

Youth participation in agriculture in Africa

Presented by:

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Centre for Transformative
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MEDICINE

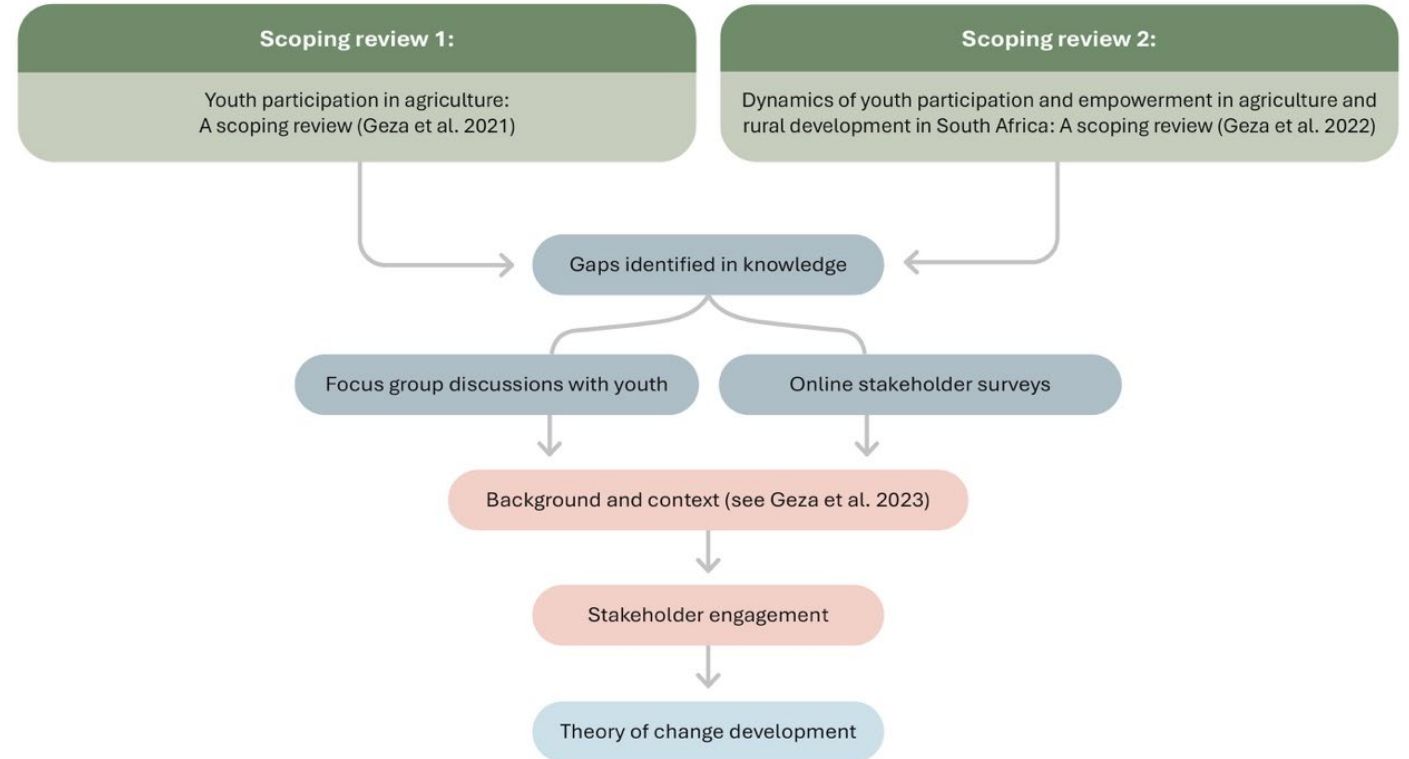


Climate Change
& Planetary
Health

Background

- Youth heterogeneity (age, gender, education, skills & locality etc.)
- Opportunity space (socio-economic background + other factors)
- Youth bulge in Africa as challenge + opportunity
- Food system **challenges** and **expectations** (food and nutrition security, employment and environmental sustainability)
- Youth and food systems (suffer from the failures of current food systems and will inherit these troubled food systems + their looming challenges)
- Inclusion of the 'youth agenda' in policy in Africa

Overview of the methodology



Methodology cont.

Grey literature:

1. FAO
2. UN
3. SADC
4. NEPAD
5. Institute of Development Studies (IDS)

Search engines:

1. WOS
2. Cab direct
3. Science direct

Example of the inclusion and exclusion criteria used for the reviews

- NB: for the first review the search was limited to studies published between 2009 and 2019, as 2009–2018 were the implementation years for the African Youth Decade plan of action

	Include	Exclude
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people in agriculture between the ages 15-35 years old • Young people in universities/ agricultural institutions between the ages 15-35 years old 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Males only • Females only
Concept	<p>Include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interventions conducting research on the participation of youth in agriculture • intervention/ study creating or identifying opportunities for youth participation in agriculture program • Studies conducting research on youth perceptions, awareness or attitude towards agriculture • Program or intervention analysing the economic , social or political environment factors affecting the participation of young people in agriculture • intervention/ studies conducting research/ addressing a challenge or limitation faced by youth in agriculture 	<p>Exclude</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature reviews/ review papers • Studies not relevant to Africa • Policy briefs • Studies on food insecurity, diets or nutritional status of youth • Farm injuries in young workers • Youth urban migration • Studies focussed on gender gaps in relation to youth challenges or opportunities
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intervention attempting to address youth unemployment • Rural youth livelihood strategy studies • Careers options for youth in agribusiness 	
Study design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative and quantitative studies 	

Policy assessment component

- **Key regional policies**

- African Youth Decade Plan of Action 2009–2018,
- African Agenda 2063,
- African Youth Charter,
- Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP),
- the Malabo Declaration
- Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP).
- Government policies, strategies, and programmes related to youth participation and empowerment in agriculture for **South Africa** from 1994 to 2021

▼
Policy components extracted (used as predetermined themes/nodes):

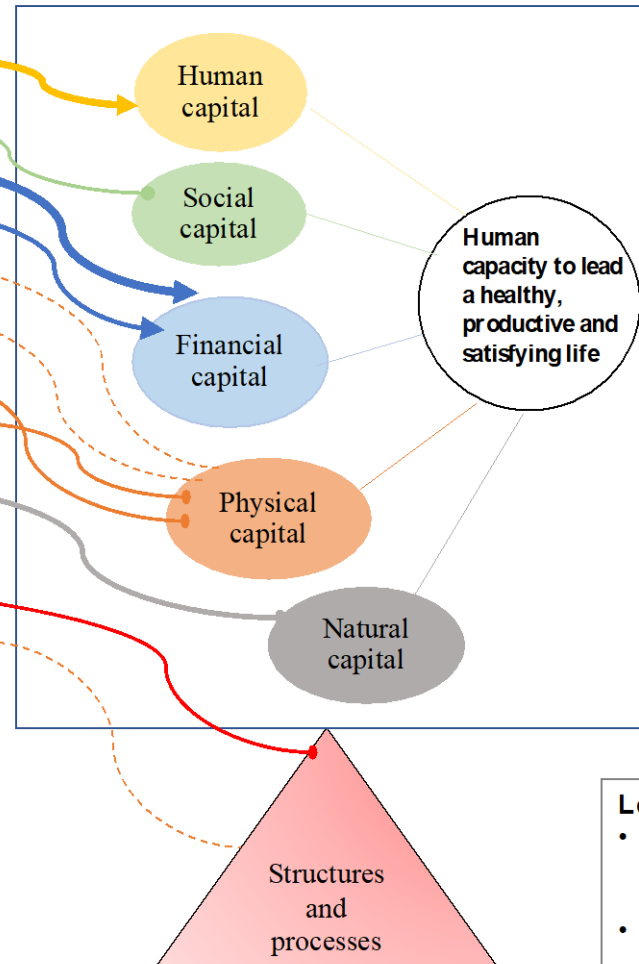
Aims and objectives
Beneficiaries
Challenges identified by the policy
Critical actions to address challenges identified
Desired outcomes
Implementation plan
Monitoring and evaluation
Overarching policy frameworks
Policy targets
Proposed interventions
Policy values and principles

Challenges

Lack of:

- Lack of access to information
- Lack of social networks
- access to finance and credit
- Rising input costs
- Lack of service delivery
- Lack of access to markets
- Lack of infrastructure
- Low levels of tech advancement
- Lack of access to land
- Lack of participation in decision making
- Lack of initiative to engage youth

Sustainable Livelihoods Framework



Vision: Youth-inclusive Sustainable Agri-food Systems

Capacity building

>>integrate agriculture in school curriculum
 >>Equip youth with soft skills, vocational training and transferable skills needed in the agri-food system
 >>*/ Data base of youth cohorts and assessment of opportunities and challenges facing each cohort
 */§ Align youth cohort needs, interest and asset profile with food system dynamics

Connectivity and networking

>>Increase youth inclusiveness and representation in policy processes (representative of all youth cohorts)
 >>*/ cross sector collaboration to improve youth access to services and resources
 */§ Invest in mentorship opportunities at all levels (family, community, local, national, regional)

Contribution

>>*/ Alignment of youth cohort profile with market demands and food system livelihood opportunities
 *>>§ Review current youth participation in value-chain and create opportunities for long term career paths

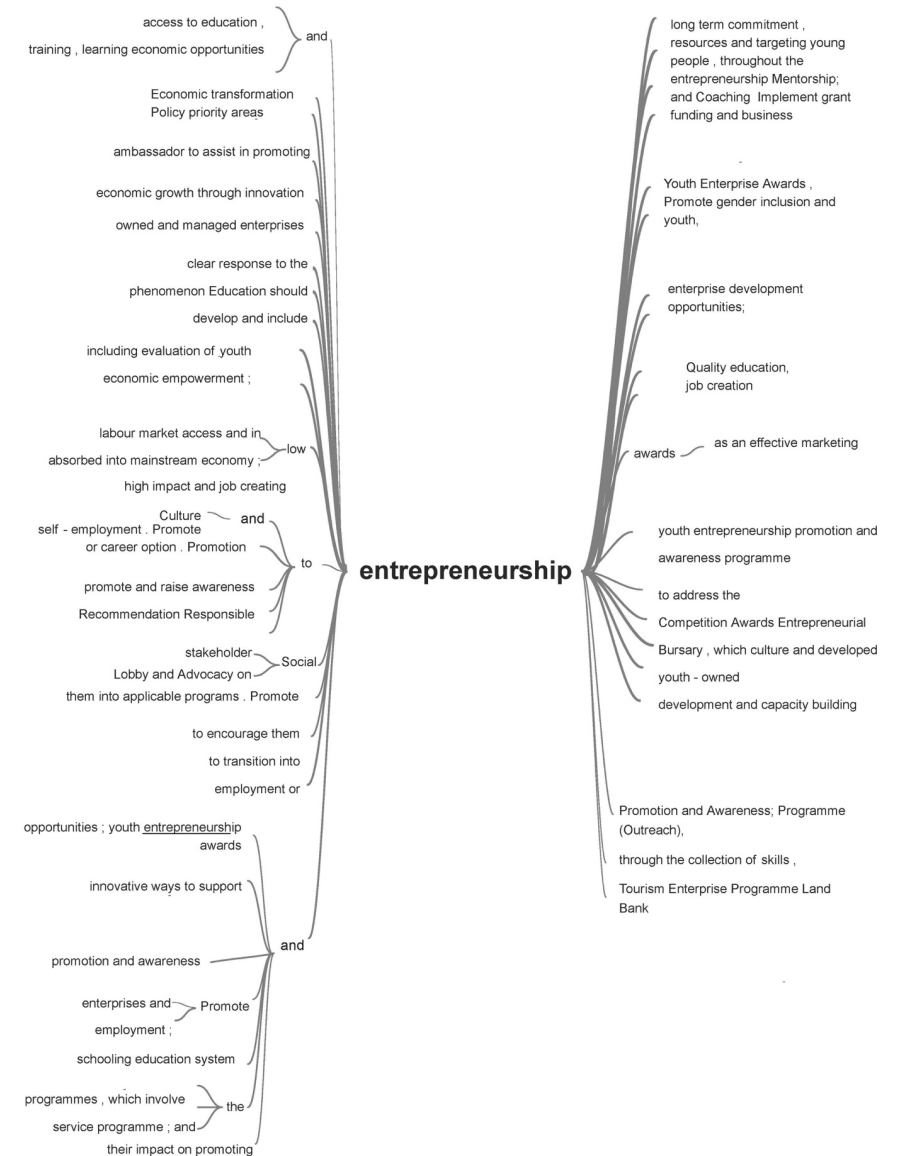
Legend

- The style of the arrows indicates the number of articles that mentioned the challenge. Arrow with broken lines indicates 1-10 articles, thin solid arrow with round ends indicates 11-20 articles and thicker solid arrow indicates 20+ articles
- Colour codes represent the five asset groups (human, social, financial, physical, natural) and red represents transforming structures and systems
- Codes for: >> short-term, */medium-term § long-term goals

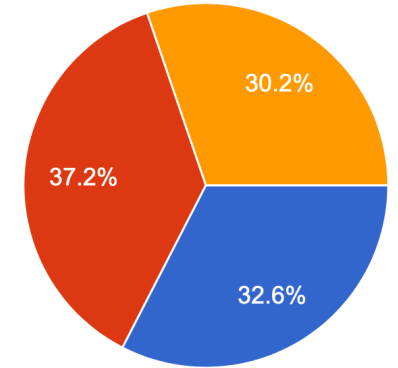
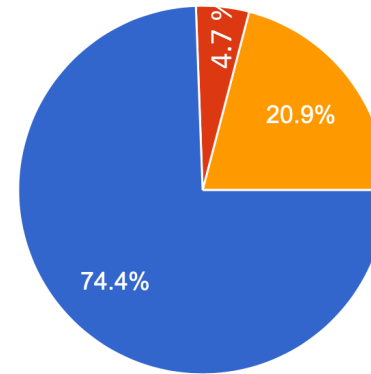
Central focus of policy strategies is entrepreneurship

Implications:

- Entry level enterprise development
- Limited long-term support
- Few programmes and interventions lead the youth into the mainstream agricultural economy (excl. educated and skilled youth)



Employment opportunities vs support services (FGDs)



- Primary sector (primary production and animal husbandry)
- Secondary sector (processing and value-adding)
- Tertiary sector (wholesale, distribution)

- Distribution of stakeholder's opinion of which sector of the agricultural value-chain has the **most support services** (panel A, left hand side) and the **least support services** (panel B, right hand side).

Key findings cont.

- Youth gain access to land through inheritance, permission to occupy agreements, or leasing
- Youth perceptions of agriculture
- Emphasis on the economic aspect undervalues other enabling factors that need to be addressed to facilitate youth participation and empowerment
- Lack of youth participation in policy processes

Negative

- Lack of interest
- Lack of awareness (initiatives and programmes)

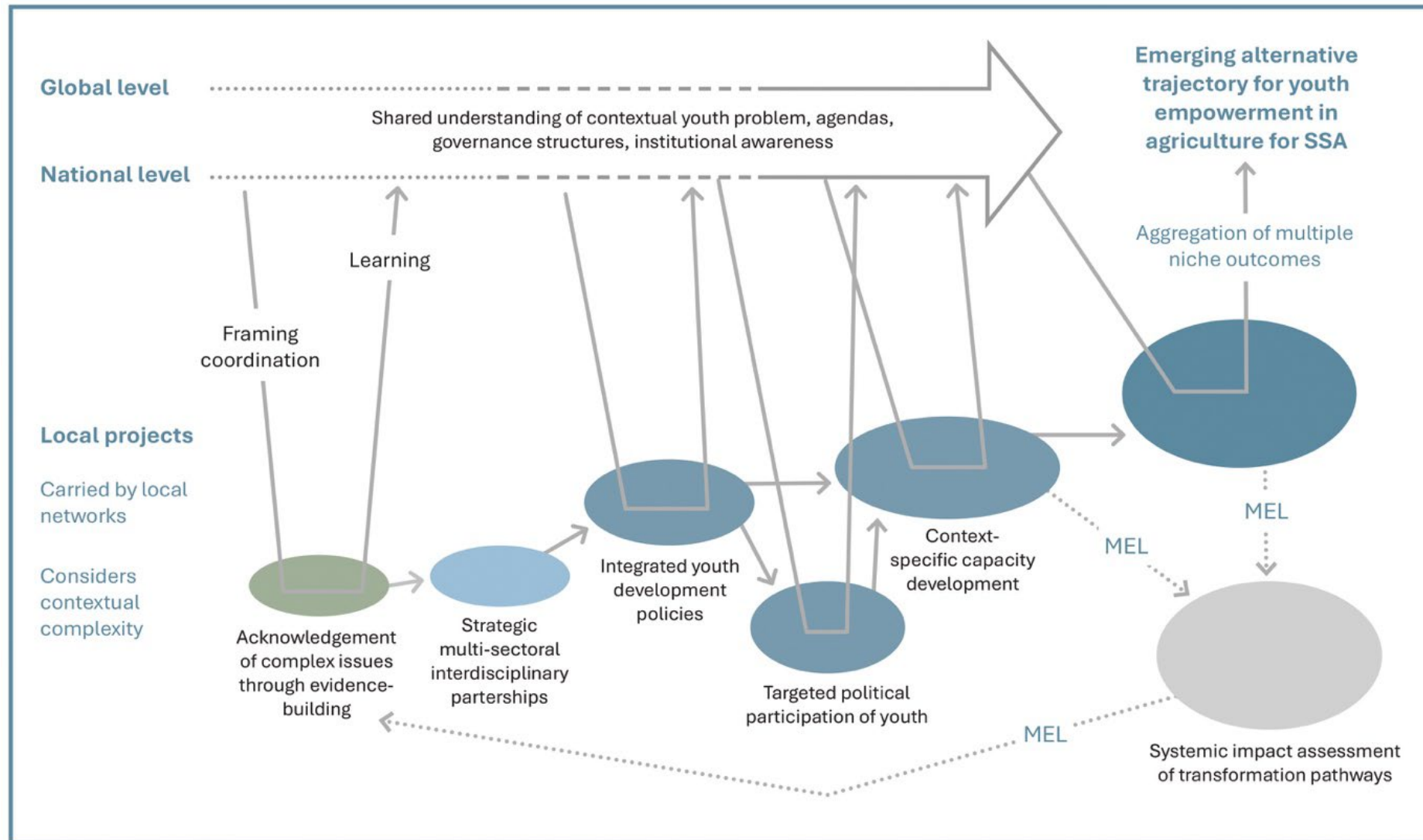
Positive

- Training and experience
 - Access to information
 - Community engagement in agriculture
-

Global and regional percentage of members of parliament (MPs) aged 30 and under

Region	Number of MPs	Share of MPs aged 30 and under
Americas	4,604	3.5%
Asia	6,494	1.5%
Europe	11,975	4.1%
Middle East and North Africa	3,415	1.8%
Pacific	660	1.7%
Sub-Saharan Africa	5,059	2.2%
World	32,307	2.9%

- Investing in young people’s capacities to be leaders in food systems transformation
- Invest in sustainable, equitable, and resilient food systems to ensure they offer viable and attractive livelihoods to youth

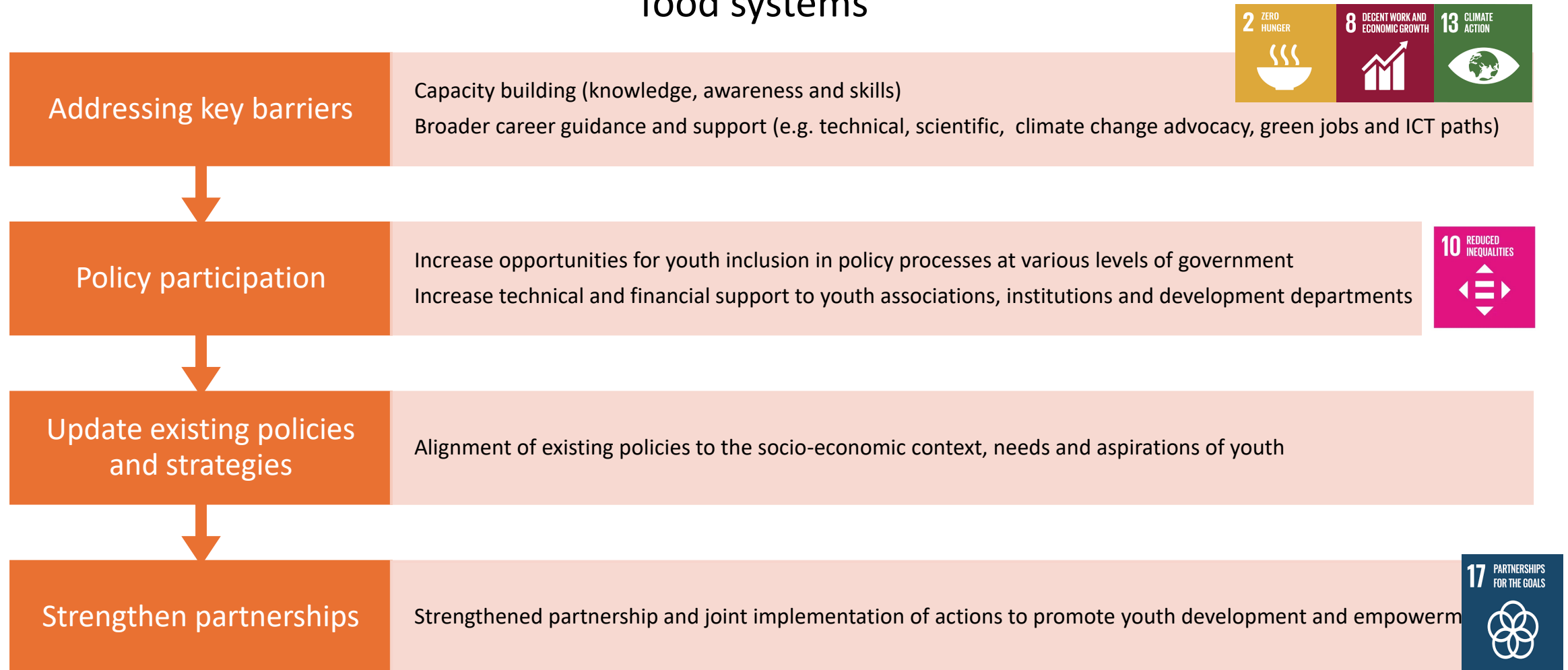


Framework depicting the importance of a shared understanding of contextual youth issues, agendas, governance structures and institutional awareness amongst stakeholders at various levels to enable systemic impact, transformation and youth empowerment in agrifood systems in SSA.

Way forward

- Youth **heterogeneity** (for context-specific approaches)
- Widen the spectrum of support services provided through policy, regulation, and incentives
- Policies need to be informed from **a broader perspective of sustainable development**
- **Upscale existing support services** at local, national and regional levels
- Investments need to be made to improve the **institutional capacity** at all spheres of **government** for better program implementation

Youth livelihood and well-being promoted through effective participation in agri-food systems



Existing initiatives targeting different aspects

Exposure to career opportunities:

- UniBRAIN program in Zambia, Junior LandCare programme in South Africa, Yoma

Youth-inclined to work in agriculture:

- YEAP program in Nigeria , Youth Agropastoral Entrepreneurship Programme in Cameroon, ENABLE youth

Peer-to-peer learning

- African Youth Agripreneurs platform (AYA),

Advocacy and capacity building

- Act4Change, Young Professionals for Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD network)



The end

Q&A

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