

YOUTH AND LAND

**TOP THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW
COMING OUT OF IFAD'S 2019
RURAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT**



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FACTS

ALL SUPPORTING INFORMATION
HAS BEEN EXTRACTED FROM IFAD'S
2019 RURAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT



IFAD'S 2019 RURAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT IS AVAILABLE AT:
<https://www.ifad.org/web/knowledge/publication/asset/41173272>



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Design by Federico Pinci.
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Picture: © ILC/ Jason Taylor



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FACTS



Young people need **ACCESS TO LAND** and natural resources so they can **PROSPER** and **CONTRIBUTE TO THE ECONOMY**

“

Constraints on access to land, natural resources, finance, technology, knowledge, information and education also make it difficult for young people to seize opportunities for bettering their lives and contributing to the rural economy.

(p.14, Forward)

“

...rural youth who are transitioning from dependence to independence must have certain capacities, skills, financial resources and key assets (such as land) in order to be able to seek out opportunities and take advantage of them.

(p.32, Constraints hindering the transition from dependence to independence)

Picture: © ILC/ Jason Taylor

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FACTS



Youth are the key to **LONG-TERM FOOD SECURITY** and **POVERTY ERADICATION**

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IFAD's Rural Youth Action Plan has set a target for 50 per cent of its loan portfolio to be youth-sensitive so that

“...access to new and traditional knowledge and innovations, markets, and land, when complemented by skills and training, can enable youth to drive inclusive transformation of rural areas and long-term food security and poverty eradication.”.

(p.15, Foreword)

Picture: © ILC/Tria Rifki

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FACTS



Young people need **ACCESS TO LAND** in order to **SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE** to them

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rural youth who are transitioning from dependence to independence must have the capacity and skills, financial resources and key assets, such as land, that will empower them to seek out opportunities.

(p.60, Constraints in the transition from dependence to independence)

Picture: © ILC/ Jason Taylor

CHALLENGES

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Young people in rural areas who wish to become farmers have always faced the challenge of gaining access to land, but three factors now make this challenge even more formidable. First, owing to rapid population growth, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, much of the rural population now lives in more densely settled areas. **Land is becoming less available, and plots are becoming smaller and more fragmented.** Second, parents are living longer and are continuing to farm their land for a longer time, and they are **therefore less likely to transfer land to their children when their children are entering the labour force.** Third, the rapid rise of **medium-scale commercial farms, driven by the expansion of markets made possible by the structural and rural transformation processes, is increasing the competition for land.** Such farms control an estimated 30 to 50 per cent of the farmland in Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and Zambia (Jayne et al., 2016). As a result, young people are significantly less likely than adults to own land, and they are even less likely to have sole title to it.

(p.33, Constraints hindering the transition from dependence to independence)

Picture: © ILC/Kate Walton

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CHALLENGES



Young people face **THREE CHALLENGES** in accessing land:

- 1 it is less available and plots are smaller;
- 2 parents are living longer and are less likely to transfer their land; and
- 3 increasing competition with medium-scale commercial farms

“

Land ownership rates among rural youth are highest in Central and South Asia. In South Asia, 40 per cent of rural young men own land – twice as many as the number of young women who own any land. In other regions, ownership rates are below 20 per cent, with rates below 10 per cent in LAC (Doss et al., 2018)

(p.239, Rural youth challenges and opportunities across and within regions)

Picture: © ILC/Jason Taylor

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CHALLENGES



Rural youth are **OFTEN FORCED TO MIGRATE TO URBAN AREAS** due to lack of employment or conflict

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The expropriation of land and the reduction of already limited access to land can lead to a further deterioration in the opportunities for rural youth in conflict areas, oftentimes resulting in displacement and permanent migration to urban areas.

(p.94, Spotlight: Rural youth in conflict-affected and fragile situations)

One of the objectives for IFAD programme interventions:

“

Migration forms part of the livelihood choices that are particular to (rural) youth in their transition into adulthood. Seeking employment can often be a reason for youth migration, especially if the availability of land is limited and off-farm opportunities in rural areas are lacking (Kosec et al., 2017; Yeboah et al., 2018).

(p.162, Spotlight: Rural youth mobility)

Picture: © ILC/Tria Rifki

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CHALLENGES



Young **WOMEN ARE LESS THAN HALF AS LIKELY AS YOUNG MEN TO OWN LAND** by themselves

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*Because access to land and other productive assets is more restricted for young women, it is likely that the **gender productivity gap** is even wider in the youth population. Although these constraints are likely to be less evident in more connected areas (near secondary cities and rural towns and in the DO and SMLA spaces in the rural opportunity continuum), **structural discrimination** against young women on the demand side may limit their participation and occupational choices even in these areas.*

(p.106, Being young, being rural and being a woman poses a triple challenge)

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Access to productive assets, especially land, can be improved through gender sensitive land reforms (Ali, Deininger and Goldstein, 2014) and land rental markets that ease land constraints (Yeboah et al., 2018). Such interventions will challenge cultural gender norms and may have unintended negative effects if not carefully implemented. (Bhalotra, Brulé and Roy, 2018).

(p.113, Programmatic agenda for empowering young rural women)

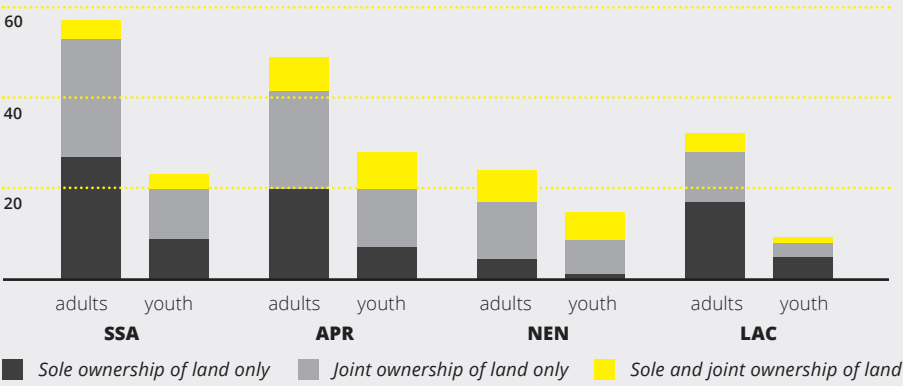
Picture: © ILC/Barbara Codispoti



CHALLENGES

In sub-Saharan Africa, around **1 IN 3 ADULTS** is the **SOLE OWNER OF A PLOT OF LAND**, while this is true of **FEWER THAN 1 IN 10 YOUNG PEOPLE**

FIGURE J Rural youth own less land either solely or jointly than adults
Types of land ownership by adults and youth, percentage by region



NOTES: SSA: sub-Saharan Africa; APR: Asia and the Pacific; NEN: Near East, North Africa, Europe and Central Asia; LAC: Latin America and the Caribbean.
SOURCE: Authors' calculations based on Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data from 42 countries.

(p.33, Constraints hindering the transition from dependence to independence)



CHANGE MARKERS



CHANGE
MARKERS

Encourage **LAND FUNDS** and **MULTI-YEAR LEASE ARRANGEMENTS** for young people

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Programmes designed to boost agricultural productivity need to be paired with actions that will provide greater market access to young entrepreneurial farmers. Where fiscal resources permit, this could include...programmes to promote access to land, including the option of renting land, for young entrepreneurial farmers. Policies that promote land tenure security to give owners an incentive to engage in multi-year lease arrangements could also be very helpful for young people who have not yet inherited land and do not have the capital to purchase it.

(p.183, Policy priorities for an inclusive and healthy AFS transformation process)

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CHANGE
MARKERS



The **DIGITAL REVOLUTION CAN OFFER OPPORTUNITIES** that facilitate access to land registries and rental markets

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While climate change is expected to worsen the land constraints faced by rural youth (see chapter 7), the digital revolution can offer opportunities that facilitate access to land registries and rental markets (see chapter 8).

(p.33, Constraints hindering the transition from dependence to independence)

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Access to land can facilitate productive employment in agriculture for rural youth only if the promotion of adaptive agricultural technologies is youth-centred.

(p.199; 201; 203, Climate change is a youth issue)

Picture: © IFAD Image Bank

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CHANGE
MARKERS



Facilitate early access to land by **REVISING INHERITANCE RULES**, particularly for women

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Revising land inheritance rules in order to facilitate early access to land for rural youth would enable young people who want to engage in agriculture to be able to do so, especially as the demographic transition decreases mortality rates further. Improving how land rental markets function is also essential, as they benefit marginalized groups more than mainstream groups by reducing existing inequalities in access to land (Deininger, Savastano and Xia, 2018).

Picture: © ILC/Jason Taylor



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The Rural Development Report 2019 benefited from the dedicated work, expertise and the contributions of people both within and outside the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).



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