



Fifth Ndizotheka Eminent Speaker's Series Event

Date: 25th March 2021

Report

1. Introduction

On 25th March 2021, MwAPATA Institute in collaboration with the National Planning Commission (NPC) and Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) hosted the 5th Ndizotheka Eminent Speaker Series event. The Eminent Speaker Series aims at promoting a positive mindset on Malawi's development possibilities. It welcomes speakers from a diverse range of disciplines and backgrounds seeking to impact and transform Malawi's development landscape. The events are promoting candid and honest public interaction/dialogue with distinguished thinkers both within Malawi and beyond to generate implementable solutions for accelerating Malawi's socio-economic transformation.

The 5th event featured Dr. Fox, A Non-Resident Senior Fellow- Global Economy and Development Africa Growth Initiative, Washington DC, USA. The theme for the event was *"Call to Action for Youth Participation in Agriculture Transformation (Productivity and Commercialization)"*. This was virtual event conducted via zoom with live streaming via MwAPATA Facebook. The event attracted at least 107 participants online on zoom and Facebook from various local and international institutions. The

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discussion was simultaneously followed by an online zoom discussion chat (chat) (See Annex 1)

Eminent Speaker: Dr. Louise Fox is a nonresident senior fellow in the Africa Growth Initiative (AGI), which is part of the Global Economy and Development Program at the Brookings Institution. Her work at Brookings focuses on youth employment, inclusive growth, and poverty reduction. Her previous positions included chief economist at the U.S. Agency for international Development (USAID), at the University of California, Berkeley, and various positions at the World Bank.

Fox's most recent published work has been in employment, labor markets, and labor regulation, women's economic empowerment, poverty reduction and inclusive growth, and the political economy of poverty reduction, all with respect to sub-Saharan Africa. Her most recent book is "Youth Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa," published by the World Bank in 2014.

Agenda

- Remarks by Mr. William Chadza, Acting Executive Director for Mwapata Institute.
- Remarks by Dr. Thomas Munthali, Director General, National Planning Commission (NPC).
- Remarks by Dr. Thabbie Chilongo, Director of Center for Agriculture Research and Development (CARD), Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR).
- Eminent Speech by Dr. Louise Fox, A Non-Resident Senior Fellow-Global Economy and Development Africa Growth Initiative, Washington DC, USA (Through Zoom).
- Key Takeaways from the discussion, Dr. Andrew Jamali (Secretariat Representative)

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- Closing remarks by Mr. William Chadza, Acting Executive Director for MwAPATA Institute.
- Moderator: Mr. Matthews Malata

2. Highlight's from the Eminent Speech

The Eminent Speaker's presentation was titled "Youth Employment Issues in Malawi -Options for Action". In her speech, she discussed the status of youth employment, issues affecting the employment and actions which can be taken to resolve these issues. She then suggested that overall economic transformation which is a catalyst employment transformation is paramount in improving youth employment. She further highlighted that agriculture holds opportunities for this economic transformation. In her presentation, the presenter focused on 4 main areas: (1) Global employment structure, (2) Employment transformation in Sub Saharan Africa and (3) Long Term actions to address Malawi's youth employment challenges and (4) short term options to address the challenges.

(1) Global employment structure

Dr. Fox started by presenting economic structures of different types of countries. She highlighted that Malawi is a low-income country which dominated by Own-Account Workers and contributing family worker. This means most youth work for their families or themselves. She then suggested that Malawi should focus on how to help youth make a good living in the household farms and firms sector.

(2) Employment Transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa

She defined the employment transformation as the movement from household sector into the wage employment. Malawi's share of wage employment is about

an average for sub-Saharan Africa, but the key thing is to get to the low middle income group. That would create more opportunities. However, the current economic growth pattern does not support transformation. So, for Malawi's economic development to proceed, it needs more stability and resilience for the overall economy. Secondly Malawi needs to think differently in about development policies and to understand what would bring stability.

(3) Long term action to address Malawi's youth Employment challenges

Dr. Fox highlighted that economic transformation is key in addressing youth employment challenges, however this is hard for landlocked countries. It's important therefore to think of regional trade and how to realize economics of scale in regional trade. There is need also to consider other areas which economies of scale are not so important. For example, the services other than manufacturing. Services will have to be an engine of transformation. Improving the productivity and increasing the efficiency of the agriculture will undergird the transformation.

She then suggested that the object of the Malawi's youth employment strategy should aim at helping youth earn more money. One of the ways of doing this is to address issues of underemployment.

Secondly, there is a need to improve youth basic cognitive skills. She highlighted that access to education has not kept up with population growth. Therefore, the youth employment policy should aim at increasing access to education. This should include digital economy and tradeable services.

(4) Short term options to address Malawi's youth employment challenges

In her remarks, Dr. Fox stated that there is need to focus on fixing the economy. She stated that the real problem is not deficient youth but missing opportunities. She highlighted that policies which aim at fixing the youth instead of fixing the economy usually fail. Therefore, youth need opportunities not training for opportunities which are not there.

She further said that despite the need to improve the education among youth, the current levels of education are sufficient to boost agricultural productivity. However, the youth need to have access to land and extension. As a way of addressing issues of extension service, she suggested use of peer learning mechanisms or engaging private sector to reach youth with peer learning. As a way of reducing underemployment she suggested the use of livestock and irrigation programs. This will ensure sustainable agricultural production throughout the year. She also stressed on the need of youth specific savings group. She highlighted that these are significant in ensuring that you have access to money to be used for agricultural production. Therefore, in as much as there are village savings groups which have been effective, there is a need to develop youth specific savings group. These savings group also provide a network for youth to share their ideas. There is a need to develop youth producer associations. These associations give you a voice and express their views. She further said that there is need to reduce the cost of mobile use. This will increase youth technology adoption which would enhance agriculture productivity.

She also stressed on the need to develop mixed livelihoods. In her remarks, she suggested that there is a need for nonfarm businesses. This reduces underemployment and has a high multiplier effect. She then disputed the thought that youth fail to participate in agriculture sector because they need

training. IN her remarks she stated that what youth need is cash. She stated that mobile money and cash transfers work best to promote youth access to cash for their business.

In terms of expanding education, Dr. Fox said secondary education has a significant effect on agriculture productivity. She therefore said there is a need to improve and expand secondary education. Adding to this she stated that University education is low and very expensive to expand. She therefore suggested that there be partnerships with private sector and other African countries to increase access to university.

Dr. Fox also highlighted on the need to build socioemotional skills. These skills are linked to high earnings and better employment outcomes. She suggested use of community based afterschool programs as this is a cheap option. She further said this very effective especially for teen – aged girls and can help them stay in school and develop negotiation and mindset skill they need to be successful.

She concluded by providing other priority actions. She stated that there is a need to provide access to contraception for all women of childbearing age. In her remarks she stated that Malawi has good policies but is poor in implementation. Secondly, Dr. Fox said there is need to build evidence based scalable programs.

3. Panel Discussion

A three-member panel discussion came immediately after the Guest speakers' presentation. The idea was to have a feel from the youths themselves about issues raised by the guest speaker. To balance the discussion, the Director of Youth brought in the policy perspective from the Ministry of Youth. The panel included:

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Mrs. Judy Msusa, Director of Youth in the Ministry of Youth; Ms. Clara Kamlomo, Founder of Amazing B Projects; and last but not least Ms. Madalitso Chipekwe, Co-Founder of ACADES a youth led organization and Co-Chair of the Youth Core Advisory Panel MW2063.

In response to the extent to which farmers are participating in agriculture, the director of youth said a great proportion of the young people are into agriculture. In terms of the areas which need improvement to accelerate youth participation in agriculture, she said youth there is need to improve access to land. On this, she said the ministry of youth is working with the ministry of land to prioritize youth access to land. Secondly, the issues to do with technology need to be dealt with in order to attract youths into the sector. Finally, she highlighted on the issues of extension. She said extension services should adopt technology to ensure that youth access technology in the comfort of their homes.

In her remarks, the co-founder of ACADES, Miss Madalitso Chipekwe, said youth fail to excel in agriculture due to lack of markets as a result of low production to have enough bargaining power and consistent supply. She further highlighted that the value chains which the nation focuses on are of low value. She further spoke on the issue of technology, pinpointing on the issues of irrigation to enhance sustainable production throughout the year. She concluded by stressing on the need to target skilled young people who will manage to use machinery add value to agro products.

In her remarks the founder of amazing B projects, Miss Clara Kamlomo, said that there is need improve access to markets for youth produce. She further stated that

there is need strengthen the education by making it more practical. She then urged the nation to investment in youth as they are readily available.

In responding to the issues faced by young people, the Deputy Director in the Ministry of Trade, stated that her ministry is a partner in the agriculture commercialization project. She added that her ministry is enabling an environment in which at least 22% of the beneficiaries are youths. She further stated that the ministry has Malawi Investment and Trade Center which provides the necessary market information for any production. However, she mentioned that most people do not access the information due to lack of access to internet. She concluded by saying that the ministry is currently working on establishing a trading services department in the ministry which will give a trade policy direction which prioritize value chains. She also highlighted that Malawi is a member of African continental free trade area which offers a huge market under the flagship of the African Union. She concluded by reporting that the ministry is developing a structured market policy and Act to establish structure markets and exports as that of tobacco.

4. Plenary Session

After the key presentations and the panel discussion, the floor was open for discussion and questions where key issues were raised. The keys questions ranged from identifying alternative pathways of providing skills to young people, making the agriculture better, value addition.

Commenting on the issues of access to loans, the Chief executive officer for National Economic Empowerment Fund (NEEF) said that NEEF has three loan products which focus on agriculture: Agribusiness loan, fertilizer loan and general business / trade loans. As for youth, he said the loans are categorized into broader

categories such as the micro loan (50 thousand-5 million) for groups, small loans (50, 000 to 5 million) for individuals and 5 million to 75 million for individuals. He stated that out of 1100 groups who have accessed loans, 350 groups are youth groups. He further stated that NEEF is working with other strategic partners to provide guarantee for Youth to access loans in cases where they do not have collateral. He concluded by stating that there is a need to attract youth in direct production which will ensure massive gains.

In her remarks the PS for Agriculture, agreed with Dr. Fox by stressing on the role of education in improving development. She said that due to low education in Malawi there is low adoption of technologies which has affected productivity. She also stated that access to mobile technology is low and has further affected Malawi's agriculture productivity. She stated that the Ministry is using the National Agriculture investment plan which has highlighted priority areas to boost agriculture commercialization. She said that the Ministry is also implementing the agriculture commercialization project which among others is targeting youth. She highlighted that youth do not access documents developed by the Ministry as such they fail to take advantage of the opportunities available to the nation. She then suggested that there be continued engagement between the Ministry and other stakeholders. She also highlighted about the issue of value addition present an opportunity for youths as this is not fully implemented in the country.

In giving her concluding remarks, Dr. Fox suggested that universities and secondary schools should engage with private sector and people earning a living to find a way to use the knowledge and gain practical experience. She then left a question to all ministries "what are you doing for farmers and how do farmers access the information?"

5. Key Takeaways/Way forward

Finally, Dr. Jamali summarized the event into several points for further discussion.

1. There is a need to restructure or transforming the agriculture sector.
 2. Improve access to land among young people.
 3. Improve access of market structures to young people.
 4. Make sure that information is accessible to young people.
 5. Profile young people in the agriculture sector.
 6. Ensure that technology is accessible to young people.
 7. Education adopt mechanism which will enable young people to understand technologies.
 8. Ensure that sectors are inter connected to support agriculture commercialization.
6. Closing Remarks

In closing, Mr. William Chadza the Acting Executive Director of Mwapata Institute thanked everyone for participating with specific mention to Dr. Fox for her well insightful presentation.

Annex 1: Zoom Chat discussion

Malawi-Gerald Moyomsana: Higher education seems to increase the odds of unemployment. This does not mean that school enrolment should be discouraged. Rather, it means that the type and content of education should be critically assessed.

Nzeru Group: I agree with the Honorable Youth for Change... The Issue of Access to Loans in Malawi is one of the most undoing factors of SME's in Malawi.

Youth for Change Int'l: yes young people with vibrant knowledge in agriculture are given a minimal chances to take the mantle

Abigail M'bumpa: The way our school curriculum also contributes to our failure, all it teaches sets our minds to think about working hard in school then graduate to get a good job, with a nice salary

Dalitso Nseula: Appreciative Inquiry....any success stories from the youths? One panelist Clara (of the Amazing B project) should inspire youths. Let's uplift our innovative brains. Whatever happening to 'the boy who harnessed the winds'? Malawian youths please stand up

Sylvia David: loans is really a problem indeed for youths in Malawi!! for one to start agriculture, one needs to have capital and most youths do not have capital. Even if one has a good business plan it's rarely for him/her to obtain loan since most youths do not have collaterals!!! I think banks should introduce loans for the youths which doesn't require collaterals!!!

Youth for Change Int'l: we are good at having great policies but implementation is a great challenge

William Phiri: What's more, agriculture is that one sector that can perform wonders in job creation if given the attention it is being deprived of currently. Whether we eat to live or live to eat, agriculture is life because on daily basis we get to consume stuff that is produced from the farm. This calls for a fresh new perspective towards agriculture. And it begins with the policy makers, the leadership at the highest level and trickles down to the general public.

Youth for Change Int'l: we have to increase productivity.

John Magombo: 1. we need very strong policies that will ensure such youth who have invested in agriculture or want to invest in agriculture are protected so that we build a strong foundation that cushions them from imperfect market repercussions. For example, put in a deliberate share of percentage for youth to sell their produce to markets identified by government.

2. Remove the barriers of trade on youth to trade internationally. It is time that the youth take advantage of the African Free Continental Trade Area to take charge of business on the international market.

3. It is high time that our universities and colleges incline the education right from the start in such a way that sets the mind of learners to think of setting up enterprises rather than setting them to think of getting diploma or degree as a passport to getting wage employment. As such, research and education at tertiary institutions should more or less mandatory have focus on entrepreneurship and industrialization in it

William Phiri: We, the youth, must embrace agriculture as a vehicle with which we can decisively deal with unemployment, not just doing it as a way of passing time as we look elsewhere for employment.

Youth For Change Int'l: yes the focus is not to fix the youth but the sector

Nzeru Group: Thanks Dr. Fox, the Economy MUST BE FIXED First.... Great Ideas Are Assassinated by Lack of Funds!

Dalitso Nseula: Fix both... (my opinion)

William Phiri: When the flower is not blooming, you fix the environment not the flower and the flower starts to bloom. Fix the agriculture sector and the youth will thrive therein.

Mayamiko Jere: Yes. fixing the economy. Most of the times the price for agricultural produce are not attractive for one to venture into

William Phiri: But the youth must fix their mindset as I said earlier

Misheck Chirwa: The idea of working in groups is very good in out setting. bring youth of various skills together and empower them with grants and mentorship.

Mapenzie Tauzie: Privatizing extension services is possible if it can yield notable profits. Extension can also take advantage of ICT...social media

S.Kamtimaleka: The issue of mind set is also paramount. The youth must take agriculture is an important source of employment where farming, agribusiness and any agri-related activities will be taken as employment otherwise what is happening now is that these are treated as second option. Some people have already mentioned about having practical curriculum that is shaping students to consider doing own agri-related business than expecting to be employed.

William Phiri: Give the youth a chance. Mentor them. Guide them. They are key to global economic transformation.

Malawi - Dr Patrick Chikungwa: I totally agree with the speaker in promoting the youth through livestock particularly small stock. Just need support of this sub sector to develop more than at the moment

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Youth For Change Int'l: lack of support from the power we believe they're are in power is a challenging issue

Derek Yach: There is a well-developed scholarship program now active and supported by the Foundation. Includes support for study in SA, USA, Israel

Blessings Nyirongo: the youth need an incentive to invest in Agriculture. they should be able to see some improvements in it, good structures and markets, then will be able to venture knowing that there will be a return. every person would wish to invest where there are some better returns. so if there are incentives, the youth can venture into farming. but they don't see future in it. let's create a good environment that farming can be done properly

Youth For Change Int'l: yes at the age of 19 children are born even at the age of 14

Kelly Thompson: Dr. Fox: You indicate that youth need access to land; yet achieving economies of scale is essential to achieving production cost reduction and commercialization which translates to higher net incomes. With ever decreasing plot sizes, what recommendations do you have for increasing youth access to land while still achieving economies of scale? Thanks in advance for your thoughts.

S.Kamtimaleka: I can't agree more on the issue of Malawi having good policies but scoring poorly on implementation!!!

Candida Nakhumwa : In addition to our program on human capacity development program, the FSFW-ATI supported Center for Agricultural Transformation is investing in science, technology and innovation to address the need for increasing agriculture productivity; and running a program on Business Incubation and Incubation in support of youth engagement in agriculture.

Matthews Collins Chimbaza: There is a need to engaging directly with youth in rural communities and urban area for them to be motivated to go into agriculture. I feel sad

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and challenged comparing the current development status of the country with how it was supposed to be looking at the resources that it has and the development potential that the country holds in the agriculture sector.

Lisa✦: On contraceptives, I remember an experience the time when we as Bunda Peer Educators club then wanted work on girls access to such that discussion always alone people (adults) look at you somehow

Dr Albert Changaya: I see that one of the biggest motivation to the Youth to get involved in Agriculture is the Development of the Markets for the various Agriculture products. What is the Government doing about the development of the stable markets for Agricultural products???

Galaxy A7 (2017): Civil education of youths to take advantage of their numbers to demand youth friendly policies

Misheck Chirwa: I agree with Dr Albert, the country doesn't have a stable market for some of the products. Otherwise, most youth get frustrated because of that.

Joseph Before-ABO: Would like to find out from Dr. Fox if promotion of small matching grants to youth groups engaged in agriculture could really help in more youth taking part in agriculture sector according to your observations?

Lyson: care should be taken, if much focus is on productivity, we will have problems. there is need to intervene the processors, transporters etc, the whole value chain need to be looked into. development of markets will lobby more youth into agriculture.

Malawi-Gerald Moyomsana: I agree with you Lyson

Nzeru Group: Rebranding... I Agree totally

S.Kamtimaleka: I do agree with contributions on the need to consider marketing. What marketing environment is the government and other players are providing?

Nzeru Group: Improve on levels of Production...

Dalitso Nseula: But is there anything we are doing right? Just bad stats, really? can we build on some positives.

Clement mwale: Information on regional markets, how friendly is it for youth to find the market demand for different commodities? We often rely on black market information.

Mayamiko Jere: the people graduating from those agricultural universities are ending up Teaching in secondary schools.

Misheck Chirwa: The country imports some products from other countries that can be produced from within the country. Such products simply flood our markets putting pressure on our local products. so Government should also limit importation of most agricultural products.

Candida Nakhumwa: Definitely we need to build our capacity in value addition and deal with the rest of the value chain if we are to effectively engage in opportunities that are available to us. e.g. participation in regional trade will require us to deal with issues of volumes, quality, logistics, etc

Nzeru Group: Motivation! Many look at Agriculture is old fashioned etc...

John Magombo: Indeed Madam Clara. We need to promote peer learning, my experience is that this always works better

ALEX: I think it's all about changing the mindset of youths. We all think of employment

Allan Kalolokesya: Sure @Nzeru, more importantly they think it is UNPROFITABLE! once introduced my technology on using plastics to generate petrol and diesel but eish officials didn't support my ideas because of our government policies.

Dyborn Chibonga: Let us improve our education systems to give our youth business skills not how to find a job

Brooms [100](#): I totally agree with increasing access to land and capital for large scale farming activities throughout the seasons or year.

Allan Kalolokesya: The unprofitability perspective is generally an issue because of lack of markets.

Tazona Chigwe: An agriculture economy that doesn't have a National Market Information System, how do you expect the country to grow?

William Phiri: Job creation mindset as opposed to employment mindset. An example is Agenda 2063 which focuses on wealth creation not poverty alleviation. Mindset is everything 🙌

Dr Albert Changaya: There is need to develop policies that protect the Malawian farmers, youth included. How can Super Markets ignore Malawi farmers and get products from outside the country??

Derrick Kapolo: We have to move away from rhetoric. As a country we are doing little in attracting youths towards agriculture. We have so many graduates with a lot of skills and energy but they lack capital, land, and other enablers to engage into agriculture.

Allan Kalolokesya: Somehow in Malawi, I am starting to believe that we understand "agribusiness" as involving only production (farming) which is discouraging ofcourse when you consider how our agricultural system is impacted by climate change - which is one of the reasons we are always talking about access to land.

William Phiri: Bottom line: we have everything as a country. it's high time we tapped into that. Let the government provide an enabling environment for the youth to thrive with their agribusinesses.

1p5T6_301SAAAAA1CNnhELVFXNW5iMjVw: let me commend LUANAR through agribiz hub...training the youth and giving them a starter up is a positive way to go for graduates....

Youth For Change Int'l: in other countries school is being done through their own local language hence achieving their goals while in Malawi we are forced to memorise it all hence leaving potential children behind. like in France and other countries.

Chisomo Kumbuyo: Can we also take note that you can be involved in agriculture without necessarily being in primary production of crops or livestock? There are so many opportunities on the market side of Agriculture which can be explored by the youth

Jacob Nyirongo FUM: What has struck me from Dr Fox presentation is that Malawian Youths have lower cognitive skills compared to youth in the region like those in Zambia and Zimbabwe. That is a core issue that needs to be addressed.

William Phiri: Very stunning, Jacob

Chisomo Kumbuyo: Is the issue of cognitive skills linked to our education system and curriculum?

Youth For Change Int'l : yes chitsomo

Youth For Change Int'l: look at other countries English is just a communication tool and learning is done in mother language

Misheck Chirwa: The countries Dr Fox has compared us with also learn in English

Mapenzie Tauzie: We need to acknowledge young people in urban areas that are engaging in agriculture at present. These are changing the narrative of agriculture is for rural and uneducated youth

Pemphero Kumbani: Another challenge in Malawi is that funds that is designed for the youth is always redirected to some politicians who are not fit for the fund.

William Phiri: We have wrongly believed that agriculture is synonymous with village, so no youth would want to stay in the village for rest of their lives. #Mindsetchange

S.Kamtimaleka: I just hope the issue of lower cognitive skills is not linked to poor nutrition??

William Phiri: They intertwine, Kamtinaleka

Sylvia David: am doing a research project on youth involvement in Agriculture using IHS4 data!!! most youth in Malawi have no access to credit and Agricultural extension especially young women!!! I think this issue should be addressed as well

Allan Kalolokesya: it could be Steve K... nutrition in childhood affects brain development and functioning, something like that

William Phiri: Between 0 and 20 years, what ones takes in makes or mars their cognitive competence, speaking as a psychologist

Nzeru Group: Malawi will be Fed from the Malawian Youths... then Africa in General...

William Phiri: even beyond Africa. Malawi can feed the world 🙌

John Magombo: One graduates from Bunda with zero practice of Agriculture. Problem is, the education is structured in a way that one has to pass exams, rather than focus on knowledge accumulation.

Gibson Chisale: Magombo ur right

Nzeru Group: @ John Mangombo, I cannot Agree more Boss... System designed produce Employees NOT Employers, that is why I believe that Training is the way out NOT Education; UNLESS We overhaul our Education system...

Dalitso Nseula: @ John Magomboplus too much focus on growing maize and tobacco

Matthews Collins Chimbaza: @John Magombo I agree with and I have personally met a lot of graduates having outstanding degrees by with zero practical skill of their undertaken programmes. It is very sad that Malawi focus much on passing exams than accumulated skills that will be mostly demanded out there.

Jacob Nyirongo FUM: I agree that we need to fix the economy so that we create opportunities for youth. One of the graphs shows a volatile Malawian economy, but it also shows a decline trend. It was good to hear from the NPC Director General that a 10 year plan is in the process of development as we move on the journey towards 2063. We hope that our national budget will be shaped based on the 10 year plan.

Youth For Change Int'l: now we can remember the voice of our great president. He said African food basket/green belt. but eish

Allan Kalolokesya: Yessss Madam... sustainable businesses are all year round, or operate for most part of the year. Relying on rainfall for agriculture is not sustainable and resilient

Nzeru Group: The Market Issue must be addressed... Thanks Clara...

Gibson Chisale: How will u deal with the challenges youth meet in accessing farming materials and equipments?

Nzeru Group: Link the Digital world to Agriculture...

Youth For Change Int'l: we need to engage hand's on activities yes

William Phiri: Digitize Agriculture. That's the way to go

Calvin Kamchacha: We need to expand the conversation to see more avenues where youth can be engaged in various types of Agriculture based on economics. At the moment the country might be more skewed towards crop farming while under investing in livestock and other equally high value agribusinesses.

Phiri Family: valid point Clara...we lack application In our schools it's more of theory

KING LAMECK : no practical in our university henceforth be more practical

Mapenzie Tauzie: Malawi is yet to integrate Social media, Facebook and Watsapp into agriculture; extension services, linking young people to markets ...

S.Kamtimaleka: @ Mada- thanks for sharing the experience. I have liked the spirit of not giving up even when things do not seem work out. This is the spirit that the youth and all of us need to emulate. Sometimes the youth want quick returns which may not be obvious.

Matthews Collins Chimbaza : Kudos Clara, we need implementation of practical aspect in our colleges.

Pemphero Kumbani: Digital Aquaculture must go together with practical approaches.

S.Kamtimaleka: @ Clara and Mada - being practical is the way to go!!!

Youth For Change Int'l: politics is another big thing hindering development

1p5T6_301SAAAAA1CNnhELVFXNW5iMjVw: you've inspired me Mada and Clara...can't wait to join you in your world very soon

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JOSEPH GONDWE: LUANAR has a good curriculum, the problem with the youths is our inability to properly apply what we learn. And application has nothing to do with what we are taught, but rather, cognitive skills. Nobody can teach someone how to think. This can be achieved through several years of one's efforts to develop their mind through both reading and interacting with experienced people. I am also a LUANAR graduate, and CEO for Chema World, an agricultural based enterprise.

Misheck Chirwa: Cudos Joseph Gondwe, Mindset

Hopeson Lupiya: On practical's, it's now that Malawi has introduced government internship but this is when one is done with school. if There was a way for one to be attached into an institution during there holidays maybe from second year forward.

DICKOSN KILOWE (SYNTHESIS AGRICULTURE: @Hopeson, you can as well take down your hand by pressing lower hand

John Magombo: Look at number of comments made on Facebook or number of awkward messages circulated on WhatsApp when there are " private scandals" versus when one talks of business in Malawi. A huge missed chance in the use of internet in Malawi. We the youth need to desist from unproductive behaviors. Gone are the days when you sit back and wait for someone to fight for you, we the youth should wake up and claim that space we cry for. There are very big opportunities to start cooperatives, SMEs. We need to claim the space domestically as well as on the continental as we take advantage of the African Continental Free trade area

DICKOSN KILOWE (SYNTHESIS AGRICULTURE): What information is on trade porter that your advocating tonight, if we go on trade porter will we find market opportunities there< we need as a country to make use of mission offices by making sure you have in place trade officers there that are working not sleeping, we need citizen in such mission offices that can negotiate a business deal for Malawi.

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Calvin Kamchacha: Ministry of Trade is doing a good job but sometimes there seem to be duplication with Ministry of Agriculture especially on mandates around agricultural marketing.

Misheck Chirwa: are these loans even accessible?

Mark Malata: @Misheck, that is my question as well.

Youth For Change Int'l: I agree with you John we are really poor on internet use

Chisomo Kumbuyo: Are these products the NEEF is talking about well-publicized? This is the first time am hearing of these products. Problem is these loans are mostly made accessible to people that are politically connected first

DICKOSN KILOWE (SYNTHESIS AGRICULTURE): @CHISOMO KAMBUYO the NEEF loans are politically motivated, if you are not a member of party is hard to have such opportunity.

Pemphero Kumbani: this loan issue is a challenge for the youth,

Youth For Change Int'l: yes

Nzeru Group: @Dickson Kilowe... I agree with u

Gibson Chisale: a lot of challenges in accessing the NEEF loan

ALEX: NEEF has given out loans really... 😊 Where and how... 😊

JOSEPH GONDWE: As youths in Malawi, we have a huge task to fix ourselves. We have to organize ourselves and create structures that would be youth friendly in as far improving the agriculture is concerned. Whilst the government does its role of fixing the business environment, We, as the youths have a greater role to play. Otherwise we keep missing the opportunities that are there within the country. We can, and we should start NOW!

Youth For Change Int'l: yes true Joseph

Nzeru Group: The Challenge is that accessibility to these loans is a challenge... the Process tiring, the conditions hellish... Pamenepo paonedwe bwino...

Pemphero Kumbani: How can we the youth access the loans? and where?

Mayamiko Jere: It is not that easy to access a loan at NEEF too. I tried twice but to no avail.

DICKOSN KILOWE (SYNTHESIS AGRICULTURE): @MAYAMIKO.. the NEEF is for Politicians, if you are not a member of Party zikuvutani...

Youth for Change Int'l: yes, it's true poor adoption of technology due to poor education.

Matthews Collins Chimbaza: @Secretary of Agriculture, I understand that most youth lack funds and facilities to help them practice added value activities. I would like to know how the youth can satisfy consumers' changing tastes and expectations as a way to lobby their seats in the marketing arena?

Youth For Change Int'l: mwabayaaaaa higher prices of data bundles

JOSEPH GONDWE: NEEF should be offered as capital, buy value addition equipment for young farmers on loan basis, buy land for young farmers on loan basis. Then, remove the unrealistic collateral demands...After all you won't need collateral if the loan is being offered as fixed capital assets.

Baba: education is critical for the development of the whole economy

Misheck Chirwa: It means the NEEF loans are not accessible to newly graduated young people with no connection with TEVET and NYC.

S.Kamtimaleka: @ Chisomo Kumbuyo - NEEF loan is another nightmare!! Very political and it really pains to see how tax payers' money is being misused. The youth that are not politically connected cannot easily access the NEEF loan.

Dalitso Nseula: value addition...

Matthews Collins Chimbaza: @Secretary of Agriculture, I understand that most youth lack funds and facilities to help them practice added value activities. I would like to know how the youth can satisfy consumers' changing tastes and expectations as away to Robby their seats in the marketing arena?

Baba: value addition on small scale is not easy

DICKOSN KILOWE (SYNTHESIS AGRICULTURE): The NEEF loans was supposed to be issued to a particular bank to ran the loans otherwise eeew if your Chief and you no affiliated to Party its TOUGH

JOSEPH GONDWE: Also, there is huge gap or disconnect within projects aimed at improving youth engagement in Agriculture. For example, the business incubates from LUANAR Agri-biz cannot access NEEF loans after they went through all that training on business management. We need to put deliberate efforts that such efforts are complimentary.

Nzeru Group: The Issue of Loans must be Addressed the one Responsible please. Otherwise all this is useless without Money...

Mayamiko Jere: Yes. please share a lot of information with the youths. also on Agcom

John Magombo: Equitable Access to loans for youth goes beyond decisions by Min. of Agriculture and Min. of Trade. The reserve bank of Malawi has to work on reducing the lending rates. No young person would dare get a loan from our commercial banks or even the Microfinance institutions. the rates are very prohibitive.

Youth For Change Int'l: we are indeed there please use us

Misheck Chirwa: I disagree with the PS, that information is not made available to the public.

Lisa✦: oh God we look for information but the struggle ... Malawi has to do better

Baba: information is not accessible in Malawi

Chisomo Kumbuyo: Most of our agriculture projects target farmers in rural areas. However, we have seen an increase in number of people engaging in farming from urban and peri urban areas. The ministry should also take into consideration this population when designing future projects as mostly these people engage in farming with their own resources and can be the drivers we so badly need in the sector.

Matthews Collins Chimbaza : NEEF need a serious review as the loans are not necessarily meeting it's intended goals. We have youths who have done everything but they can't still access the loans because they don't have political connections or someone in the higher office to stand for them. Please remember the youths for the loans distribution.

JOSEPH GONDWE: Where is the information madam PS?

Dr. Albert Changaya: How do you define markets Dr. Jamali? Are there markets for agricultural products?

Candida Nakhumwa: May i encourage youth to be proactive. reach out to understand how you can participate in existing programs.

Chisomo Kumbuyo: @candida programs also need to improve on communication and visibility for the youth to know what is on the ground.

S.Kamtimaleka: The issue of access to loans is another kay issue as well.

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Nzeru Group: Who do we contact to check out these guys who has got the Money for the Youths Agricultural Investments

Draft

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