Agriculture contributes by more than $\frac{1}{4}$ to Kenyan economy (GDP)

It provides more than 18% of formal employment in Kenya

Emerging policy opportunities in the agriculture sector

TVET education
Growing youth population
Rising middle class urban population
Value Chain investments
Food markets (global & regional)
Consumption patterns

Under-exploited opportunities in agriculture sector

Diversification
New markets
Climate-smart agriculture
Post harvest technologies
Partnerships
Risk capital
Mentoring
Youth who need employment include:

- Unemployed female youth: 1,220,000
- Unemployed aged 18-25: 1,150,000
- Unemployed rural youth: 1,150,000
- From low income households: 750,000
- With low or no education: 255,000
- Unemployed with tertiary education: 18,000

67% of Kenya’s youth (15-29yrs) are unemployed or under-employed

(World Bank 2016)

Rationale for Youth Apprenticeship in Agriculture

Why involve youth in Agriculture?

- Youth heterogeneity ==⇒ Diversity
- Youth technological savviness ==⇒ Innovation
- Youth learning and practicing ==⇒ Mentorship
- Youth climate change response ==⇒ Resilience
- Youth policy alignment ==⇒ Inclusiveness

Obstacles to engaging youth in agriculture

- Unattractiveness of the sector
- Inadequate skills and technologies
- Lack of mentors and role models
- Inadequate capital assets
- Low wages
- Labor-intensive
- Uncoordinated policies

Why apprenticeship?

- Inter-generational partnerships
- Retention in agriculture
- A knowledge-based economy
- Experiential learning
- Improved wages
- Resilience
- Rebranding culture
- Inclusive policies

Policy Recommendations

Access to apprenticeships
Providing incentives to enhance inclusiveness of apprenticeship for diverse youth

Attractiveness of apprenticeships
Reforming the curriculum especially to include informal learning opportunities

Governing apprenticeships
Coordination at the county level of youth employment programmes

Financing apprenticeships
Creating an apprenticeship fund to support employers and apprentices investing/pursuing apprenticeship in agriculture

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
Incorporating a need assessment component to analyze the labor market and industry needs to assist the youth to prepare and respond to emerging market opportunities in agriculture.