

MORE ABOUT FOOD SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION PATHWAYS - PARALLEL SESSION  
SCALING-UP YOUTH-LED PROGRAMMES: CALL TO ACTION

### Background

The youth population is expanding, food systems are in a state of transformation, and global challenges to feed the 9 billion and climate change will affect people around the world. While to some youth can be considered as groups that bear the brunt of negative impacts, they are also increasingly considered as the key drivers of change in society. They can be capable of tackling these challenges and altering the status quo. The voice of the youth is crucial in validating existing or identifying alternative pathways to transform agri-food systems. By bringing various stakeholders together, who have experience in this field, synergies can be created and new actions identified. This requires action and partnership modalities (between private & banking sector, civil society, policy makers and knowledge institutions) for joint action.

### The focus of this session

During the previous parallel session 'Disruptive Innovation and Youth for Zero Hunger 2030?' on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August we would have discussed and mapped several ambitious programmes related to youth employment and /or entrepreneurship and the approaches used.

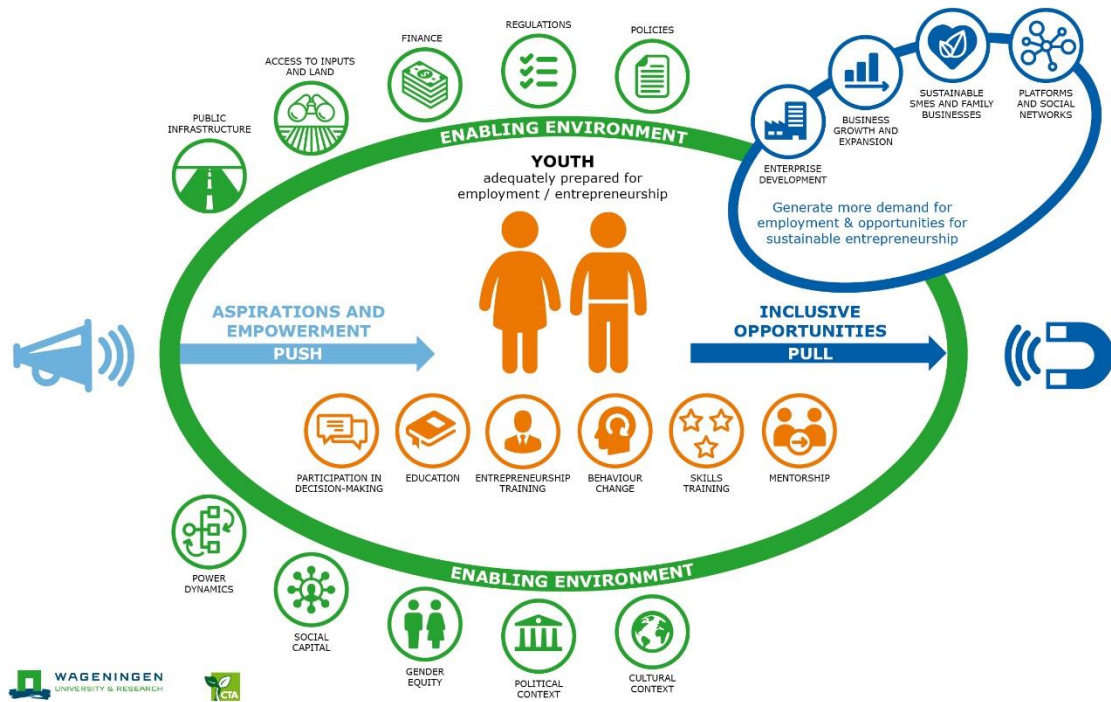
In this parallel session on '**Scaling-up Youth-Led Programmes**' we will explore how to draw from current approaches to achieve long-term ambitions and goals. These ambitions are not trivial: the G20 has pledged to support the African Union to *double the total productivity and increase youth employment by 30% in the agricultural sector by 2030*. The Jobs for Youth in Africa strategy of the African Development Bank aims to *create 25 million jobs and equip 50 million youth by 2025*.

In coming from present interventions to ambitious goals, we need to identify how to get there and what opportunities and challenges lie along the way. Young leaders representing various segments in the agri-food system will share their experiences, indicate the critical success factors and highlight the pitfalls to be avoided to take youth programmes to scale. In a number of short key notes, these young experts will address the questions: Where should the focus be in the future? What essential issues do we need to keep in mind? What are the potential synergies and/or trade-offs? What are the connections with other SDGs? Which kinds of alliances and partnerships are possible to enable sustainable solutions that benefit youth?

Beyond questioning individualistic and supply oriented approaches from an economic viewpoint, using the framework (see below) we shall explore their aspirations for the future and their actual agency when pursuing work and entrepreneurial opportunities while navigating uncertainty in the agricultural sector. Which assumptions of the transformation pathway for engaging youth need to be verified and who should join forces?

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**Supply & demand factors impacting youth employment & entrepreneurship**



**Contributing to the transformation pathway**

After listening to the interventions of the youth leaders and building on the results from the parallel session on 30 August, participants will engage in an interactive session. They will be asked to reflect on what is working and what can be done differently. Which transformation pathways can lead to the achievement of the targets set? Who is willing to join forces to make a leap forward? By bringing various stakeholders together and listening to the voice of youth, we aim to explore new alliances that are willing to effectively collaborate and create synergies. Such collaboration will be necessary to create conditions for innovations in the agri-food system so that young women and men can thrive and achieve the vision 2030.

**Programme (tentative)**

- Welcome & introduction
- Recap session 30 August
- 5 minute pitches: Opportunities and challenges of interventions according to youth – what would / should investors / donors keep and what would / should they do differently?
- Q&A

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- Interactive session: participants explore how they can contribute to the transformation pathway
- Action: who wants to follow-up? When? How?
- Reflection youth and take home messages

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