



**KIT** Royal  
Tropical  
Institute



KIT Royal Tropical Institute

# Youth Employment & Entrepreneurship

# Decent work for young people

We promote decent work for young people, reducing the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training, and achieving equal pay for work of equal value. We support our partners to develop and implement strategies, programmes and projects that contribute to youth inclusion in agriculture and food systems.

KIT collaborates with international organisations, foundations, NGOs and donor agencies to utilise the potential of agriculture and food systems for decent jobs along agricultural value chains. We support their efforts to create enabling conditions and increase the skill-sets of youth to effectively engage in agricultural value chains through action learning and tailor-made training packages. In our experience it is crucial to support young adults in a holistic manner, complementing the development of entrepreneurship, financial literacy and soft skills with other enablers such as financial services and mentorship opportunities.

We take into account the large heterogeneity among youth in terms of gender, ethnicity, class and other social identities. Our multi-disciplinary team of experts utilises context-specific and bottom-up approaches that begin with understanding and analysing the characteristics, aspirations, needs, and challenges of youth themselves.

**In collaboration with our partners, we offer:**

- Diagnostic studies and action research
- Youth-centered strategy, programme and project design
- Training, coaching & education
- Monitoring, evaluation & impact assessment



*A young farmer entrepreneur.*



*Francois, a young strawberry farmer in the Philippines, gave up life in the city for farming as a business. Photo by Ingrid Flink, KIT.*

## Diagnostic studies & action research

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Through rigorous qualitative and/or quantitative research, we build understanding of youth aspirations, needs, challenges and opportunities to engage in different forms of employment and entrepreneurship. We also assess and design theories of change and impact pathways for youth inclusion and (self-) employment.

### Project example 1: building skills-based employment in Latin America

Plan's "Youth Building the Future" aims to equip young people with the skills and opportunities to engage in enterprises and employment in targeted regions of Brazil, Colombia and El Salvador. Based on field work in these countries and a literature review, KIT identified factors for effective and sustainable youth employment and entrepreneurship programmes that guide Plan's work and the upscaling of these programmes.

### Project example 2: understanding young farmer-entrepreneurs in the Philippines

The Government of the Philippines and the World Bank are preparing the Mindanao Inclusive Agriculture Development Project (MIADP) to support income generation, agricultural productivity, youth employment and social cohesion in conflict-affected areas.

KIT generated new information to inform the MIADP's design. Specifically, we conducted a study of the enabling and hindering factors that affect the participation of youth in agriculture - and more specifically in agribusiness. This information will be used to ensure that MIADP creates an enabling environment for young farmers - one that encourages their long-term participation in agriculture businesses.



*A young farmer in Pakistan.*

## Youth-centred strategy, programme & project design

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We develop strategies and approaches for youth inclusion and (self-) employment. We also design business models to encourage private sector linkages and youth engagement in the agribusiness sector.

### Project example 1: developing a strategy to increase youth engagement in value chains in Uganda

The NU-TEC Market Development Programme of the UK Department for International Development aims to integrate youth into agricultural value chains by brokering the relationship between the private sector and youth producer groups and cooperatives. KIT's research identified areas where youth have incentives to actively participate and where there is a business case for firms to pursue practices that are more youth inclusive. Our research suggested youth-centred strategies and business models, particularly in land preparation, seed production, storage and aggregation.

### Project example 2: creating an agricultural entrepreneurship strategy in Benin

KIT worked with the Netherlands Embassy in Benin to develop and implement the youth and agricultural entrepreneurship strategy for the second phase of the Community Approach to Agricultural Markets project. To inform this strategy, we conducted a diagnostic study of the situation of young people in and outside agribusiness clusters along the entire value chain (production, processing and marketing).

The strategy includes four stages:

- (i) Youth targeting
- (ii) Youth profiling
- (iii) Youth categorisation
- (iv) Youth technical and vocational empowerment

KIT was part of the implementation phase and will continue technical backstopping until the end of the project in 2021.



*A young woman selling her palm oil at Benin's independence fair. Photo copyright ACMA2/IFDC Benin.*

## Training, coaching & education

We offer capacity development for technical and vocational training and higher education centres. We also offer specific training programmes for managers of business incubators to support young entrepreneurs with business planning advice, mentoring, coaching and counselling.

We provide customised training programmes to international organisations, foundations, NGOs and donor agencies on youth inclusive programming.

### Project example: setting up a sustainable trade academy in Mozambique

KIT supported A Escola Superior de Negócios e Empreendedorismo de Chibuto (ESNEC), the business school of the Eduardo Mondlane

University based in Maputo, to consistently deliver graduates that meet the demands of the labour market, including the growing commercial agricultural sector in Mozambique. KIT also helped to develop ESNEC's business incubator centre that helps rural youth to start businesses.

## Monitoring, Evaluation & Impact Assessment

We carry out evaluation and impact assessment of programmes and projects that target or affect youth to identify and measure youth-related outcomes and facilitate processes of organisational learning.

We also design monitoring & evaluation systems and distil and document best practices and lessons learnt from case studies.

*A young man drying maize. KIT's work aims to increase youth engagement across agricultural value chains.*



## Why KIT Royal Tropical Institute?

KIT Royal Tropical Institute, established in 1910, has a long history and strong track record in the fields of agricultural development, agribusiness development, value chains and gender. KIT is well grounded in local realities and has a large network of experts with a profound understanding of the needs of smallholders. The organisation has specific expertise and has developed tailored approaches to promote youth employment and entrepreneurship in food and agriculture systems and beyond.

## Who We Are



Independent  
client-centric and  
not-for profit

Active in  
**40+**  
countries



Strong, reliable  
local partnership  
network

**>215**  
assignments  
annually



**>250+**  
clients and  
partners



**80+**  
international  
experts





## Learn more

<https://www.kit.nl/youth-employment-and-entrepreneurship/>

## Contact

### **KIT Royal Tropical Institute**

P.O. Box 95001  
1090 HA Amsterdam  
The Netherlands

### **Visiting Address**

Mauritskade 64  
1092 AD Amsterdam  
The Netherlands

### **E-mail**

info@kit.nl

### **Telephone**

+31 (0)20 56 88 711

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