CARE

ENHANCING CAPACITY TO APPLY RESEARCH EVIDENCE (CARE) IN POLICY FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN AGribusiness AND RURAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA.
CARE also known as “Enhancing Capacity to Apply Research Evidence in policy for youth engagement in agribusiness and rural economic activities in Africa” aims at contributing to the development of a new paradigm for knowledge creation that will lead to the development of effective policies and agribusiness development in Africa. It will provide fellowships for young African scholars, with special emphasis on young female professionals and students.

- Africa has the world’s most youthful population.

- 60% of Africa's population is between 15 – 24 years.

- By 2030, it is projected that the number of youth in Africa will have increased by 42 per cent.

- Africa's youth population is expected to continue to grow, more than doubling from current levels by 2055.

- Transforming agriculture in Africa requires a young population ready to drive the process.

- As a strategy to reduce youth unemployment, agripreneurship is being increasingly adopted as a valuable means to create jobs and improve the economic independence of young people.

- Studies have shown that the agricultural sector has the capacity to employ more than 70% of the entire population which implies that there are lots of unexplored opportunities in the sector.

- Young agribusiness entrepreneurs are approaching agriculture as a business and are speeding this essential transformation. The African youth is taking advantage of current agricultural research and new technologies being developed and tailored to African agro-ecologies.

- Yet, the lack of research and evidence based information on the nature of the problem and potential solutions to guide policy creation and implementation is a challenge.

- Using a knowledge creation approach, that will lead to the development of effective policies and agribusiness development in Africa; the CARE project is aimed at improving the availability, exchange, dissemination and use of research findings in the field of agribusiness and rural economic activities from young African scholars into policy and practice in support of economic growth and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, working at local, national and regional levels in Africa.

- The project ultimately intends to have an impact on youth and their partners' capacities to deliver improved policies and investments that are effective at supporting youth in agriculture by strengthening their capacities in generating, appraising, and disseminating evidence-based results to inform future action plans for national governments, the international community, the business sector, and local communities.

- Youth education and employment are essential to harnessing the opportunities for economic growth.

- Africa's economic growth is hinged on the transformation of agriculture.