Assessing the opportunities and challenges for employment in the cassava value chains in Zambia

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Background and Objectives

- Currently there are over 165 million youths (15-24 yrs) in the labor market
- In the next 10 years over 180% of youths will enter the labor market in SSA
- Increased population SSA = an opportunity and challenge
- Agrifood systems offer opportunities for decent rural employment in SSA

Objectives

1. To analyze the economic performance of various actors of the value chain
2. Identify the challenges affecting employment creation in the cassava value chain
3. Analyze distribution of employment at the various stages of the value chain

Data and Methods

- Primary data used, the KII, and the FDGs, Household survey (RALS 2015)
- Secondary data from report
- Used the value chain approach to assess: the economic performance of each actor, opportunities and challenges for creating decent employments

Results and Conclusions

Challenges

- Lack of an effective demand for cassava and its products
- Lack of marketable surplus due to low productivity
- Lack of storage and trade infrastructure
- Limited access to finance

Opportunities

- Government’s interest is high now (and managed to get the loan from AfDB to support cassava value chain development)
- Private sector shown interest, Zambia breweries, premiercon, the mines

Conclusions

- Cassava subsector has potential and can contribute to creating decent jobs for the youth and women

Recommendations

- Government should consider developing a set of policy measures that can help enhance an effective demand
- Improve awareness on the use of improved varieties
- Improving knowledge on cassava production
- Improve supply chain efficiencies by strengthening farmer organizations, and clustering processors and traders, ZANACA
- Develop market and trade infrastructure such as bulking facilities and roads
- Government should consider offering duty free for imported cassava processing equipment

Table: Types of employment and number associates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VC Actor</th>
<th>Total number of workers</th>
<th>Youth (Nu) (Nu of total)</th>
<th>Type of employment</th>
<th>Average Nu of workers per enterprise</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Input supplier</td>
<td>26 (11.38%)</td>
<td>69 - 31 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>680 (36.5%)</td>
<td>80 - 20 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trader</td>
<td>24 (88.8%)</td>
<td>67 - 33 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processor</td>
<td>29 (26.90%)</td>
<td>2 - 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Retailer</td>
<td>14 (28.6%)</td>
<td>100</td>
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</tbody>
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- Youths are the majority employed across the actors
- Family labour still dominates expect in the processing sector
- The sector with higher potential for creating jobs in Processing sector

Fig 1: Population Pyramid for Sub-Saharan Africa

Source: http://populationpyramid.net/sub-saharan-africa/

Fig 2: Types of employment and number associates

Source: Kabwe et al. 2016

Fig 3: Population Pyramid for Zambia

Source: http://populationpyramid.net/zambia/

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