

Utafiti Sera Forum on Youth Employment Creation in Agriculture and Agro-Processing



WESTSIDE HOTEL, KITALE

Forum Report
March 01, 2018

Contents

List of Acronyms	1
Overview	2
Objectives of the County Forum:	2
Organization of the Forum:	2
Welcome and Introduction	3
Keynote Address	3
Opening Remarks and Highlights from CABE/PASGR	4
Dr. Hannington Odame, Executive Director, CABE	4
Dr Martin Atela, Program Manager, PASGR	4
Overview of Agriculture and the Place For Youth in Trans-Nzoia Country	5
Remarks by CEC Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Trans Nzoia County	5
Pitching by Youth Agri-Prenuers	6
Poultry Farming	6
Potato Processing	6
Vertical Farming Technologies Banana Processing	6
Banana Processing	7
Emerging Value Chain Specific Issues	7
Presentation of Key Policy Messages from Literature Synthesis	8
Breakout Sessions and Feedback	8
Banana Value Chain	8
Potato Value Chain	9
Poultry Value Chain	9
Panel Discussion	10
Closing Remarks and Next Steps	11
Annex 1: Agenda of the Day	12
List of Participants	13

List of Acronyms

ATCs	- Agricultural Training Centers
CABE	- The Centre for African Bio-Entrepreneurship
CDA	- County Director for Agriculture
CEC	- County Executive Committee
CECM	- County Executive Committee Membes
CIDP	- County Integrated Development Plan
CROPS	- County Deputy County Director of Agriculture
FAO	- Food and Agriculture Organization
HPF	- Hewlett Packard Foundation
ICIPE	- International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology
JKUAT	- Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology
KARLO	- Kenya Agricultural Research & Livestock Organisation
KCB	- Kenya Commercial Bank
KEPHIS	- Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services
MHATC	- Manor House Agricultural Training Centre
PASGR	- Partnership for African Social and Governance Research

Overview

The 2nd *Utafiti Sera* forum on Youth Employment Creation in Agriculture and Agro processing for inclusive growth in Kenya was hosted at Westside Hotel in Kitale, Trans Nzoia County on March 1, 2018. This forum was organized by the Centre for African Bio-Entrepreneurship (CABE) in collaboration with the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR)¹.

The forum brought together 52 stakeholders from the Ministry of Agriculture (Trans Nzoia, Busia and Kiambu), Ministry of Gender, Youth & Sports (Trans Nzoia), the County Assembly Committee on agriculture, Agricultural Training Centers (ATCs), the private sector, community based organizations as well as youth champions in agriculture, development partners, individual agripreneurs, youth living with disabilities in Trans Nzoia and the media.

The county forum is a follow-up of the *Utafiti Sera* stakeholders mapping workshop held on December 7, 2017 organized by CABE and PASGR, where stakeholders recommended that research evidence needed to be shared with county governments. With agriculture being a devolved function, such engagements would lead to more effective and informed consensus on policy actions that can enable counties to serve as centers of development in supporting youth employment creation in Kenya's agriculture and agro-processing sectors.

As part of the *Utafiti-Sera* activities, a synthesis of evidence was done prior to the county forum. The synthesis identified six priority areas for policy response on youth employment creation in agriculture and agro-processing in Kenya. These are: i) Skills and training, ii) Finance, iii) Markets, iv) Research and extension, v) Science, technology and innovation and vi) Institutions and policy. These issues served as the basis for presentations and discussions during the county forum.

Objectives of the County Forum

1. Present policy recommendations of the stakeholders' mapping workshop and findings for the synthesis report.
2. Provide space for the youth and actors supporting youth initiatives on employment creation to highlight their achievements, policy challenges and opportunities.
3. Debate and synthesize key policy messages and actions for the county and national government.
4. Advocate to County and National Governments to address the key policy and institutional issues on youth employment in agriculture and agro-processing.

Organization of the Forum

The forum entailed a key note address from the county government, presentation of key policy messages and research findings on youth employment creation, pitches by youth entrepreneurs, group discussions where priority areas for policy actions were discussed, and feedback and open discussion plenary and panel sessions. Thereafter, commitments for action to address key policy and institutional issues at the county and national government level were made by core stakeholders present at the forum. This report presents the proceedings of the day and the next steps.

The county forum was one of the deliverables for the *Utafiti Sera* (research-to-policy) project in youth employment creation in agriculture and agro-processing. Moving forward a national forum would be held to share lessons and experiences for policy action.

The synthesis identified six priority areas for policy response on youth employment creation in agriculture and agro-processing in Kenya.



¹For more information on CABE and PASGR, visit their websites: www.cabe-africa.org , www.pasgr.org

Welcome and Introduction



Mantrix Entertainment Group performing a skit on youth involvement, opportunities and challenges in agriculture

The play also identified opportunities for sector transformation

Facilitator: Eric Wafukho

Participants introduced themselves and their respective institutions, and shared their expectations from the workshop. The expectations included networking, learning, sharing new ideas, critiquing of existing policies on youth involvement in agriculture and exploring better opportunities in agriculture for social, ecological and economic sustainability.

After the introductions, Mantrix Entertainment Group performed a short play themed 'Youth at cross roads' to showcase youth involvement in agriculture. The main issues echoed from the play included the misinformed negative perceptions and attitudes

of youth towards agriculture, limited employment opportunities and inadequate financing to agriculture.

Other challenges highlighted by the play were false stereotypes pertaining to agriculture employment, unstable land tenure systems, weak market linkages as well as skills, knowledge and information gaps. The play also identified opportunities for sector transformation which included the need for professionalism in agribusiness, power of information technology in driving agribusiness as well as a call for peer to peer learning. The play set the stage for the policy dialogue in line with the day's agenda.

Keynote Address

The County Executive Committee Member, Ministry of Gender, Youth and Sports in Trans Nzoia County stated that the county prides itself for being the food basket of Kenya. However, he noted that the bulk of the agricultural produce in the county were sold as raw materials hence the low returns. He also highlighted that small scale producers were more often than not, exploited by middlemen when selling the raw agricultural produce. He encouraged youth to explore and embrace opportunities in agro-processing.

Hon. Chemonges also reiterated that despite availability of land and other resources, Trans Nzoia was characterized by high unemployment levels among the youth who preferred white collar jobs. He expressed the need to reclaim the lost glory of progressive agriculture in Trans Nzoia by changing social attitudes and actively engaging youth in agriculture.

He further noted that the crisis of succession and land inheritance in the county was a challenge to the youth, since the aging farmers were rigid on land use. This rigidity, he noted, discouraged youth from engaging in agriculture, hence the need to identify opportunities for youth beyond land. He also pointed out that the associated intergenerational knowledge



Hon. Aggrey Chemonges, CECEM on Gender, Youth and Sports

transfer was weak. Hon. Chemonges concluded by stating that solutions would be found through such dialogues, corporate actions, youth empowerment programs, mentorship, financing, inter-county learning and exposure.

Opening Remarks and Highlights from CABE/PASGR



Dr. Hannington Odame, Executive Director, CABE

Dr. Odame thanked all participants for honoring the invitation and making time to participate in the workshop. In particular, he was grateful to Trans-Nzoia County officials and the youth who turned up with enthusiasm to participate in the county forum.

He also appreciated PASGR for giving CABE the opportunity to host *Utafiti Sera* on Youth Employment Creation in Agriculture and Agro-processing and for accepting the call to take the policy dialogue to the counties. Dr. Odame informed the participants that the *Utafiti Sera* Project was in sync with CABE's vision to be the lead promoter of agri-preneurs in Kenya. In the past, in partnership with PASGR, CABE had hosted two *Utafiti Sera* policy dialogues on sugar and horticulture value chains in Kenya. He thanked PASGR for the opportunity to host this phase of *Utafiti Sera* noting that the county dialogue was a 'first' for all *Utafiti Sera* houses and would provide important lessons for the programme. He invited participants to share experiences, policy challenges and opportunities, which would strengthen the evidence base for policy recommendations on youth employment creation.

Dr. Atela introduced the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR) as an independent, non-partisan, pan-African, not-for-profit research organization whose vision is to promote a vibrant African social science community. He indicated that PASGR has three core programmes namely: Higher education, Professional Development and Training and Research and Policy Engagement. Dr. Atela described *Utafiti Sera* as a pathway to evidence-informed policy through communities of practice. He noted that *Utafiti Sera* seeks to build and strengthen a community of researchers and policy actors to facilitate the production of more evidence-based and informed policies and practices throughout the African continent.

The work of *Utafiti Sera* is communicated through science communication products such as evidence syntheses, policy briefs, media articles and video documentaries. In *Utafiti Sera*, key policy makers and practitioners are engaged through direct contact, policy advocacy and the

use of policy champions on various issues during meetings, policy debates, forums and workshops.

He also highlighted that youth employment creation in agriculture and agro-processing was among other *Utafiti Sera* houses² and expressed optimism that the county forum would consolidate evidence, discuss and elucidate policy issues on youth employment creation in agriculture and agro-processing for possible actions at the county and national level.

The opening remarks were wrapped up with a short dance from the Mantrix Entertainment Group. The message communicated from the dance alluded certain youth characteristics like their enthusiasm, flexibility, positive energy and willingness to embrace teamwork. Strategically leveraging positive attributes can allow youth to be at the forefront of agricultural transformation in Kenya.

²Other *Utafiti Sera* Houses are on Social Protection and Urban Governance and City Transformation. For more information please see: <http://www.pasgr.org/utafiti-sera/>

Overview of Agriculture and the Place for Youth in Trans-Nzoia Country

Trans Nzoia County Director of Agriculture acknowledged that youth are an important group in the county's agriculture sector as well as the national economy.

He estimated that youth constituted about 50 per cent of the population in the county but many of them were engaging in non-productive activities such as gambling and unproductive social media interactions. He indicated that the county was concerned on how best to engage youth in agriculture.

Mr. Osanya pointed out that poultry and horticulture sub-sectors provide quick wins and low hanging fruits for the youth. Additionally, he mentioned that the county had distributed 30,000 local poultry in its efforts to empower youth and women. He therefore encouraged youth to utilize this opportunity to derive various employment opportunities from poultry enterprises. He also highlighted the opportunity for trained youth to provide private veterinary services to the ever growing poultry sub-sector.

Mr. Osanya challenged the youth to take advantage of the seasonal variances to produce horticultural crops for export to Europe. Other opportunities which he saw space for youth are in the value addition, marketing and rabbit keeping sub-sectors. He urged the youth to organize themselves in groups in order to access funds and explore peer learning opportunities even beyond the scope of Trans Nzoia.



**Mr. Edward Osanya, CDA,
Trans Nzoia County**

Remarks by CEC Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Trans Nzoia County

The County Executive Committee (CEC) Member for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Hon. Mary Nzomo expressed her joy at the fact that youth were participating in agriculture. She urged them to embrace agri-prenuership as a profession and emphasized that productivity and commercialization are key in agricultural transformation.

Hon. Nzomo reiterated that agricultural revolution would be achieved by involving the youth who are flexible and receptive to new ideas. She emphasized that Climate Smart Agriculture can assist in establishing sustainable value chains.

She informed the participants that Trans Nzoia County was keen to implement the 15 strategies³ targeting youth and argued



**Hon. Mary Nzomo, CEC
Agriculture, Livestock and
Fisheries**

the youth to continue exploiting county's support and services of their agricultural activities. Mary also observed that many opportunities for youth existed in information technology as well as mechanization. With support from the County Director for Agriculture (CDA), she committed to assist the youth through the provision of targeted subsidies and the construction of green houses. She designated the CDA, Trans Nzoia County to share the detailed commitments on her behalf during the panel discussion.

³Strategies are enumerated in the recently launched Youth in Agribusiness Strategy 2017



Pitching by Youth Agri-Preneuers

Young people engaging in different spaces in agribusiness were given an opportunity to showcase their initiatives at a plenary session. In this session three value chains (poultry, banana and potato) and vertical farming technologies were selected for pitching. These value chains were selected to represent sub-sectors in which Trans-Nzoia County Government and other counties present in the forum viz. Busia, Kisii, Nyandarua and Kiambu had past interventions targeting the youth. This selection and mix provided an excellent opportunity for sharing lessons. The vertical farming

technologies represented innovations in urban and peri-urban farming where arable land is limited.

The pitches were centered on how agribusiness initiatives provide employment opportunities for the youth, their challenges and opportunities for scaling-up. After the pitches by youth entrepreneurs, participants were given an opportunity to ask the questions and seek clarifications on the different pitches. In the plenary session, participants reflected on the presentations and identified key policy and implementation issues related to each of the value chains and subsectors.

Poultry farming

Presented by: Emmanuel Masika - Trans Nzoia County

Pambazuka Youth Group was established in 2013 with an objective of engaging youth in agricultural activity alongside other social welfare issues. The initiative began with the rearing of 30 chicken and 30 ducks but has expanded to encompass over 3000 birds. In addition to the poultry project, the group also undertakes activities in table banking, dairy farming, and fruit farming. The poultry project has enabled the group to purchase land and fund secondary school fees for some of its members.

Disease, expensive feeds, inadequate information on handling poultry, and limited access to veterinary services were noted as the most challenging issues in poultry farming. Furthermore, despite the success of Pambazuka Youth group, financing for youth projects at the grass-root level remains a big challenge.

BOX 1

Pitching on Poultry by Pambazuka Youth Group

Potato Processing

Presented by: Joy Pure Muthoni – Nyandarua County

Shauri Vision Women Group is composed of 18 members (7 youth, 11 women). Besides voluntary savings and loaning, the group is involved in potato processing of products such as crisps, potato sticks and starch. Potato processing is mainly driven by the youth who actively participate in sorting, cleaning, peeling, slicing, packaging, marketing and selling (though part-time basis) of potatoes and related products. The youth earn from profits made from sale of processed products. Part of the income earned by youth is saved in a voluntary savings scheme used to fund school fees, establish businesses and support other household needs. The group has further plans to venture into the yoghurt processing and poultry farming sub-sectors.

Development partners have supported the group by offering training in food safety and value addition. The group has also received financial support of Ksh1 00, 000 from the Cooperative Bank to purchase processing equipment.

The ban of plastic packaging material has been identified as one of the challenges impacting negatively on the business and the group is yet to establish an alternative packaging method. Access to water and established markets for the products is also another challenge.

BOX 2

Pitching on Potato by Shauri Vision Women Group

Vertical Farming Technologies

Presented by: Elizabeth Onyango - Nairobi County

Ukulima-Tech is an agribusiness company providing innovative solutions to urban and peri-urban dwellers with limited arable land to be able to produce safe, fresh crops using vertical systems. The vertical systems are multi-layer gardens, which allow agricultural activities to flourish in limited space such as balconies, backyards, rooftops, parking lots and basement areas. The systems are automated to control water, temperatures, light and conditions favorable for plant growth. These systems are convenient and interesting for young as well as all age groups. Ukulima Tech has created employment by

involving 10 youth in fabrication, installation and management of the vertical systems.

Challenges exist in high cost of fabrication reflected in expensive systems that low income households are unable to purchase and generate income from the innovation.

BOX 3

Pitching on Vertical Farming Technologies by Ukulima Tech

Banana Processing

Presented by: Dan Kerongo – Kisii County

Igare Youth Development Cooperative processes banana to produce banana bread, banana buns and banana flour. The processing plant has 12 trained youth who participate in banana aggregation, baking, packaging, marketing and transport. The group sells its products to schools and shops around Igare.

Future prospects are anchored on selling banana products beyond Kisii County as well as making juices using the idle juicing equipment owned by the group. To leverage

finances for other activities, the cooperative has allowed youth to buy shares.

Despite obvious demand and market opportunities beyond the Igare town centre, the group is unable to produce larger volumes to exploit these opportunities due to limited capacity. The ban of plastic bags also poses a challenge since the products have to be packaged in an opaque material for visibility. Other challenges include costly packaging and electricity interruptions.

BOX 4

Pitching on Banana by Igare Youth Development Cooperative

Emerging Value Chain Specific Issues

Cross-cutting and value chain specific issues were identified from the presentations; these are highlighted below:

a. Poultry farming:

Limited access to vaccination, pest and disease control services.

b. Potato processing:

Potato products processed by the youth are not known in the urban areas of Nyandarua and other parts of the country owing to the rural location of the processing plant and limited capacity to market the products beyond the rural location.

c. Banana processing:

Stagnation in scaling up due to weak market linkages for banana processed products outside Kisii County.

Establishing market demand for banana processed products is critical before investing in value addition infrastructure.

d. Vertical farming technologies

Youth need guidance on patenting of innovations in agriculture.

Financing of innovative technology targeting for slum dwellers needs to be explored.

Cost-benefit analysis for the innovation is crucial for product pricing and marketing

Cross-cutting issues

- (i) Youth lack information on how to access devolved funds at the ward level
- (ii) There is unclear policy on youth financing to ensure youth at the ward level benefit from the finances allocated for the youth.
- (iii) Packaging of processed products after the ban on plastic paper bags in Kenya is a challenge.
- (iv) There is uncertainty among the of youth on taking up agriculture and agro-processing as a full-time engagement as opposed to part-time and convenience engagement.



Youth agri-preneurs pitching their initiatives in poultry, potato and banana value chains

- (v) Governance of groups is critical for cohesion and sustainability of youth in agriculture.

The key issues for policy actions emerging from pitches include:

- (i) A need to provide alternatives on packaging materials for processed products following the ban on plastic bags.
- (ii) Competition from imports with locally processed products such as potato crisps.
- (iii) Need to create inclusive agribusiness models taking into account youth living with disabilities.
- (iv) Unclear policy for financing youth agricultural activities at the ward level; youth lack information on how to access devolved funds at the ward level.
- (v) Limited capacity for youth to establish demand and market processed products beyond their rural locations.
- (vi) Governance of groups is critical for cohesion and sustainability of youth in agriculture
- (vii) There is uncertainty of youth to take up and remain in agriculture and agro-processing as a full-time engagement as opposed to part-time or convenience engagement.

Key Policy Messages from Synthesis of Evidence

Dr. Odamé presented key policy messages from a synthesis of literature on youth employment creation in the agribusiness sector. The synthesis revealed that youth unemployment rate is at 22.2 per cent increasing the prospect of prolonged wait-hood, crime, desperation and radicalization. He however highlighted that specific youth attributes such as energy, enthusiasm, creativity and flexibility enable them to contribute positively to the development of agriculture.

The rising middle-class and expanding urban population with disposable income to spend on different kinds of food gives an opportunity to supply food products to county cities, an opportunity that youth can explore. An important projection that needs to be considered and planned for is the increased changes in the farming system due to pressure put on arable land. Therefore, a holistic transformation of the agricultural sector that encourages diversification along the value chains to appeal to global food markets and farming practices that demonstrate resilience to climate change will be needed.

Moreover, the youth need to strategically position themselves through attaining skills for enterprise development, exploring sustainable and inclusive means of financing, accessing new markets, engaging in research and extension and advocating for an enabling institutional and policy environment.

Dr. Odamé reiterated that the establishment of quality apprenticeship programme is imperative. There is a need to develop an apprenticeship policy framework taking into account the diversity of actors, public service support and as well as existing and prospective policies. Interventions to support apprenticeship would require a certain degree of public finance and the exploration of other financing options such as cost sharing arrangements.

Finally, he emphasized that strengthening institutions, redesigning governance arrangements and involving employers and trade unions in the governance process is a requisite for quality apprenticeship. He invited participants to contribute towards creating a quality apprenticeship programme supported by policy, public and Private Sector, and echo the voice to make policies work.

Key policy issues emerging from literature synthesis include

- 1 Inclusive solutions to unemployment that cater for the heterogeneity⁴ of youth.
- 2 Empowering youth through apprenticeship which takes into account informal systems for learning on the job.
- 3 Capacity building of human capital of emerging young farmers besides focusing on agricultural productivity is critical.
- 4 Intergenerational knowledge sharing and learning must be intentionally facilitated among old farmers and the youth.
- 5 Identifying concise and decent employment opportunities and wages for youth in agriculture.
- 6 Recognizing and rewarding meaningful contribution of initiatives driven by young people in agriculture.
- 7 Encouraging youth to take up responsibility and leadership in agriculture and agro-processing.

Breakout Sessions and Feedback

In this session, participants voluntarily joined one of the three pre-selected groups of value chains -poultry, banana and potato - to discuss existing and potential interventions targeting youth. The three value chains were selected on the basis that Trans Nzoia county government had past interventions targeting youth in these sub-sectors. There was also recognition that other counties were targeting similar value chains and this would allow cross-county learning to strengthen initiatives targeting youth.

The guiding questions for discussion were:

1. Based on the presentations today and your experience, how can Trans Nzoia County invest in a system that enhances youth employment creation through the selected value chains?
 2. Who are the stakeholders that can help Trans Nzoia County achieve the above interventions and identify the win-wins for each?
 3. Are there existing interventions in the counties that could be further integrated in this framework? Make those connections
- Each group was allowed to brainstorm, discuss and record feedback in a plenary session.

⁴Educated/uneducated, rural/urban, youth in conflict, young women, youth with disability

The results of the discussions were as follows:

Value Chain	Existing Opportunities and investments for Youth	Potential actors identified to support the value chain
Potato	<p>Youth are moderately involved in land preparation, planting, disease and pest control, transport and to a large degree processing of potatoes in the value chain. Awareness of relevant information and research as well as logistical planning is weak.</p> <p>Existing investment opportunities for youth consist of:</p> <p>Provision of agricultural extension and support services to farmers by youth as Trainers of Trainers;</p> <p>Multiplication and distribution of certified seed to farmers supported by KARLO; and</p> <p>Pest and disease control after training and certification by KEPHIS.</p> <p>Existing interventions in the county include:</p> <p>Farmer education and extension services provided by the County Government;</p> <p>Contract farming (including provision of certified seed, extension services, aggregation) and awarding best performed farmers by Khetias supermarket;</p> <p>Provision of production information, certified potato seed and linking farmers to markets by Mercy Corps; and</p> <p>Agricultural finance by Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) and Equity Bank.</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries to provide education and extension services;</p> <p>KARLO to facilitate multiplication of certified potato seed;</p> <p>KEPHIS to provide training and certification relating to pests and diseases control,</p> <p>Kenya Commercial Bank and Equity Group to fund youth in agribusiness;</p> <p>Kenya Bureau of Standards to certify processed products and;</p> <p>Fortune Credit Limited to fund youth in agribusiness.</p> <p>A mapping exercise on the state of potato farming in Trans Nzoia County would be necessary to identify farmers engaged in potato production and recognize areas that need support.</p>
Poultry	<p>There is a strong presence of youth in the production and marketing of poultry products and a weak presence in input supply and logistical support.</p> <p>Existing investment opportunities for the youth consist of:</p> <p>Construction of poultry housing and;</p> <p>Local feed formulation for poultry at grass root levels.</p> <p>Existing interventions in the county include:</p> <p>Provision of education and extension services by the County Department of Agriculture;</p> <p>Provision of market information via an information technology platform - Elgon Hub and;</p> <p>Training courses in agribusiness, record keeping as well as farmers' outreach programmes offered by Manor House Agricultural Centre.</p>	<p>Manor House Agricultural Centre to offer training in agribusiness and record keeping;</p> <p>County Government to facilitate Uwezo funds to support the youth;</p> <p>Elgon Hub to facilitate production and disseminate market information;</p> <p>ICIPE to provide training in poultry feed formulation and;</p> <p>Fortune Credit Limited to fund youth in agribusiness.</p>
Banana	<p>The engagement of youth in the banana value chain is weak in input supply and production and moderate in aggregation, marketing and processing.</p> <p>Existing investment opportunities for youth consist of:</p> <p>Multiplication and supply of planting material;</p> <p>Professional management of farms;</p> <p>Management of information hubs and;</p> <p>Aggregation and processing.</p> <p>Existing interventions in the counties include:</p> <p>Processing bananas into bread, buns and flour in Kisii and Kakamega counties and;</p> <p>Multiplication of tissue culture planting materials in Busia and Trans Nzoia Counties.</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture for technical training and capacity building;</p> <p>JKUAT and KARLO for multiplication of certified planting material;</p> <p>Manor House and Moi University for training youth in production;</p> <p>County departments of Trade and Cooperatives to facilitate marketing;</p> <p>County departments of ICT would take charge of information technological innovations;</p> <p>Anglican Development Services and other NGOs would be responsible for mobilization and capacity building of youth groups and;</p> <p>Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs responsible for youth fund would leverage financial support.</p> <p>Trans Nzoia County was urged to embrace a holistic approach to supporting the value chain, creating spaces for youth engagement and exploring new markets given that banana was a new commercial enterprise in the county.</p>

Panel Discussion



Further to the presentations, group discussions and feedback plenaries, a panel session was set up to reflect on policy and programme issues affecting employment creation for youth in agriculture and agro-processing. The panelists representing various authorities in agriculture policy and programmes made declarations and commitments. These would support youth to constructively participate in agriculture and establish agribusiness to create employment. The panelists comprised of:

1. Mr. David Osanya - County Director of Agriculture - Trans Nzoia
2. Hon. Elikana Kagunda - MCA and Chair for Committee on Agriculture, Trans Nzoia
3. Mr. David Mwangi - Director, Manor House Agricultural Training Centre, Trans Nzoia
4. Mrs. Ruth Ng'ang'a - Director, Department of Agribusiness, Kiambu
5. Mr. Kennedy Ogola - Deputy County Director of Agriculture (Crops)- Busia

Commitments

Busia County Deputy County Director of Agriculture (Crops) - Kennedy Ogola

Busia County committed to:

1. Offer technical capacity building for groups in production of banana planting materials.
2. Support formation of an information hub for agriculture and agro-processing.
3. Support fabrication of farm to market carriers to reduce post-harvest losses.
4. Support construction of banana ripening chambers and build the capacity of youth in sanitation and phytosanitary requirements.
5. Engage youth in design of agribusiness plans and proposal writing to generate income.

Kiambu County Director, Department of Agribusiness – Ruth Nganga

Kiambu County has developed an agricultural sector strategy that incorporated youth in agricultural development.

Youth are already being engaged in the

following ways:

1. Youth are trained as village-based extension service providers to supply farmers with inputs and provide agricultural information.
2. Through a project entitled “Reducing Distress Migration through Local Value Chain Development” funded by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) youth are engaged in agriculture to reduce rural-urban migration.
3. The county is supporting youth growing herbs and spices by supplying some youth with green-houses, value addition equipment and market linkages.
4. Inter-county collaborations to curb theft of agricultural produce
5. Exploring possibilities of engaging other counties to address challenges of packaging at a national level.

Manor House Agricultural Training Centre (MHATC) - Mr. David Mwangi

Manor House Agricultural Centre whose main focus is organic agriculture committed to:

1. Promoting youth capacity building through regular and short courses in crop and livestock production.
2. Providing training on one youth in each ward of Trans Nzoia County to become Trainer of Trainers (ToTs) and village-based extension service providers.

Trans Nzoia County Chairman County Committee for Agriculture - Hon. Elikana Kagunda

The committee for agriculture in Trans Nzoia committed to:

1. Ensuring youth are at the centre of processing and value addition investments.
2. Supporting establishment of agricultural information centers at the sub-county level
3. Supporting infrastructure development for agribusiness in the vocational training centers
4. Enhancing youth participation in policy discussions at the village level.

Trans Nzoia County Director of Agriculture - Mr. David Osanya

The Trans Nzoia County Department of Agriculture reiterated its commitment to youth by provision of the following activities;

1. County home economists to train youth in value addition.
2. County agricultural engineers to train youth in constructing poultry houses, poultry incubators, green houses and ripening chambers.
3. Support value addition in local poultry as stipulated in the five (5) year County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP).
4. Engage youth in hardening and preparation of banana planting material in the labs.
5. Engage youth in a structured approach to undertake consultancy services in agriculture and to professionally manage farms and agribusinesses on behalf of the Diaspora farmers.
6. Engage the county government to revamp the Vocational Training Centres at the ward level to incorporate a curriculum in agriculture and agro-processing for youth and identify large and small scale farmers to absorb youth trained in agriculture.
7. Engage the County Government through the Committee for Agriculture to allocate finances for youth in agriculture and make conditions favorable for youth to access the Youth Fund.
8. Engage the county government in seeking solutions for packaging of agro-processed products.
9. Engage youth through the National Agriculture and Rural Inclusive Growth Project to promote agribusiness among the youth.
10. Providing subsidies for youth engaging in agribusiness.

Closing Remarks and Next Steps

On behalf of the youth in Trans Nzoia, President of Pambazuka Youth Group, Mr. Bruce Cheti expressed gratitude to the organizers and other stakeholders for showing their support for youth in agriculture. He encouraged peer-to-peer learning and networking among the youth and the business community. He urged the members of County Assembly to table a bill on exemption of county levies for youth in agribusiness. He also encouraged youth to make use of Uwezo Funds to access finance and invest in agriculture.

On behalf of the organizers, Dr. Atela and Dr. Odame thanked the County Government of Trans Nzoia for hosting the *Utafiti Sera* county forum. They thanked all participants for making time to attend the workshop, PASGR and CABE for organizing the workshop and Hewlett Packard (HP) Foundation for funding policy dialogues for youth in agriculture. It was their hope that the county forum would enhance networking among various stakeholders to support youth employment creation in agriculture and agro-processing.

Dr. Odame noted that the *Utafiti Sera* dialogues in youth employment in agriculture and agro-processing had various deliverables. This consisted of the stakeholder mapping forum, a synthesis report and a number of forums. After this county forum, a national forum would be held to share lessons and experiences from the stakeholder mapping, literature synthesis and the county forum with parliamentarians and other strategic stakeholders for possible policy actions.

Other deliverables after the county forum were video clips, synthesized county proceedings and an enriched policy brief to share at the national level scheduled for second quarter of the year. He applauded the creativity of the young people and called on the youth leaders and other willing champions to support a bill on apprenticeship for youth employment in agriculture, based on the lessons shared by the Mantrix Entertainment group.



It was their hope that the county forum would enhance networking among various stakeholders to support youth employment creation in agriculture and agro-processing.



Annex 1: Agenda of the Day

First County Policy Dialogue on Youth Employment Creation in Agriculture and Agro Processing for Inclusive Growth in Kenya

Objective:

The objective of the forum is to share lessons, experiences and build consensus on policy recommendations which will enable counties to serve as centers of development in supporting youth employment creation in agriculture and agro-processing in Kenya.

Agenda

8.00-8.30am	Arrival /Registration – Micky Abachi & Mercy Nduati
8.30-8.50am	Introductions, acknowledgements and expectations – Eric Wafukho
8.50-9.00am	Narration – Mantrix Entertainment Group
9.00-9.20am	Opening remarks on <i>Utafiti Sera</i> County forum CABE Executive Director - Dr. Hannington Odame PASGR Programme Manager - Dr. Martin Atela PASGR Executive Director - Prof. Tade Aina
9.20-9.30am	Key note address: CEC - Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries, Trans Nzoia County
9.30-9.45am	Presentation on key policy messages - Dr. Hannington Odame
9.45-10.00am	Q&A
10.00-10.20am	Tea Break and photo session
10.20-10.30am	Skit, 'Youth at cross-roads' - Mantrix Entertainment Group
10.30-10.50am	Pitching of youth employment creation three value chains (potatoes, banana and poultry value chain); opportunities, challenges & recommendations Kisii banana processors - Mr. Kerongo Nyandarua potato processors - Mrs. Rose Kagondu Trans Nzoia Poultry entrepreneurs - Mr. Bruce Cheti Urban farming technologies - Ms. Elizabeth Onyango
10.50-11.00am	Introduction to break-out session - Elsie Kangai
11.00-1.00pm	Break-out session Youth employment opportunities in agriculture value chains: Issues and policy gaps
1.00-2.00pm	Lunch
2.00-3.00pm	Plenary session Group presentations -group representatives Q&A
3.00-4.30pm	Commitments for policy or actions /reflections All CECM - Agriculture representatives Private sector partner Development partner Financial institution
4.30 -4.35pm	Closing remarks - Youth from Trans Nzoia - TBD
4.35-4.50pm	Next steps - Dr. Martin Atela - Dr. Hannington Odame
4.50pm	Tea/Coffee
5.00-6.00pm	Networking/ nibble talk

List of participants

Name of participant	Position in Organization	Institution	County
Government			
Hon. Maria Nzomo	CECM Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries	County Executive Committee of Agriculture	Trans Nzoia
Mr. Edward Osanya	County Director of Agriculture	Ministry of Agriculture	Trans Nzoia
Hon. Aggrey Chemonges	CECM Gender, Youth and Sports	Ministry of Gender, Youth and Sports	Trans Nzoia
Mr. Kennedy Ogola	Deputy County Director of Agriculture (Crops)	County Department of Agriculture	Busia
Mrs. Ruth Nganga	Director Agribusiness	County Department of Agriculture	Kiambu
Youth champions			
Mr. Kevin Kocheli	Youth leader/Head of Secretariat	Elgon hub	Trans Nzoia
Mr. Oliver Wekesa Makhanu	Secretariat	Elgon hub	Trans Nzoia
Ms. Emily Nafula Simiyu	Secretariat	Elgon hub	Trans Nzoia
Ms. Roseline Nyaga	Secretary	Trans-Nzoia Youth Living With Disability	Trans Nzoia
Mr. Ojiambo A. Opiss	Chair person	Trans-Nzoia Youth Living With Disability	Trans Nzoia
Mr. John Soita	Chief Executive Officer	Green House Installation	Trans Nzoia
Mr. Nixon Mutuku	Director	Kamuja Limited	Trans Nzoia
Ms. Elizabeth Onyango	Ukulima Tech	Ukulima Tech	Nairobi
Poultry value chain			
Mr. Martin Khaemba	Poultry entrepreneur	Poultry entrepreneur	Trans Nzoia
Mr. Bruce Atsango Cheti	Chairperson	Pambazuka Youth Group	Trans Nzoia
Mr. Caleb Seme	Chairman	Keiyo Ward Youth CBO	Trans Nzoia
Mr. Cornelius Situma	Chairperson	Mbanacho Muungano Youth Group	Trans Nzoia
Mr. Emmanuel Masika	Secretary General	Pambazuka Youth CBO	Trans Nzoia
Potato value chain			
Mr. Wycliffe Juma	Chairperson	Kwanza Visionary Youth Group	Trans Nzoia
Mrs. Rose Kagondu	Chairlady	Shauri Vision Women Group	Nyandarua
Ms. Joypure Muthoni	Chairlady-Youth	Shauri Vision Women Group	Nyandarua
Mr. Joseph Kariuki		Shauri Vision Women Group	Nyandarua
Mr. Brian Lumbasi	Self	Youth Agri-preneur	Trans Nzoia
Banana Value Chain			
Mr. Dan Kerongo	Chairman	Igare Youth Development Cooperative	Kisii
Ms. Angela Munene	Chief Executive Officer	Zion Swift	Nairobi
Mr. Noel Makokha	Secretary	Mukhwano Youth Group	Trans Nzoia
Agricultural Training Centres			
Mr. David Mwangi	Director	Manor House Agricultural Centre	Trans Nzoia
County Assembly			
Hon. Anne Wanjiku	MCA Trans Nzoia	County Committee for Agriculture	Trans Nzoia
Hon. Elikana Kagunda	Chair	County Committee for Agriculture	Trans Nzoia
Hon. Mercy Tanui	Vice chair	County Committee for Agriculture	Trans Nzoia
Hon. Bruce Chebo			

Name of participant	Position in Organization	Institution	County
Development partners			
Mr. Victor Kiplangat	Consultant, Youth in Agribusiness	Agri-profocus- Kenya	Nairobi
Financial partners			
Ms. Elizabeth Nasimiyu	Branch Manager	Fortune Credit Limited	Trans Nzoia
Community Institutions			
Mr. Peter Mudy	Director	Anglican Development Services- Western	Kakamega
Mr. Godfrey Kibiwot	F.O	Anglican Development Services- North Rift	Uasin Gishu
Fred Simiyu	Chairman	Faith Based Organisation	Trans Nzoia
Mr. Yusuf Shaban	Chairperson	Pangani Mosque Youth CBO	Trans Nzoia
Media			
Mr. Charles Kemosi	Radio reporter	North Rift Radio	Trans Nzoia
Mr. George Njoroge	Television reporter	K24 Television	Trans Nzoia
Mr. Collins Shityabai	Television reporter	Citizen Television	Trans Nzoia
Mr. Mikee Musikoyo	Camera man	Citizen Television	Trans Nzoia
Mr. Martin Ndiema	Radio reporter	Radio Maisha	Trans Nzoia
John Mbuchu	Videographer	Hollywood Media	Trans Nzoia
Charles Mwangi	Photographer	Self-proprietor/own	Trans Nzoia
Organizers			
Dr. Martin Atela	Policy & Engagement	PASGR	Nairobi
Radwa Saad	Research Associate	PASGR	Nairobi
Dr. Hannington Odame	Executive Director	CABE	Nairobi
Elsie Kangai	Project Manager	CABE	Nairobi
Lucy Adoyo	Research Associate	CABE	Nairobi
Mercy Nduati	Communications & Network facilitator		Nairobi
Micky Abachi		CABE	Nairobi
Proposed facilitator			
Erick Wafukho	Chief Executive Officer	Alem Consult	Trans Nzoia