

Africa Industrialization Week 2020

Side Event

18 November 2020

Venue: Virtual (Zoom)

Time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm CET

Side Event Title	The Future of Employment for Young Women and Men in Africa: ‘Accelerating Job Creation in Agriculture and Agribusiness in the post COVID-19 crisis era’
Sub-theme/s being addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance job creation and reduce poverty for young women and men through decent employment and self-employment; • Enhance the role of agribusiness and agro-industries to increase shared prosperity and job creation while fostering economic competitiveness and SMEs development; • Promote mainstreaming of innovative financing mechanisms for young women and men in inclusive and sustainable agricultural value chains and food systems; • Increase the resilience of communities to shocks and crises such as the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 pandemic; • Promote digital solutions to challenges induced by global crisis.
Desired/Expected outcomes from the Side Event	<p>The side event will be composed of two interweaving parts. The first part will be a proactive and engaging roundtable discussion, and the second part will be the formal engagement towards action to strengthen sustainable job opportunities in agricultural value chains in cooperation with Crans Montana Institute and FAO.</p> <p>Roundtable Session (Part I): The rationale of the session is to enhance the understanding of the challenges impeding job creation for young women and men in agriculture and agribusiness in the post COVID-19 crisis era as well as the importance of partnerships for addressing these challenges sustainably. Other objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of the need for significant investments to be made to capitalize on the potential of youth in agribusiness; • Better comprehension and ability to address the needs and expectations of the young people in business, as well as trends and stakes related to entrepreneurship and self-employment; • Best practices on how to address the presented challenges, specifically related to post COVID-19 crisis setting. <p>High-level Engagement for Youth in Agribusiness in Africa (Part II):</p> <p>The rationale of the second part of the event is to gather key decision-makers not only through their messages of support for enhancing job creation for youth during the event, but also as the first step towards a further consultation between the high-level speakers that will attempt to define a way forward built on partnership. This part of the event will both</p>

	<p>be weaved into the main session through strategic pre-recorded interventions by high-level speakers, and in parallel, an engagement and exhibition platform will be available to participants to find out more about the key issues and joint initiative;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-level support of efforts such as the UNIDO & FAO joint approach for transforming the landscape of opportunities for young women and men in Africa as articulated in their joint OYA programme; • Entry points for potential resource partners; • Enhanced international visibility.
<p>Context: Background and Rationale</p>	<p>The growing youth population is challenging Africa's ability to meet the demand for jobs, which has pushed many to migrate out of rural areas and across borders. There is therefore an urgent need to facilitate and accelerate efforts to create jobs for young African women and men, in particular, by supporting the development of agribusinesses and fostering agricultural entrepreneurship including through leveraging public and private investment in agriculture.</p> <p>On the supply side, young people are Africa's most important source of human capital and driver of development. The success of countries' response to this crisis, the sustainability of their recovery, and the achievement of their long-term development goals will depend on skilled young people contributing their labour, ideas and expertise in an agricultural sector transformed and enhanced through digitalization, and the Fourth Industrial Revolution. However, the pandemic exacerbates the existing vulnerabilities of youth in relation to work by disrupting their plans for education and training and delaying their transition into the labour market. Now, more than ever, it is crucial to invest in youth training and digital skills development in order to accelerate and leverage Africa's digital transformation to effectively respond to the additional challenges posed by COVID-19 and to ensure an inclusive and sustainable long-term recovery.</p> <p>On the demand side, SMEs are forced to adapt their services to the new market requirements such as e-commerce markets to help mitigate the shock. Digital technologies have become a positive enabler in this crisis such as facilitating business continuity and connecting people more than ever. Hence, Opportunities related to the digital economy are emerging and offering new economic perspectives for young people such as the ability to buy and sell goods and services online has transformed marketplaces and is in high demand as are delivery services. Traditional jobs are being transformed, and new forms of work are being created, speeding up the digital revolution on the African continent in relation to the Agri-business sector in particular. These businesses are among the largest employers of young people in Africa and could be the engines of an economic recovery.</p> <p>Moreover, the COVID-19 crisis may provide opportunity to recommend adjustments or redesigns on national policies aiming to stimulate youth education training and employment and to promote economic recovery that is effective, equitable, and inclusive while utilizing innovative technologies offered by the Industry 4.0.</p>

<p>How is the Outcomes of this Session expected to contribute to advancing Africa's resolve and determination on Africa-Industrialisation</p>	<p>The session is expected to result in a call to increase the resilience of the economy and enhance job creation and retention by generating quality on- and off-farm work for young women and men in agribusiness. The panelists will point to the need to engage both the public and private sectors to provide young women and men with opportunities for capacity development and access to resources so that they may lead the transformation of the agricultural sector in the advent of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The session will also stress the need for any intervention to simultaneously deliver at micro, meso and macro level, thus steering the formulation the continent's youth employment response in the agri-business sector.</p> <p>The focus of the session on concrete and rapid action is in line with UNIDO, FAO and Crans Montana's efforts in support of the AUC to respond to the 2014 Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agriculture Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, which targets the creation of job opportunities for youth in the agricultural sector. Moreover, youth are at the core of the 2063 agenda of the African Union, notably through the African Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment and the 1 Million by 2021 Initiative of the African Union Commission. The session therefore aims to raise awareness and catalyze greater investments for youth employment creation in the agribusiness sector by bringing attention to the pan-African OYA programme.</p>
<p>Participants (Who is targeted)</p>	<p>Policy makers, donors, meso level institutions, youth/women associations, young people, youth organizations and networks as well as public, private and civil society institutions working on agriculture and youth employment, including local authorities, producers', workers' and migrants' associations, business associations, etc.</p>
<p>Session duration</p>	<p>1h30</p>
<p>Session format</p>	<p>Welcoming Remarks by Moderator: Mr. Charles Dan, Special Representative of the International Labour Organization on Youth and Social Inclusion (1 min)</p> <p>Welcoming Remarks (live): H.E. Mr. Jean-Paul Carteron, Founder and Chairman of Crans Montana Forum, President of IUHEI Crans Montana Institute (2-3min)</p> <p>Opening Remarks (live): Mr. LI Yong, Director General, UNIDO (2-3min)</p> <p><u>Interactive Panel moderated Mr. Jeff Koinange (30 min)</u></p> <p><i>Moderator opening the session and introducing the panel</i></p> <p>Pre-recorder video message: Ms. Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director General, FAO (2-3min)</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H.E. Mr. Malam Zaneidou Amirou, Minister of Industry, Niger 2. Ms. Aicha Bah Diallo, Chairperson, Forum for African Women Educationalists

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Mr. Michael Krake, Deputy Director General “Private sector; trade, employment; digital technologies”, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) 4. Mr. Ronald Guendel, Global Head Food Security and Advocacy, Bayer AG 5. Ms. Amina Hersi Mogueh, CEO of Horyal Investment Holdings and Atiak Sugar Factory, Uganda 6. Mr. Aboubaker Benslimane, Head of Start-up Resources, GreenTec Accelerator 7. Mr. Moulaye Biaye, Co-founder and CEO T&M Agriprocess & UNIDO Champion in Senegal 8. Ms. Lucia Cardoso, Founder and Manager, Badia Natural Cosmetics, Cabo Verde (TBC) 9. Mr. Tanguy Gnikobou, Agri-preneur and founder of the regional AgroBootCamp concept, Benin <p>Proposed high-level prerecorded interventions (2-3 minutes in length): All will be featured in the accompanying engagement platform and will be woven into the session itself.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations and Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (TBC) 2. Ms. Irina Bokova, Former Director-General of UNESCO (2009-2017) 3. Mr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer of the African Union Development Agency – NEPAD (TBC) <p>Q&A session of 30 minutes</p> <p>Pre-recorder video message Concluding Remarks: H.E. Ms. Josefa Leonal Sacko, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission</p> <p>Concluding remarks (live): H.E. Mr. Jean-Paul Carteron, Founder and Chairman of Crans Montana Forum, President of IUHEI Crans Montana Institute - framing conclusions of the session and encouraging participants to continue engaging through the interactive platform.</p> <p>The parallel platform will enhance the interactivity of the event by encouraging participants to weigh in on the themes discussed during the session but also serve as a platform to convene decision-makers to explore potential emerging partnerships.</p>
Supporting documents	
To be submitted to the Organisers immediately after the Session	
Key takeaway messages coming out of the Session (based on actual discussions)	