



**Promoting Decent Rural Youth Employment
& Entrepreneurship in Agriculture
& Agribusiness**



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What it is

Boosting employment opportunities for young women and men is a top priority in Africa. Youth under 24 years represent more than 60 per cent of the continent's population. Despite strong economic growth in many African countries, wage employment is limited and agriculture and agribusiness continue to provide income and employment for over 60 per cent of Africa's population.

Continental frameworks exist, such as the Malabo Declaration, adopted by African Heads of State and Government in June 2014 on, "Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods." It pursues inclusive agricultural growth and transformation. To this end, the Malabo Declaration commits to create job opportunities for the youth in agricultural value chains, and to support as well as facilitate preferential entry and participation for the youth in gainful and attractive agri-business opportunities.



One of the collaborative efforts on the continent to create job opportunities for youth in agricultural value chains, is the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund (ASTF). The trust fund is a funding vehicle for African governments and partners to commit un-earmarked resources for the pursuit of relevant national and regional priorities in Africa.

Promoting Decent Rural Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship in Agriculture and Agribusiness is a project of the NEPAD Agency, funded by ASTF. The project also receives technical support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and is currently being implemented initially in four countries – Benin, Cameroon, Malawi and Niger.



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Why it is needed

Agriculture is an essential driver of economic development and an area of great opportunities for young people in Africa. Harnessing opportunities in agribusiness entrepreneurship and innovations, along the value chains, contributes to improving the sector's image, increases productivity and returns to investment and provides new employment opportunities, hence attracting more young people.

Subsistence-oriented small-scale agriculture is often not the preferred choice of work for many young people. Attracting young people into the agri-food sector requires developing a more modern, profitable and efficient agriculture and agribusiness sector.



Its benefits

The project provides a platform to use limited funds efficiently, towards building synergies and partnerships with on-going programmes in African countries. It uses project interventions to leverage and mobilise additional resources.

The objective of the project is to create decent employment opportunities for young women and men through the development of sustainable agricultural and agribusiness enterprises along strategic value chains.

How it works

Promoting Decent Rural Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship in Agriculture and Agribusiness is a multi-partner project coordinated by the NEPAD Agency. The project is implemented with the support of the FAO, implementing technical ministries and training institutions.

The implementation arrangement has the Project Steering Committee as the key body within the project governance structure that is responsible for the business and high level issues associated with the project.



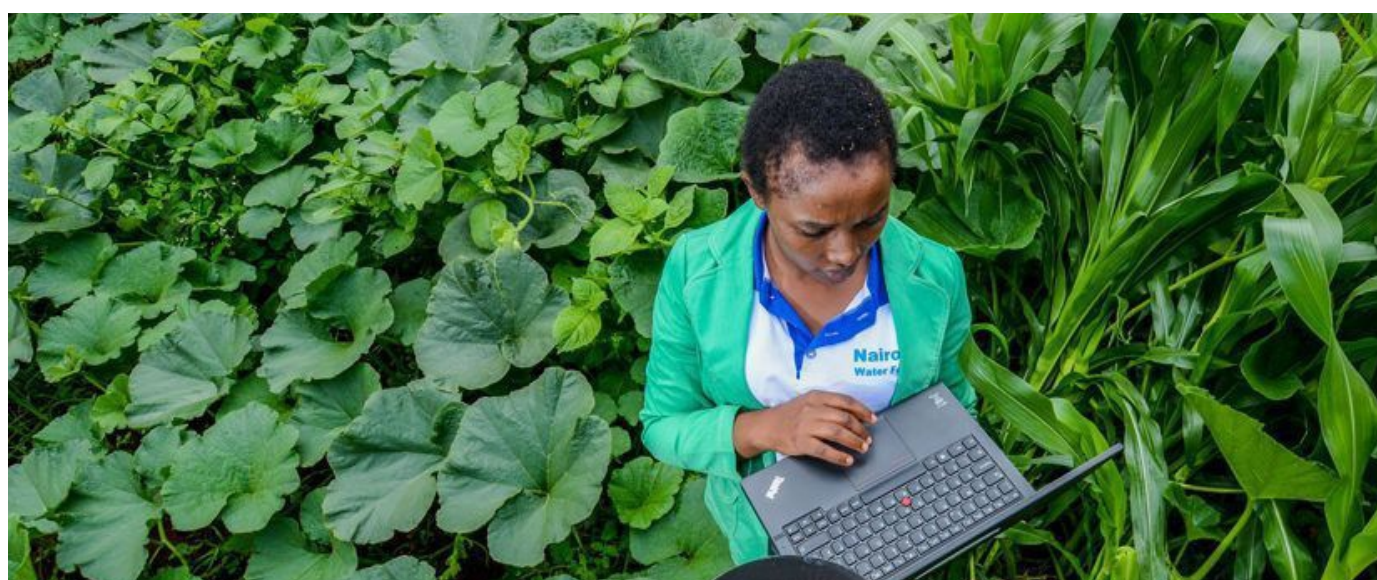
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At country level, two separate teams are established in respective countries. They are:

The National Project Coordination Committee (PCC) -The role of the PCC is to provide NEPAD Agency with the necessary technical support and expertise on the project, before and during the implementation of the project in the country.

The Trainees Selection Task Team (TSTT) - The TSTT leads the selection process of identifying trainees for participation in the skills development project carried out in each country.

Selected students are dispatched to the identified Agriculture Technical Vocational Education and Training (ATVET) institutions for training and mentorship in any of the priority value chains of the country. At the end of the training, some of the graduates find jobs in agricultural and agribusiness enterprises sectors, while some embark in entrepreneurship in the agricultural and agribusiness value chains, according to their specialisation.



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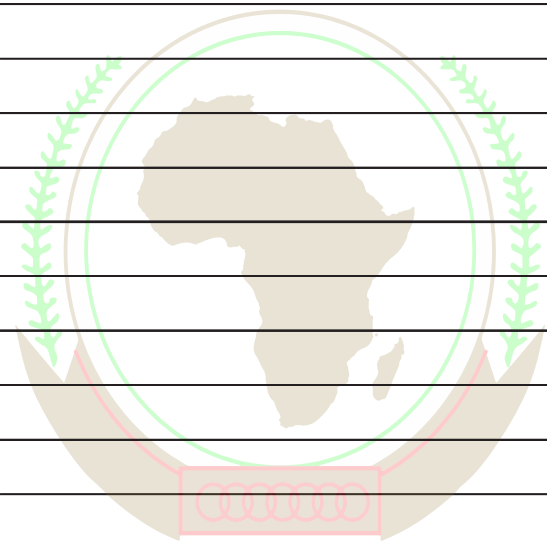
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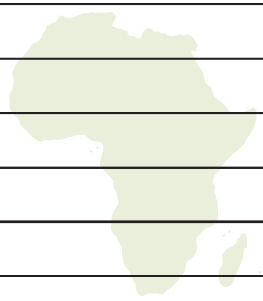
So far, the ASTF project has produced the following results from the four implementing countries:

- Through the project, NEPAD Agency capacitated 19 personnel from Benin, Cameroon, Malawi and Niger on project execution, contract interpretation, technical reporting, finance reporting and procurement
- 44 youths were equipped with skills to engage in agriculture value chain enterprises in Benin
- 43 youths were capacitated with skills to engage in agriculture value chain enterprises in Malawi
- 91 youths were capacitated with skills to engage in agriculture value chain enterprises in Cameroon
- The project funded 20 youths from Benin, Cameroon and Malawi to start entrepreneurship on agriculture value chains
- The project facilitated peer learning and knowledge exchange visits for 16 youths (from Benin, Cameroon, Malawi and Niger) on rural youth employment and entrepreneurship in the areas of agriculture and agribusiness.








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