

Work and employment in agriculture in the context of structural change in Africa

4 controversial and connected research issues

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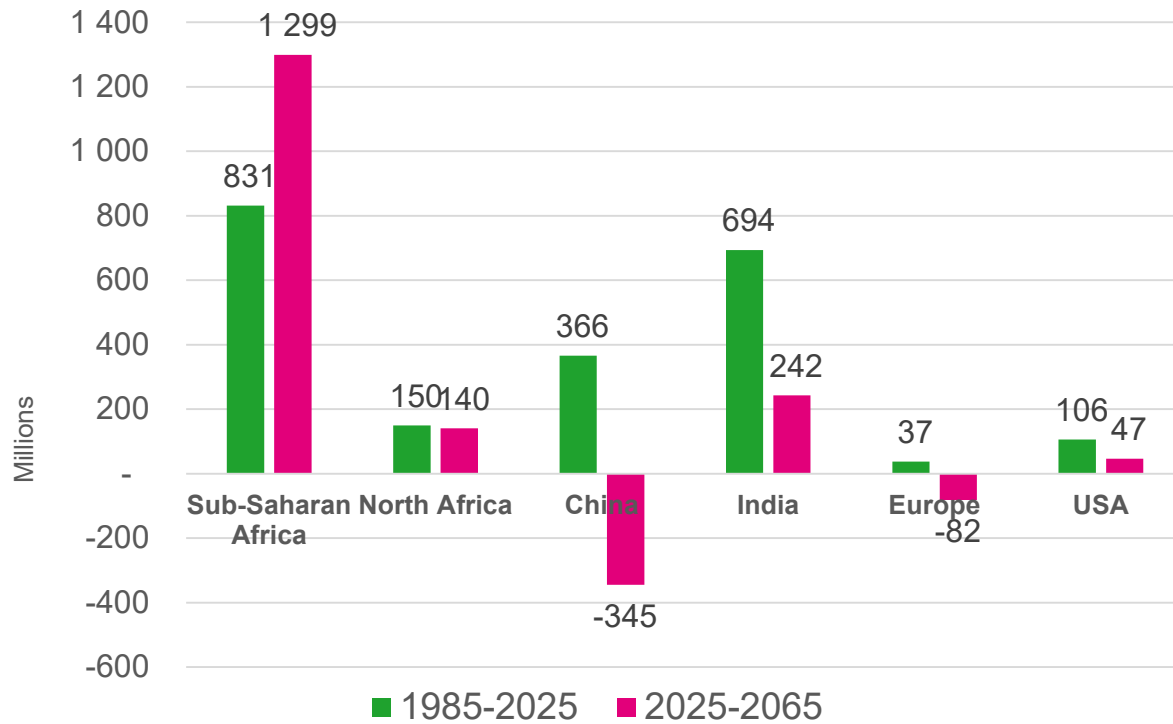
WEBINAR: "What about work and employment in agriculture in Africa?"

5 December 2024

1. Structural transformation in Africa: agricultural vs. industry?

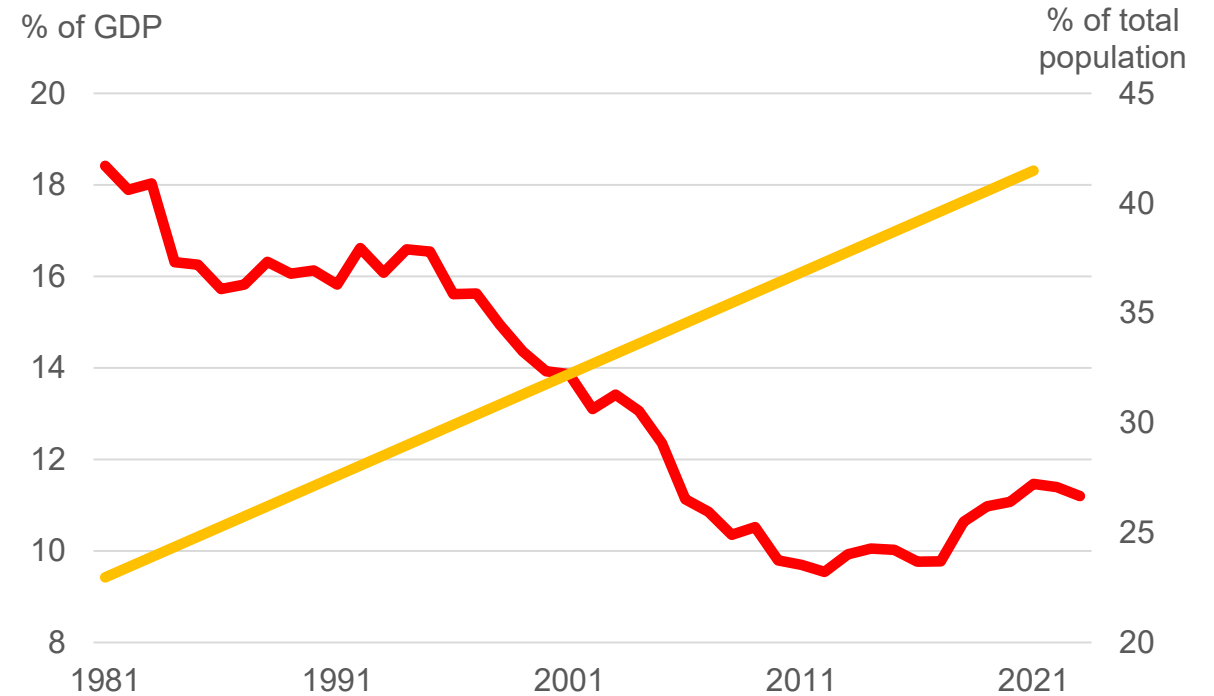
Specificities of structural transformation in Africa

Population increase by regions and countries
(past and next 40 years)



Source: WPP 2024

Urbanization without industrialization in SSA

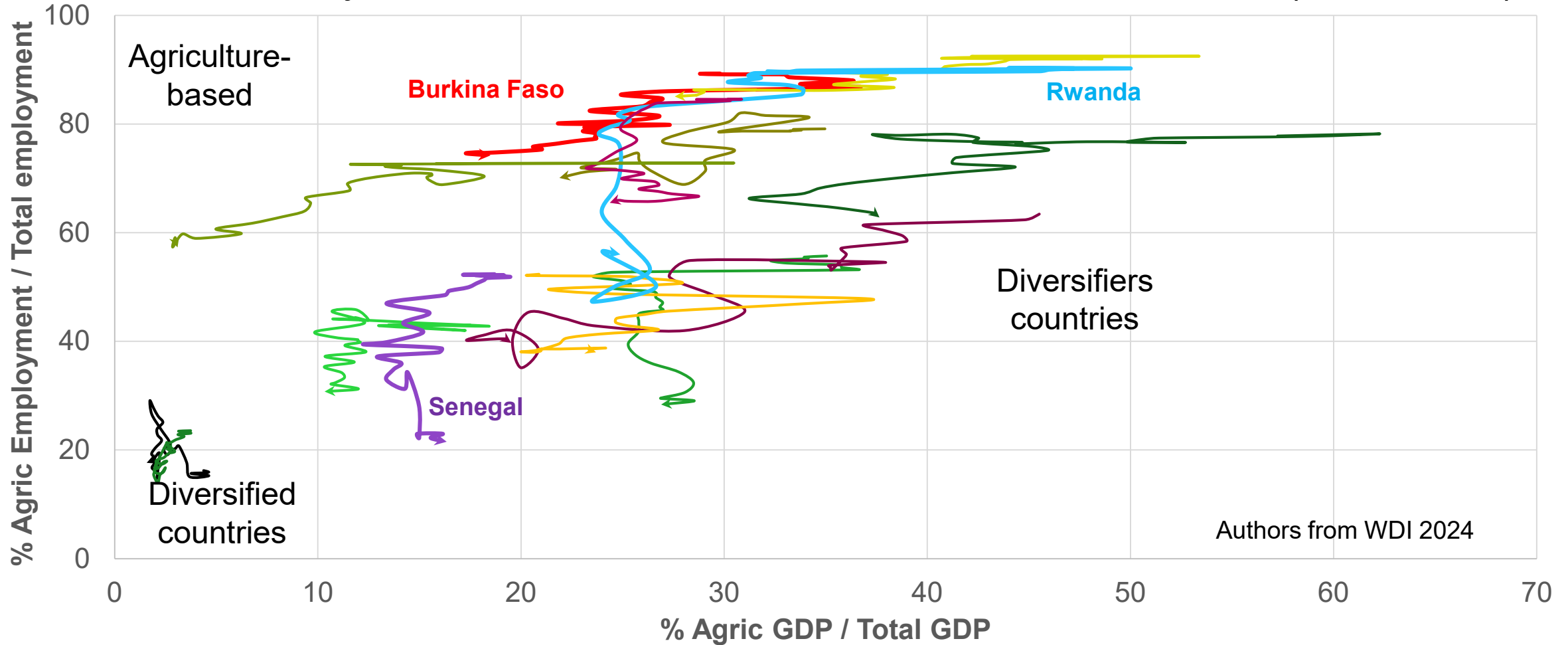


Source: WDI 2024; WUP 2018

— Manufacturing sector
— Urban population

A diversity in the role of agricultural sector in Africa

Pathways of structural transformation in African countries (1991-2022)



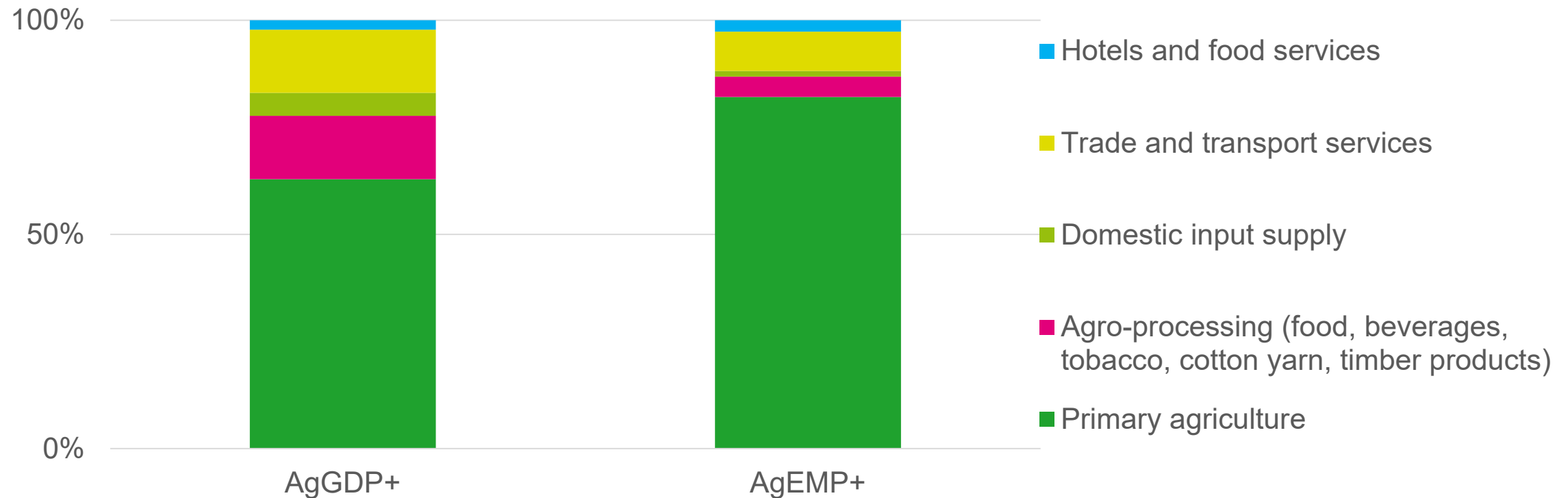
Authors from WDI 2024

- Benin
- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Madagascar
- Morocco
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Zambia

2. Where are the jobs in the agri-food sector?

Where are the workers in the sub-sectors?

Distribution of GDP and employment in the agri-food sector in 24 African countries



(source: authors from Thurlow, 2021)

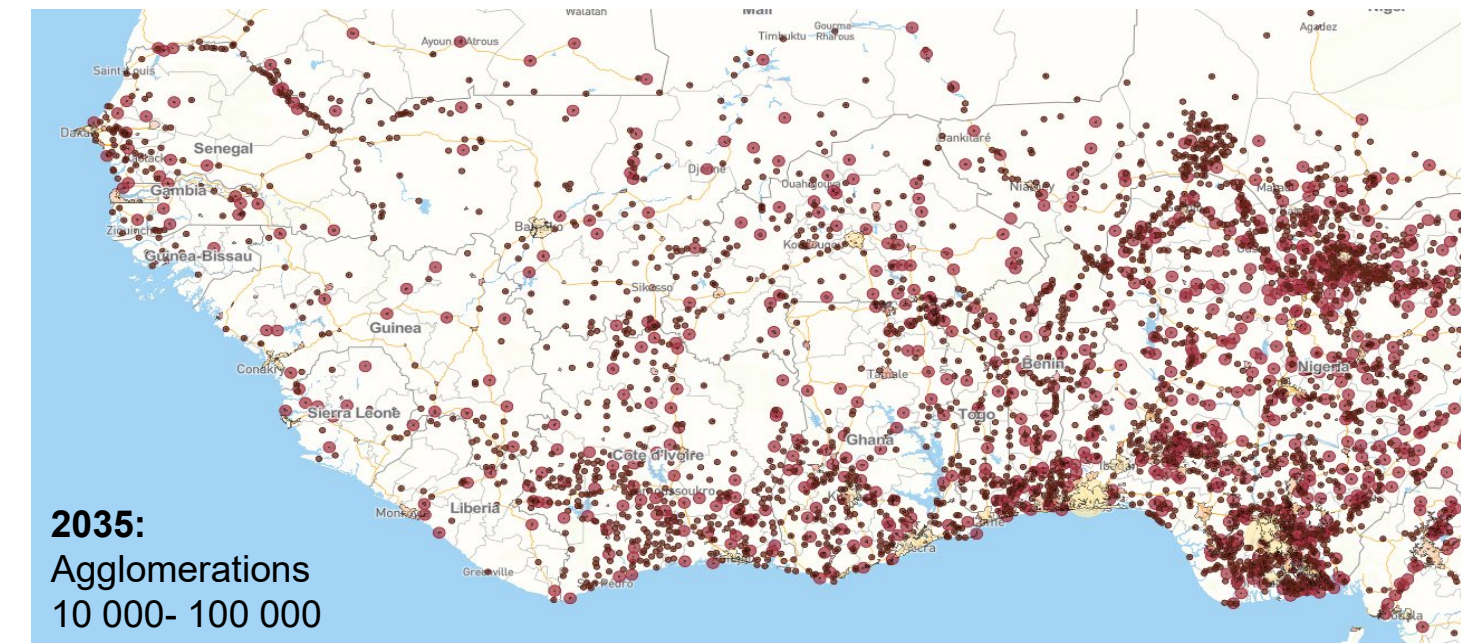
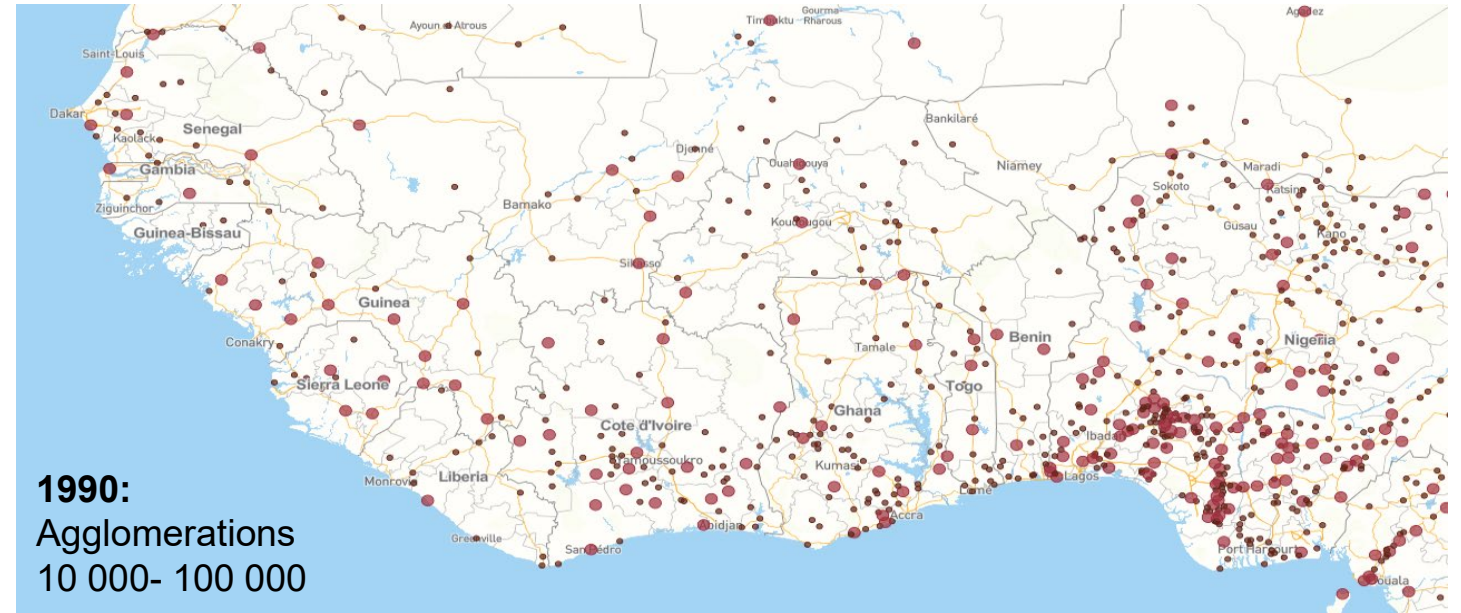
+10% VA in the primary agriculture: + 16,5 million jobs
+10% VA in agroprocessing: + 1 million jobs

Where are the jobs in the rural-urban continuum?

In half of African countries, 1/3 of the urban population still lives in the largest city.

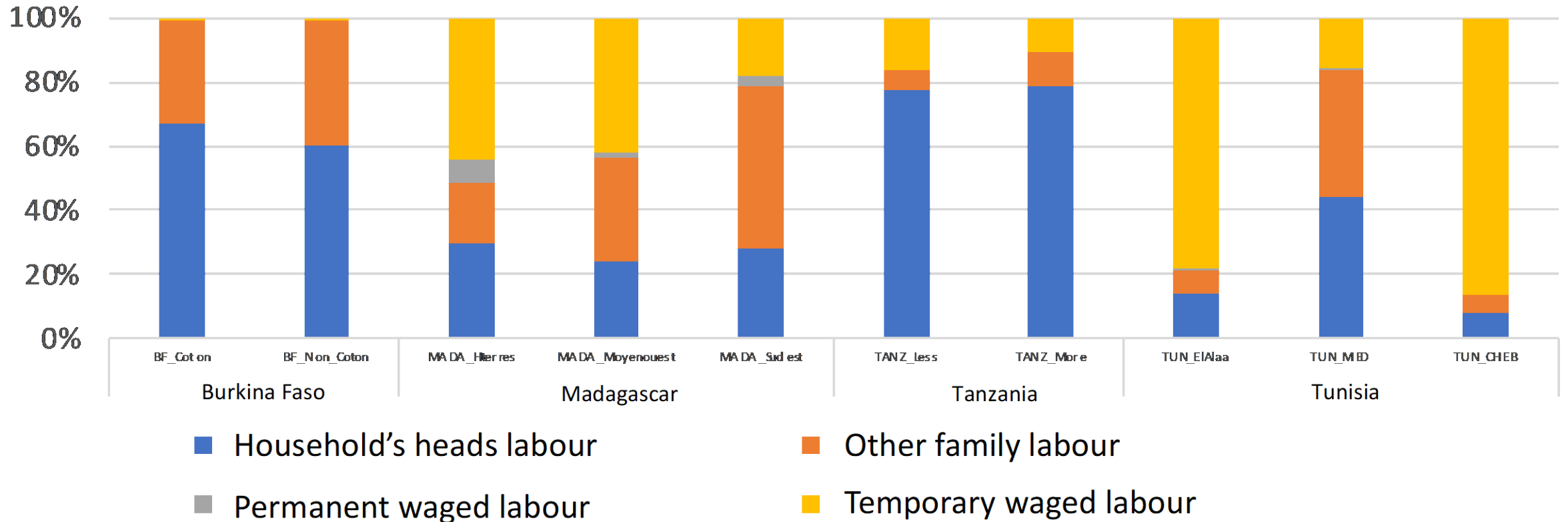
But the majority (91%) of urban agglomerations have fewer than 100,000 inhabitants and are home to 1/3 of the urban population.

Question of the quality of infrastructure and economic environment to support diversification.



3. Which agri-foods models for which workers?

Diversity of workers according to farming systems



Source: authors from Viability project, 2023

Family farms vs. corporate farms

| Country | Large-scale commercial farms | | | | Family farms | | |
|---------|------------------------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| | Area cultivated /farm | Type of crop | Nb of PJ/ 100 ha | Nb of TJ/ 100 ha | Area cultivated /farm | Type of crop | Nb of PJ/ 100 ha (equivalent) |
| Kenya | 31 | Veg | 210 | 225 | 1,02 | Mixed - veg | 212 |
| Kenya | 23 | Roses | 1740 | 220 | 1,07 | Mixed | 160 |
| Kenya | 952 | Cereal | 6 | 1 | 1,07 | mixed | 160 |
| Moz | 1 467 | Cereal | 6 | 22 | 2,1 | mixed | 110 |
| Moz | 2 073 | Sisal | 1 | 40 | 2,1 | Mixed | 110 |
| Moz | 1 558 | Tea | 9 | 71 | | | |

Source: Afgroland survey (2016-2017)

Agroecological vs. « conventional » farms

- What is agroecological and what is not?
- There are controversial debates in the literature on the impact of agroecology on job creation (Montt and Luu, 2020 ; Bezner Kerr et al., 2019 ; Laske and Michel, 2022)
- There is only punctual consensus that some agroecology practices are more time consuming than others (e.g. manual weeding or manure) (Dugué et al. 2012)... and are more sustainable
- Health and safety at work issue with the increasing use of pesticides

4. Is attractiveness a driver of job creation?

Job attractiveness and youth

- Dominant paradigm: youth are not interested in agri-food sector activities
- But, it depends on agricultural context, social origin or social value accorded to agriculture
- And many youth will not have the choice
- It is not irreversible: back to land dynamics

| Country | Site | Agriculture important in imagined future (%) |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Uganda | Awach [relatively Hot] | 92 |
| | Luweero [relatively Hot] | 78 |
| | Mucwini [relatively cold] | 88 |
| | Butuntumula [relatively cold] | 65 |
| Ethiopia | Wondo Genet [relatively hot] | 35 |
| | Bora [relatively hot] | 71 |
| | Jabi Tehnan [relatively cold] | 52 |
| | Kuyu [relatively cold] | 38 |
| Nigeria | Oba Oke [relatively hot] | 41 |
| | Igbariam Eziafor [relatively hot] | 38 |
| | Idi Amu [relatively cold] | 69 |
| | Umumbo [relatively cold] | 59 |
| Côte d'Ivoire | Soubre [relatively hot] | 38 |
| | Odienné [relatively hot] | 44 |
| | Daloa [relatively cold] | 27 |

Importance of agriculture in imagined future by youth
(source: Yeboah et al. 2021)

Conclusion

- Many questions remain to be addressed, with particular attention to be paid to the diversity of contexts and possibilities.
- A need to address the challenges by looking simultaneously at very local levels (including the plot) and at meso and macroeconomic levels
- And of course... A need for more relevant datasets and research programs

Thank you