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para la  
Alimentación y la  
Agricultura

# FAO Regional Conference for Africa

## TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

**Tunis, Tunisia, 24-28 March 2014**

**Side Event – Summary Report and Recommendations**

**Youth and Development of Aquaculture and Livestock**

The Regional Conference organized a side event on “Youth and Development of Aquaculture and Livestock” (Information Note: ARC/14/INF/8).

In the discussion, delegates acknowledged the importance of creating an enabling environment for youth engagement in the aquaculture and livestock sectors, and in more generally in the agricultural sector. However, several challenges were identified including lack of feed and seed infrastructure for the aquaculture sector, and lack of accessible commercial breeds and feed as the main constraints for the livestock sector. For both sectors, the side event identified common challenges which include inadequate policy framework, access to land and finance, capacity building and mentoring facilities for youth, in particular basic education for the rural youth.

Measures being implemented in various countries include: targeted programmes for youth job creation, enabling access to credit, inputs and markets; professional and technical training across the value chain; mentoring and coaching; rural infrastructural development and land tenure arrangements that allows youth access to productive resources. The importance of the role of the private sector was underlined, not only investing in crucial infrastructure, but also establishing linkages and synergies for smaller actors such as youth and women-led businesses.

a) Recommended Member States to:

- a. Members to continue to develop policies that encourage rural transformation and development of commercial activities in the aquaculture and livestock value chain that would encourage youth to remain and engage in the rural development
- b. Establish mechanisms for different socio-economic groups of youth to express their voice and concern into the Policy and Programme formulation and implementation.
- c. Allocate specific resources from national budgets for the economic empowerment of youth and develop appropriate financial tools and mechanisms including Guarantee Funds, affordable micro-finance, start-up kits, low-interest rate loans, subsidies and other financial incentives for youth.
- d. Develop land policies and land tenure systems that are more responsive to the needs of the rural youth, in particular that of young women.
- e. Invest in technical and vocational training, as well as business and management skills of young people and design apprenticeships/mentorship opportunities through

different channels (farmer based organizations, business incubators, agricultural/aquaculture parks, producer organizations as well as larger agricultural businesses).

- f. Foster partnerships with private sector as well as civil society actors such as farmer and producer organization to establish market linkages and synergies between large and small actors such as youth and women –led family farms and enterprises.

b) Recommended FAO to:

- a. Convene a forum on youth in agriculture representing a diverse group of youth representatives.
- b. Facilitate south-south cooperation and experience sharing between countries to document and up-scale good practices in youth employment in agricultural sector, including aquaculture and livestock sub-sector.
- c. Strengthen partnerships with civil society and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to enhance youth employment opportunities in the agricultural sector (including the aquaculture and livestock subsector).

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