

Employment Status of Youth in Agribusiness Rural Area: Livingstone, Zambia

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Africa's Youth Population – Zambia

- The population of youth in Zambia is about 4.8 million aged 15-34.
- Africa's youth population expected to double to over 830 million by 2050, and 10-12 million youth enter the work force each year in Africa.
- Youth unemployment is estimated at 23%.
- Many unemployed young people are also unproductive, i.e. not engaged in any activity that contributes to their personal livelihood, or that of their family and community.

Statement of problem

- Many unemployed young people are unproductive, i.e. not engaged in any activity that contributes to their personal livelihood, or that of their family and community.
- However job creation has proved to be a problem given the general trends of low economic growth across the region.
- The number of job seekers far outweighs the number of job opportunities

Government Intervention – Policy

- Creating jobs for these young people requires urgent government intervention at the policy level.
- Governments must create conditions that promote greater value addition and deeper linkages between agriculture and other productive sectors and that encourage and support innovation in the processing industry and food-related services.
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Way Out – Agriculture

- Agriculture is the main sector that will be able to create meaningful and gainful jobs for the huge number of young people entering Africa's job market in the next few years.
- The agribusiness sector has a significant number of jobs for youth through diversifying and the value chain along the various crops cultivated.
- Encouraging youth to engage with the agricultural sector also requires that they have access to



resources, including finance, markets and land, and the opportunity to engage in policy and decision-making.

Recommendations

- Government programs targeting youth specifically are also crucial to promote long-term, sustainable growth in the agricultural sector.
- Government to make policy measures that provide financial and tax incentives for new, youth-led agricultural companies are essential.
- Governments should provide opportunities for youth-led enterprises to showcase successful agripreneurship and businesses.
- Policy-makers should provide incentives to improve the quality of education and skills-based learning.
- Governments should develop training programmes for financial management skills, credits-worthiness checks and provision of access to capital for young farmers and entrepreneurs, in conjunction with funding bodies and financial institutions.
- Governments to invest in infrastructure considering number of jobs are being lost in the agribusiness sector due to power outages and weak infrastructure such as irrigation, storage, and internet. Improving existing infrastructure and continued investment would make agribusiness more competitive and reliable.
- Policy-maker to strengthen evidence-base to ensure that all stakeholders have data on the numbers of young people who are unemployed, skilled, unskilled, reside in rural areas, have access to land.

