

Youth, Social Sustainability and Coffee in Africa Origins



World Coffee Conference

Youth and Social Responsibility & Coffee in Africa Origins

Guatemala City; February, 26th - 28th, 2010

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Presentation Outline

1. Defining the Youth in African Context
2. Current Social Challenges Affecting Youth in African Coffee Origins
3. Current Gaps in Youth Social Sustainability in Africa Coffee Origins
4. Youth and Coffee in Africa Coffee Origins
5. Recommendations
6. Conclusions

1. Defining the Youth in African Context



Who is a Youth in Africa Context?

- Young persons aged 12 to 30 years
- In Africa youth and child are mutually inclusive
- Many factors force young people to assume adult responsibilities by age 12
- The definition reflects the reality on ground that family and extended kinship ties loosen early

Noting other Definitions of the Youth

- UN defines Youth as persons between 15-24
- Commonwealth Youth Program defines youth as persons of 15-29 years
- UN definition takes the whole world
- Commonwealth is closer to Africa given the number of African countries that are members

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2. Social Challenges Affecting Youth in African Coffee Origins



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What Stylized Facts Suggest About the African Youth

- In Africa, 200 million people are aged between 15 and 24 years comprising more than 20% of the population.
- Majority of the youth lives in rural areas and is mostly employed in agriculture which account for 65% of total employment.
- Youth make up 37% percent of the working-age population, but 60%of the total unemployed.
- Rural youth attached to agriculture are disadvantaged as compared to those in non-farm activities.
- The youth start to work early (a quarter of children ages 5-14 are working), especially in rural areas.

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Demographics & High Rural – Urban Migrations

- Youth between 12-30 years constitute on average over 50% of the population in Africa
- High rural-urban migration caused by;
 - Search for better education and health services
 - Search for employment and business opportunities
 - Insecurity
 - Domestic violence
 - Parental neglect

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Poverty, Unemployment and Very Low Productivity

- All above are affecting the youth in Africa and the causes are;
 - Lack of skills
 - Lack of access to resources like land and capital
 - Government neglect of informal sector and agriculture
 - Lack of apprenticeship schemes
 - Negative attitude of youth towards work especially in agriculture including coffee production

Poor Education and Training Systems

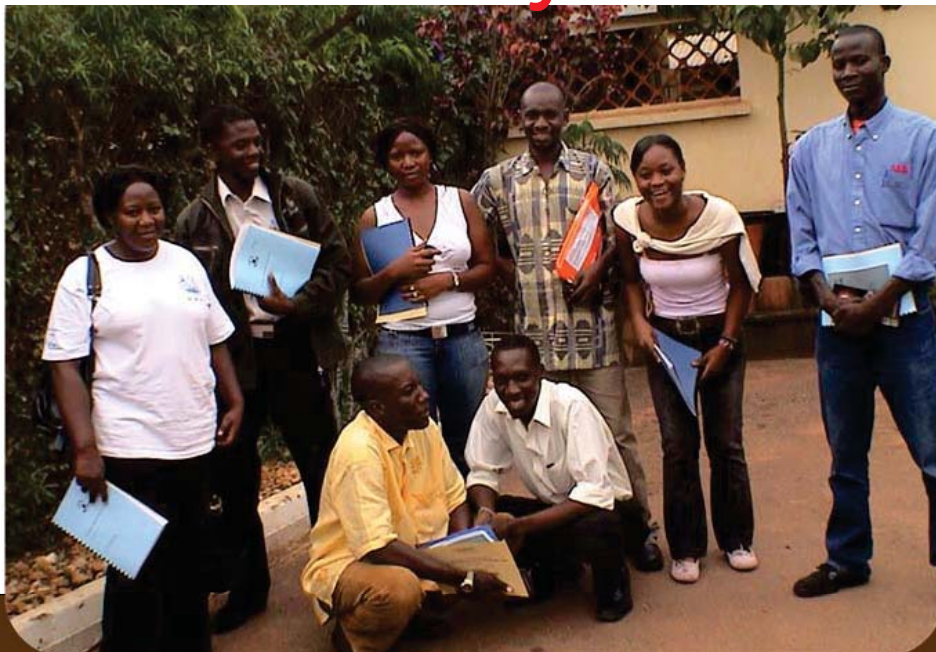
- The salient issues for youth in education and training in Africa include;
 - Skewedness of education and training institutions in favor of urban areas
 - Lack of equity and accessibility to education and training facilities
- Lack of vocationalization of education at all levels

Environment Degradation

- The youth in Africa are involved in environmental degradation to earn a living through;
 - Charcoal burning;
 - Brick making;
 - Wetland destruction;
 - Bush burning
 - Etc...

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3. Current Gaps in Youth Social Sustainability in Africa



Culture and Social Support System - Gap

- Erosion of “traditional values” and social support system in Africa has caused;
 - Social delinquencies;
 - Street youth/gangs
 - Sex workers
 - Drug addicts
 - Orphans
- Youth and crime – 63% of in-mates are youth

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Participation in Decision Making - Gap

- Youth are marginalized in leadership and decision making
- Youth are only involved as beneficiaries of programs and rarely/never involved in their development

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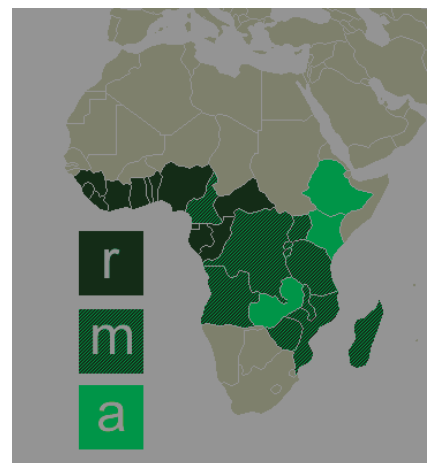
Youth and Coffee in Africa



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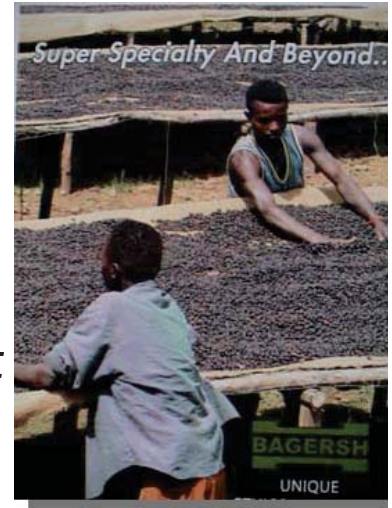
Importance of Coffee to African Origins

- In Africa's 25 coffee producing countries, it is estimated that over 40 million people depend on coffee to a greater extent for their livelihood.
- Over 95% of AFRICA'S coffee comes from **small-holders**, with typically 0.5 to 2.0 hectares of land.



Importance of Coffee to African Origins - Continued

- Coffee in Africa accounts for about 5% - 10% of the GDP
- Coffee contributes over 50 % of the foreign exchange earnings in countries like Ethiopia, Burundi and Rwanda
- *Prevalence of the extended family system means that for every person finding direct or indirect employment in the industry there are between five and ten dependants who benefit.*



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Status of Youth Participation in the Coffee Sector in African Origins

- At production level most coffee farming is done by older people as youth prefer to migrate to the cities
- The youth are more visible at the trading level especially in aggregation of coffee from farmers [middlemen]



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Opportunities for the Youth in the Coffee Sector in African Origins

- Coffee Entrepreneurship through domestic consumption;
 - Training as coffee baristas and quality analyst the youth can easily start up coffee kiosks and vending points to serve coffee in cities where they have camped
- Youth, Coffee and the Environment
 - The coffee consuming world is demanding that coffee is produced in a sustained way and a lot of funds are available to support these initiatives
 - The youth have an opportunity to channel their energies in engaging in programs geared at producing coffee sustainability throughout the value chain

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Recommendations

- Intensive Investment in Agriculture;
- Make agriculture an attractive enough option for youth to engage in,
- Moving away from subsistence agriculture, and introducing commercialization and productivity improvements through technological changes and infrastructure support.
 - Africa's cost of production of coffee is among the lowest in the world, and this could be further improved if productivity levels are improved.
 - Profitable coffee production will engage young people on the land and slow down the drift to the cities.

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Recommendations –Contd.

- Education and Training;
 - Policies must concentrate on creating a system that is capable of inculcating young people's core skills and competencies.
 - The Educational system should focus on entrepreneurship development
- Private Sector Option;
 - Create a system of **incentives** to encourage the private sector to provide mentoring for young entrepreneurs and training and skills acquisition opportunities for young people.

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Conclusions

- Africa's population is very young.
- Young people are a potential resource for growth and social development
- But they could also be a source of devastating social tension and conflict if neglected.
- The Development of the continent rests squarely on them;
- It is through them that **Africa** can make progress towards the realization of the Millennium Development Goals, especially the goal of halving extreme poverty by 2015.

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END!

Thank You for Listening to Me



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