Panafrican farmers' organization
Organisation panafricaine des agriculteurs
المنظمة الإفريقية للفلاحين

STUDY

YOUNG AFRICAN AGRIPRENEURS: SUCCESS STORY AND SCALING UP LESSONS AND INNOVATIONS

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SUBMITTED BY
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DISCLAIMER

The views and information contained within this study report are provided for informational purposes and for policy makers and various stakeholders on the African continent to make appropriate decisions. The report represents the current good-faith views of PAFO and its members' network at the time of publication.

This study report is intended only to provide general and preliminary information on PAFO's efforts to help put in place appropriate policies and measures for strengthening youth agripreneurship in Africa. It is not intended as a personal recommendation of particular financial or investment decision and thus it does not provide individually tailored investment advice of any kind.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AfCFTA:	African Continental Free Trade Area
AGRA:	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
AU:	African Union
AU-NEPAD:	African Union New Partnership for African Development
CAADP:	Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme
COMESA:	Common Market for Easter and Southern Africa
EAC:	East African Community
EAFF:	Eastern African Farmers Federation
ECOWAS:	Economic Community of West African States
FAO:	Food and Agriculture Organization
GDP:	Gross Domestic Product
IPCC:	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
NEPAD:	New Partnership for African Development
NFO:	National Farmers Organization
PAFO:	Pan African Farmers Organization
PROPAC:	Plateforme Régionale des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale
RFO :	Regional Farmers Organization
ROPPA:	Réseau des Organisations d'Agriculteurs et de Producteurs en Afrique de l'Ouest
SACAU:	Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions
SADC:	Southern African Development Community
SDG:	Sustainable Development Goal
UMNAGRI:	L'Union Maghrébine et Nord-Africaine des Agriculteurs
UN:	United Nations
WB:	World Bank

THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Agriculture is a primal sector to generate income to the growing population and a major contributor to the GDP in Africa. Africa is known as young continent due to the fact that it has the largest number of young population in the world. This young people are energetic, have a fresh mind and innovative spirit. They are ambitious and willing to take initiative to get integrated in development process.

Young people are the foundation for the agriculture sector development and its future sustainability. They have a creative spirit, they are determined and able to take risks. They engage and adapt easily to the management of programs and projects. They are thus more open to training, to the acquisition of new skills and to the improvement of competences.

Africa still have a big number of young people with a negative perception of agriculture and find it difficult to engage in productive agricultural activities. This negative perception is amplified by a weak accessibility of information and communication. It is necessary to capitalize and disseminate the success stories of young people that engage in agriculture so that many can learn from examples.
PAFO seeks to conduct a continental study on: "Young African Agripreneurs: Success Story and Scaling Up Lessons and Innovations" to identify and profile success stories of young Africans (men and women) operating in agriculture for scaling up lessons and innovations.

PAFO believes that lessons can be learned better from good examples than from failures of the system to better involve young people. From the identified profiles, a synthesis can be made to identify the common characteristics that make these young farmers/Agripreneurs successful in terms of internal (personal) characteristics and external support systems.

The study will also help to raise awareness on the needs to be taken into account either to achieve PAFO's mission or to support its advocacy vis-à-vis regional and global institutions. Besides, success stories can also be compiled and presented as business models to other young people who see no hope in engaging in agricultural activities as a career.

The aim of the study was to:

- Capitalize the profiles of different successful young Agripreneurs (men and women) by network, in Africa
- Identify the common characteristics that make these young farmers/Agripreneurs successful in terms of internal (personal) factors and external support systems.
- Sensitization of young people and the general public to the opportunities offered by the agricultural sector for youth employment and job creation.

- Present the positive stories as business models to other young people who see no hope in the agricultural sector.
- Present innovations by young African farmers and Agripreneurs in supporting sustainable food production and security in Africa
- Provide advocacy tools to African farmers' organizations

The major findings from the study show that young agripreneurs dominate in the production of crops and animals along the agripreneurship value chain even though gender and level of education influence their participation and the choice of agripreneurship. Again, young agripreneurs contribute substantially to development on the African continent by tackling food insecurity, nutritional challenges and poverty, providing employment, and protecting the environment. PAFO, national governments and associations have provided support in the form of capacity building, access to network and markets among others, to young agripreneurs. However, the enabling conditions for strengthening and scaling up youth agripreneurship in Africa including creating more opportunities for youth capacity development, increasing access to essential resources such as land, creating funding opportunities for youth agripreneurship and enhancing institutional support from governments, the private sector, civil society and international development agencies, should be intensified.

The results from the study are relevant for the achievement of PAFO's mission of increasing farmers' engagement in policies for agricultural transformation and development in Africa. As such, PAFO can leverage on this study to advocate for youth participation in policy formulation and implementation in Africa. Similarly, the results from the study provides an opportunity for PAFO and its member networks to increase awareness on the importance of agriculture in general and youth agripreneurship in particular to youth and Africa's development, thereby attracting other African youth into agriculture and agripreneurship as a profession. PAFO can rely on the study to demystify the negative impression of African youth on agriculture by increasing awareness on the success stories of young agripreneurs already engaged in agriculture and agripreneurship in Africa.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW OF THE AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE

The practice of agriculture on the African continent is facilitated by the vast resources – land and water, that are available and required to support agricultural activities for the growth of plants and animals (Gurib-Fakim, 2015; PAFO, 2021). Currently, Africa has about 60% of the world arable land, which strategically positions the continent to feed its people and the rest of the world (Plaizier, 2016). This, has however, remained a rhetoric for the continent as the reality of achieving food self-sufficiency has not been realized in Africa.

Nevertheless, many African economies largely depend on agriculture. The agriculture sector in Africa is the major contributor to gross domestic product (GDP) and employs the largest proportion of the labour force on the continent. For example, in 2021, the highest contribution of agriculture was observed in Sierra Leone (60%), followed by Chad (54%) and Ethiopia (38%) as shown in Figure 1 (World Bank, 2022). Similarly, about 70% of the labour force in Chad are employed in the agriculture sector (Oxford Business Group, 2021). The sector also contributes significantly to foreign exchange income in Africa.

Given the contribution of agriculture to the promotion of growth and development in Africa, several policies, interventions and programs have been initiated and implemented at the national, regional and continental levels for the purpose of boosting agricultural transformation and reaping the full benefits of the sector to Africa's development. These include the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), the Malabo Declaration, the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), now the African Union Development Agency (AU-NEPAD), and Agenda 2063 (African Union, 2018; 2021). Notwithstanding the implementation of robust and ambitious programs on the continent, Africa's agriculture sector still remains undeveloped and faces many challenges.

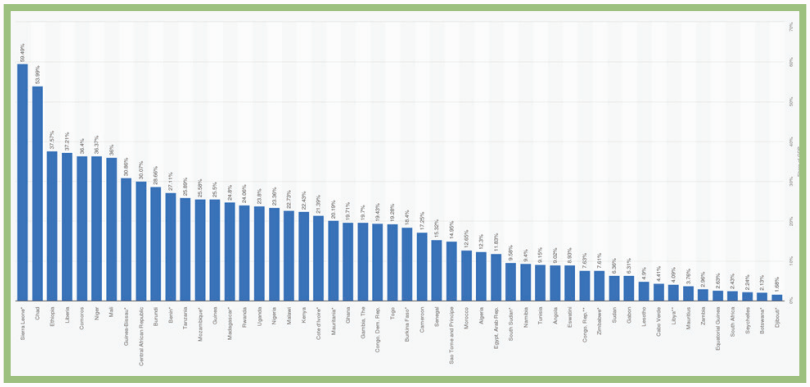

Figure 1. Contribution of agriculture, forestry, and fishing sector to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Africa as of 2021
Source: World Bank (2021)

1.2 CHALLENGES OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFORMATION IN AFRICA

Agriculture in Africa is characterized largely by smallholder farming systems. Although smallholder farmers contribute to about 80% to food supply on the continent (FAO, 2012), however, their level of vulnerability and poverty makes it difficult for them to take up innovations and technologies that are capable of advancing robust agricultural transformation. For instance, many smallholder farmers in Africa rely on the mercies of the weather, particularly rainfall, for their agricultural activities. In the era of climate change and extreme events, relying on rainfall for agriculture is not sustainable to promote rapid transformation on the continent.

Access to irrigation which can trampoline smallholder and arid agriculture systems from the adverse effects of climate change, is limited among many smallholder farmers in Africa (AGRA, 2018). Even where irrigation is practiced, the size of farms of smallholder farmers in many parts of the continents, such as Ghana, averages less than 2 hectares, which makes it difficult for farmers to adopt irrigation farming due to its capital intensiveness. In addition, in contemporary times where agricultural mechanization is promoted in developed economies of the world, many smallholder farmers in Africa still use rudimentary farm tools and equipment such as cutlass and hoes, and rely on their physical strength as farm labour. This makes it extremely difficult for smallholder farmers to leapfrog crops and livestock productivity.

The vulnerability of smallholder agriculture systems in Africa are further exacerbated by climate change. The successive reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have demonstrated that Africa is one of the most vulnerable and at risk continents to climate change, and the continent is projected to observe severe impacts of climate change in the future if immediate adaptation and mitigation actions are not implemented at different spatial scale (IPCC, 2014, 2018, 2022). Smallholder farmers in many parts of the continent including Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, South African among others, have reported extreme reduction in agriculture yields due to climate change and extremes such as rising temperature, erratic rainfall, floods and droughts (Adeosun et al., 2021; Asare-Nuamah, 2021). Future projections show that the yields of grains are cereals in many part of Africa are expected to reduce drastically, as high as 25% particularly in West Africa (Sultan & Gaetani, 2016).

Climate change has also intensified the attacks of pests and diseases on crops and livestock, which poses severe and adverse effects on the potential of agriculture to drive development, especially in vulnerable farming households and communities. The activities of fall armyworm in Africa since 2016 have been linked to the changes in climate. Evidence shows that large hectares of maize, millet, sorghum farms among others, have been invaded and destroyed by fall armyworm in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana, and Cameroon etc. (Asare-Nuamah, 2022; Mpofu, 2017). According to the African Union Inter-African Phytosanitary Council, the invasion of maize farms by fall armyworm has resulted in about $3 billion loss of maize annually in Africa (African Union, 2017), which threatens food security due to the importance of maize

as a staple crop on the continent. In addition to climate change, the vulnerability of the African agricultural systems has been worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic, thereby pushing many people, including vulnerable women and young farmers into poverty and food insecurity (UN, 2020). From the foregoing discussion, it is explicit that promoting agricultural development and transformation in Africa requires addressing the complex challenges that confront the agriculture sector and the African youth have a critical role to play.

1.3 YOUTH AND AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION IN AFRICA

The challenges that confront the African agricultural systems require robust transformation of the sector. Fortunately, Africa has the labour force to drive agricultural transformation on the continent. Most importantly, Africa has a vibrant youth population that can be leveraged on to promote and sustain the transformation of the agriculture sector (AGRA, 2014). However, as seen in the policymaking arena on the continent, the vibrant African youth are rarely engaged and resourced to participate in the process of agricultural transformation. This is problematic given the fact that the largest sect of the African population is the youth. Currently, about 60% of the African population are under 25 years old and over a third of the continent' population are equally under 35 years old (i.e., about a billion people) (Mo Ibrahim Foundation, 2021). Future projections show that the size of the African youth population is likely to increase by 181.4% by 2100.

However, the vast majority of the African youth are either unemployed or underemployed. For instance, in 2021 about 12.9% of the youthful population were unemployed. Country wise, countries with high GPD in Africa have some of the highest youth unemployment rates on the continent, particularly in urban areas compared to rural areas. For instance, South Africa has about 55% of its youth population unemployed (Mo Ibrahim Foundation, 2021). In Ghana, too, while about 12% of youth are jobless, over 50% of the youth population are underemployed (Dadzie et al., 2020; Fairwork, 2021). It is projected that by 2030, about 30 million African youth will enter the job market, annually. As such, it is essential to create jobs that can absorb the vibrant youthful population on the continent. While sub-Saharan African requires an annual creation of about 18 million jobs for its youthful population, only about 3 million are actually created (Mo Ibrahim Foundation, 2021), which poses a serious challenge to the growth and development of the African youth in particular, and the continent in general.

Africa's agriculture sector and for that matter agripreneurship, has been described as the panacea to tackle high youth unemployment rate on the continent. Without doubt, many youth in Africa disregard agriculture as an option for employment mainly due to the non-lucrative nature of employment in the sector. However, the agriculture sector in Africa has the greatest potential to tackle youth employment and position the continent on its path to development. According to the Mo Ibrahim Foundation (2021), Africa's agriculture is projected to serve as the pool of youth employment on the continent. This can be achieved if the narratives and perspectives about the hurculean and laborious tasks associated with agriculture on the continent are changed.

Agripreneurship is therefore, considered the surest and effective way to intensify youth participation in agriculture, transform the agriculture sector and reap the associated benefits for the growth and development of the African continent. Agripreneurship offers a new perspective to the practice of agriculture, as it forestalls a pragmatic shift in agriculture from the production of crops and animals to feed one's family to the production and processing of crops and animals and other associated services as a business model. Agripreneurship embraces a high degree of commercialization of agriculture and it favours the production of commercial crops compared to staple crops. Given its prospect for the development of developing economies, farmers and practitioners of agripreneurship are encouraged to adopt and manage agriculture on purely business models.

Considering agriculture as a business has a potential to pull African youth who are largely unemployed into agriculture. As indicated earlier, the unattractiveness of agriculture in Africa among the youth has been a major factor hindering their participation in agriculture sector. Indeed, as reported by the World Bank (2019), a vibrant agripreneurship sector in Africa could triple the value of the continent's food market, which was valued at US$313 billion each year in 2013. By 2030, Africa's agriculture and agripreneurship sector is expected to yield about US$1 trillion for the continent (World Bank, 2013). Currently, the agripreneurship value chain alone (i.e., supply of inputs, marketing, processing and retail) contribute about 20% to Africa's GDP.

Promoting a vibrant agripreneurship sector requires the uptake of robust innovations and technologies coupled with reforms that enhance accessible markets, improved and climate resilient seedlings, other farm inputs, and high quality human resources (World Bank, 2019b, 2019a). With respect to human resources, there is no doubt that African youth have the greatest potential to streamline and sustain a vibrant agripreneurship sector. The youth are considered energetic, risk takers, adventurous, enterprising and have strong passion to adopt innovations and technology compared to the aging African farmers' population (AGRA, 2014; Mo Ibrahim Foundation, 2021). More so, the size of the population of the African youth can be leveraged on as an asset for promoting and scaling up agripreneurship on the continent.

However, the uptake of agripreneurship among African youth remains low, even though the pace of agricultural reforms is high in Africa compared with the other regions of world, which offers the opportunity for farmers in the region to do business (World Bank, 2019b). In consonance with the thrust of this study, relying on the success stories of youth already engaged in agripreneurship on the continent can serve as a springboard to attract other youth into agriculture and agripreneurship.

The significance of this study is of threefold. First, the study contributes to PAFO's mission of boosting youth participation in agriculture and agripreneurship through the success stories of other youth engaged in the sector. Second, the study offers the opportunity for PAFO to make a strong case or advocate for strengthening the current and future policy support for agriculture and agripreneurship on the continent through the active engagement of young African agripreneurs in the formulation and implementation of policies. Third, the study contributes to

improving an understanding on how farmer based organizations such as the Pan African Farmers Organization and their development partners among others can serve as a conduit for scaling up agripreneurship on the continent, with a particular emphasis on young farmers.

1.4 THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

PAFO committed this continental study on: "Young African Agripreneurs: Success Story and Scaling Up Lessons and Innovations" to identify and profile success stories of young Africans (men and women) operating in agriculture for scaling up lessons and innovations. PAFO believes that lessons can be learned better from good examples than from failures of the system to better involve young people.

THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY INCLUDE:

1. Capitalize the profiles of different successful young Agripreneurs (men and women) by network, in Africa
2. Identify the common characteristics that make these young farmers/ Agripreneurs successful in terms of internal (personal) factors and external support systems.
3. Sensitization of young people and the general public to the opportunities offered by the agricultural sector for youth employment and job creation.
4. Present the positive stories as business models to other young people who see no hope in the agricultural sector.
5. Present innovations by young African farmers and Agripreneurs in supporting sustainable food production and security in Africa
6. Provide advocacy tools to African farmers' organizations

2. THE PAN AFRICAN FARMERS ORGANIZATION (PAFO)

PAFO was created in October 2010 in Malawi by its constituent assembly under the sponsorship of the African Union. This constitutive assembly was the culmination of a process begun several years ago in collaboration with the five regional networks of Farmers' Organizations. PAFO is recognized as the representative body of African farmers' organizations at the highest continental level, based in Kigali. It brings the voice of 80 million African farmers integrated into nearly 70 national organizations, unions, federations, cooperatives, associations, etc., present in almost 50 African countries, and united in five regional networks: the East African Farmers Organization (EAFF; the Regional Platform of farmers organizations from Central Africa (PROPAC); the Network of farmers Organization and Agricultural Producers of West Africa (ROPPA); the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) and the Maghreb and North African Union of Farmers (UMNAGRI).

THE MANDATE OF PAFO INCLUDE:

- To work together on issues that have a significant impact on African agriculture.
- To bring together the farmers around common needs, themes and challenges which are mainly---- access to land, financing, local, regional and continental trade, public investments in family farming, capacity building of farmers and their organizations, the cross-cutting issues around climate change, the empowerment of rural women and young people, in addition to the current challenges posed by the Covid-19.
- To facilitate dialogue and cooperation with various continental and international institutions, but also with financial and technical partners.
- To provide common positions on issues and themes dealing with agriculture and rural development in Africa.
- To contribute to the formulation of projects and the development of the capacities necessary to follow them up

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research is based on primary data collected from 108 young African agripreneurs. The research participants were randomly and purposively selected from PAFO's regional (East, West, South, North and Central Africa) and national member networks across the African continent. Questionnaire survey and interviews were used for the collection of quantitative and qualitative data, respectively. From the collected data, the study identified and profiled the success stories of young African (men and women) agripreneurs operating along the agriculture value chain for the purpose of scaling up their lessons and innovations. From the identified profiles, a synthesis was made with the existing literature to identify the common characteristics that make these young farmers/agripreneurs successful. The synthesis of their characteristics was based on internal (personal and organization-specific) characteristics and external support systems that make them successful.

On the basis of the synthesis, the study then provided recommendations that are necessary and required to help PAFO to advocate for young African agripreneurs and to raise awareness on the need for young African agripreneurs to be taken into account in the formulation and implementation of policies particularly within the agriculture sector and beyond. Young African agripreneurs engagement in policies will go a long way to either achieve PAFO's mission or to support its advocacy vis-à-vis regional and global institutions. In addition, the success stories of young African agripreneurs in this study can be compiled and presented as business models to attract other African youth into agriculture and agripreneurship, particularly those who see no hope in engaging in agricultural activities as a career.

4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings that emerged from the quantitative and qualitative data are reported and discussed under the subsequent sub-sections below.

4.1 PARTICIPANTS' DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

This section presents the demographic characteristics of the study participants. In terms of gender, the majority of the young agripreneurs in the study were males (66%) even though there were 34 percent female agripreneurs as shown in Table 1. It is important to emphasize that while many women play important role in agriculture in Africa, many of them work as farm labourers or provide support to their husbands and households on the farm without necessarily owing the farm or the land. Hence, the high participation of males as opposed to females in agripreneurship can be attributed to the limited opportunities for women compared to men, coupled with capital intensiveness of agripreneurship which favours males. Intuitively, in many African societies, women have limited access, ownership and entitlement to essential resources such as land (Grun et al., 2021) that are required for agripreneurship, which possibly affects their engagement in agripreneurship.

The age distribution of the participants shows that about 58 percent of the young agripreneurs were between 31- 35 years, followed by 25 – 30 years old (35%). It is indicative from the findings that many young agripreneurs enter into agripreneurship fully at the latter stage of their youth. This trend could be likely due to the years of schooling as well as limited opportunities available to young agripreneurs in the early stage of their youth. This is further confirmed by the educational attainment of young agripreneurs. The majority of the participants (94%) have degree or post-secondary educational qualification.

Table 1. Gender, age and educational level of participants

Demographic Variable	Characteristics	% of respondents
Gender	Male	66
	Female	34
Age	20 -25 years	7.2
	26 – 30 years	35.1
	31- 35 years	57.7
Education	High school/secondary	6.2
	Tertiary/post-secondary	93.8

On the basis of regional representation, 35.1 percent of the participants were from West Africa while 32 percent were from East Africa (Figure 3). Participants from South, Central and North Africa constituted 18.6, 10.3 and 4.1 percent, respectively. Country-specific distribution of the participants also shows that Kenya had the highest participants (14.4%) followed by Ghana (13.4%), Uganda (9.3%) and Nigeria (8.2%) (Figure 4). Within regions, Ghana (38.2%) and Nigeria (26%) had the highest number of young agripreneurs from West Africa while in East Africa it was Kenya (45.2%) and Uganda (29.%). Zimbabwe had the highest participants from South Africa (22.2%) while Botswana, Eswatini and Namibia had 17 percent each. In North Africa, 50 percent of the participants were from Mauritania while Morocco and Tunisia constituted 25 percent each.

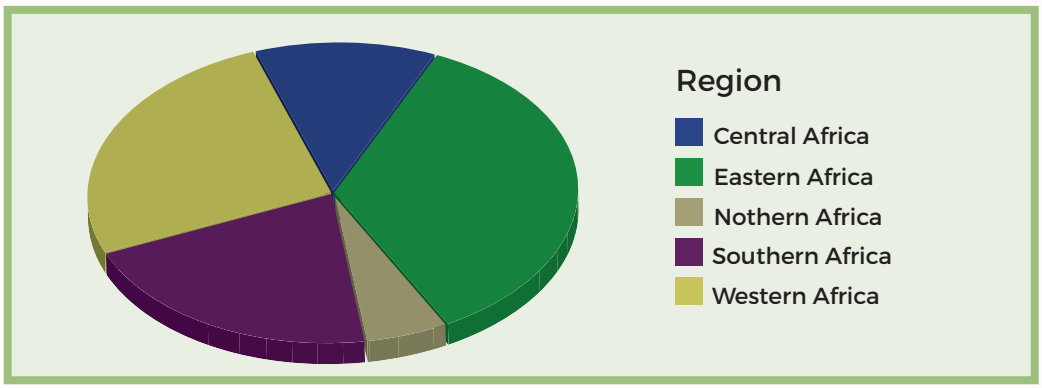

Figure 2. Distribution of participants based on region in Africa

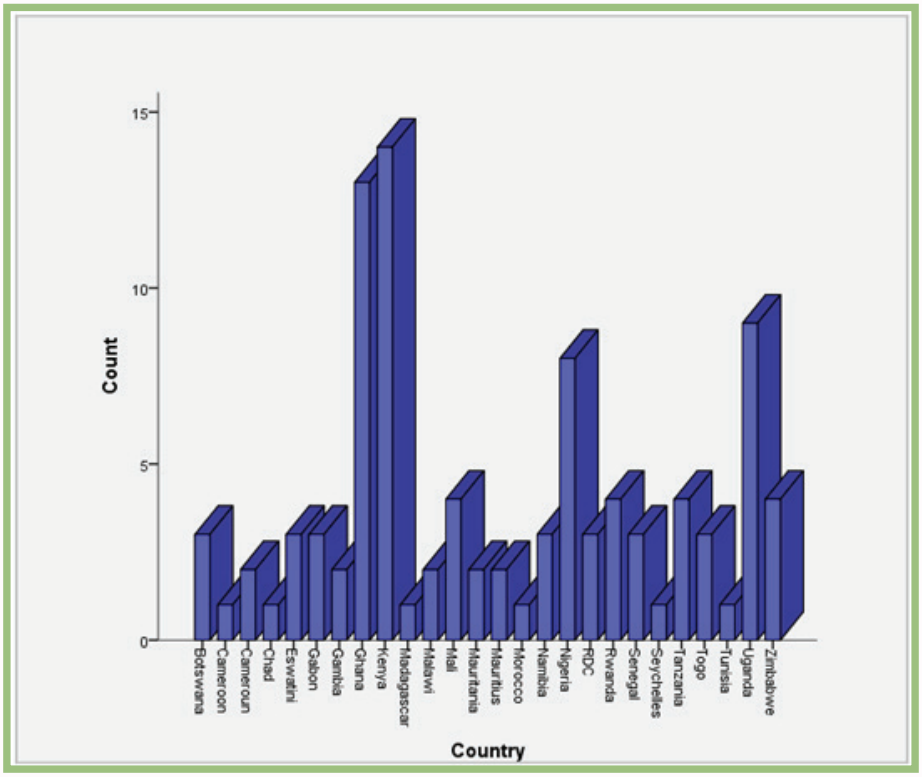

Figure 3. Distribution of participants based on country

4.2 CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUNG AGRIPRENEURS IN AFRICA

The characteristics of young agripreneurs, including the kind of agripreneurship they operate, the country or region where they operate their agripreneurship, how long they have been engaged in agripreneurship, the number of employees and their motivation to enter into agripreneurship are reported under this section. The results show that young agripreneurs are engaged in agripreneurship along the agriculture/agripreneurship value chain. The most common agripreneurship of young agripreneurs was the production of both crops and livestock including fish (n = 45, Mean = 0.46, SD = 0.50), followed by the provision advisory, extension and technical services (n = 31, Mean = 0.32, SD = 0.47), processing and value addition (n = 26, Mean = 0.27, SD = 0.45), and sales of processed and unprocessed agricultural products (n = 23, Mean = 0.46, SD = 0.50). The least operated agripreneurship among young agripreneurs were the transportation of agricultural goods (n = 4, Mean = 0.04, SD = 0.20), and the import and export of agricultural products (n = 11, Mean = 0.11, SD = 0.32).

There are gender, age and educational attainment dynamics in young agripreneurs engagement in agripreneurship (Table 2). In terms of gender, both males and females are likely to engage in the production of both crops and livestock (Males = 26, Females = 13). The results of the chi square test of independence show that there are significant association of males and females engagement in processing and value addition (p = 0.04), sales of processed and unprocessed agricultural products (p = 0.04) and import and export of agricultural goods and inputs. Indeed, females are more likely to engage the sales of process and unprocessed agricultural products compared to male.

Young agripreneurs with post-secondary or tertiary educational qualification are also likely to engage in the production of both crops and livestock (44), provision of advisory, extension and technical services (30) and processing and value addition (25) compared to their counterparts with secondary education who are more likely to engage in the production of crops (3). There was a significant association between young agripreneurs with secondary and post-secondary education with respect to the production of livestock/fish only (p = 0.02), transportation of agricultural products (p = 0.00) and import and export of agricultural goods and inputs (p = 0.00).

Table 2. Young agripreneurs agripreneurship and association with gender, education and age

Agripreneurship value chain	Gender			Education			Age				Total responses
	Female	Male	x^2	Secondary	Post-secondary	x^2	20-25 years	26-30 years	31-35 years	x^2	
Production of crops only	3	16	0.61	3	16	0.53	3	3	13	0.68	19
Production of livestock/fish only	7	8	0.26	0	15	0.02*	0	6	9	0.49	15
Production of both crops and livestock	19	26	0.11	1	44	0.13	3	17	25	0.54	45

Processing and value addition	13	13	0.04*	1	25	0.56	2	14	10	0.53	26
Transportation of agricultural products	0	4	0.14	2	2	0.00*	1	0	3	0.12	4
Sales of farm inputs	7	11	0.63	1	17	0.90	2	9	7	0.99	18
Provision of advisory, extension and technical services	9	22	0.48	1	30	0.41	2	9	20	0.65	31
Sales of processed and unprocessed agricultural products	12	11	0.04*	2	21	0.57	3	5	15	0.20	23
Import and export of agricultural goods and inputs	1	10	0.05*	3	8	0.00*	1	6	4	0.30	11

Note: X2 = Chi square, * indicates significant p value at 0.05, numbers in the table are counts

Specific to age and agripreneurship value chain, young agripreneurs between 31 – 35 years were engaged in the production of both crops and livestock (25), provision advisory, extension and technical services (20) and sales of processed and unprocessed agricultural products (15). For young agripreneurs between 26 – 30 years, they were more engaged in the production of both crops and livestock (17), and processing and value addition (14). The results show no significant association between age and young agripreneurs engagement in the agripreneurship value chain.

The results in Table 3 also show the number of years of engagement of young agripreneurs in agripreneurship. The minimum years of engagement was 2 years and the maximum about 15 years. The majority of the young agripreneurs (26%) have been engaged in agripreneurship for the past 4 years while about 16 percent have been engaged in agripreneurship for 2 and 3 years. About 44.3 percent of the young agripreneurs owned or operated 1 agripreneurship as opposed to 40.2 percent who owned or operated 2 agripreneurship. About 12.4 percent of the young agripreneurs also owned 3 agripreneurship while 3.1 had more than 3 agripreneurship. In terms of territory of operation, the majority of young agripreneurs operated at the national (48.5%) and local (37.1%) levels. However, about 6.2 and 8.2 percent of young agripreneurs also operated at regional and international levels, respectively. From Table 4, the minimum number of employees employed by young agripreneurs was 1 while the maximum was 52. Many of the young agripreneurs have employed 2 (17.5%), 3 (15.5%), 10 (15.5%) and 5 (13.4%) employees.

Table 3. Years of engagement in agripreneurship

Years of engagement in agripreneurship	Frequency	Percent (%)
2	15	15.5
3	15	15.5
4	25	25.8
5	13	13.4
6	4	4.1
7	10	10.3
9	3	3.1

10	4	4.1
15 years and above	8	8.2

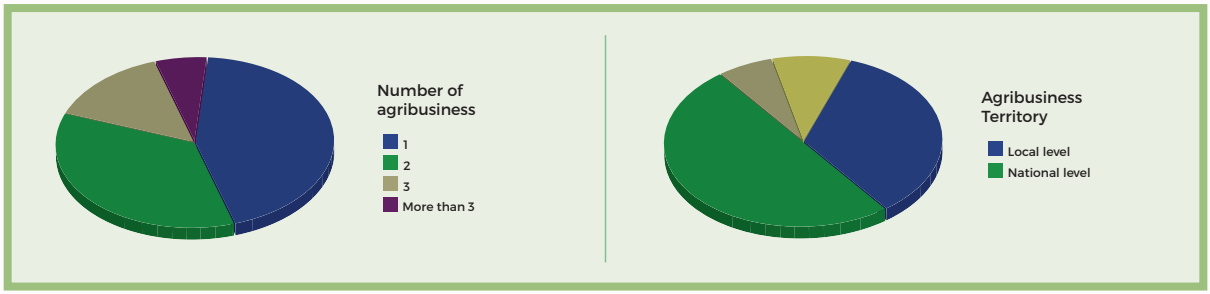

Figure 4a, b. Number of agripreneurship and territory of operation

Table 4. Number of employees of young agripreneurs

Number of employees	Frequency	Percent (%)
1	1	1.0
2	17	17.5
3	15	15.5
4	7	7.2
5	13	13.4
7	10	10.3
6	8	8.2
7	3	3.1
8	1	1.0
10	15	15.5
12	3	3.1
16	1	1.0
20	6	6.2
21 and more	7	7.2

The motivation for young agripreneurs to enter into agripreneurship is reported in Table 5. Passion for agriculture among young agripreneurs was the major motivation for their entry into agripreneurship, as reported by 91 percent of the participants. The drive to protect the environment and biodiversity (40.2%) was also another factor accounting for young agripreneurs engagement in agripreneurship. Similarly, about 33 percent of the young agripreneurs indicated that agripreneurship is a lucrative sector which motivated them to enter into agripreneurship. For about 27 percent of the respondents, the need to be self-employed and not work for anyone also motivated them to enter into agripreneurship while success stories of families and friends engaged in agripreneurship (10.3%) was another motivator for young

agripreneurs engagement in agripreneurship. Lack of employment after school (13%) and the emergence of advanced technology for agripreneurship (14%) also served as motivation factors for young agripreneurs entry into agripreneurship.

Table 5. Young agripreneurs motivation for entry into agripreneurship

Motivation	% of responses
Agripreneurship is a lucrative sector	33.0
Passion for agriculture	90.7
Families and friends are making it in agripreneurship	10.3
Protect the environment and biodiversity	40.2
Self-employed (Do not want to work for anyone)	26.8
Lack of employment after school	13.4
Advanced technology for agriculture and agripreneurship	14.4

4.3 YOUTH AGRIPRENEURSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

Youth agripreneurship contributes to development in Africa as shown by the perception of young agripreneurs in Figure 6. About 97.9 percent of the young agripreneurs reported that their agripreneurship contributes to development across the continent. On the basis of the level of agripreneurship contribution to development, the majority of young agripreneurs made substantial contribution at both the local (47.9%) and national (43.8%) levels, even though about 5.1 percent of young agripreneurs believed that their agripreneurship contribute to development at the global level. The level of contribution of agripreneurship to development could be partly explained by the territories within which many young agripreneurs in Africa operate their business. As reported earlier, the majority of young agripreneurs operate largely at the local and national levels.

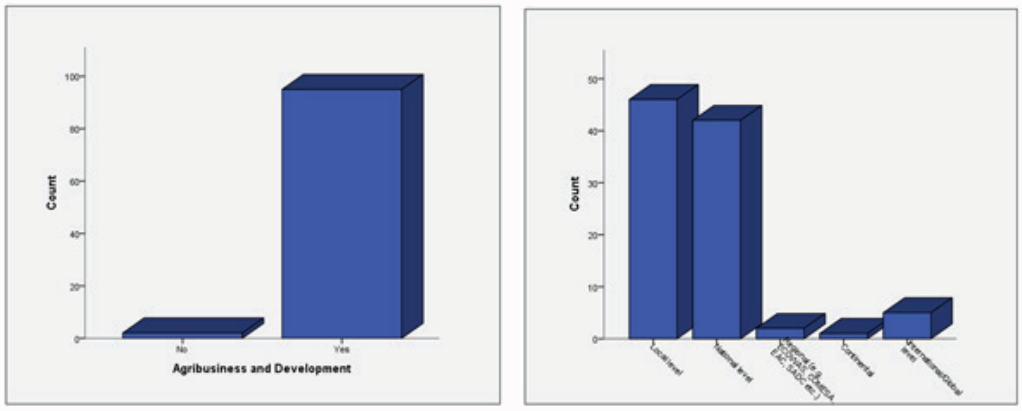

Figure 5a, b. Young agripreneurs perception of the contribution of agripreneurship to development and the development of level

The results further show that the major contribution of youth agripreneurship to development was the promotion of food security and nutrition as indicated by about 81 percent of young agripreneurs. This is not surprising though as many

young agripreneurs are engaged in the production of crops and livestock along the agripreneurship value chain. About 73 percent of young agripreneurs also agreed that their business contributed to development through the provision of employment opportunities. Indeed, with high youth unemployment rate among countries in Africa (World Bank, 2013, 2019b), young agripreneurs help to absorb unemployed youth, thereby contributing to the reduction of unemployment rates in their respective countries.

Another areas of agripreneurship contribution was poverty reduction (57%), building the capacity of vulnerable groups through training, innovation and skills acquisition (52%), protection of the environment (49%), and promoting the welfare of vulnerable groups (43%). Others included gross domestic product (43%) and promoting trade (25%). Without doubt, by enhancing food security and providing job opportunities, young agripreneurs aid in addressing poverty and improving the welfare among vulnerable groups and communities in Africa.

Table 6. Contribution of youth agripreneurship to development in Africa

Contribution of agripreneurship to development	% of responses
Provides employment	72.6
Addresses poverty	57.3
Promotes food security and nutrition	81.3
Protects the environment	49.0
Promotes the welfare of vulnerable group (e.g. women, children, youth etc.)	42.7
Contributes to my country's gross domestic products	42.7
Promotes trade	25.0
Build capacity of vulnerable groups and farming communities through training	52.1

4.4 INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR YOUTH AGRIPRENEURSHIP IN AFRICA

The results in Figure 7 show young agripreneurs association membership and the nature of the associations. About 65 percent of young agripreneurs belonged to associations while 35 percent had no membership of association. For those belonging to associations, about 63.8 percent of them belonged to national level associations followed by 21.7 percent who were members of local level associations. There were more young agripreneurs who belonged to continental level associations (5.8%) than regional (4.3%) and global (4.3%) level associations. Similarly, about 65.1 percent of young agripreneurs with membership in association had received support from their association as opposed to 34.9 percent who had not received any support from their associations (see Figure 8).

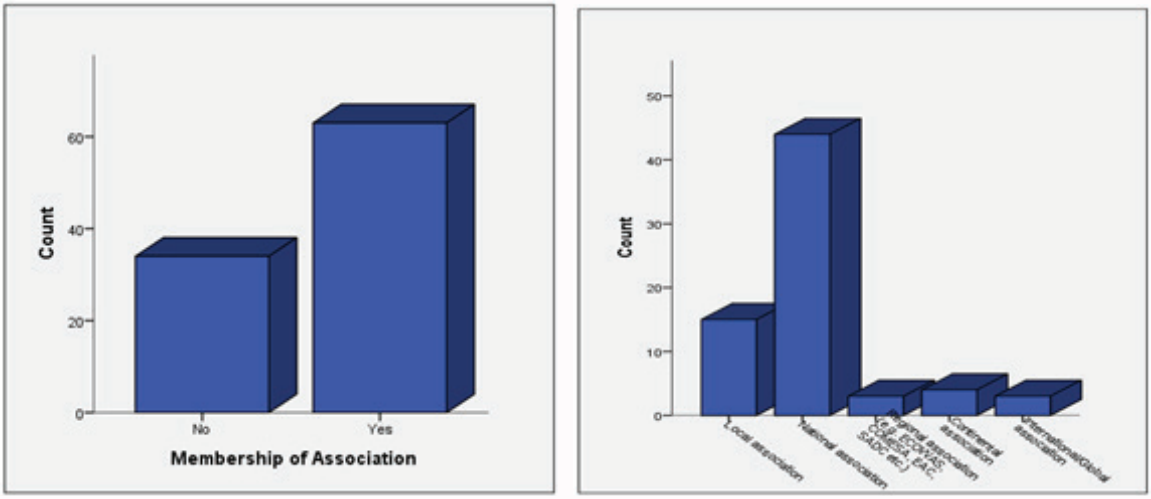

Figure 6a, b. Association membership and the nature of association

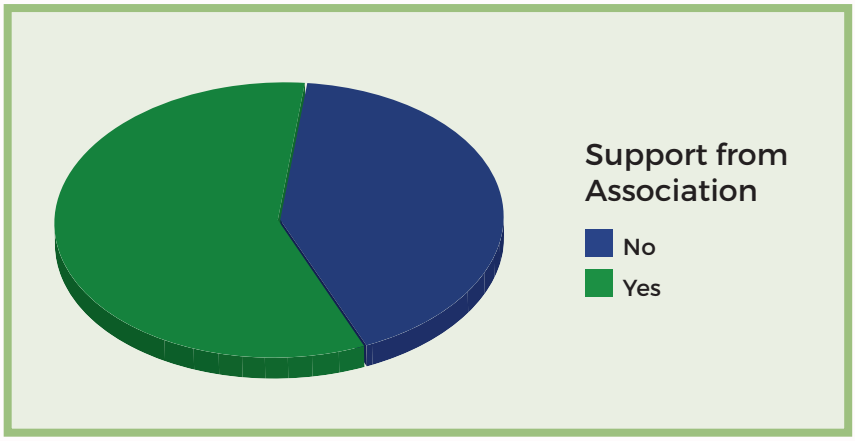

Figure 7. Support from association

With respect to the kind of support young agripreneurs have received from their associations, the major support provided by associations to young agripreneurs was capacity building, as reported by 73 percent of the participants (see Table 7). This is not surprising as associations organize trainings, workshops and other capacity building programs for their members to enable them to improve and upgrade their knowledge and skills, which are critical to the growth of their business. Following capacity building was the access to networks that associations offer to their members (56%). Providing networks is essential to the growth of business as it helps to build connections, and enables access to new markets and resources including information. Membership of associations also make it possible for about 34 and 22 percent of young agripreneurs to access markets and funds for their agripreneurship, respectively. The least support associations provide to young agripreneurs included access to infrastructure, and irrigation facilities.

Table 7. Associations support to young agripreneurs

Support from associations	% of responses
Access to funds	22.0
Capacity building (training, extension and technical advisory services)	72.7
Access to technology and innovations	17.1
Access to markets	34.1
Access to networks	56.1
Access to farm inputs	31.7
Access to infrastructure	7.3
Access to irrigation facilities	12.2

From Table 8, about 64 percent of young agripreneurs have not received any support from their governments as opposed to 33 percent that have received support from their government. The regional distribution shows that governments in Eastern Africa have provided the largest support to young agripreneurs as indicated by 42.2 percent of young agripreneurs who have received support from their governments. About 30.3 percent of the young agripreneurs have also received support from governments in Western Africa. Governments in Southern Africa provided the least support to young agripreneurs (12.1%) while young agripreneurs from Northern Africa received no support from their governments.

Table 8. Cross tabulation of support from government and region

Support from governments	Region					Total responses
	Central Africa	Eastern Africa	Northern Africa	Southern Africa	Western Africa	
No	5	17	4	14	24	64
Yes	5	14	0	4	10	33

Note: Numbers in table are counts

The results on the specific support provided by African governments to young agripreneurs are reported in Table 9. The major support provided by governments to young agripreneurs was capacity building (47%) followed by access to funds (44%) and access to markets (17%). Governments through their ministries and agencies including extension officers provide capacity building opportunities to young agripreneurs, particularly as many of the young agripreneurs are engaged in the production of crops and animals. The least support provided by governments to

young agripreneurs was access to irrigation facilities (6%) and access to technology and innovations (9%).

Table 9. Support young agripreneurs received from their governments

Support from governments	% of responses
Access to funds	44.1
Capacity building (training, extension and technical advisory services)	47.1
Access to technology and innovations	8.8
Access to markets	16.7
Access to networks	14.7
Access to farm inputs	14.7
Access to infrastructure	11.8
Access to irrigation facilities	5.9

Figure 9 demonstrates the proportion of young agripreneurs who have received support from

PAFO and its regional and national networks including the Eastern African Farmers Federation (EAFF), Network of Farmers and Producers Organization in West Africa (ROPPA), Regional Platform of Farmers Organizations of Central Africa (PROPAC), Maghrebian and North Africa Union of Farmers (UMNAGRI), and Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU). About 33.3% of the young agripreneurs have received support from PAFO and its member networks while 66.7% have not. Among those who have received support from PAFO and its member networks, Table 10 shows that young agripreneurs from Eastern Africa have received the most support (52%), followed by Southern Africa (36.1%). Inversely, young agripreneurs from Central and Northern Africa have received the least support from PAFO and its member networks (3% each).

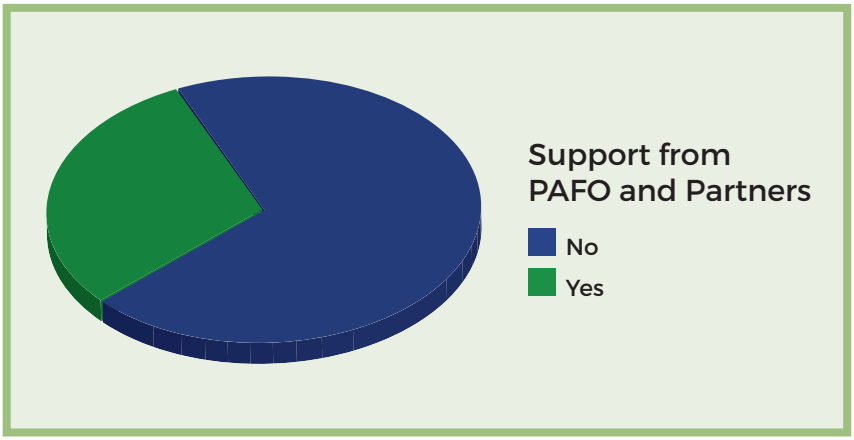

Figure 8. Support from PAFO

Table 10. Cross tabulation of support from PAFO and regional networks

Support from PAFO and member networks	Region					Total responses
	Central Africa	Eastern Africa	Northern Africa	Southern Africa	Western Africa	
No	9	14	4	5	32	64
Yes	1	17	1	12	2	33

Table 11 shows that the major support provided by PAFO and its member networks to young agripreneurs was capacity building through trainings and workshops, as indicated by 87 percent of the participants. Similarly, PAFO has also improved access to networks (71%), markets (19%) and technology/innovations (13%) for young agripreneurs. Young agripreneurs did not receive any support in terms of farm inputs, infrastructure, and irrigation facilities from PAFO and its regional member networks.

Table 11. Support young agripreneurs received from PAFO and regional member networks

Support from PAFO and member networks	% of responses
Access to funds	6.2
Capacity building (training, extension and technical advisory services)	87.1
Access to technology and innovations	12.9
Access to markets	19.4
Access to networks	71.0

About 66 percent of young agripreneurs who have received support from their associations, governments and PAFO indicated that the support has contributed to the growth of their agripreneurship (Figure 10). Specifically, from Table 12, about 63 percent of young agripreneurs reported that the support they received has enabled them brand their business and enhance their reputation. Similarly, 47 percent of young agripreneurs have expanded their agripreneurship through the support received while 44 percent of them have improved their productivity. Other contributions of the support to youth agripreneurship included the adoption of technology and innovation (40%), increased access to new markets (35%), increase in sales (33%) and increased employment opportunities (26%).

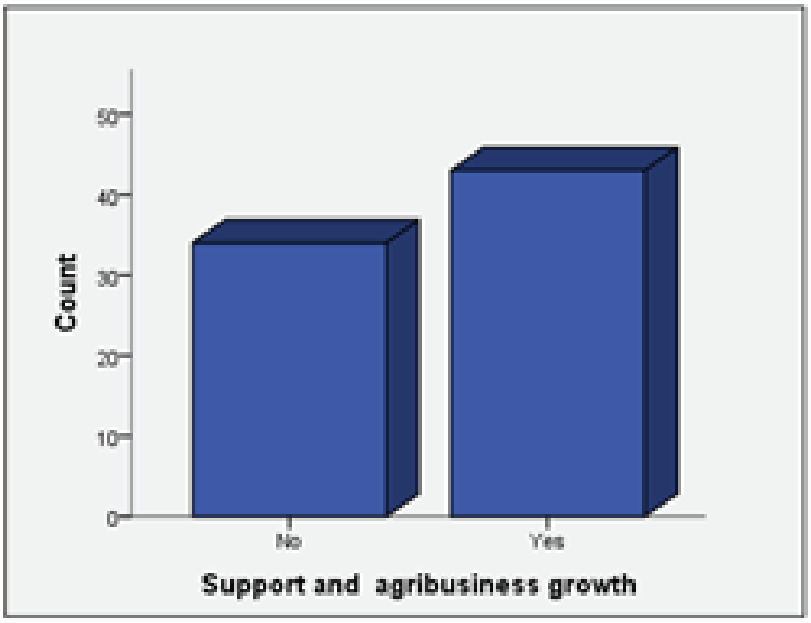

Figure 9. Young agripreneurs perception of support received and agripreneurship growth

Table 12. Specific contribution of support to the growth of agripreneurship

Contribution of support to agripreneurship	% of responses
Increase in employment	25.6
Increase in sales	32.6
Adoption of technology and innovations	39.5
Expansion of business	46.5
Increase in productivity	44.2
Increase in access to new markets	34.9
Improvement in organizational reputation and brand	62.8

4.5 CHANGING NARRATIVES: SUCCESS STORIES OF YOUNG AGRIPRENEURS IN AFRICA

Table 13 presents the characteristics of successful young agripreneurs in Africa. It is indicative that many young agripreneurs operated and managed legally registered agripreneurship (M = 4.5). Globally, legal registration of business is the basic requirement for the operation of any successful business. As such, successful young agripreneurs have legally registered their businesses to meet the legal requirements of their countries and operate effectively. Similarly, young agripreneurs have improved their productivity (M = 4.3) and adopted technologies/innovations (M = 4.2), achieved financial independence (M = 4.2), implemented proper structure for the management of their agripreneurship (M = 4.2), and have provided support to their communities ((M = 4.1).

Again, successful young agripreneurs in Africa have provided employment opportunities (M = 3.9), participated in national and local policymaking processes (M = 3.9), achieved high turnover in their business (M = 3.9) and are part of vibrant networks and associations (M = 3.8). In addition, successful young agripreneurs also operate in many territories (M = 3.7) to enhance their market outreach, diversified their business (M = 3.6), have accumulated assets (M = 3.5) and received recognition in the form of awards and support from government and other agencies (M = 3.5). Indeed, young agripreneurs have these success stories and lived experience than can be leverage on to increase and boost youth participation in agriculture and agripreneurship on the continent.

The interviews confirmed and provided further information on the success stories of young agripreneurs. An interviewee expressed that "one of my greatest accomplishment as a young agripreneur is been able to establish a cordial relationship with the school in my community where I accommodate and train young students who are not academically good to venture into vegetable farming using my farm as a farmer field school" (Interview 5, Male, Seychelles, Crop production). Another interviewee also hinted that "my passion and engagement in mushroom farming has helped me conduct trainings to help other aspiring farmers especially the youth and fellow women. I can boast that I now impart mushroom knowledge to aspiring farmers nationally and even regionally" (Interview 3, Female, Zimbabwe, Button mushroom farmer).

A female interview in Zimbabwe also echoed that engagement in agripreneurship has transformed her life as a poorly educated person into a globally recognized individual. According to the interviewee, "through my engagement in agripreneurship, I was selected as one of the 10 youth nominees in youth unlocking opportunities in the business of agriculture and food systems and have served as a Panelist for the African Chapter of the World Aquaculture Society. Documentaries on my farming models have been showcased in Zimbabwe, Germany and China" (Interview 7, Female, Zimbabwe, Multiple agripreneurship).

The interviewees equally demonstrated diversification of business as a success story. For instance, interviewee 7 had this to say "my success stories emerged from the number of businesses I have created. I started with Eden Urban Farm, an online platform to showcase urban farming methods, agricultural integration and synonymously a defacto hub for tutoring, mentoring and teaching innovative and regenerative farming techniques in the face of climate change. From Eden Farm, I created Eden and Eden Farming Model and the Eden Knight PVT Limited" (Interview 7, Female, Zimbabwe, Multiple agripreneurship).

For some interviewees, achieving high turnover in business is relevant to the existence of their business. An interviewee reported this to demonstrate the turnover in her business "I started by raising 5 local chickens in 2019. In 2020, I noticed that my chickens were growing in number and so I asked my sister to start buying me chicken feed and I started taking the chicks and keeping then away from their mothers and that increased my productivity process. By mid-year 2020, I found

myself with 200 chickens that are freely roaming around the house. People from my community would even call me to make orders for their ceremonies, like weddings and birthdays" (Interview 2, Female, Namibia, Poultry production).

Consequently, many young agripreneurs have achieved financial independence due to their engagement in agripreneurship. For instance, in the case of interviewee 1 "I struggled to feed myself three times a day some time past but currently, I do not face this problem again. Agripreneurship has brought me money to tackle many of the challenges I faced previously" (Interview 1, Female, Congo, Crop production). Another interviewee also intimated that "I did not know there was money in agripreneurship until I ventured into it. Although, I have not suddenly become rich, I have gained money from agripreneurship and acquired assets such as land and a house" (Interview 4, Female, Rwanda, Crop production).

Table 13. Characteristics of successful young agripreneurs

Characteristics of successful agripreneurs	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Undecided (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)	Mean
Legally registered	2.2	3.3	5.6	16.7	72.2	4.53
High turnover in business	4.3	6.5	21.5	35.5	32.3	3.85
Accumulated assets (e.g. houses, shops, vehicles, technology)	5.7	20.5	15.9	33.0	25.0	3.51
Diversified enterprises (owns/operates more than one enterprise)	4.3	10.9	29.3	32.6	22.8	3.59
Has increased production through improved productivity	2.1	2.1	7.2	39.2	49.5	4.32
Employed people (e.g. 5, 10, 15, 20 etc.)	1.0	10.3	18.6	35.1	35.1	3.93
Received awards/recognitions/ support from government and others agencies	7.3	13.5	19.8	39.6	19.8	3.51
Part of a vibrant network(s) or association(s)	4.1	10.3	18.6	39.2	27.8	3.76
Adopted technology and innovations	0.00	7.2	14.4	28.9	49.5	4.21
Achieved financial independence	1.0	4.1	13.4	37.1	44.3	4.20
Provided support to the community through corporate social responsibility	2.1	5.2	13.4	42.3	37.1	4.07
Operate in many locations and territories (e.g. town, cities, countries etc.)	4.3	11.8	24.7	28.0	31.2	3.70
Put proper structures and mechanisms for effective organizational management	3.2	3.2	12.9	36.6	44.1	4.15
Engaged in policymaking at local and national levels	3.2	11.7	10.6	38.3	36.2	3.93

4.6 SCALING UP YOUTH AGRIPRENEURSHIP THROUGH INNOVATIONS

Innovation is essential for agripreneurship and the results in Table 14 show that about 89.8 percent of young agripreneurs have adopted innovations in their agripreneurship. The regional distribution of the adoption of innovations shows that young agripreneurs in Western Africa (35%) have adopted the most innovations, followed by those in Eastern Africa (33.6%), Southern Africa (21.3%) and Central Africa (8.6%). The least adopters of innovations were young agripreneurs from Northern Africa.

Table 14. Cross tabulation of innovation adoption among young agripreneurs and their region

Innovation adoption	Region					Total responses	X^2
	Central Africa	Eastern Africa	Northern Africa	Southern Africa	Western Africa		
No	3	0	3	1	2	9	0.00
Yes	7	27	1	17	28	80	

Specifically, the most common innovations adopted by young agripreneurs was the application of improved crop varieties and livestock breeds, as indicated by about 68 percent of the respondents (Table 15). Indeed, many young agripreneurs are engaged in the production of crops and livestock which makes improved crop varieties and livestock breeds preferred innovations for their agripreneurship. Adopting improved crop varieties and livestock breeds helps to increase productivity, yields and income, which are all essential to the growth of youth agripreneurship. About 38 percent of young agripreneurs have also adopted the use of ICT including computers and mobile phones in the management of their agripreneurship while about 36 percent each have resorted to electronic/social commerce (online marketing) and mobile money transaction platforms. With the hope of doing business beyond their immediate communities and boundaries, electronic/social commerce and mobile money transaction platforms make it possible for young agripreneurs to reach and transact business with customers/clients and suppliers within and beyond their territories of operation. Other innovations adopted by young agripreneurs included irrigation (29%) and renewable sources of energy (23%).

Table 15. Innovations adopted by young agripreneurs in Africa

Innovations adopted	% of responses
Improved seeds and livestock breeds	67.5
ICT including computers and phones	38.3
Drone technology	3.8

Energy efficient electronic appliances	11.3
Application of renewable sources of energy (e.g. solar)	22.7
Energy efficient vehicles, plants and machines	9.3
Electronic and social commerce (online marketing)	36.1
Greenhouse farm technology	20.6
Mobile money transaction platforms	36.1
Irrigation	28.9

4.7 LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE: ENABLERS FOR STRENGTHENING AND SCALING UP YOUTH AGRIPRENEURSHIP IN AFRICA

Table 16 presents the results on the enablers for strengthening and scaling up youth agripreneurship in Africa. The majority of the young agripreneurs concurred that enabling conditions are essential for boosting youth participation in agriculture and agripreneurship on the continent. The results show that providing opportunities for building the capacity of African youth (M = 4.41) and increasing their access to markets (M = 4.41) will be instrumental to boosting youth agripreneurship in Africa. Without doubt, increasing access to important networks (M = 4.40), improving access to technology (M = 4.32) and farm inputs for the youth (M = 4.30) as well as intensifying youth access to infrastructure (M = 4.18), funds (M = 4.14) and lands (M = 4.04) will enhance their participation in agriculture and agripreneurship.

Participation and support from key institutions such as family and friends (M = 3.94), international development organizations (M = 3.90), government (M = 3.86) and the private sector (M = 3.86) are required to boost and strengthen youth agripreneurship. Other enabling conditions that will contribute to building a robust and sustainable ecosystem for African youth agripreneurship include support from civil society organization (M = 4.01), research and development (M = 4.00), and increasing access and uptake of irrigation agriculture (M = 3.96) as well as eliminating trade restrictions and barriers while advancing trade facilitation across boundaries will be important for youth agripreneurship in Africa.

Table 16. Enablers for scaling up youth agripreneurship in Africa

Enablers for growth of agripreneurship	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral/ Undecided (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)	Mean
Access to funds	11.3	4.1	4.1	19.6	60.8	4.14
Capacity building (training, extension and technical advisory services)	3.1	4.1	2.1	29.9	60.8	4.41

Access to technology and innovations	1.0	5.2	9.3	29.9	54.6	4.32
Access to markets	1.0	5.2	9.3	20.6	63.9	4.41
Access to networks	0.0	3.1	8.2	34.0	54.6	4.40
Access to farm inputs	2.1	4.1	7.2	35.1	51.5	4.30
Access to infrastructure	3.1	9.3	7.2	27.8	52.6	4.18
Government support for agripreneurship (policies, business registration and regulations etc.)	10.3	8.2	9.3	29.9	42.3	3.86
Private sector support for agripreneurship	9.3	4.1	17.5	29.9	39.2	3.86
Family support for agripreneurship	5.2	9.3	15.5	26.8	43.3	3.94
Civil society organizations/ NGOs support for agripreneurship	6.2	5.2	14.4	29.9	44.3	4.01
International community/ development agency support for agripreneurship	9.3	6.2	12.4	29.9	42.3	3.90
Research and development (universities, research institutions etc.) support for agripreneurship	7.2	3.1	14.4	33.0	42.3	4.00
Trade facilitation (removal of trade barriers)	8.2	8.2	17.5	19.6	46.4	3.88
Access to land including arable land	7.2	6.2	11.3	25.8	49.5	4.04
Access to irrigation facilities	14.4	3.1	9.3	18.6	54.6	3.96

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There is no denying the fact that youth in Africa constitute a large section of the vulnerable groups on the continent, however, they play an instrumental role in addressing some of the contemporary challenges facing the continent, and contribute to socioeconomic growth and development through their engagement

in agriculture and agripreneurship. The results from this study show that the availability of land position many African youth to engage in the production of crops and livestock as the major agripreneurship operated by youth along the agriculture and agripreneurship value chain. It is therefore imperative for governments across the continent to strengthen and reform land ownership and governance in Africa to enhance improved access to land, including arable land among young agripreneurs. Essentially, the gender dynamics in access to land and other essential resources make female youth highly vulnerable with limited possibility of engaging in agripreneurship, particularly the production of crops and animals. As such, land reforms in Africa should ensure equity and equality among both gender.

The results further show that educational qualification and attainment influence youth engagement in agriculture and agripreneurship, which makes it imperative for governments in Africa to prioritize quality education, particularly for youth to gain the requisite skills and knowledge required to venture effectively into agriculture and agripreneurship. Educational institutions on the continent should tailor their curriculum towards developing the entrepreneurship capacity and potentials of youth to be successful agripreneurs. This will deepen the passion among many African youth to engage in agriculture and agripreneurship, especially if conducive environments and enablers are properly structured to facilitate their engagement in the sector.

To ensure conducive environments for youth engagement in agriculture and agripreneurship, there is the urgent need for multisector, inclusive and coherent stakeholders and institutional collaboration among the government and state institutions, the private sector including financial institutions, education, research and development institutions as well as civil society and international development organizations to promote a collective approach and framework for advancing youth agripreneurship on the continent. Such an approach should ensure that the requisite resources such as land, funds, technology and innovations etc. are provided and available to African youth to boost their participation in agripreneurship.

The results from the study further confirm that youth agripreneurs contribute significantly to socioeconomic development in Africa through tackling food insecurity, nutritional challenges and poverty, provision of employment opportunities, protecting the environment and building the capacity of vulnerable groups, among others. Providing the enabling environments for youth to engage in agripreneurship will strategically position them to substantially contribute to development on the continent. Another important result from the study indicate that young agripreneurs have received some level of support from African governments, associations and more specifically PAFO. While that is commendable, it is important for key institutions including the governments, associations and PAFO to strengthen and intensify their support for youth agripreneurship in Africa. Most importantly, while intensifying the capacity building of young agripreneurs, support in terms of access to funds and essential resources is highly recommended. In the case of PAFO, it is recommended to ensure a regional balance in its distribution of support to young agripreneurs while equally creating an avenue for increasing access to funds, technology and innovations among young agripreneurs through collaboration with member

networks and partners. Similarly, given the centrality of young agripreneurs in the African Continental Free Trade Area, it is essential for PAFO to rely on its member networks and partners to increase access to markets for young agripreneurs under the AfCFTA. Workshops on how young agripreneurs can effectively and sustainably take advantage of the AfCFTA should be prioritized by PAFO. Additionally, governments should promote trade facilitation on the continent with particular emphasis on ensuring ease of doing business among young agripreneurs.

It is established from this study that young African agripreneurs have success stories that can be leveraged on to attract and retain other youth into agripreneurship. Most importantly, apart from their contribution to development on the continent, young agripreneurs have also achieved financial independence, accumulated assets, created employment opportunities, and participated effectively in local and national policymaking processes. Thus, young agripreneurs have improved and transformed their living conditions through agripreneurship. It is therefore, recommended for PAFO and its regional and national parties to rely on the success stories of young agripreneurs to boost the general participation of youth in agriculture and agripreneurship in Africa. To achieve this, successful young agripreneurs can serve as ambassadors of change by advocating and disseminating relevant and positive information necessary to develop the interest of other Africa youth to engage in agripreneurship.

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