sector development while collaborating with the private sector through public-private dialogues and partnerships.

With the support of their development partners, the governments of the LDCs may need to rethink their agricultural and rural development strategies if they are to achieve their social and economic objectives.

The focus of the session on concrete and rapid actions is in line with UNIDO and FAO's efforts in support of the AUC to respond to the 2014 Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agriculture Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, which targets the creation of more job opportunities for youth in the agricultural sector. Moreover, youth are at the core of the 2063 agenda of the African Union, notably through the African Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment and the 1 Million by 2021 Initiative of the African Union Commission. The session therefore aims to raise awareness and catalyze greater investments for youth employment creation in the agribusiness sector by bringing attention to the pan-African Opportunities for Youth in Africa programme, which was launched by FAO, UNIDO and AUC in 2019.

Targeted Outcomes

- Raise awareness on the challenges that African LDCs face to reduce poverty for young women and men through decent employment: Access barriers (training, Market, Financial resources), limited infrastructure, institutional reforms;
- Discuss the untapped potential of LDCs: a growing young population, availability natural resources, opportunity to do “business better- environmentally sustainable”, agricultural value chain development, PPPs;
- Discuss the role of the Government in LDCs and of their development partners and other stakeholders in achieving the SDGs through youth employment and self-employment in the agriculture and agribusiness sector;
- Share best practices on how digital solutions can respond to challenges induced by global crisis such as the global COVID-19 pandemic;
- Showcase best practices and inspiring stories of engaged youth (young entrepreneurs).

Contribution to LDC5

- Drawing attention on the untapped potential of youth participation in LDCs economic growth specifically in the agricultural and agribusiness sector.
- Emphasizing the role of the private sector in contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals across the LDCs and the economic growth of the countries.
- Sharing the COVID-19 impacts on the agriculture and agribusiness in African LDCs and measures to address them.



- Showcasing best practices on how to strengthen youth participation

Side event programme and speaker:

Moderator: Fifi Peters, Award Winning Financial Journalist

Opening Remarks: 10 min

- Mr. LI Yong, Director General, UNIDO
- Mr. Qu Dongyu, Director General, FAO

Keynote: 5 min

- H.E. Ms. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner for Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment, AUC

Panel Discussion: 45 min

- H.E. LDC Ambassador of Bangladesh (TBC)
- Government Representative of Burkina Faso (TBC)
- M. Dirk Schattschneider, Director of Rural Development, Food and Natural Resources, German Ministry of Foreign Affairs BMZ
- Ms. Angélica Jácome Daza, Director of SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs, FAO
- M. Dejene Tezera Director of the UNIDO Department of Agri-business, UNIDO
- M. Mustapha Sow, A leading entrepreneur, financial and strategic advisor, SF Capital
- M. Daniel Oulai, young agripreneur, Grainotheque
- Ms. Tamara Kaunda, young agripreneur, Billionaire farmer agric solutions

Q&A session: 30 min