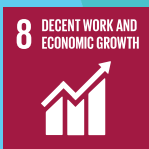


AGRIBUSINESS: YOUTH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



#CHILDREMPowered

AFLATOUN
INTERNATIONAL



THE CHALLENGE



For young people living in rural areas of developing countries, employment and entrepreneurial opportunities remain limited [1]. Engaging primarily in the informal economy - family workers, home-based micro entrepreneurs or unskilled workers - the rural youth find it particularly difficult to make the transition from education to work without moving to urban areas [2]. The UN predicts that by the year 2050, less developed regions of the world will have more than 5 times the urban population than the more developed regions [3].

Excluded from the formal financial sector, 62% of the youth in developing countries lack the means

to start an enterprise or continue their education [4]. Their lack of voice in decision-making processes in the sector is aggravated by inadequate education, low financial literacy and the lack of access to opportunities [5]. This situation seems perpetually more harmful to rural young women whose contribution is often overlooked and access to opportunities is further limited by wider gender discrimination aggravated by traditional social norms [6].

HOW SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL EDUCATION CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE LIVES OF RURAL YOUTH



Due to the limited access to education, training, and the means to scale up small enterprises, the younger generation of rural workers risk being left behind. To prevent this social, financial and entrepreneurship education (SFE) can assist by offering the necessary skills and knowledge to transition into the labour market and effectively engage in the agribusiness value chain. This in turn allows young rural workers to utilise the resources they have efficiently and improve not only their personal economic prospects but that of their wider communities.

The benefits from combining agriculture and SFE go further. The World Bank has identified agricultural development as one of the most powerful tools to end extreme poverty, **SDG1**, whilst directly contributing towards achieving **SDG2** - Zero Hunger, and **SDG8** - Decent Work and Economic Growth [7].



OUR SOLUTION



Simply ensuring the access to physical resources is not adequate support for young people in rural communities. Rural youth, especially young women, need to avoid exploitation and be provided with the opportunity to develop transferable skills in order to thrive in the increasingly complex agribusiness value chain and labour market. Aflatoun International enables rural youth gain the following:

1) **Financial capability:**

The ability to manage and understand money improves young people's confidence and enables them to make responsible decisions about the use of monetary and non-monetary resources [8, 9]. It helps them better navigate the challenges involved with learning to save, managing their own money, starting an agribusiness and managing the risks that might prevent them from achieving their goals.

2) **Transferable life skills and rights awareness:**

The ability to transition confidently, safely, fairly and without exploitation into the agricultural economy. Critical thinking skills contribute to improved rights awareness, and knowledge of the laws which can protect young people. Participants gain a better idea of their strengths and weaknesses and what they wish for themselves and their community in the future.

3) **Entrepreneurial and management skills:**

The ability to engage in income generating activities to improve their livelihoods and maximise their success in the agribusiness

value chain while developing the necessary skills to meet the needs of the rural labour market. Youth involvement in agriculture is not limited to farming, but includes support in agricultural production, goods and services, and value additions (service providers and entrepreneurs).



AFLATOUN
INTERNATIONAL'S
SUPPORT FOR YOUNG
PEOPLE IN AGRIBUSINESS



Aflatoun International's SFE programmes aim to ensure that youth have the skills to professionalise their production and fully and effectively participate in the agribusiness value chain (primary production, processing, trade and/or distribution).

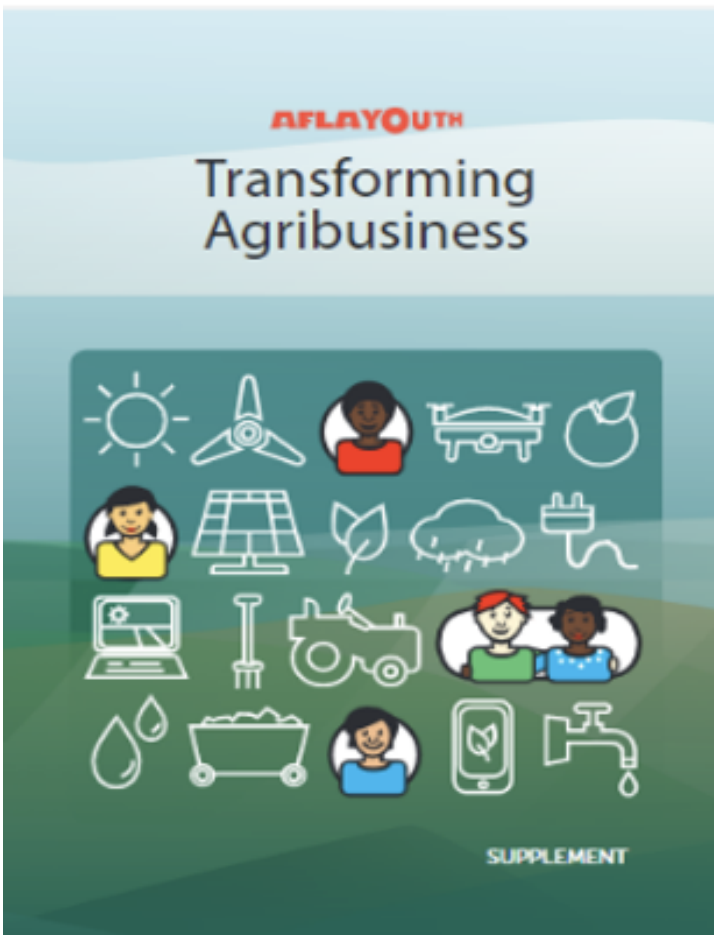


Aflatoun International has worked with different stakeholders to create an inclusive, high-quality, learner-centered, SFE programme to engage rural youth. In cooperation with Rabobank Foundation, Aflatoun developed AflaYouth: Transforming Agribusiness, which can be delivered as a comprehensive stand-alone programme or as a supplement to the AflaYouth programme on entrepreneurial and employability skills.

The Transforming Agribusiness curriculum, using Aflatoun’s learner-centered pedagogies, seeks to engage young people meaningfully in agricultural activities and provides them with solid foundational knowledge of financial management techniques, local farming systems, and methods to engage in the agribusiness value chain, increase productivity, innovate and add value.



DEMONSTRATED IMPACT



Overall Aflatoun International is a credible research partner, with research conducted in 40+ countries including 10 Impact Evaluations. Findings can be reviewed in peer-reviewed academic journal articles. Research demonstrates that Aflatoun programmes strengthen young people’s self-efficacy, future planning and rights awareness [10], communications skills [11], savings behaviour [12, 13], entrepreneurial behaviour, and overall attitude towards education [14]. With partners in 100+ countries, Aflatoun International provides expertise, tools and services to partner organisations and government authorities who deliver the work within their locations.

Working in collaboration with RSPO, Rabobank, Master Card Foundation, TRECC, Solidaridad and Hershey’s Foundation, Aflatoun has developed crop specific content for the Palm Oil and Cocoa sector which is engaging young farmers and communities in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

SOURCES



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