Impact of youths rural-urban migration on the agricultural sector in Uganda and policy reforms.

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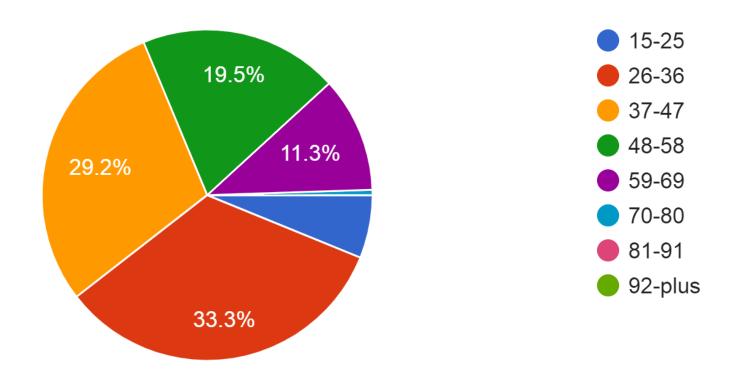


Introduction:

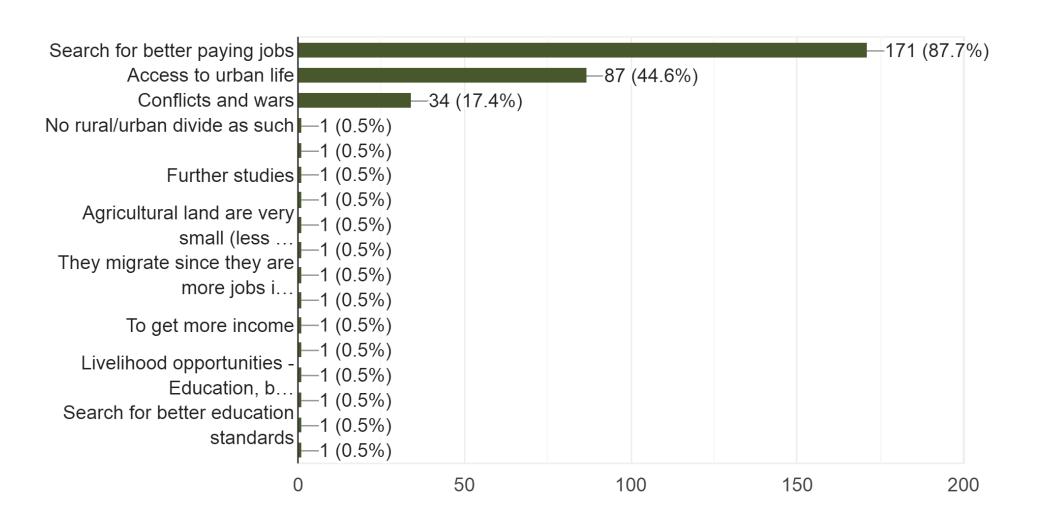
This presentation is based on the findings from a survey (https://bit.ly/2mgCWSm) conducted online. A total of 197 responded to the survey



Survey responses by Age Range



Why youths migrate from Rural Communities to Urban centres?



Why youths are not so much interested in engaging in Agriculture?

- Because Agriculture is not profitable
- Because of Lack of information
- Because Agriculture is of low standard people
- Because of Lack of land
- Because of Lack of tangible skills

How the youth rural-urban migration is affecting the Agricultural sector.?

- a) Reduced labour force to meet the labour demands in agricultural fields
- Reduction in agricultural production and this has led to increased famine
- c) There has been a reduction in food supply hence increased food prices
- d) Increased food imports which has led to increased unemployment
- e) Increased agricultural thefts
- f) Increased land grabbing of unutilized land
- g) Increased tree cutting for charcoal and brick burning.

What the government needs to do to attract more youths into the Agricultural Sector?

- 1) Be a key partner in promoting and Making Agriculture data more open at all levels by following the FAIR Principle (Findable; Accessible; Interoperable; and Reusable)
- 2) Give positive attention to rural youth mobilization and capacity development, design training projects that aim at attitude change than just giving theoretic information (more practical vocational training in the agriculture field), and maintain rural youth through improved rural basic infrastructure and services (infrastructural support like electricity, good access roads, telecommunication, finance and training facilities in the rural areas can help to curtail the rural-urban migration).
- 3) Promote profitability of agricultural products and improve access to national and international markets through community based small scale co-operatives and affordability of agricultural loans with low interest rates. Use of Interest free Agricultural loan schemes and subsidies farm inputs can motivate most youth to go back to farming.

Cont... What the government needs to do to attract more youths into the Agricultural Sector?

4) Promote Agriculture mechanisation, / agricultural industrialization through skill development / contract farming with private sector, promotion of sustainable technologies such as affordable access to internet without cost limitation (easy access to advanced information on good practices) and building irrigation facilities for all year round cultivation as opposed to seasonal / traditional agricultural methods, allowing youths to participate in all the value addition chain steps, ensure low cost materials needed for several stages of value chains.

Cont... What the government needs to do to attract more youths into the Agricultural Sector?

- 5) Allocate more budget to agricultural extension services that reach to smallholder farmers aimed at reducing agricultural production loses (insurance for family, health, crops) for stability. Invest more and show a total commitment to having young people gainfully employed in agriculture related businesses.
- 6) Policy setting and enforcement of law that encourage local agricultural sector growth.
- 7) Routine Rehabilitation of rural feeder roads for product evacuation, and ensure security for investing in agriculture in rural areas

Statement based on survey finds

Higher internet charges and Government policy of taxing social media is limiting interaction, key information access and knowledge sharing amongst farmers in Uganda.

Making Agriculture attractive to the youths and build confidence among young persons in considering Agriculture as a profitable venture, requires: making Agriculture information completely open by following FAIR Principle (Findable; Accessible; Interoperable; and Reusable), developing policies and laws which promote gainful Agriculture, building capacities of small-scale rural farmers, recognizing farmers at all levels as key partners in development, providing key incentives, developing key infrastructures in rural communities, creating and opening up markets for Agricultural products and services.

Thank you

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- Thank you everyone for listening to me.

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