



YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE AND POSSIBLE INTERVENTIONS

1.0 Introduction

Malawi is an agro based economy and agriculture contributes 38% to the country's GDP. Over 60% of Malawi's population comprises the youth who are in the age category of 18-35. However, the youth participation in agriculture sector in Malawi is largely missing. The youth, therefore, require special targeted projects and initiatives to enable them contribute to socioeconomic development of the country. The advantage of increasing the youth in agriculture is two fold: it will help boost the country's economy and will expose the youth to several available opportunities in the sector.



2.0 Why involve the youth in agriculture

- Source of formal and informal employment which can widen the employment opportunities for the youthful population and its overall contribution to food and nutrition and income security of the country.
- The youth in Malawi constitute a bigger population hence their involvement in agricultural related value chain activities would help increase export led production, increase the country's export base and improve the country's economy.
- The youth are more innovative and technologically advanced. They have easy access to print and electronic media. Targeting the youth in agriculture can help transform the agriculture sector and largely contribute to increased agricultural productivity.

3.0 Challenges facing the youth

- Inadequate representation of the youth in agricultural related structures and organizations
- Youth view agriculture as not a lucrative business
- Low access to investment capital by the youth in agriculture
- Limited access to land by the youth

4.0 Strategies for increasing youth participation in agriculture

- Promote 30% youth participation in agriculture decision making bodies and structures like Cooperative Board, WUA Committees, Model Village Committees.
- Promote modern technologies in agricultural production, processing and value addition equipment and plants such as power tillers, hand drawn tractors, and Connor weeders
- Increase youth access to resources such as capital, land, technology and information through projects
- Networking and linking the youth to other service providers
- Capacity building in agricultural entrepreneurship
- Formulate and capacitate young farmer clubs

Designed and Printed by
Agricultural Communication Branch
P.O. Box 594
Lilongwe