YOUTH AND AGRIBUSINESS IN ZAMBIA: OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

Presented By
Antony Chapoto, PhD

Northern Province Youth Symposium
November 23rd, 2018,
Kasama, Zambia
YOUTH BULGE IN ZAMBIA

65.1% less than age 25
THE YOUTH BULGE

- Demographic dividend or demographic bomb?

Headache or Opportunity?
THE YOUTH BULGE

Headache if ........

- Fail to harness their potential
- Fail to mobilize, incentivize, energize and equip them for transformation
- Fail to tap the resourcefulness and the dynamism of this demographic
- Fail to invest and create decent jobs for them
- Fail to reduce poverty, solve low productivity issues
OVERALL AND YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN ZAMBIA, Q1-Q3 2017

Source: CSO’s January 2018 monthly bulletin.
YOUTH LIVELIHOOD OPTIONS

62% < 25 years

Non-farm

5%

• Post-secondary education
• Invested in skills
• Will find decent jobs

Pulled out of agriculture

25%

• Primary/secondary education
• No land; no skills
• Will find poverty jobs- hawking, etc.

Pushed out of agriculture

20%

• No access to land, finance, etc.
• Poor access to markets, infrastructure, etc.
• Will just be kept in agriculture

Pushed into agriculture

75%

Farming

50%

• Good access to land, finance, markets, infrastructure etc.
• Will find agriculture viable option

Pushed into agriculture

25%

Adapted from Muli & Jayne, 2017
DISTRIBUTION OF YOUTH EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR

Different sector of agriculture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Percent Distribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tertiary</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
YOUTH PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS AGRICULTURE

Agriculture “not cool”

- Dirty
- Not appealing - no prestige (status) regardless of the economic outcomes
- Not perceived as a viable business initiative
- Not an attractive career path
- Offers no opportunity for a better life
- Employer of last resort (urban-rural youth)

Youth
Agriculture is critical for:

- Employment
- Economic development
- Food & nutrition security
- Needs to be inclusive

Creating lots of opportunities

MEGA TRENDS

- Rapid population growth
- Labor force exit from farming
- Rise of 'investor farmers' / changing farm sizes
- Rise of food demand and rising incomes
- Large-scale capital intensive investments
- Rapid urbanisation and rising incomes
- Rapid food system transformation, including market and processing (FC)
- Rising land scarcity

Large-scale capital intensive investments

Labor force exit from farming

Rise of 'investor farmers' / changing farm sizes

Rise of food demand and rising incomes

Rapid urbanisation and rising incomes

Rising land scarcity

Rapid food system transformation, including market and processing (FC)
ZAMBIA: RAINFALL, SOIL AND CROP SUITABILITY BY AGRO-ECOLOGICAL REGION

Lots of Opportunities for Inclusive Agricultural Development and Growth
YAWNING REGIONAL MARKET

YES, WE ALL CAN!!!

YES, THE YOUTH CAN
LOTs OF OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURE

1. Consumption services
2. Input and service providers
3. Wholesaling/Retailing
4. Primary production
5. Secondary processing
6. Primary processing
7. Bulking and trading
8. Primary production
Agro-dealers/extension/technical services
- Horticulture
- Crops:
  - soybeans
  - groundnuts
  - maize
  - Cassava
  - Rice
  - Beans etc.
- Livestock
- Aquaculture
- Peanut butter
- Cooking oil (soya beans, sunflower, cotton, g/nuts, etc)
- Fruit juices
- Abattoirs
- Grain shelling
- Milling
Value addition

- Packaging, ago-processing
  - meat and its products
  - Hides
  - canning (tomatoes, mangoes, cashew, and pine)
  - milling (rice, maize, soybeans, wheat)
TRADING/WHOLESALE
RETAIL

Chain store, independent markets, supermarkets, transport, consumption
- Be Employed
- Be an Employer
Enablers - Successful Youth Agri-business Entrepreneurs

- Use of ICTs – phones, internet, etc
- Business acumen
- Family support
- Private sector support
- Access to finance
- Access to markets
- Government support (e.g., e-voucher, training etc.)
- Diversified business portfolio to minimize risks
- Agro dealing, hardware, grain trading, transport, farmers (crops/livestock)
POLICY OPTIONS

1. Concerted and highly focused effort by government, private sector and civil society needed to ensure inclusive economic growth and social improvements.

2. Promote employment growth in sectors that can absorb the lion’s share of the youth [Ag. sector #1), Construction, transport and communication are the next tier.

4. Improve employability of youth (enhance technical and non-technical skills).

5. Facilitate entrepreneurship.
OUR PASSION OUR SUCCESS
Tomorrow Belongs to People Who Prepare for it Today -- African Proverb
THANK YOU