



Youth Eager to Explore Careers in Agriculture Amidst Economic Challenges, Survey Highlights Key Roadblocks

In the face of daunting economic challenges arising from various shocks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the persistent cost of living crisis, a significant number of young individuals are turning to agriculture as a potential career path.

However, a recent survey on Youth engagement in Policy and Access to Productive Resources conducted by Generation Africa has revealed that nearly 75 percent of these aspiring youth are deterred by inadequate financing options and the difficulty of accessing agricultural land.

The survey findings underscore the urgent need to address these roadblocks and encourage greater youth engagement in agri-food systems. As young people represent a crucial demographic in shaping the future of agriculture, immediate and innovative solutions are being sought to enable their participation in the sector.

One of the proposed solutions is the establishment of youth savings and credit cooperatives (SACCOs), which facilitate young individuals in borrowing funds within their networks. By fostering financial inclusivity, these saccos can empower aspiring youth farmers to overcome the challenge of limited financing options, thus providing them with the necessary resources to kickstart their agricultural ventures.

Addressing the issue of land access is equally vital to foster youth engagement in agriculture. Digital land platforms that use innovative mapping technologies can play a crucial role in identifying and documenting unused agricultural land. By connecting aspiring young farmers with landowners willing to lease or sell their properties, these platforms create opportunities for the youth to access agricultural land and initiate their farming endeavors.

tenure reforms that prioritize access to land for the youth and eliminate ownership barriers will significantly accelerate youth participation in agricultural transformation. By granting easier access to land resources, young farmers can invest in long-term agricultural projects with confidence and dedication.

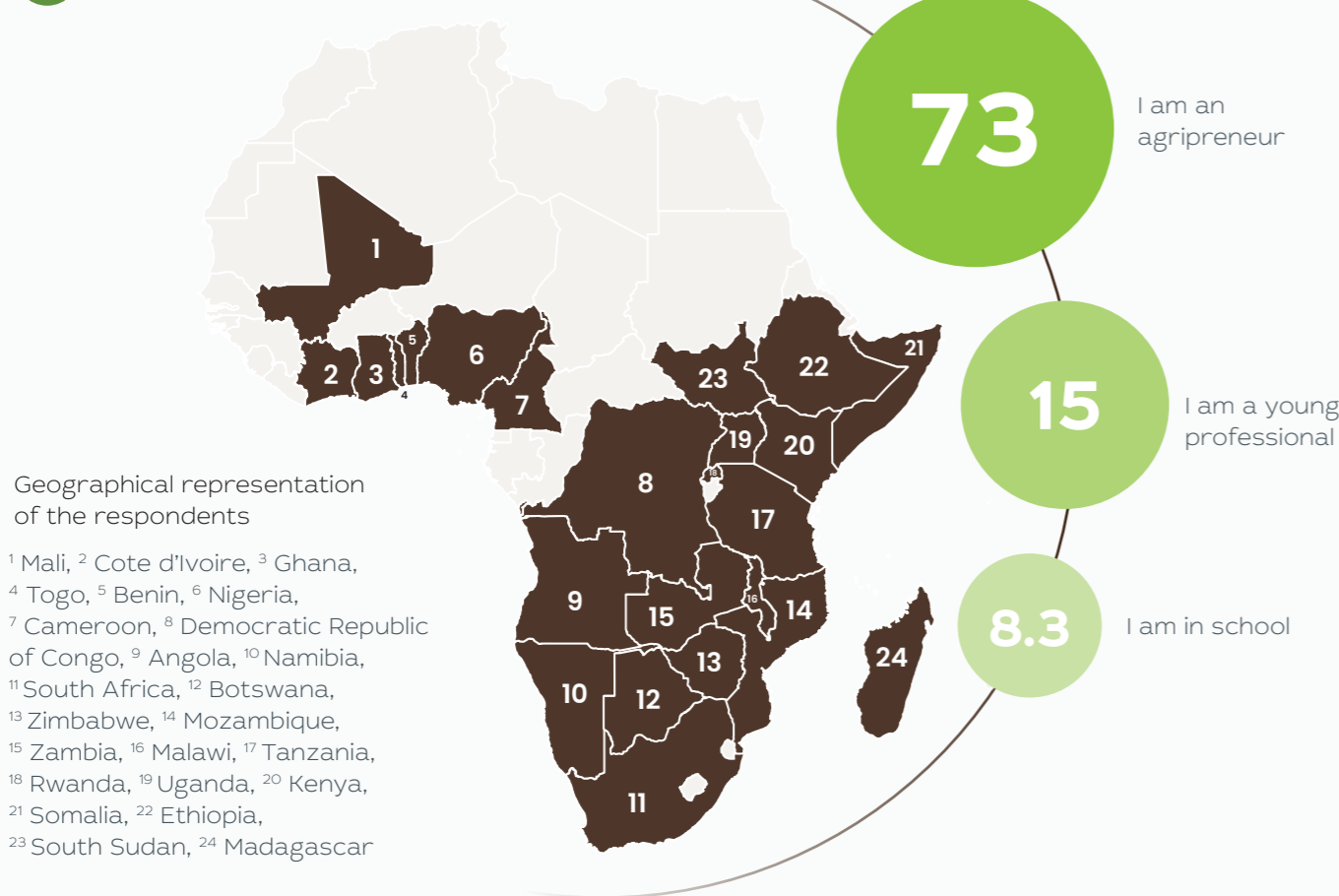
Furthermore, peer-to-peer lending platforms are seen as another ideal avenue to address the pressing issue of limited access to finance. Such platforms leverage technology to connect lenders directly with borrowers, eliminating intermediaries and making capital more accessible to the youth, who would otherwise face significant barriers when seeking financial support for their agricultural pursuits.

To ensure the preservation of agricultural land for future generations, the adoption of land trusts is being advocated. These trusts serve as protective measures against development and help safeguard agricultural lands, making them available for youth farmers to cultivate and contribute to food security and sustainability.

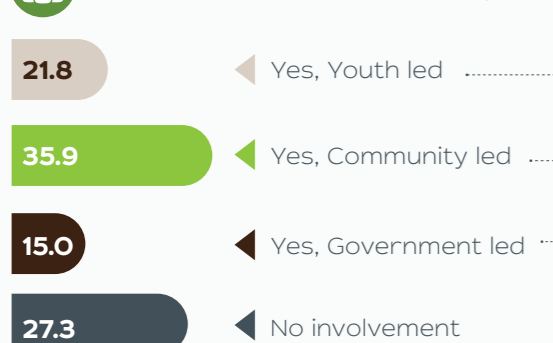
Beyond addressing the challenges of finance and land access, engaging the youth in policy development processes is of paramount importance. By actively involving young individuals in shaping laws and policies that affect the agricultural sector, their voices will be heard, and their interests better represented. Inclusivity in policy-making will ultimately lead to laws that work to the advantage of the youth and foster a conducive environment for agricultural growth and innovation.

Additionally, implementing land

Activities undertaken by the respondents (%)



Youth's Participation in policy (%)



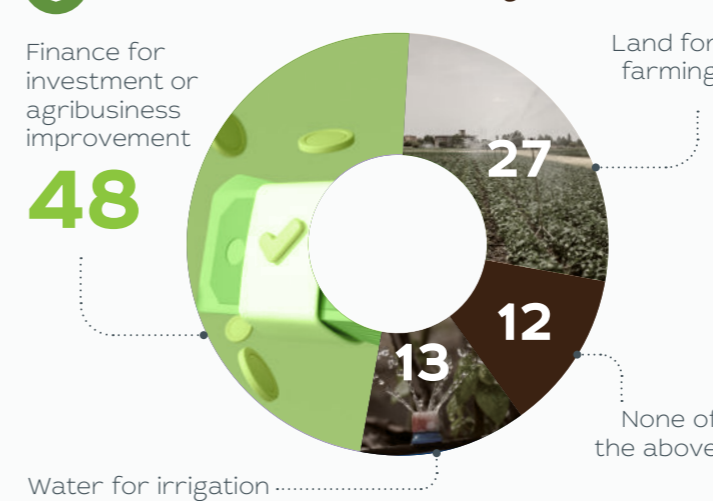
For those who had participated, there were three categories:

Youth led: About 21.8% had been part of policy processes under initiatives that were led by youth collectives or youth networks. They had been part of a forum or a discussion that was organized by the youth collective or network. In these occasions, youths are better placed to give their thoughts as they are put together with their peers

Community led: In community led efforts, youths participate as part of a larger community group that brings together different ages and genders. About 35.9% of the youths had participated in community-led policy initiatives

Government led: During policy formulation or drafting of bills, government may create for a for public participation. About 15% of the youths had participated in these types of policy engagement activities

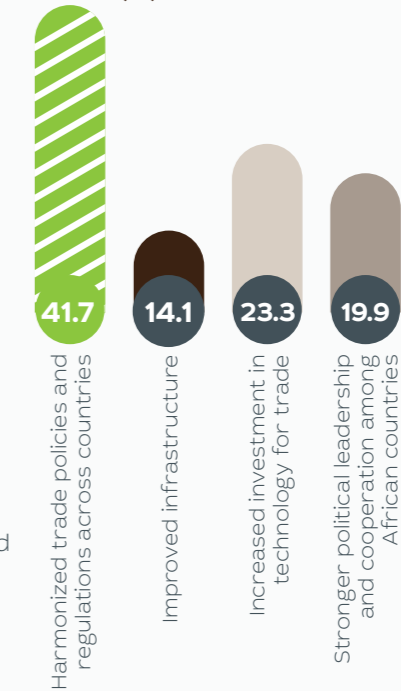
Resource priorities according to youth (%)



% of youth were not sure of the presence of youth networks



What will increase cross border trade (%)



“We don't really have a standardized or harmonized process in Africa for us to trade with the same kind of quality of the produce. So if we if we could have like sort of a blueprint as a continent towards the free Africa trade and being able to trade across border in terms of this kind of standards that needs to be in place...”

Kenya, Female

Social pressure in against pursuing agriculture %

