

The background of the image features a man in a brown shirt leaning over a field of golden wheat. The top of the image is decorated with large, curved, overlapping shapes in blue, yellow, red, and green. A stylized map of Africa is positioned on the right side, with colorful curved lines (green, blue, yellow, red) passing through it. The word "FARA" is written in large, bold, white capital letters across the lower half of the image.

# FARA

Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa



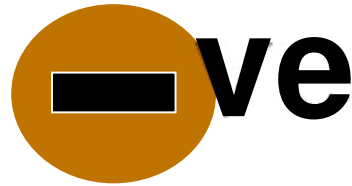
# **Effectiveness of National and Pan-African Youth Policies**

**‘Wole Fatunbi & Augustin Kouevi**

# Africa rural youths at a glance

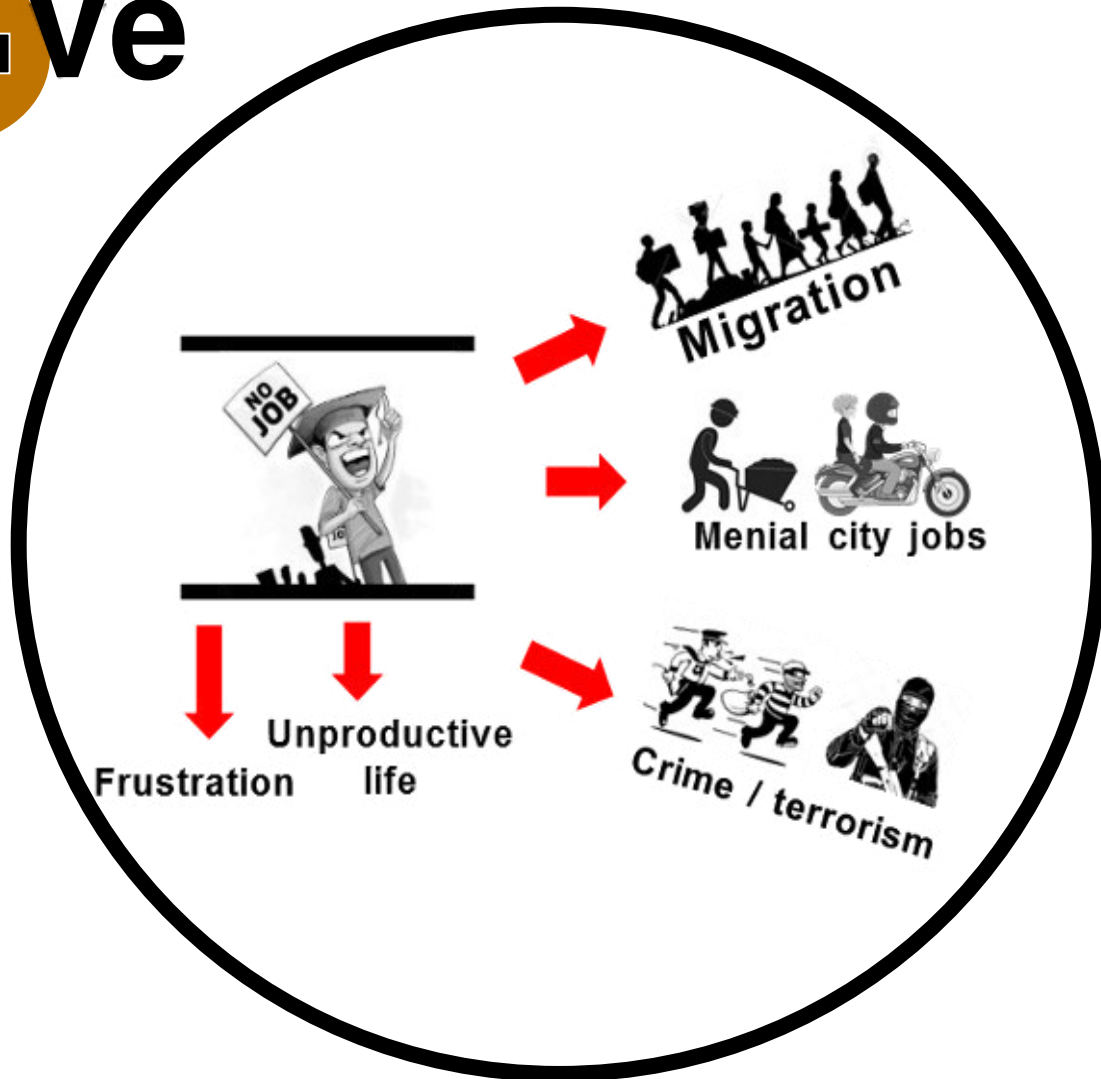


**Youth Population**  
63% as at 2010



## Why?

- Africa is least prepared for the youth explosion.
- Upsurge in technologies does not require much human labor.

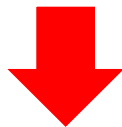


## Africa rural youths at a glance (2)

Disinterest  
in Agriculture



Acute Shortage  
Of Farm Labor



**Production  
shortage  
& Food security  
problems**



### Most Youths in Agriculture are into...



**ICT**



**Processing**

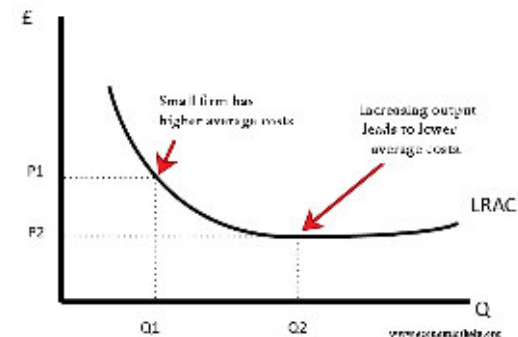


**Marketing**

**NO to  
Farming**



**Profitable  
farming is  
capital  
intensive**

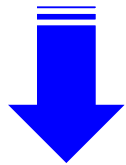
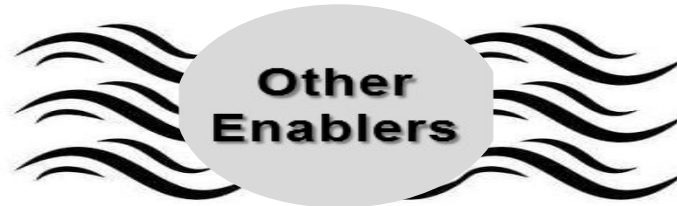




## Africa rural youths at a glance (3)

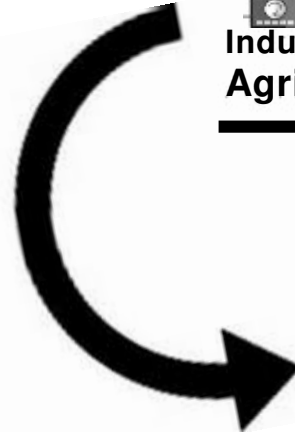
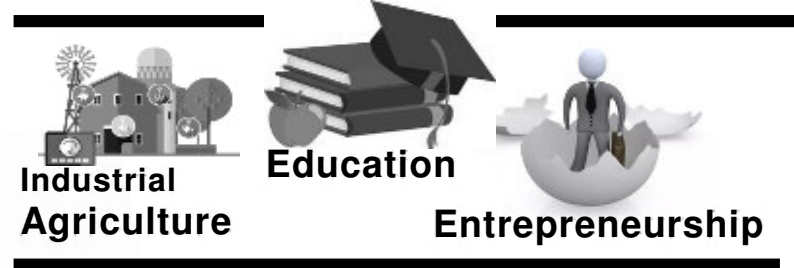
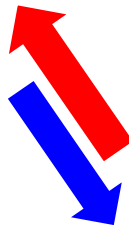
**+ve**

**Good  
Policies**



**Interventions**

- Support Mechanization
- **Provide Training (TVET)**
- Business support
- **Research support**
- Affordable financing
- **Fair foreign trade policies**



**National  
Development  
BENEFITS!**

# Lessons From Asia Big Economies



**Figure 1. Age structure of the population in Asia and pacific region (1950-2050)...2011-2050 is a projection**

**Source** →

**United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2012). World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision**

# Lessons from Asia Big Economies

## Summary Statistics

<b>1960</b>	<b>248 Million</b>
<b>2000</b>	<b>615 Million</b>

Fig 2. Asian Population of Ages 15-24

## How did Asia Cope?

### \*\*\*Active Policies\*\*\*

- Education of the youth population.**
- Creation of formal employment opportunities.**
- Policy on childbearing and risky behaviors.**

# Continental Youth policies

## A. Strategic Framework for A NEPAD Youth Program (2005-2015)

### Strategic Objective 1:

Establish and maintain mechanisms to ensure the voice of young people is heard and development issues are effectively mainstreamed into programs.

### Strategic Objective 2:

Facilitating the creation of development partnerships with governments and relevant organizations and the mobilization of to support youth empowerment.

### Strategic Objective 3:

Support Regional Economic Communities, Member States, civil society and the private sector in their efforts to promote youth empowerment and development.

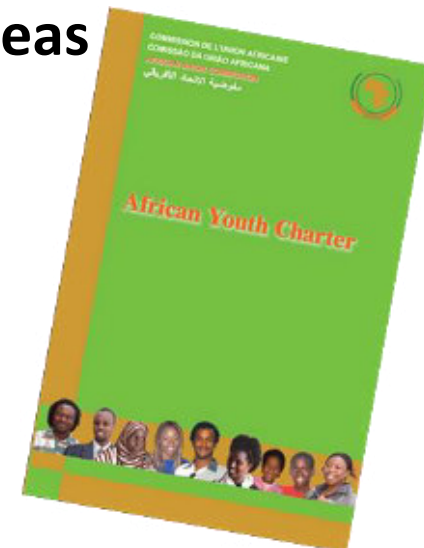




## Continental Youth policies (2)

**African Youth Charter** (Adopted and endorsed by Heads of States in July 2006 in Banjul)

1. Development and implementation of National Youth Policies
2. Promotion of participation of Youth in decision making and development processes
3. Employability oriented Education (formal, informal and non-formal, vocational) in urban, and rural areas
4. Sustainable livelihood and youth employment
5. Healthcare
6. Engaging the contribution of Africa youths in the diaspora
7. Issues of girls and young women



## Continental Youth policies (3)

### C. The African Youth Decade, 2009-2018

**“ a road map towards the implementation of the African Youth Charter”**

#### Strategic Objectives

- Ensuring rights-based approach to youth development through meaningful participation and representation;
- **Consolidated investment targeting youth socio-economic empowerment;**
- Mainstreaming youth perspective in the efforts to achieve broad development goals and priorities.

**D. Feasibility Study For The Establishment Of An African Youth Fund (going on since March 2018) (AUC)**

# National Youth policies

## 32 Countries with Youth policy

Angola, Benin, Botswana, BurkinaFaso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, DRC, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe)

## 14 Countries with no youth policy

(Algeria, Chad, Comoros, Congo Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Libya, Mali, Sao-Tome & Principe, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia)

## 6 have unclear youth policy status

(Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea-Conakry, Lesotho, Mauritania, South-Sudan)

**2 Countries with drafts** (Central African Republic, and Cote d'Ivoire)

## **Element of current national Youth policies (1)**

### **A. Education / training /apprenticeship policies**



- 1. Vary from country to country**
- 2. Consisted of few and often plethoric education / training/ apprenticeship centres (for formal system)**
- 3. Often with poor quality infrastructure.**
- 4. Regular schooling without recourse to industry demand.**
- 5. Sometimes with poorly qualified staffs**
- 6. Very little focus on home / family / cultural education /training / apprenticeship**

## Element of current national Youth policies (2)

### B. Employment or Job creation policies

Employment programs are often poorly coordinated and politically motivated

- **Internship promotion**
- **First employment opportunities**
- **Temporal/seasonal employment**
- **Microfinance/credit for entrepreneurship**
- **fiscal exoneration measures for enterprises**

Shortening of duration and cost reduction for business creation measures



## **Element of current national Youth policies (2)**

### **C. Social Security policies**

- **Health care programmes in very few countries (Ghana, Rwanda, etc.)**
- **Employment rights /standards (hardly implemented and monitored)**
- **Employment inspection (Hardly functional)**

# Popular Agriculture Based Youth Engagement Programs



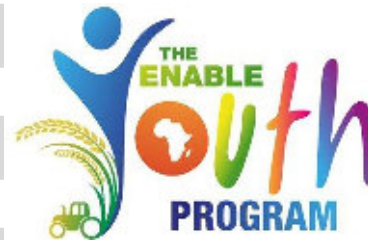
- Agribusiness
- incubation
- Mentorship etc.



- Training
- incubation
- Mentorship etc.



- Harnessing opportunities in Agribusiness.
- Capacity building.
- Advocacy for youth in agriculture.



- Policy advocacy.
- Business training.
- Access to finance.



**Holistic Empowerment  
Livelihood Program**

- Capacity building.
- Leveraging South-South Collaboration.
- Technical and entrepreneurial skill development

## Elements of Continental Policies for the Rural Youths

**Appropriate policy on rural youths should..**

**A. Address market intra and intercontinental market access.**



**B. Land issues for agriculture at scale.**



**C. Structured agricultural commodity pricing.**

**D. Mechanization.**

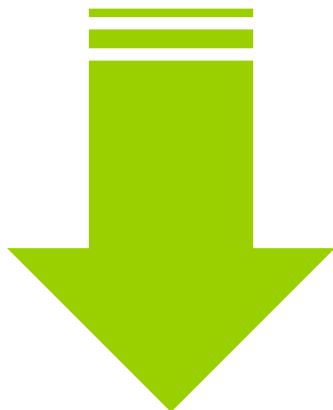
**E. Bringing technologies and beneficial practices to scale.**



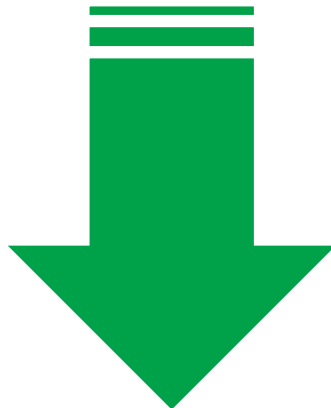
## Essentials of effective rural youth strategy



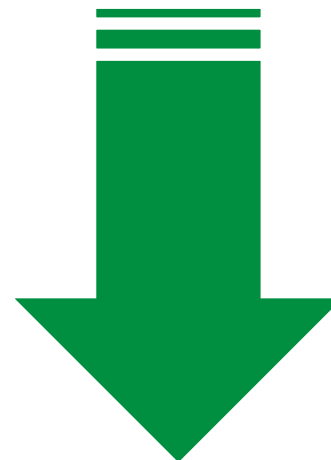
**Address  
“Cause”  
factors not  
“Symptoms”**



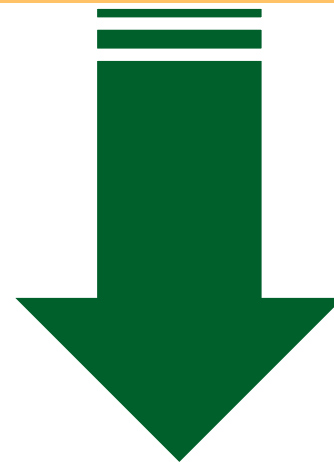
**Be  
politically  
neutral**



**Have  
realistic  
implemen-  
-tation  
plan**



**Have  
judicious  
investment  
scheme**



**Flexible  
enough to  
allow  
lesson  
learning  
as we go**

## **Summary & Conclusion**

- A. Continental policies for engagement of rural youths is practically non existent.**
- B. Known Youth Policies barely addresses youth in agriculture.**
- C. Africa leaders needs to be proactive in developing appropriate policies and invest into its implementation.**
- D. Facilities for foresight analysis is needed.**
- E. A good coordination instrument is needed to foster coherence of the various interventions.**



*Thank you  
for listening*

