



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCLUSION OF YOUTH IN EXTENSION: GUATEMALA, NIGER AND RWANDA



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What

The Feed the Future Developing Local Extension Capacity (DLEC) conducted studies in [Guatemala](#), [Niger](#) and [Rwanda](#) to analyze the inclusion of youth in extension and advisory services (EAS), both as providers and recipients of the services. The studies provided recommendations for donors, policymakers and extension providers to strengthen the inclusion of youth in EAS.

Why

According to the World Bank, even if countries have suitable conditions for economic growth, the job market in developing countries could not absorb the growing number of youth projected to become eligible for jobs¹. Guatemala, Niger, and Rwanda have sizable youth populations, particularly in rural areas, and have largely agrarian economies. These studies provided a landscape analysis to design pilot activities to strengthen the inclusion of youth in extension to improve their livelihoods and increase the effectiveness of EAS systems.

How do we define youth?

The United Nations defines youth as those between 15-24 years of age. USAID uses a similar definition, with youth being those between the 10 to 29-year age range, with a general programmatic focus on those aged 15 to 24. Guatemala's national youth policy notes different definitions of youth, but focuses the policy on those aged 13-30 years. In Niger, youth is defined as those between the ages of 15 and 35, in line with the African Youth Charter. Rwanda's national youth policy defines youth as people between ages 14-35.

How

DLEC conducted literature reviews, key informant interviews and field visits to understand youth in extension programming in the three countries. DLEC used USAID's 5Rs Framework² to analyze the *roles* of actors, the network of *relationships*, *resources*, and *rules* which produce *results* for youth in EAS.

¹ World Bank. (2018). *Labor Markets*. Retrieved from: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/labormarkets>

² Gray, J., D. Grover, and S. Rivas. (2018). *Local Systems Framework Learning Note and Presentation - Experiences from the USAID/Honduras Funded Transforming Market Systems (TMS) Activity*. Tegucigalpa: Dexis Consulting Group. ACDI/VOCA, USAID/Honduras.



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Outcomes

The following actions are recommended to improve the inclusion of youth in EAS:

In Guatemala, depoliticization of extension research, evaluation and services is needed to build trust in these programs. The National Agricultural Extension Strategy should include positive youth development knowledge for extension staff to improve their outreach. Women and indigenous people should be engaged in youth development and leadership programs.

In Niger, youth agripreneurship should be supported through stronger partnerships, training, facilitation of access to credit and coaching. Investments in community-based agricultural infrastructure (such as warehouses) are necessary to allow youth's entry into agriculture. The promotion of ICT-based extension methods and tools (video, smartphones applications and social media and networks) are necessary to attract youth to agriculture.

In Rwanda, a youth in agriculture strategy is necessary to mainstream the topic into overall government policies. The tertiary agricultural education gap should be closed by adding extension curricula and farmer outreach activities to university programs. Development practitioners need to recognize the heterogeneity of youth and target different interventions to different youth segments, ensuring that the needs of the poor rural youth and, in particular, female youth are addressed.

These studies catalyzed engagement with USAID's Bureau for Resilience and Food Security for an additional study on youth engagement in EAS and the private sector in Rwanda and Uganda. The study focused on different segments of the youth population and highlights private-sector market actors that offer profitability, competitiveness, sustainability, resilience and inclusion.

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