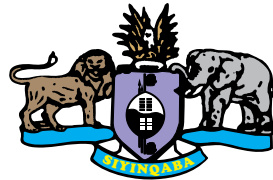


YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURE STUDY REPORT SUMMERY

CONDUCTED BY SWAZILAND NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL UNION (SNAU) IN
COLLABORATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE (MoA)

AUGUST 2015



INTRODUCTION

- In Swaziland, it has been observed that the farming community is aging
- There are very few entrants into agriculture [particularly the youth]
- The agricultural sector lacks a proper succession plan due to low youth participation
- During SNAU meetings, it has been reported that there is low youth participation in agriculture
- Hence, the need for commissioning this study on 'Youth in Agriculture Development'

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the study was to assess the participation of Swaziland youth in agriculture.

The objectives of the study were to:

1. Identify reasons youth participate in agriculture development.
2. Investigate challenges faced by youth in participating in agriculture

3. Determine the opportunities for youth to participate in agriculture
4. Identify policy gaps that affect youth participation in agriculture
5. Establish capacity building interventions that can be made in tandem with youth participation in agriculture
6. Identify links that could be forged with institutions to promote youth participation in agriculture

METHODOLOGY

- Survey using closed ended questionnaire [Youth, n=494]
- Focus Groups Discussion – from all the 17 RDAs across Swaziland (> 38 FDGs)
- Face to face stakeholder interviews e.g. Government Ministries / Departments; Government Parastatals and NGOs
- Document / Content analysis – identify policy gaps on agriculture on youth
- Selected case studies – CYDP, Gege Youth club,

Ngwempisi Training centre etc

YOUTH PARTICIPATION

- Generally, youth is not participating in agriculture (72.9%)
- Only 27% participates; in subsistence & commercial farming (52%)
- Mainly growing vegetables (32.8%)
- Participate because they like farming (44%) & generate income (31.5%)
- Some participate because of unemployment & pay school fees

YOUTH NON-PARTICIPATION

- Did agriculture at school (33.2%)
- Not involved at selling of produce & profit sharing
- Loss of cultural practice 'kus-isela'
- Farming is labour intensive especially cotton production
- Negative perception (farming as a struggling

profession, misuse of agriculture tools at school, children being overworked) thus opt for white collar jobs

- Land / projects ownership / securing land for farming
- Scarcity of water
- Lack of capital and collaterals
- Inadequate extension services
- Socialization of young people
- Youth is lazy, impatient, unstable, hooked by social activities: social media, alcohol, soccer, TV etc.
- Wide age difference in association (15-35 years) causing conflict.

YOUTH CAPACITY BUILDING, LINKAGES & POLICIES

- There is need for Capacity building interventions: providing training on financial and technical aspects of farming.
- Effective youth **participation** in agriculture can be achieved by linkage of all institutions

involved in training of agriculturists.

- Most of the agriculture policies do not fully take youth into consideration
- Generally, Youth is not represented during the formulation of the agriculture policies;
- The National Youth Policy does not consider youth involved in agriculture.
- There is minimum impact of the CYDP at grassroots level due to limited coverage

RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOVERNMENT

- Involve youth in every policy formulation to cater for their interest
- Each policy must have a clear policy statement and clear strategies on youth.
- Revive the Inter-Ministerial Committee
- Youth initiatives must put the interest of the youth first.
- Provision of subsidies for youth programmes must be encouraged - inputs such as fertilizers and lime

MESSAGE TO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE [2/11]

- Agriculture policy must have a clear policy statement and clear strategies on youth
- The Ministry of Agriculture must formulate a youth policy in agriculture
- A youth summit on farming to solicit their interest
- Educational campaigns using successful young farmers (youth modelling)

MESSAGE TO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

- Increase extension officers or have extension officers dedicated to youth in farming.
- Stage agricultural competitions regionally & nationally
- Increase programmes for the youth or expand and intensify the coverage and programmes of the CYDP

- The Children & Youth Development Programme (CYDP) should organize activities such as the farmers' field days and youth days

RECOMMENDATIONS TO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- Speed up the publication of the land policy to ensure access to land by the youth
- The land policy can enhance the leasing of government farms to the youth

RECOMMENDATIONS TO MINISTRY OF SPORTS, CULTURE & YOUTH AFFAIRS

- The youth policy is silent about the youth in farming thus there is a need to revisit it so that it considers the youth in farming
- Have a focus person responsible for youth in agriculture.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO MINISTRY OF EDUCATION & TRAINING

- Encourage youth to enrol in agriculture from primary school - as early as grade 1
- In fact all schools should offer agriculture & should be a compulsory (back bone of country's economy)
- Schools having agriculture organize activities such as the farmers' field days.
- Agriculture tools and the garden should not be used to punish students as these create a negative attitude
- School agriculture curriculum has to emphasize the practical component of the subject

RECOMMENDATIONS TO AGING FARMERS & PARENTS

- Introduce agricultural technology in farming
- Involve youth in sharing profits.
- Socialize girls in all farming enterprises such as livestock herding and milking.

- Revive cultural practices like kuisela
- Do not overwork the youth -negative attitude
- Farmers must have a clear succession plan
- Commercialize farming & show that it is profitable
- Introduce lighter management practices such as the use of herbicides and genetically modified crops

RECOMMENDATIONS TO YOUNG FARMERS & YOUTH

- Take advantage of growing crops such as cotton as financial and technical support and market are available.
- Grow crops like sugar beans, yellow maize, onions, potatoes, carrots and baby vegetables as their supply is limited yet demand is high in the market.
- Consider value addition to agricultural product such as tomatoes and maize.
- Forged links with relevant institutions to get support in farming

- Form schemes; associations and clubs

RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOVERNMENT PARASTATALS

- Marketing Boards: NAMBoard, NMC, SDB, SMI, SCB should engage farmers in determining selling price instead of imposing
- UNISWA – Faculty of Agriculture & Consumer Sciences: harness mentorship and job shadowing at least for a year for graduate so that the financiers can have faith in youth

RECOMMENDATIONS TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

- Consider alternative means of securing loans by youth without demanding collateral from the youth which they do not have such as
- Bank guarantees,
 - Youth that have done a mentorship programme or job shadowing

RECOMMENDATIONS TO NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Educational campaigns to attract youth in farming
- The non-governmental organizations such as SNAU and SWAFUCU (but not limited to) in agriculture must establish a wing or programmes for the youth.
- Capacitate the youth with various skills in order to be effectively engaged in agriculture.
- SWAGAA should continue to clarify the meaning of Children's rights – working & beating
- Overlap of objectives and target groups (cliente) on some of agricultural organizations such as SNAU and SWAFUCU needs attention

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