

## Potentials of Rural Youth Agripreneurship in Achieving Zero Hunger

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**Abstract:** Rural youth constitutes 55 percent of the global youth population and up to 70 percent in Sub Saharan Africa and South Asia. With the predominance of agricultural occupation in the rural area, rise in unemployment, rapid population increase without commensurate food output and the need to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030 as a Sustainable Development Goal, rural youth provides a prospect. But then, to match the present day youth's needs, meet the market demand and achieve sustainability in the efforts to attain Zero Hunger, agripreneurship becomes necessary. Thus, this paper examined rural youth agripreneurship, Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero hunger, potential of rural youth agripreneurship in achieving Zero hunger and various ways for engaging rural youth in agripreneurship for the achievement of Zero Hunger. Rural youth agripreneurship entails practicing of agriculture by the rural youth on the ideals of entrepreneurship. Globally, there seems to be fluctuating and slow rate of successes in the efforts towards Zero Hunger (only 4% decline between 2000-2002 and 2014-2016). Notwithstanding, an array of potentials for agripreneurship exist; given the number of rural youth (55%), world population increase and numerous activities in the agricultural value chain. By and large, a comprehensive approach is needed to engage rural youth in agripreneurship for the achievement of Zero Hunger.

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### 1.0 Introduction

Despite worldwide country distinctions of the definition of who a youth is, the criteria could quite be said to be same i.e. age, gender and/or location. Youth is often viewed as individuals within the period of transition from childhood to adulthood, encompassing processes of sexual maturation and growing social and economic autonomy from parents, and those under whom an individual is cared for (Bennell, 2007). During the International Youth Year in 1985, the United Nations General Assembly for the first time defined youth as individuals between the age of 15 and 24, without prejudice to other definitions by member states. This was primarily for statistical purposes and guide in designing youth development programs. The World Development Report of 2007 further expanded the range to include all people between 12 and 24 years. In the same vein, FAO for its worldwide rural youth development programs defined youth as individuals that fall within the age bracket of 10 to 25 years. In essence, youthfulness is a transition period between childhood and adulthood.

According to Bennell (2010), global population of young people aged 12-24 was about 1.3 billion. The

youth population was projected to reach 1.5 billion in 2035 and it will increase most rapidly in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and Southeast Asia (by 26 percent and 20 percent respectively between 2005 and 2035). Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimated that about 55 percent of youth reside in rural areas, but this figure is as high as 70 percent in SSA and South Asia. In SSA, young people aged 15-24 comprise 36 percent of the entire labour force, 33 percent in the Near East and North Africa (NENA), and 29 per cent in South Asia. About 85 per cent of the additional 500 million young people who will reach working age during the next decade live in developing countries. Rapid increase in global population of youth (especially Africa, see figure 1) should be a call for concern to all and sundry, especially governments and other responsible authorities. However, owing to the indispensability of the agricultural sector for sustainability and survival of life vis-a-vis ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition efforts to modernize agriculture into entrepreneurial ventures should be central so as to attract youth into agripreneurship and ultimately achieve Zero Hunger.

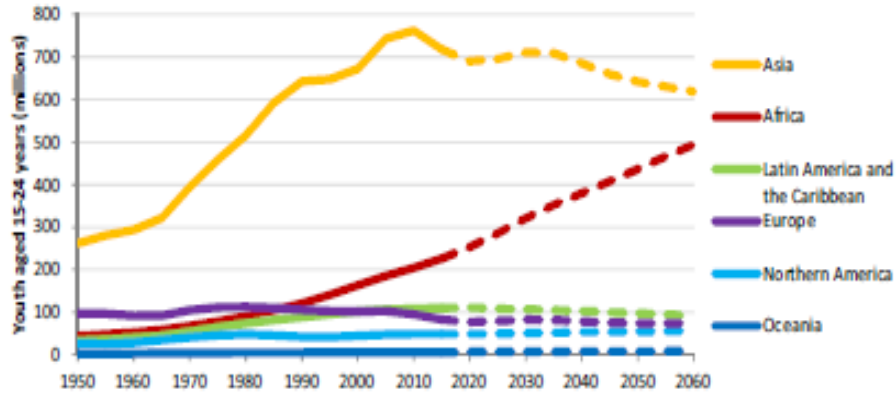


Figure 1. Source: United Nations (2013) *World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision*

Globally, Bennell (2010) reported that three-quarters of the poor live in rural areas, and about one-half of the population are young people. Climate change and the growing food crisis are also expected to have a disproportionately high impact on rural youth. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimated that nearly half a billion rural youth do not get the chance to realize their full potential (FAO, 2009). The 2005 International Labour Organization (ILO) report on Global Employment Trends for Youth states:

“Today’s youth represent a group with serious vulnerabilities in the world of work. In recent years, slowing global employment growth and increasing unemployment, underemployment and disillusionment have hit young people hardest. As a result, today’s youth are faced with a growing deficit of decent work opportunities and high levels of economic and social uncertainty” (ILO, 2005). As at 2013 the global youth unemployment stood at 74.5 million with projected continuous increase (See figure 2).

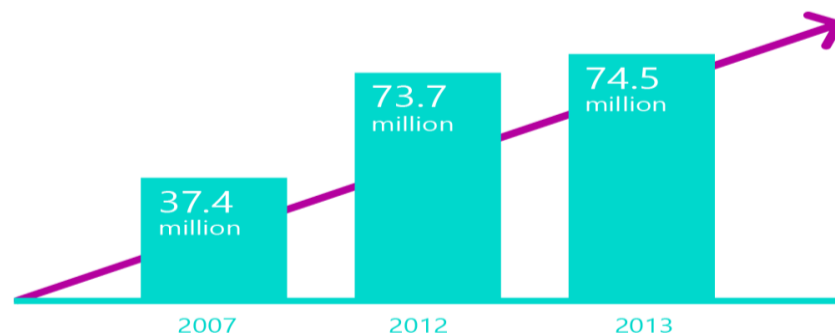


Figure 2. Source: ILO, Global Employment Trends 2014

Be that as it may, agriculture is potentially less capital demanding for startup when compared to other sectors and is highly promising for engagement of youth, specifically those in rural areas. In addition, it generates job opportunities besides food provision. Agriculture presents more opportunities for entrepreneurial development due to the multiplicity of ventures that could be taken under it. On the other

hand, youth possess a lot of energies and other assets for productivity and general sustainable socioeconomic development (Akpabio *et al.*, 2005). In view of the above circumstances the present study was undertaken with the following specific objectives.

1. To examine rural youth agripreneurship;
2. To evaluate Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero hunger;

3. To highlight the potential of rural youth agripreneurship in achieving Zero hunger; and

4. To identify various ways for engaging rural youth in agripreneurship for the achievement of Zero Hunger.

## 2.0 Methodology/Approaches to Preparation

This paper is entirely a review. All information was generated from secondary sources. Therefore, the methodology adopted was narrative textual case study method (NTCS). NTCS is a social science research method that intensively employs the information, data and academic materials made available and by information communication technology facilities such as intranet, internet, worldwide web, online databases, e-libraries etc. (Adli and Leijon, 2007). The method also utilizes diverse applicable opinions from individuals.

In the course of preparing this paper, several relevant books, journals, reports and publications were consulted. Related internet websites were searched to collect information. Invaluable suggestions and information from experts also guided the preparation.

## 3.0 Review of Major Findings and Discussion

Findings and their logical interpretations are presented below based on the objectives of the present study.

### 3.1 Rural Youth Agripreneurship

Agripreneurship and Agricultural entrepreneurship are synonymous to one another (Bairwa *et al.*, 2014). Thus, agripreneurship stems from the general entrepreneurship (Lans *et al.*, 2013 and Uneze, 2013). Macher (1999) defined agripreneurship as a profitable marriage of agriculture and entrepreneurship, whereby agriculture is ran as a business venture.

Nagalakshmi and Sudhakar (2013) described agripreneurship as generally sustainable, community oriented and directly-marketed agriculture. With sustainable agriculture denoting a holistic, systems oriented approach to farming that focuses on the interrelationships of social, economic and environmental process. Mukembo and Edwards (2016) defined agripreneurship as the application of entrepreneurial principles to identify, develop, and manage viable agricultural enterprises/projects optimally and sustainably for profit and improved livelihoods. Agripreneurship involves taking risks and accepting uncertainties to develop a business venture with the goal of getting a profit or returns on the investment (Volkman *et al.*, 2010)

An agripreneur on the other hand, is that individual who ran agripreneurship venture. He is said to be someone who practices agriculture

(farming activities) at their own risk (Macher, 1999). He is a self-employed business owner who creates wealth within agricultural industry through pursuance of a venture (Aleke, Ojiako, and Wainwright 2011). Any individual, therefore, who develops innovative ways to invent, transform, or create a product or service within the agricultural value chain, including value addition to existing products, while bearing the risks, would be considered an agripreneur (Bairwa *et al.*, 2014; Nagalakshmi and Sudhakar, 2013; Singh and Sharma, 2012; Tripathi and Agarwal, 2015).

Mukembo and Edwards (2016) reported that a number of factors were identified as drivers of people into entrepreneurship and the same factors may motivate youth to pursue agripreneurship. These factors are referred to as push and pull factors (Alsos *et al.*, 2011; Vyavahare and Bental, 2012). Whereas the push factors mainly arise from situations and circumstances surrounding an individual, i.e., extrinsic forces, the pull factors emerge from the individual's inner self or desire; their motives are intrinsic.

Contrary to assertions made by some scholars that entrepreneurs or agripreneurs are born, most of the skills that make up successful agripreneurs are learned through formal and informal learning experiences (Rezai *et al.*, 2011; Singh and Sharma, 2012; Tripathi and Agarwal, 2015). Furthermore, Alsos *et al.* (2011) advanced that although some individuals may appear to have strong innate skills, majority acquire entrepreneurial skills through practice.

The necessity for agripreneurship with emphasis on rural areas is highly enormous, but key include hunger eradication, ensuring food security, providing youth employment and sustainability. International Youth Foundation (IYF, 2014) reported that many of the world's most disadvantaged youth live in rural communities whose weak economies offer them few possibilities to obtain decent employment—and their numbers are growing. Similarly, IYF held that although most rural youth are already engaged in informal agriculture in some way, they may not see it as an attractive or viable career option given such obstacles as geographic isolation, unfriendly land use policies, poor infrastructure, high transport costs, and/or unavailable agricultural inputs.

Withal, the array of opportunities to explore in agripreneurship cut across all activities within the agricultural value chain. For instance; from planning up to recycling of a product, service provision or even knowledge brokering. IYF (2014) opined that increasing meaningful employment opportunities along the agricultural value chain can give rural youth the chance to engage in productive work and overcome these challenges. An often overlooked area

of opportunity is the 'green economy' (e.g., solar energy, organic agriculture), which has the potential to become a growth sector for rural youth.

### 3.2 Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger

World Commission on Economic Development (WCED, 1987) defined sustainable development as the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development is therefore the act or process of maintaining continuous effort to maintain balance between the human need to improve living standard and livelihood, and preserving natural resources and ecosystems, on which the present and future generations relies.

According to the Wikipedia (2017) the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), officially known as *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* is a set of 17 "Global Goals" with 169 targets between them. Spearheaded by the United Nations through a deliberative process involving its 193 Member States, as well as global civil society, the goals are contained in paragraph 54 United Nations Resolution A/RES/70/1 of 25 September 2015. The Resolution is a broader intergovernmental agreement that acts as the Post 2015 Development Agenda (successor to the Millennium Development Goals). The SDGs build on the Principles agreed upon under Resolution A/RES/66/288, popularly known as The Future We Want.

The SDGs were in large measure informed by the often quoted assertion by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon that "we don't have plan B because there is no planet B".

On 19 July 2014, the UN General Assembly's Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) forwarded a proposal for the SDGs to the Assembly. The proposal contained 17 goals with 169 targets covering a broad range of sustainable development issues. These included ending poverty and hunger, improving health and education, making cities more sustainable, combating climate change, and protecting oceans and forests. On 5 December 2014, the UN General Assembly accepted the Secretary-General's Synthesis Report which stated that the agenda for the post-2015 SDG process would be based on the OWG proposals.

The Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Post 2015 Development Agenda (IGN) began in January 2015 and ended in August 2015. Following the negotiations, a final document was adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit September 25–27, 2015 in New York, USA. The title of the agenda is *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

The full list of the SDGs includes:

1. No Poverty: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
2. Zero Hunger: End hunger, achieve food security and adequate nutrition for all, and promote sustainable agriculture.
3. Good Health and Wellbeing: Attain healthy life for all at all ages.
4. Quality Education: Provide equitable and inclusive quality education and life-long learning opportunities for all.
5. Gender Equality: Attain gender equality, empower women and girls everywhere.
6. Clean Water and Sanitation: Secure water and sanitation for all for a sustainable world.
7. Affordable and Clean Energy: Ensure access to affordable, sustainable, and reliable modern energy services for all.
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth: Promote strong, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work for all.
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Promote sustainable industrialization.
10. Reduced Inequalities: Reduce inequality within and among countries.
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities: Build inclusive, safe and sustainable cities and human settlements.
12. Responsible Consumption and Production: Promote sustainable consumption and production patterns.
13. Climate Action: Promote actions at all levels to address climate change.
14. Life below Water: Attain conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas.
15. Life on Land: Protect and restore terrestrial ecosystems and halt all biodiversity loss.
16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: Achieve peaceful and inclusive societies, rule of law, effective and capable institutions.
17. Partnerships for the Goals: Strengthen and enhance the means of implementation and global partnership for sustainable development.

Considering the focus of this paper, the report of the United Nations Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN in 2016 on the progress of Sustainable Development Goals as regards SDG 2 reads thus;

"Goal 2 aims to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030. It also commits to universal access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food at all times of the year. This will require sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices, equal access to land, technology and markets and international cooperation on investments

in infrastructure and technology to boost agricultural productivity.

The fight against hunger has progressed over the past 15 years. Globally, the prevalence of hunger has declined, from 15 percent according to figures for 2000 to 2002, to 11 per cent according to figures for 2014 to 2016. However, more than 790 million people worldwide still lack regular access to adequate amounts of dietary energy. If current trends continue, the zero hunger target will be largely missed by 2030. Many countries that failed to reach the target set as part of the Millennium Development Goals, of halving the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, have faced natural and human-induced disasters or political instability, resulting in protracted crises, with increased vulnerability and food insecurity affecting large parts of the population. The persistence of hunger is no longer simply a matter of food availability. More and better data on access to food can enable the tracking of progress and guide interventions to fight food insecurity and malnutrition.

Globally, in 2014, nearly 1 in 4 children under the age of 5, an estimated total of 159 million children, had stunted growth. Stunting is defined as inadequate height for age, an indicator of the cumulative effects of undernutrition and infection. Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa accounted for three quarters of the children under 5 with stunted growth in 2014. Another aspect of child malnutrition is the growing share of children who are overweight, a problem affecting nearly every region. Globally, between 2000 and 2014, the percentage of children under the age of 5 who were overweight grew from 5.1 per cent to 6.1 per cent.

Ending hunger and malnutrition relies heavily on sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices. Genetic diversity in livestock breeds is crucial for agriculture and food production since it allows for the raising of farm animals in a wide range of environments and provides the basis for diverse products and services. Globally, 20 percent of local livestock breeds, meaning breeds reported in only one country, are at risk of extinction. Another 16 per cent of breeds are stable, and the

status of the remaining local breeds is unknown owing to a lack of data. The figures exclude livestock breeds that have already become extinct.

To increase the productive capacity of agriculture, more investment is needed, both public and private, from domestic and foreign sources. However, recent trends in government spending are not favourable. The agriculture orientation index, defined as agriculture's share of government expenditures divided by the sector's share of gross domestic product (GDP), fell globally from 0.37 to 0.25 between 2001 and 2013. The decline in the index was interrupted only temporarily during the food price crisis of 2006 to 2008, when governments increased agricultural spending.

Since the late 1990s, the percentage of aid for supporting agriculture in developing countries has been stable at around 8 per cent, when measured as a share of sector-allocable aid from member countries of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). This has decreased, from a peak of 20 per cent in the mid-1980s, as a result of donors beginning to focus more on improving governance, building social capital and bolstering fragile States.

One of the targets for SDG 2 calls for correcting and preventing distortions in world agricultural markets, including the elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies. Those subsidies mask market signals, reduce competitiveness and can lead to environmental damage and the inequitable distribution of benefits. That said, some progress is being made, with members of the World Trade Organization adopting a ministerial decision, in December 2015, on eliminating export subsidies for agricultural products and restraining export measures that have an equivalent effect."

Similarly, according to the Global Hunger Index developing world and regional report for 1992, 2000, 2008 and 2016, there seems to be fluctuating variations in the proportion of undernourishment worldwide (See figure 3).

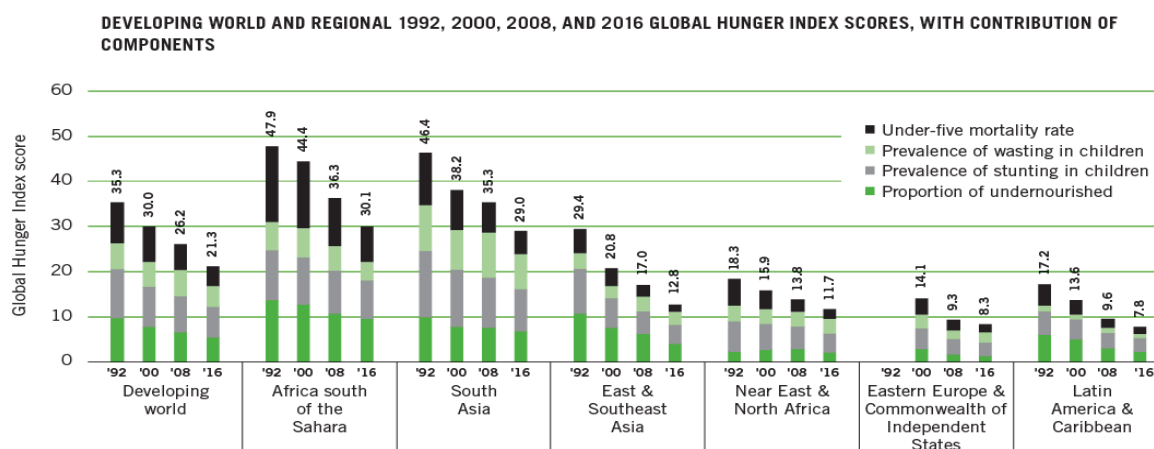


Figure 3. Source: International Food Policy Research Institute, 2016

A critical analysis could tell that there are challenges to the journey in achieving Zero Hunger, because of declines and fluctuations of progress towards it. Instead of the out movement from rural areas by youth, Adebayo (1999) reported that they are not only energetic with the ability to replace the older generation in agriculture, but are filled with new innovations and technological competence to carry out commercial and technological agriculture. Consequently, the need to harness their mental and physical energy for the achievement of Zero Hunger by 2030.

### 3.3 Potential of Rural Youth Agripreneurship in Achieving Zero Hunger

The IYF (2014) stated that Brooks, Zorya and Gautam reported more than 300 million young people are poised to enter the labour force over the next 30 years, 195 million of them live in rural areas. The need to create viable economic opportunities to engage rural youth is urgent. At the same time, the current youth bulge offers an unprecedented opportunity for practitioners and governments to harness the energy, motivation, and innovation of these young people to bolster economic development and social change, while addressing pressing food security needs. For rural youth in particular, new business creation in the agricultural sector can present an important and viable opportunity to earn a decent living. See figure 4 for projected youth unemployment rate.

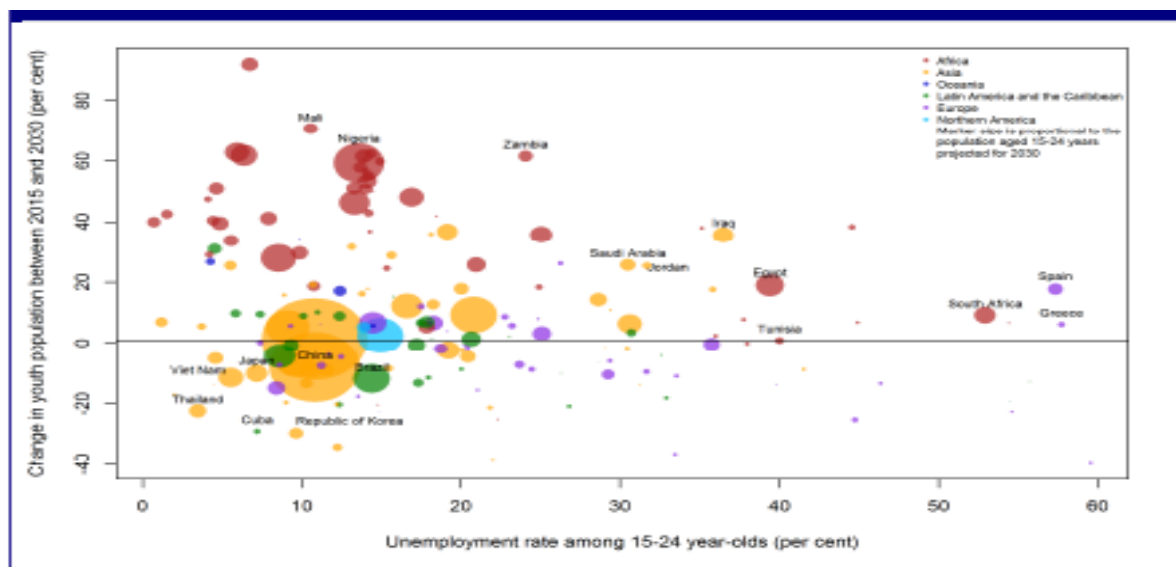


Figure 4. Source: Youth Population Estimates and Projections from the United Nations (2013) *World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision*

Rural youth are an important resource; they have a very important role to play in all aspects of life for any society or nation. Apart from being bigger in number, youth are energetic, courageous and often have new ideas that can make a vital contribution to socioeconomic development; if they are well organized and involved in development issues in various sectors (Allajabou and Bello, 2014).

As indicated by the World Bank (2013), young people bring energy, vitality and innovation into work force, and when their willingness to contribute is matched with opportunity; they can have a transformative impact on economic growth and social development. Therefore, young people must be considered as actors, players and partners. Indeed they are strategic catalysts for new ideas contributing to peace and human development, as well as to the renewal of the human society especially in the globalizing world (UNESCO 2002).

Today, in most of the situation, agriculture portrays negative image to the youth, likewise their parents. FAO (2013) reported that, in some cases, parents send their children to school in order to escape agriculture. The hand-operated hoe has remained the main farm implement for working the soil and has, for a long time now, rendered agriculture a difficult and unattractive to rural youth. Poor farm implements and other farm inputs, lack of technology in food processing and preservation, lack of good and reliable market for the farm products as well as poor infrastructure cause the youth to lose interest, although it is considered a major employer (Allajabou and Bello, 2014). Conversely, IFAD stated in a (2014) report that youth are not necessarily opposed to agriculture or rural areas *per se*, but want activities that can give them a satisfactory livelihood. Hence, leave rural areas due to opportunities that could be difficult to explore.

Considering these facts and many more highlighted previously, it has become an opportunity in disguise for the global efforts on achieving Zero Hunger to be directed towards tapping out of rural youth resource through agripreneurship; in order to attain an end to hunger, achieve food security and adequate nutrition for all, and promote sustainable agriculture. Agripreneurship opportunities exist enormously in rural areas being agriculture the predominant occupation in rural communities. Heinert and Roberts (2016) opined that engaging youth is critical, especially in key industries such as agriculture, as they represent a growing segment of society worldwide and are, quite literally, the future decision makers.

The agricultural sector has enormous potential for growth. It would be a great idea for the governments to adopt a more systematic approach to

encourage and support new agripreneurs and farmers to succeed in running their own farms and agribusinesses (ILO, 2014). Agripreneurship has the potential to contribute to a country's economic development by creating employment to the rural populace both directly and indirectly, improve nutrition, and contribute to food security and food sovereignty (Bairwa *et al.*, 2014; Khayri, Yaghoubi and Yazdanpanah, 2011; Mujuru, 2014; Rajaei, Yaghoubi and Donyaie, 2011; Yaghoubi, 2010). Mukembo and Edwards (2016) stated that through value addition and commodity exportation, agripreneurship earns countries foreign exchange thereby helping to solve some of the challenges associated with balance of payment problems, especially in countries that may be dependent on agriculture as their main source of international trade. In addition, equipping the population with skills in agripreneurship helps to develop a country's agriculture and increase the likelihood of food security for its growing population (Rezai, Mohamed and Shamsudin, 2011). Alsos *et al.* (2011) suggested that communities and nations dependent on agriculture as their main source of livelihood can be helped to develop by transforming the agricultural sector to embrace agripreneurship and support aspiring agripreneurs.

Now, for sustainability, it has become imperative to put youth at the fore front of the struggle to achieving Zero Hunger, particularly those in rural areas rural; given the vast agricultural potentials in rural communities and energies in them. However, going by what obtains presently, the need to transform agricultural production into agripreneurship is paramount to attract and retain youth that can help achieve the Zero Hunger.

### **3.4 Various Ways for Engaging Rural Youth in Agripreneurship for the Attainment of Zero Hunger**

Today, access to technology, presence of micro finance, liberalized government rules, awareness and training programmes on agriculture and its allied sectors, and changing mindset to go for self-employment in the field of agriculture have contributed significantly in enhancing the potentials of agripreneurship (Bairwa *et al.*, 2014).

Nevertheless, Chander (n. d.) reasoned that most of the new innovations (both technical and institutional) require a skilled agricultural work force. For instance, promotion of high value agriculture, precision farming, organic cultivation, Hi-Tech horticulture, micro-propagation, Integrated Pest Disease and Nutrients Management, Post Harvest Management, development of backward and forward linkages etc., require well trained young farmers with enthusiasm and passion for farming and ability to take

risks. The rural youth could be the ideal target for skill training in these new areas of agricultural growth and to do this effectively there is a need to mobilize young farmers. Organised groups of young farmers will be useful for introducing new production technologies and organizing effective input and output markets.

Chander suggested the following ways that would help boost involvement of rural youth in farming which would ultimately foster agripreneurship:

#### ***Establishing Farm Youth Policy***

Formulating a comprehensive policy on farm youth including suitable institutional arrangements for its implementation. If acted upon, it would take care of many of the concerns and challenges rural youth face in undertaking any agricultural venture.

#### ***Extension Programme for Youth***

An exclusive extension programme to address the issues concerning rural youth to mobilize them towards their greater participation in agricultural production activities. This kind of program is central to engaging rural youth in agripreneurship. Equally, extension workers need to help farmers recognize, evaluate, and exploit the agripreneurship opportunities available within their communities, countries, and regions (Kahan, 2013). In addition, they can help train farmers in value addition to increase efficiency and profits, connect farmers to other agripreneurs within and outside their communities, and to researchers, and help them access better markets and potential sources of credit (Kahan, 2013). When extension workers facilitate the connections between agripreneurial farmers in the community with others outside their locales, including researchers, it fosters teamwork and helps build strong networks which facilitate flow of knowledge about innovations that can lead to agricultural and community development (Navarro, 2008).

#### ***Going Beyond Technical Skills***

The rural youth may be encouraged, trained and supported for undertaking innovative farming and associated ventures like agri-tourism to supplement income. Sufficient resources should be invested to improve not only technical skill training, and entrepreneurship development, but also a range of other skills and competencies, particularly those 'soft' skills such as communication, leadership and business skills. This can be achieved effectively, if youth are mobilized through youth clubs, financially supported under extension reforms.

Extension agents must play a supportive role beyond the trainings they provide if farmers are to become successful agripreneurs (Kahan, 2013). However, because most extension agents are specialists in one particular field, they may require additional training in the principles of agricultural

entrepreneurship to be effective at mentoring aspiring agripreneurs (Kahan, 2013).

#### ***Establishing Farm Youth Clubs***

Farm youth may be mobilized as Farm Youth Clubs (FYCs) so that it serves as a platform for rural youth to discuss issues related to farming, farm enterprises and skill development. Inter-country and inter-state youth exchanges may also be organized by these FYCs to share experiences on best practices and learning.

#### ***Use of Media***

Success stories of the innovative young farmers/agripreneurs including those youth who have successfully launched agripreneurship ventures in different places may be highlighted through radio, TV and newspapers to motivate other young farmers. The community radio too can play vital role in encouraging and making young farmers aware about the possibilities in agricultural sector. Extension staff should effectively use the mass media and also the social media to encourage and support rural youth to play meaningful roles in agricultural transformation.

In a more general sense, IYF (2014) based on key learnings and recommendations derived from the *Jeunes Agriculteurs* project (JA) experience and other similar IYF programs it suggested the followings ways as best practices for engaging rural youth in agripreneurship.

#### ***Provision of Holistic Approach to Training***

Rural youth are mostly non-literate. As a result, young entrants into the agricultural sector often require a mix of both technical and soft skills. The unique needs of rural youth can be addressed through a holistic approach that places high-quality small business and life skills training alongside relevant technical training (e.g., in agronomy, animal husbandry, handicraft production, dairy science, horticulture). Life skills development plays a particularly important role to help youth improve competencies such as self-confidence, creative thinking, risk taking, and decision making, along with skills, such as project and money management, that let them rethink and agripreneurship as viable, personally-meaningful, income-generating options. Many would-be rural entrepreneurs come from agricultural families, but lack the advanced technical knowledge needed to get ahead—either by cultivating new products; adding value to traditional raw products (e.g., through drying, milling, packaging); or by branching into related fields like small animal husbandry. In designing rural entrepreneurship programs, it helps to tap both local and international expertise to tailor effective technical trainings for young people. In this way, youth gain the knowledge and perspective to build businesses whose innovative products or services fill an unmet need in a local



market. Where appropriate, programs can coordinate their efforts with those agricultural vocational schools that play a role in training young people across the value chain for agricultural-related jobs (e.g., related to machinery, transportation, processing, marketing).

#### ***Taking Value Chain Approach***

In designing rural entrepreneurship programs, it is vital to have a holistic view of the agricultural value chain in order to better understand the opportunities available to young people. Youth may find that their skills, interests, or talents are best aligned with aspects of the agricultural value chain other than actual farming. Examples include the distribution of agricultural inputs and farm financing, the production and manufacturing of more processed goods based on farm crops, and the marketing and sale of farm outputs. Showing young people that there are a variety of jobs in and around the agricultural sector and exposing them to these careers helps them to imagine more options for themselves. A program that establishes linkages with relevant sectors of the agricultural value chain will be more effective at preparing young people for and connecting them to those opportunities. Identifying synergies between agriculture and other sectors helps enable youth to engage and participate in the value chain more proactively, which can have the ripple effect of creating more jobs.

#### ***Facilitation of Access to Financing and Capital***

Rural agripreneurs have the potential to spark economic growth in their communities, but often have trouble accessing finance to launch or develop their business. Young entrepreneurs who use personal or family savings to start an enterprise may eventually encounter limits on how much their business can grow if it is not supplemented. Some youth have overcome this challenge by accessing grant facilities that specifically target young entrepreneurs and youth-led startups. In other situations, rural entrepreneurs could be guided through financing models such as revolving loan funds or village savings and credit associations. These mechanisms can be effective for poor rural households that have neither the assets nor the skills to engage with formal institutions.

#### ***Fostering Community Buy-In***

Long established generational attitudes toward farming techniques can prove to be a barrier for rural youth. With high rates of illiteracy among rural older generation (who often controls family land use) they might majorly fail to recognize the utility of a formal education in agriculture. For this reason, youth who gained specialized skills in agricultural techniques or animal husbandry can experience difficulties with farmers who trust their own traditional experience. Even in a family farm setting. Further, the ability of young people to apply new technologies and

knowledge is hindered by their parents' lack of confidence in their capacity and conservatism towards innovations. Young women, in particular, may face additional cultural biases. For this reason, programs should consider activities that build broad awareness and support among key stakeholders, including family members, community leaders, and business representatives. Another way to encourage youth to engage in agriculture and see opportunities for themselves in the sector is to expose them to successful role models. Ideally, young entrepreneurs from a similar background can be invited to share their stories and inspire new entrants. This goes a long way in making potential rural youth agripreneurs imagine an entrepreneurial future they might not have initially conceived or considered.

#### **4.0 Conclusion**

Based on the major findings and their relevant interpretation the following conclusions have been made:

- ❖ Youth are projected to increase in number especially in South East Asia and SSA, and do not have a universally applicable definition for all situations. But, the criteria remains the same world over. However, a youth is any individual within the transition from childhood to adulthood.

- ❖ Rural youth agripreneurship entails any of the activities within the agricultural value chain that is carried out in the rural area through innovation and in a sustainable manner to meet the market needs.

- ❖ There are threats to the journey for the achievement of Zero Hunger due to environmental evolution and, parallel outcome of population increase and food output.

- ❖ Given the enormous able youth in the rural area, predominance of agricultural occupation and variety of agripreneurship ventures that could be taken rural youth provides a huge potential to explore for the achievement of Zero Hunger.

- ❖ A number of ways to engage rural youth in agripreneurship exist for achieving Zero Hunger. All the same, a more holistic approach involving all stakeholders and structures would yield the desired results.

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