

Good Jobs in Agriculture for Africa's Young People

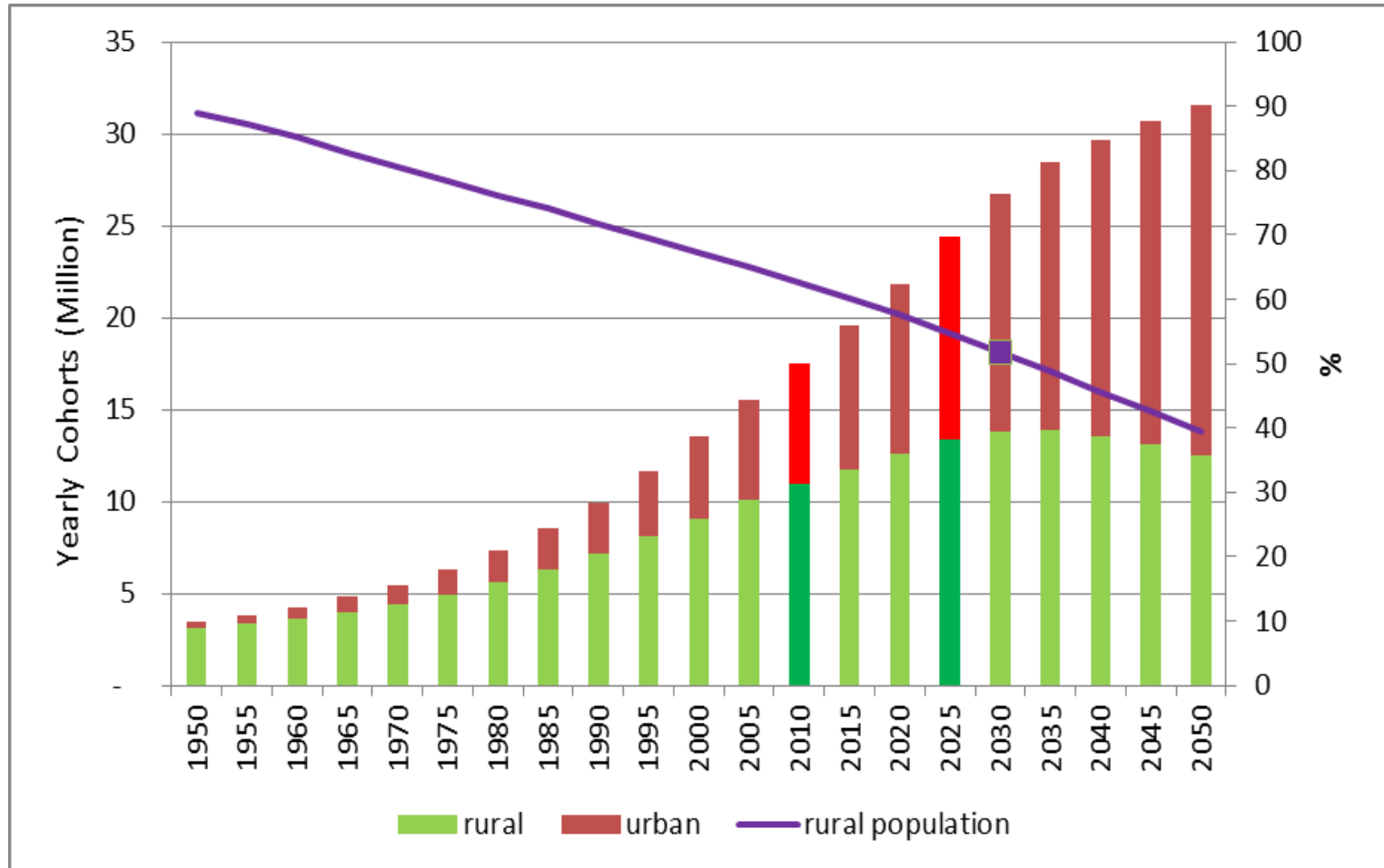
What will it take to create them?

Karen Brooks, Sergiy Zorya, Amy Gautam, Aparajita Goyal
*With encouragement and comments from the full team,
especially Louise Fox and Deon Filmer*

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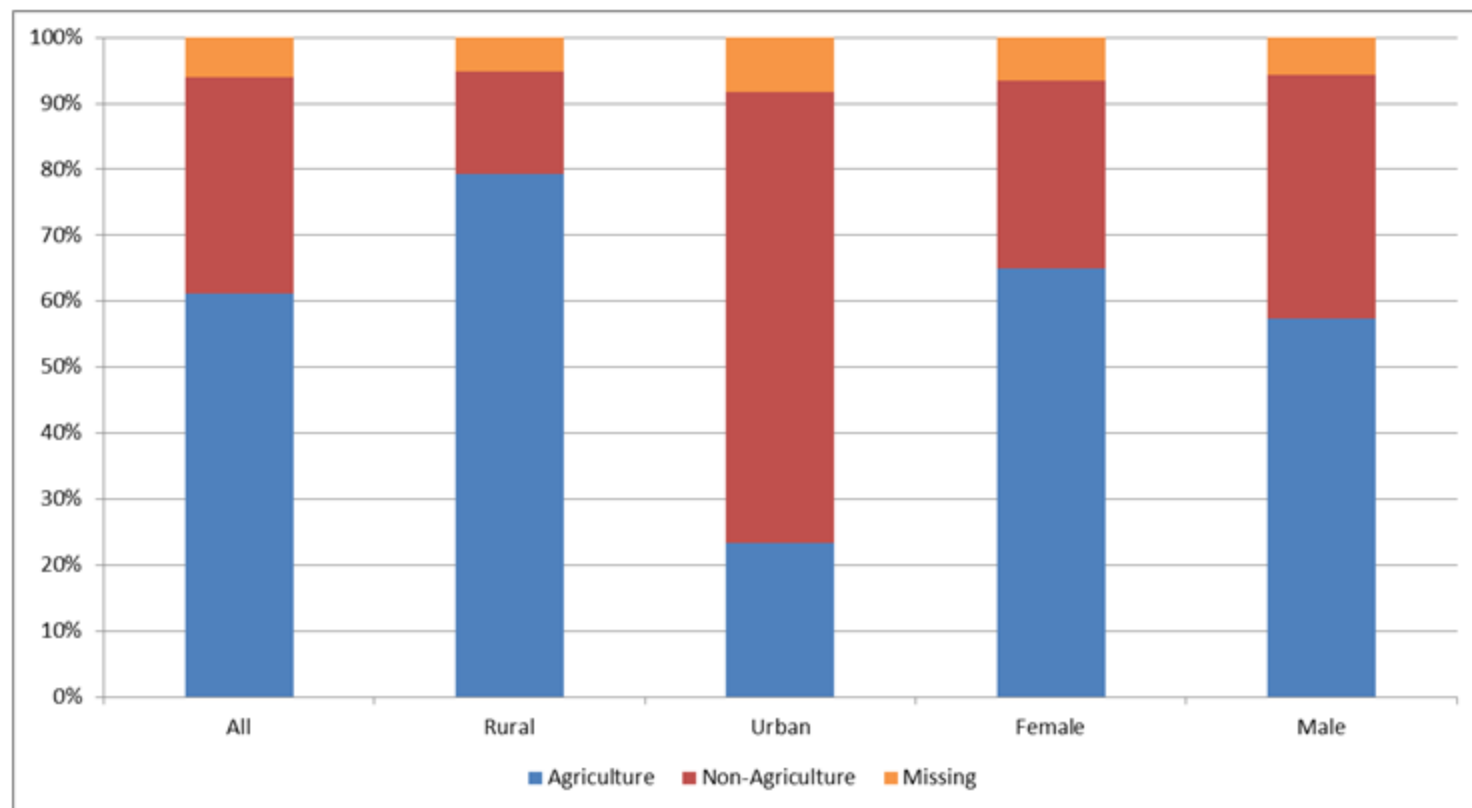
Many young rural Africans now; more on the way



Source: Losch, Fréguin-Gresh and White 2012.

Rural young people work in agriculture; women slightly more than men

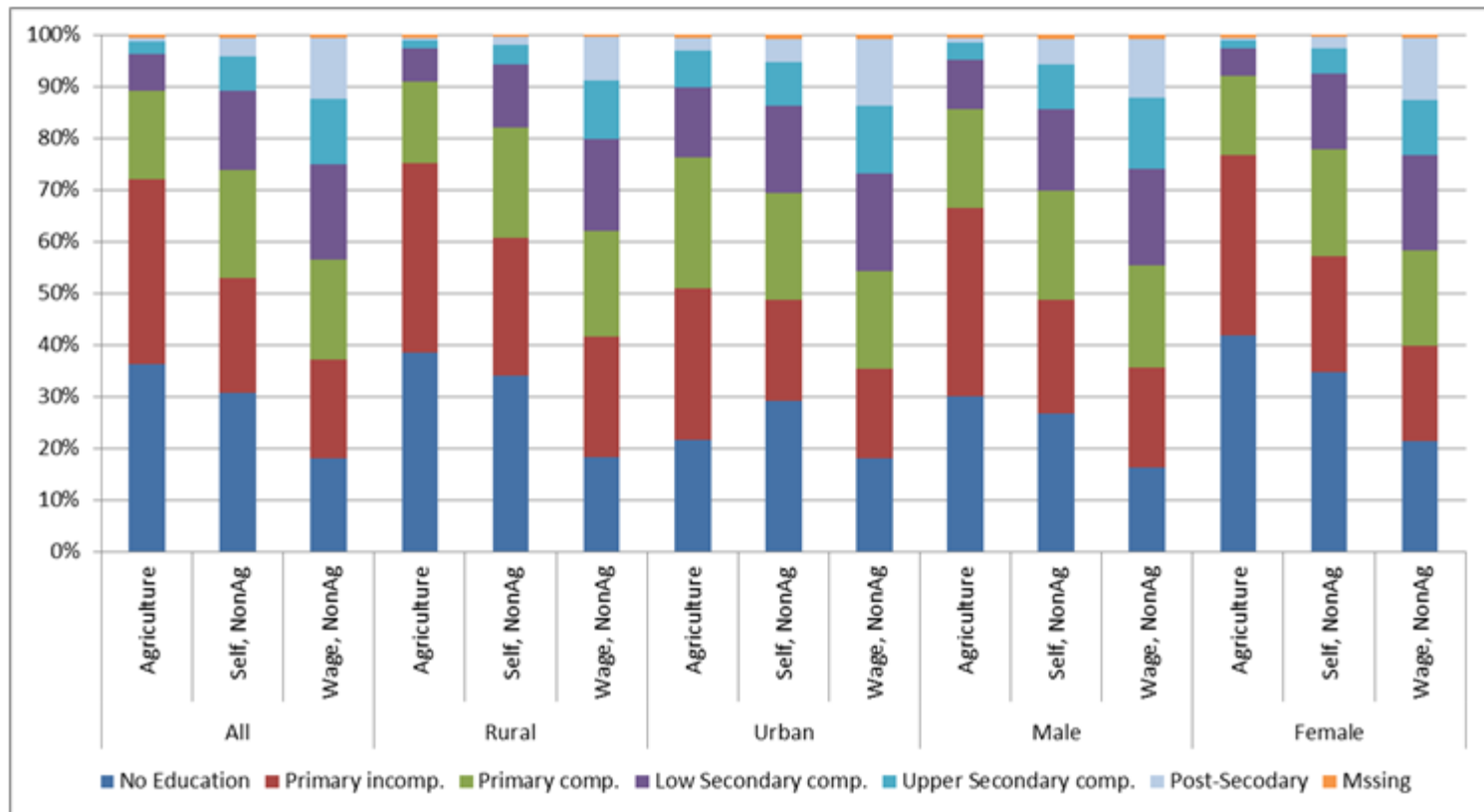
Figure 7: Farm versus Non-Farm Employment of Young People (15-34 years old) by Location and Gender



Source: World Bank SHIP files 2012.

70% of young Africans in agriculture have less than complete primary schooling

Figure 8: Education of Young People (15-34 years old) by Location and Gender



Source: World Bank SHIP files 2012.

Exit from agriculture more difficult now than was the case elsewhere and historically

- Extractive industries and construction and services do not create enough jobs
- Labor intensive manufacturing few jobs
 - High food prices raise costs of labor
 - Globalization reduces size of nontradable sector
- Structural change may not be what it used to be
 - Timmer and Akkus (2008) find that industry in general less able to absorb outflows from agriculture
- Migration constrained



Young Africans *will* work in agriculture

- Fortunately, this is a time of opportunity in the sector, especially in Africa.
- High international prices, surging local and regional demand, available land and water, exploitable yield gaps
- Even possible that agriculture's share could remain stable or rise in some countries
 - Expansion of land, entry of labor, growth in productivity could yield growth faster than economy-wide average



2012 Baseline

What we have...

- Big waves of young people heading into labor force
- Energetic, resourceful, experienced in farming, prefer to do something else when possible, poorly educated
- Excellent opportunities in agriculture, but blocked
- Governments concerned about jobs, but not connecting them with agriculture
- Potential to forfeit agricultural growth targets and hopes and aspirations of millions of young people



What we need...

- Change in attitude on the part of officials
- Shift from token interest in “youth in agriculture” programs, to understanding that future is at stake
- Unblocking access to land, capital, information (skills)
- Quantum shift in quality of basic education
- A youth lens for existing programs, such as CAADP
- Dynamic and exciting agriculture; faster growth in TFP

What kinds of jobs?

Four basic pathways for young people to enter agriculture

Table 4: Pathways for Agricultural Employment and Their Requirements

Type of employment	Need for land	Need for capital	Need for skills
Full-time on existing family holding	None	Medium	Medium
Full-time on new holding	High	High	High
Part-time combined with household enterprise; e.g., sale of services	Low	Medium	High
Off-farm wage work	None	None	Medium or High

Source: Authors.

- Pathways have differential needs for land, capital (finance), and information (skills)
- Ability of policy-makers to open these pathways for young people same as ability to secure agricultural growth, but need special lens for issues that affect young people differentially.
- What is the research agenda to help open these pathways?

Unblocking finance

- No easy answers, but need to try harder on the hard ones
- Institutional innovations
 - Community-based, self-help groups
 - New forms of collateral, leasing
 - Tied credit linked to extension, insurance
 - Biometrics to reduce default
 - E-Finance for transfers, payments
- No special programs that sequester young people
- Cost of pushing finance will be high; costs of not doing so higher
- Need to assess what works and add it up



Unblocking land

- Work of Frank's team
- Need more focus on access for young people, less on land grab generally
- Since Africa's population is young, those who hold/own land are surprisingly old
 - Evidence that transactions and intergenerational transfers blocked
- Farm size in Africa is declining, while growing elsewhere
- Need registration, ease of rental markets
- Redistribution programs with caution
 - Build on lessons, positive and negative



Unblocking skills, information

- Basic skills: no substitute
 - Add ICT
- Tertiary to build system
- Vocational has a limited place
- Women's education matters
 - Growth issue as well as equity
- ICT: game changer, but complex game. Content really matters/ situation specific
- Extension: we know less than we think
- Information matters for adoption of technology; critical lag in Africa



What is to be done? Mainstream focus on young people into ongoing programs

- Action agenda
 - Land
 - Skills
 - Finance
 - Technology
- Embed youth lens in virtually everything; e.g., Science Agenda for African Agriculture
- What is the complementary research agenda?
 - Specialized impact assessments?
 - How adequate are data sources to address demography?



Date _____ COMPLETED

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

Conclusions

- Entry of large numbers of young people can be big boost for Africa's agriculture
- Good agricultural jobs for young people will address employment challenge and boost agricultural growth; change lives
- Right now little reason for optimism
 - Slow growth in productivity
 - Reforms and investment too little and too slow
 - Entry blocked
- PIM asked to be active;
- Seeking suggestions for impact-oriented research