

# Rural Youth and Agriculture:

## Challenges and Opportunities *IFAD's Perspective*

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## Outline: Conveying 3 principal messages

1. Rural youths' profile is heterogeneous, making standardized interventions a huge challenge.
2. Rural youths face a series of agri./non-agri. challenges that are intertwined and constrain their participation in rural-based livelihood development.
3. Opportunities exist that could be explored to contribute to enhance more rural youths involvement in agri. for their economic and livelihood empowerment.



## Rural youths' profile is heterogeneous, *making standardized interventions a huge challenge*

- ❑ A growing demographic segment with:
  - Limited & poor quality and poorly remunerated employment;
  - Limited entrepreneurial skills and opportunities
- ❑ Multiple and Diverse sub-segments
- ❑ Fluidity/fungibility/volatility



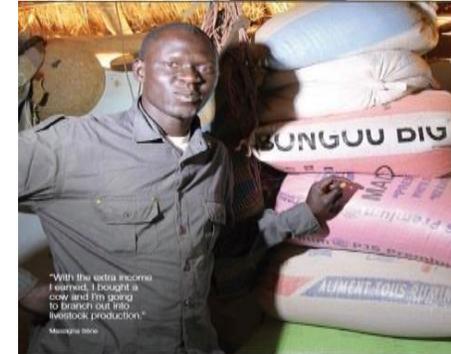
## Rural youths face agri./non-agri. challenges *that are intertwined and constrain their participation in rural-based livelihood development.*

1. Insufficient access to relevant knowledge, information and education;
2. Limited involvement in policy dialogue, regulation & decision-making;
3. Limited access to and/or ownership of land;
4. Limited access to input and output markets;
5. Difficulties implementing (green) environmentally-friendly agri. jobs to be more credit worthy;
6. Inadequate access to targeted inclusive rural financial services.



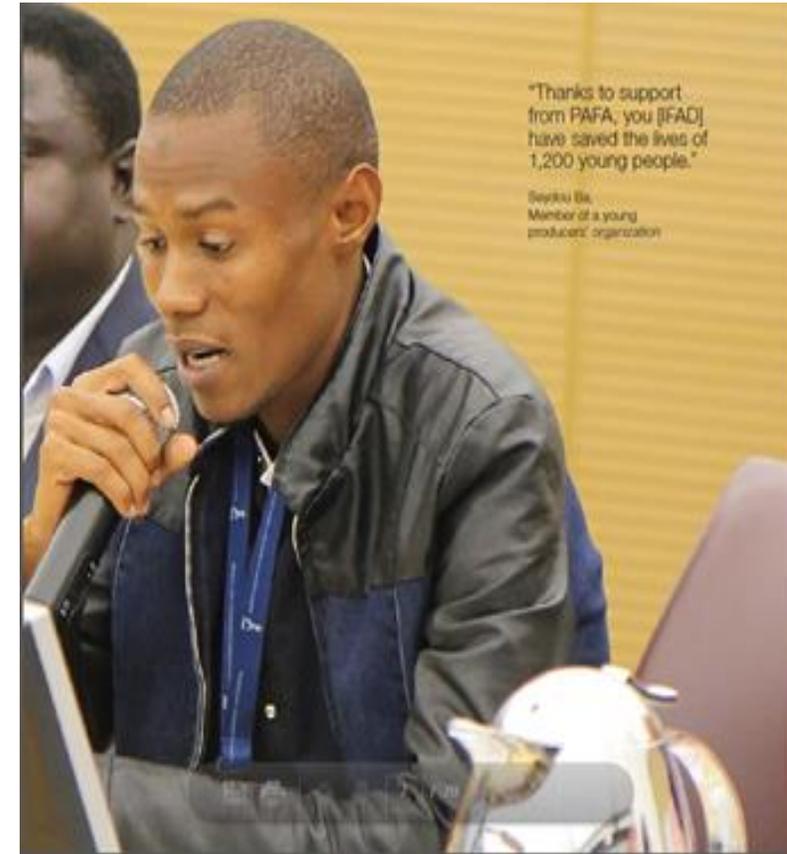
## But opportunities abound *to improve rural youth involvement in agriculture*

- ❑ Dedicated holistic (multisectoral/multidimensional) rural youth development strategies & agenda
  - political economy - macro/meso/micro level interventions
  - rural youth champions - pro-active participation in policy, regulation, & decision-making
  
- ❑ More context-based pro rural youth VC development approaches
  - subsidized experimentation/incubations/greenfields
  - training in viable business development skills
  - technology-enhanced interventions along the VC.



## Opportunities *con't.*

- ❑ Identification of market outlets paying remunerative/full cost recovery prices
- ❑ Development of profitable/bankable business plans
  - rural youth ag. MSMEs as a business
- ❑ Associated post-harvest management enterprises



## IFAD selected cases with dedicated rural youth support for engagement in agriculture

18 projects with dedicated activities for rural youth engagement in agriculture (since 2003)

- ❑ Benefiting from IFAD's two main financing tools
  - Concessionary priced loans - 8
  - Grants - 10
  
- ❑ Country-specific activities across 5 regions

## Some concluding/forward-looking observations

- ❑ FAO/IFAD 2004 joint study identified the 6 challenges rural youths face:
  - access to inclusive financial services (beyond savings) is their most significant constraint;
- ❑ Rural youth - a Corporate Mandate:
  - A cross-cutting thematic focus like gender and nutrition;
- ❑ More piloting, experimentation and graduation programming work needed:
  - better understand and better serve this potentially huge and untapped rural youth market segment;
  - more engaged in secondary agri. (post-harvest handling and other forward linkages (value addition & trading))
- ❑ No dedicated rural youth policy yet but guidelines being prepared :
  - but more rural youth activities in the pipeline
  - capacity development (the process) vs. capacity building (the event)



# Thank You