

Access to Land and Youths Participation in Agribusiness in Africa: a case of Sudan

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Abstract: *The purpose of this paper was to determine the effect of land ownership policies on youth's participation in agribusiness in Africa: a case of Sudan. The paper specifically sought to determine youth access to land, land tenure and how they affect youth access to land and the role of access to land on youths' participation in agribusiness. The assessment adopted a participatory methodology and it employed triangular data collection techniques as well as being informed by quantitative methodologies. This paper based on relevant secondary data available at project, public and private institutions, International Non-governmental organisations, National Non-governmental organisations, community based organisations and United Nations Agencies. Qualitative information gathered through wide range of PRA acceptable tools including: questionnaires, checklist; individual and group interviews; focused group discussions; and key informant interviews which further informed the review outcomes. The results revealed that majority of young people in rural Sudan don't have their own farmland despite their constitutional right to access land in the community in which they live. Access to productive land was found to be an impediment for both the youth and some women in agriculture since traditional systems land ownership to family heads. The findings revealed that youth land rights are frequently not included in policy and legal documents and if they are included, no concrete implementation mechanisms are in place to ensure compliance. Moreover, young people are not involved in the consultation process of policies and laws related to land and find these frameworks unresponsive to their needs. In conclusion, the youth are disenfranchised in the ownership and management of critical assets in agricultural production, especially land. Land ownership and management, particularly agricultural land, is an important asset in the rural setting. It plays a special role in the daily lives and the general social structure of the majority of the households. A legislative review of all land acts to accommodate current realities as well as their implementation needs to be undertaken.*

Keywords: Land, Ownership, Youths, Participation Agribusiness

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I. Introduction

Background Information

Historically, land rights and access were founded on the concept of customary, tribal homeland laws exercised through the power of tribal leaders (Boone, 2014). The law follows historically derived tribal territorial rights initially constituted during the successive indigenous kingdoms of pre-colonial Sudan and reinforced through considerable legislations during the British colonial administration. Within the tribal homeland the collective security of the tribe is constituted and individual rights to land were recognized and could be inherited but with no power to alienate land from the ownership of the tribe (Komey, 2008).

The above land laws and regulations shows that the legal framework governing land in Sudan as a country is a complex mix of statutory and customary laws that have evolved over time, with little to no coordination between the two (Lane, 2014). The following are the key areas of gaps: Existing legal frameworks to land are largely confused with apparent dichotomy between statutory and customary rights. Specifically, it is not clear at all whether it is statutory or customary rights that have legal status in terms of who owns, who controls and how access to land can be made, remade, legitimated and contested (Chauveau, 2007).

There is a clear legislative gap to sanction the right and entitlement of smallholders, both farmers and pastoralists (youth and women) to land. Currently, customary land tenure arrangements are under extreme pressures caused by large-scale land acquisition, rapid population growth and increased mobility, accelerated land degradation and the rapid transition to market economy. Appropriation of land for the semi mechanized sector has resulted in significant modifications in land tenure arrangements with apparent heavy cuts in the rights of smallholders to land (Jok, Leitch & Vandewint, 2004).

Access to land and contested land rights are constraints on investment in agriculture and impact productivity. Sudan has a land area of 1,861,484 sq. km and almost 50% of the land shows cultivable potential. However, only around 10% of the total land (max 19 million ha) is currently used for agricultural purposes.

Land in Sudan is an asset, which is changing in value and productivity due to new and rising demand for land. There is growing demand from the growing population and the increasing number of livestock; land demand from petroleum sector and gold mining sector; growing levels of poverty; climate change; and increasing investment in agribusiness. Youth aged between 15 and 24 accounted for 17% of Sudan's total population of 30.5 million in 2008. Data from the 2009 national household survey shows that the labour force participation and the unemployment rates among youth were 32.9%. The youth, according to the 2008 constitute about 60% of the population of about 19,800 million. Agriculture is the base of the country's employment with 45% of youth and 42% of adults directly employed in the sector (Csaplovics, 2012).

Land resources are under increasing pressure leading to its degradation, loss of access, inequity in access and use rights, and encroachment onto fragile ecosystems. Land plays an important role in Sudanese politics, as it is a platform on which political alliances and quest for political gain are constantly forged. The population of Sudan by 2019 is estimated to be 43,101,318 (World Population Review 2019), which is growing at the rate of 2.42 per cent (ibid 2019). The current population density of the nation is 64.0 people per square mile (24.7 people per square kilometer). Although these numbers are small, they have more than quadrupled in the past 50 years. These numbers are also skewed by a large amount of desert that is uninhabitable. The majority of Sudan's population lives on or near the Nile River. The average population density is about 10 people per km², and 63 people per km² on arable. The agriculture and livestock sector accounts for approximately 30-35 percent of Sudan's GDP, 80 percent of non-oil exports, and a source of livelihood for about 65 percent of the population (Mahgoub, 2014). It is estimated that about 80% of Sudan's poor live in rural areas, with rural poverty more than twice that of urban (58% of households vs. 27%). With most of the rural poor relying directly or indirectly on agriculture, the sector's growth is necessary for poverty reduction and shared prosperity (Mahgoub, 2014).

Absence of transparent and effective land administration is one of the main constraints to investment and effective utilization of Sudan lands. The gray and ambiguous concept of "public interest" has been a major factor contributing to land dispossession of smallholders on the rain lands of the country (Byamugisha, 2014). Despite the importance of land to youth and women, their land rights are still largely discriminated against in customary and statutory laws. Unequal and insecure access and control over land is one of the ways that poor rural women are most often disadvantaged (Byamugisha, 2014). Policies and programs to improve access to land do not include special provisions to assist young people. Currently there is not a set of policies or strategies that squarely address the issue of youth employment except those outlined in the Sudan national youth strategy 2007-2013. The situation is similar regarding policies on employment promotion in general, or youth policies that have a strong component on youth access to land and livelihoods or income.

According to a recently released report by the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET 2017), agriculture can power Africa's economic transformation if, among other things, it is modernized and made profitable to make farming attractive to the youth. There is a strong case to attract youth into African agriculture: they are better educated than their elder folks; they dominate the African population, with the under 24 year olds making up 60 percent, and yet the African farming population is aged, with the average farmer age being 60 years old (FAO 2014); and they are greatly unemployed or underemployed (Filmer et al. 2014). Possessing greater energy and education than their elder farmers, the African youth are better equipped to handle modern agricultural technology and entrepreneurship, and to reverse the ageing trend of the African farming population.

This challenge for African youth to access land is a serious one. While Africa-specific data is scanty on youth access to land, global surveys indicate that access is limited. For example, a global survey of rural youth, including those from Africa, found that 52% of the young farmers who responded mentioned access to land as the most challenging constraint when they started farming while more than half of the respondents that were not practicing farmers mentioned access to land as one of the main factors that refrains them from starting a farming activity (MIJARC2, FAO and IFAD 2012). Like adult farmers, young farmers must have land to start or expand farming activities. Moreover, those who are able to gain access to land get little and operate small farms even in land surplus countries. For example, a survey in some rural and peri-urban areas of Ghana found that the majority of the youth, both indigenous and migrants, held small land sizes of 1-3 acres for farming purposes (Kidido, Bugri & Kasanga 2017).

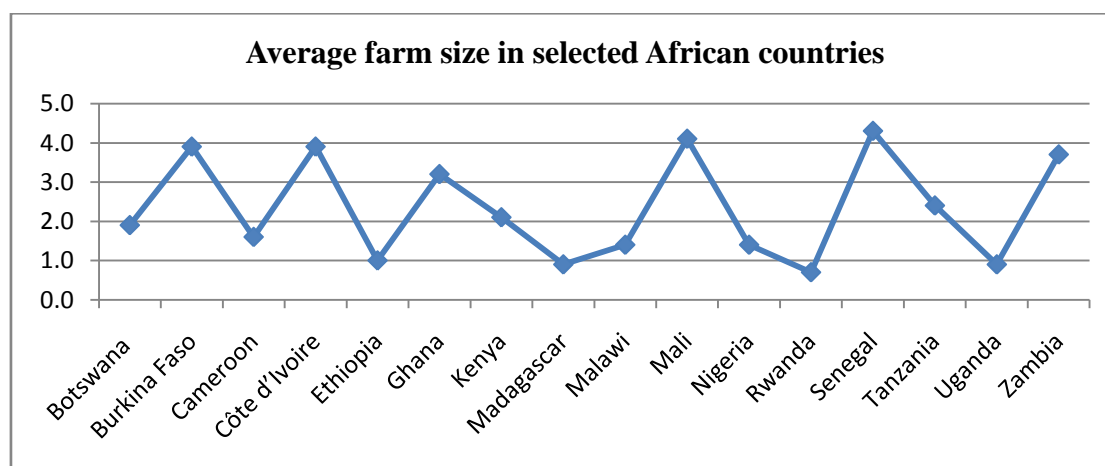


Figure 1: Average farm size in selected African countries

Source: ACET (2017) based on data from Jayne et al. (2014)

Figure 1 show that in majority of the African States, average farms size is very small which further imply that the problem of lack of access to land by youths could be severe as the population continues to grow. In Africa, only about 10% of arable and is registered (compared with 95% in Western Europe), the remaining, about 90%, is unregistered, mostly communally owned and managed according to customary law under a customary tenure system (Proctor & Lucchesi, 2012). This customary tenure system is a disadvantage to the youth: while almost every adult is given access to farm land, the youth virtually have no access to it except through inheritance. Customary practices, which mostly favor inheritance by boys, make access to land for girls and young women even more difficult as is evidenced in a number of countries including Gambia and Senegal.

II. Literature Review

Theoretical Framework

This study is guided by the theory of Push and Pull. Sumberg et al (2017) noted that there exist some similarities in how young people related to agriculture is discussed in the push and pull theory. This theory by Sumberg (2012) clearly shows the importance of having special requirements in order to allow youths participate in doing Agri-business. This theory link the relationship between access to capital and youth participation in agri-business. In this context, youth who have access to capital maybe pulled towards engaging in agri-business while those who have no access are pushed away from engaging in agri-business ventures. Therefore, access to capital is major pull and push factors for youth participation.

All the agriculture activities happen on land and therefore, land is at the centre of any all agribusiness activities according to this theory. Many youths have no access to land and they lack the huge amount required to land in Kenya hence their participation in agribusiness activities is limited by lack of access to land (Bezu & Holden, 2014). Some of them that have been subdivided land by their parents end up with very small pieces of land that cannot support any meaningful investments. Sharma (2010) argues that practicing agriculture in small farms is very expensive and most times the produce from small farm are usually very little such that it cannot help the farmers to meet their needs.

Empirical Literature Review

The youth lack resources to purchase land and they cannot access them through credit markets because they are not well developed, especially for long term credit (Kuada, 2016) moreover, as they do not own land or other assets, they cannot provide collateral such as land and savings. Leasing land may be an option in this case, but this is still not always possible for lack of resources and, as noted below, they are poorly developed. A study conducted by Kosec, et al (2017) on the effect of land access on youth employment revealed that inheriting more land was significantly related to agricultural involvement and lowered the likelihood of youth seeking non-agricultural employment. This study showed that access to land is critical in youth participation in agribusiness activities.

Lambert, Ravallion, and van de Walle (2014) argued that land is a unique form of wealth, and thus its impacts on physical and occupational mobility are different than those of other forms of wealth. In many African contexts, land rental and purchase markets are quite limited, making it difficult or impossible to use land as a source of capital for financing investments. In Ethiopia, Bezu and Holden (2014) show that intentions to remain in agriculture increase with land availability through inheritance among youth. A study conducted in

Kenya by Mwendwa (2016) on youth Engagement in Agriculture found that majority of the youths are disenfranchised in the ownership and management of key agricultural assets which limits their participation in agricultural activities. They further argued that land tenure issues continue to impede many youths from engaging in agriculture, with the majority of youth using land without exclusive ownership rights.

Adegoke and Abioye, (2016) argues that this lack of access to productive lands is one of the major hindrances of youths' participation in agribusinesses. Traditional systems in Africa place all the rights of ownership of the land into the head of the household who also rely on the same land for agricultural productivity and often cannot relinquish the land to the youths to further their agribusiness enterprises. Tafere and Woldenhanna (2014) also pointed out that the issues surrounding land ownership are so critical and youths don't have the rights of ownership of land. According to the report by World Bank (2014) majority of youths are unemployed and cannot afford to pay high prices attached to buying land. This lack of access to lands has led to majority of the young people to shy away from engaging in agribusinesses and resort to seeking for white collar jobs in urban centres which are not forthcoming.

Globally, youth access to crucial Agri-business assets is at disadvantaged position when it comes to ownership of land and other agribusinesses resources to increase their participation in agribusiness (Kobusingye, 2018). According to Ahaibwe, Mbowe and Lwanga, (2013) land tenure systems in Africa has disenfranchised and marginalized youth leaving them without exclusive rights to own land which is the main ingredients to participation in agribusiness. Some areas criminalize division of inherited land which implies that there must be communal land ownership structure and joint farming activities (Cotula, 2011).

According to Burns, Jobson and Zuma (2015) youths access to land still remains the ownership of their parents. Some of them that have been subdivided land by their parents end up with very small pieces of land that cannot support any meaningful investments. Sharma (2010) argues that practicing agriculture is small farm is very expensive and most times the produce from small farm are usually very small that cannot help the farmers to make their needs meet. Gichimu and Njeru (2014) study showed that many youths were willing to engage in agribusiness activities but faced a lot of obstacles which include lack of land and credit to finance their startups. The study recommended that engaging youths in agribusiness was among the ways of reducing employment, crime rates and achieving food security.

III. Research Methodology

The assessment adopted a participatory methodology and it employed triangular data collection techniques as well as being informed by quantitative methodologies. This report has been compiled through critical review of relevant secondary data available at project, public and private institutions, INGOs, NNGOs, CBOs and UN Agencies. Qualitative information gathered through wide range of PRA acceptable tools including: questionnaires, checklist; individual and group interviews; focused group discussions; and key informant interviews were further informed the review outcomes. The assessment has been grounded in geographical, ecological, social and gender inclusive approach where the voices of the different stakeholders and actors, at different levels of governance have been represented and documented. Therefore, the assessment employed a mix-method as below.

a. Desk Review

In-depth review of available literature on the situation of land policies and regulation, including laws and documents on land resource use and the material focusing on land and youth at all level of governance were collected and critically reviewed. This was revealed how the Youth enabling environment has been projected through a historical time line. Also the secondary data available at projects, Government institutions, private sectors and other youth related institution such as CSOs, INGOs, UN Agencies, were considered.

B. Field Survey

The field survey for this assessment was carried out in February-March 2019. The data collection tools were used as following

Direct interviews with Key Persons Informant (KPI)

Using checklist (annex2) 30 (6 per state) KPIs with relevant policy makers from public sector, private sector, CSOs, NGOs, Incubators focal points, traditional and community leaders and land users at community level, to discuss the key land tenure issues affecting youth participation in agribusiness as per people met list (Annex 3)

Focus Group Discussion (FGDs):

15 FGDs which, were attended by 150 participants (70 females) were conducted for both men and women in the 5-targeted States covered 11 Youth Agribusiness Incubation Centre (YABICs). A semi structured

discussion were conducted focusing on the land dispute, challenges they face, prospects of sustainability, level of community organization, access to state institutions, land related grievances and existing redresses mechanisms

Questionnaire

Short questionnaire was administered to the youth, about 331 Sample questionnaires (159 were females) was conducted in the 11 YABICs among the 5 states namely Khartoum (4), Al Jazirah (2), Al Qadarif(1), Kassala (2), River Nile (2) as shown by table (1) below.

Table (1): Sample size by State and YABIC

State	YABIC	Frequency	Percent	Female	Male
Khartoum	4	100	30.2	48	52
Al Jazirah	2	78	23.6	37	41
Kassala	2	50	15.1	24	26
Rive Nile	2	51	15.4	24	27
Al Qadarif	1	52	15.7	25	27
Total	11	331	100	159	173

IV. Results And Discussions

Land Ownership: Current Youth Land Holding

According to the 2008 census, more than 60% of the population in Sudan lives in rural areas. Thus, the majority of the youth in Sudan live in rural areas. However, the majority of young people in rural Sudan don't have their own farmland despite their constitutional right to access land in the community in which they live. Fig 2, shows that, 80% of the respondents reported that they didn't have land, while only 20 % have land. These findings indicate that there is low access to land by the youths in Sudan.

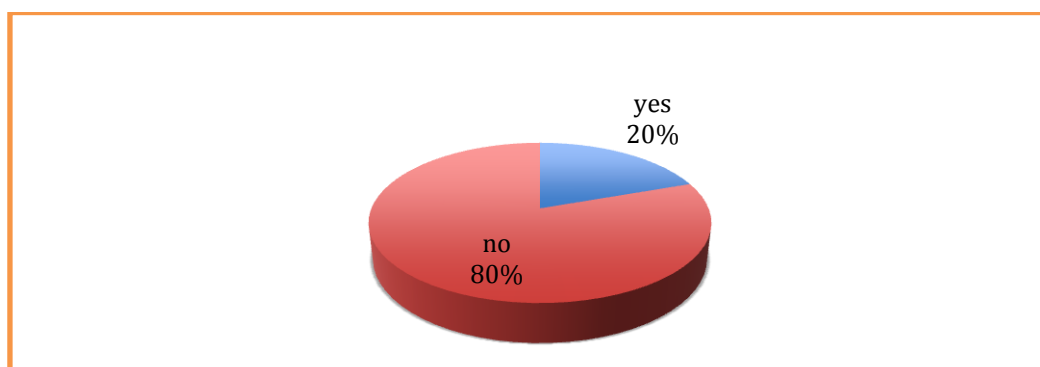


Figure 2: Respondents by Land Ownership

From those that reported they had land, The results in Figure 3 indicates that, the principal mechanism for accessing land was through inheritance (52%),Rent (35%) while those who owned land through partnership accounted for 13%. Since the land transfer often happens at a later age and young men have to wait many years before inheriting their share of the family land, if at all. From the study it was noted that it is rare to encounter land transfer in Sudan, because land ownership is perceived as an adult privilege.Kosec, et al (2017) also revealed that inheriting land was significantly related to agricultural involvement and such ownership of land led to lower likelihood of seeking non-agricultural employment.

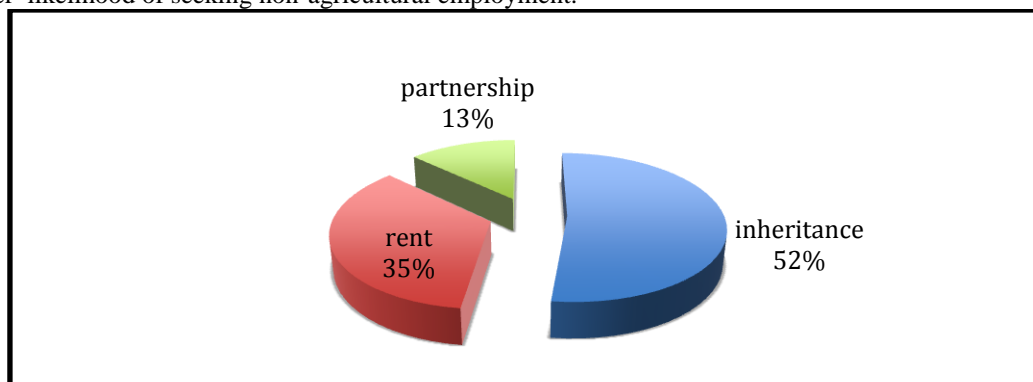


Figure 3: Respondents responses on of types of land Ownership

Access to productive land is an impediment for both the youth and women in agriculture since traditional systems land ownership to family heads, invariably the senior male of a household restricting the ability of youth to have access to land on which they can invest. For married young women, they may have access to productive land from their husbands, they often do not have control over its usage. Transaction of land through the purchase, sale, leasing, inheritance, assignment under traditional rules and mortgage overlay population pressures and capital constraint (World Bank 2014) 90% of the respondents and all FGDs and KPIs reported that it is taboo for young people to access the family land while the parents are still alive, while waiting for their inheritance, many youth just enjoy subsidiary land rights and work on the family land for little or no remuneration. However, 10% said that, one could only own land once one has established a family of one's own (fig 4).

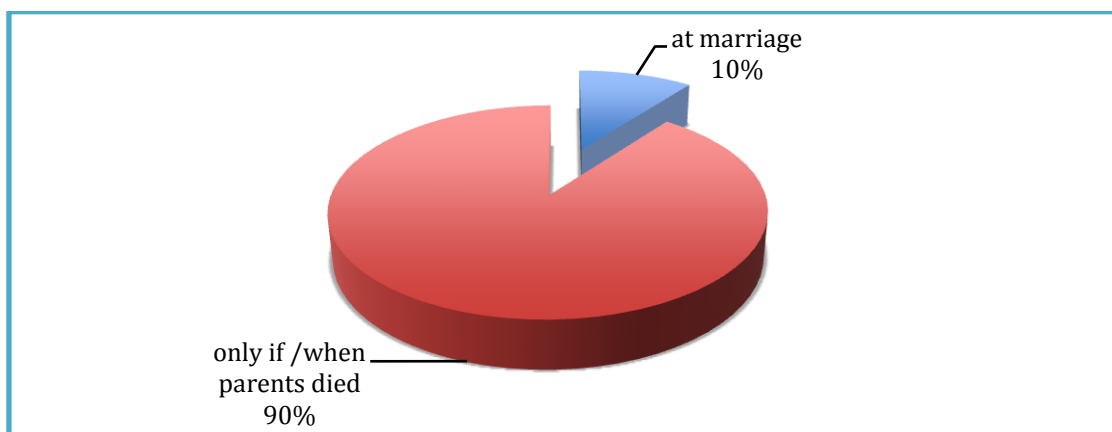


Figure 4: Respondents by occasion to appropriate land

According to feedback received through Interviews and FGDs in these states, women do not inherit land and only obtain user rights via a male relative. It can be especially difficult for young women to request enforcement of formal laws because they often lack the required knowledge, financial resources and confidence to protest against social norms and traditions. In Sudan, poverty often forces parents to sell their land to outsiders, excluding younger community members from land access. Large-scale land deals are particularly unfair towards young people, given that they are often not even consulted on agreements, which may bar their next generations' access to land. Moreover, land has been highly fragmented and laws adopted prohibiting any further division of land. In practice, this means that the eldest son is the sole family heir and the final decision maker. Fig (5) shows 71.1% of the respondents reported that the farm size is in the range of 1-3 feddan, which sustains an average household size of 6 people. Half of these households cultivate one feddan or less, but there was a significant variation across survey areas.

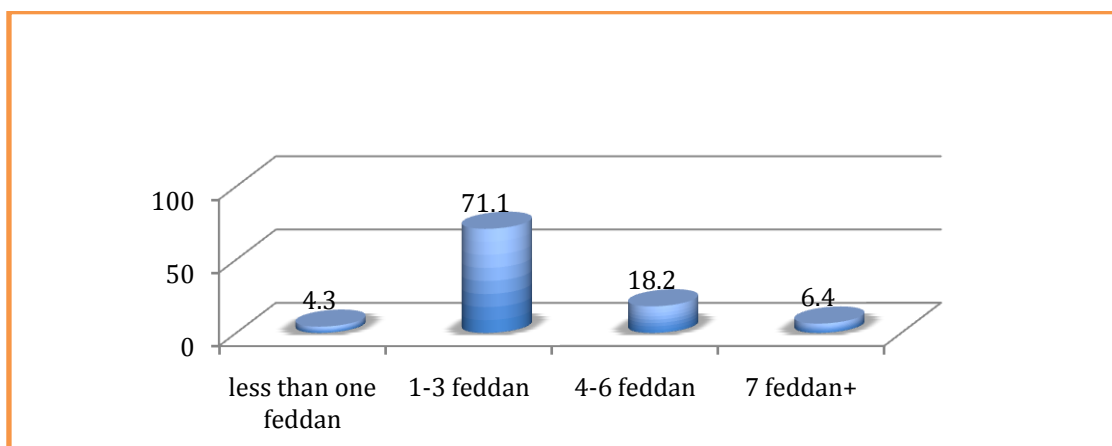


Figure 5: Respondents by size of available land (%)

Importance of Land to Youth

Concerning the importance of land to youths; across the respondents in the FGDs and KPIs, there was consensus among youth respondents that land is at least as important to youth as it is to adults. It facilitates shelter, underpins livelihoods and is a guarantor of a broad range of rights and opportunities for youth. Virtually

every youth activity depends directly or indirectly on access to land. Land is a resource base for basic human needs of food, clothing and shelter. Land is seen as vital not only for shelter and prosperity but also for survival, equity and dignity. They said, young women living in landless households are more prone to violence, starvation and discrimination, a number of challenges young people face arise primarily out of youth landlessness, such as orphans being left without land for cultivation. In uncertain economic times, land serves as a fixed asset and security. For many, their relationship with land is intertwined with their pursuit of identity, community and cultural expression.

Landlessness among rural youth is a primary cause for migration to urban areas, and in turn to urban unemployment and crime. Moreover, youth see land as a base to build or work towards a home. Lack of home affects family life and can postpone marriage and child bearing decisions. As land is often a pre-requisite for starting small businesses and getting loans, young entrepreneurs complain that they are being forced into the informal land markets where exploitation of youth is rife.

Land Accessibility to the youths for agribusiness

In Sudan access to land by youth is becoming an increasingly important factor influencing labor productivity in farming and hence youth’s decisions to stay where they are in farming or migrate in search of better opportunities. Young people in farming communities have less chances of obtaining capital and assets. Access to land and other inputs is therefore considered a major motivational factor to encourage the youth to enter into farming.

Young people who are not natives of these states therefore find it difficult to acquire land for agricultural purposes. Youth land rights are frequently not included in policy and legal documents and if they are included, no concrete implementation mechanisms are in place. Moreover, young people are not involved in the consultation process of policies and laws related to land and find these frameworks unresponsive to their needs. In response to this challenge, FAO’s Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure state that “effective participation of all members, men, women and youth, in decisions regarding their tenure systems should be promoted through their local or traditional institutions” (FAO, 2012).

Access to land is extremely important for young people trying to earn a livelihood in agriculture and rural areas. Land access is not only the number one requirement for starting farming, but it can also contribute to household food security and is a means for employment creation and income generation. Although the challenges faced by young people are poorly documented and vary between regions, it is possible to identify certain recurring issues. The participants were asked to rate influence of access to land in youth involvement in agribusiness. The responses are presented in the table below (1).

Respondents Attitude towards influence of land scarcity

The respondents were asked to indicate how they rate the influence of land scarcity, land certification, youth organization, local government responses affecting access to land and intra household competition for land. The response was as follows in table (6) below.

Table 1: Respondent’s Perception of land Scarcity

	Agree	%	Disagree	%
Do Land scarcity and land certification affect access to land and land tenure security of youth	242	73.1	89	26.9
Does land scarcity affect the intra-household competition for land?	237	71.6	94	28.4
Are the youth organized and do they demand land as a source of future livelihood?	224	67.7	107	32.3
Do you think the Local governments and communities are responding to the youth needs and demands?	88	26.6	243	73.4
What best practices are used to improve access to land for youth, to mobilize and empower them in relation to land utilization?	164	49.5	167	50.5

The table 1 above indicates that the number of youth who agree that Land scarcity and land certification affects access to land and land tenure security of youth. Those who agreed constituted 242 respondents (73.1%) and those who disagreed represented 27% of the respondents. Based on information from the parents about their plans for bequeathing land to their children the study found that female children were less likely to inherit land. Further, the smaller the farm size of their parents, the lower was the level of education of the household head. 237 (71.6%) of the youth agreed that land scarcity affects the intra-household competition for land, while 94 (28.3%) disagreed

On the statement that the if youth were organized they would demand land as a source of future livelihood, 224 (67.7%) agreed, while 107 (32.3%) disagreed. The youth in the study areas were not organized in ways that could help them to obtain land. The traditional way to try to get land is to register interest in getting land at the community level but there are typically long waiting lists to obtain land because of the process is very tedious and bureaucratic. The national and regional land laws open for actions at community level to

redistribute land e.g. to landless youth. However, our impression is that such redistributions largely have stopped after land registration and certification took place. Therefore there are very limited community actions in our study areas to provide land for youth. The parents are considered the main source of land while at the same time the law prohibits further splitting of legal land units.

This study finding concurs with the finding of Bezu and Holden, (2014) who reported that many youths have no access to land and they lack the huge amount required to land in Kenya hence their participation in agribusiness activities is limited by lack of access to land. Similarly, this study finding supported those of Adegoke and Abioye, (2016) who argue that lack of access to productive lands is one of the major hindrances of youths' participation in agribusinesses. Tafere and Woldenhanna (2014) also pointed out that the issues surrounding land ownership are so critical and youths don't have the rights of ownership of land.

FGDs reported that there are several structural obstacles that constrain the promotion of youth employment in general in the five states. None of these obstacles can be easily overcome since for that it is necessary to undertake profound transformations in national and state economic policies, raise the levels of public and private sector investment; and more importantly; change current attitudes towards education and development. These changes are not of rapid implementation and of quick impacts.

The main obstacle to employment promotion is simply that the local economy does not have the capacity to cover even a fraction of the currently unemployed youth. The second main obstacle is that currently there are not perspectives or initiatives to embark on a process of economic transformation from low to high productivity activities. This applies to all economic sectors but is more noticeable in sectors that could lead a transformative process like agriculture-livestock and manufacture. Such transformation could create a higher demand for skilled labor and have a pull effect on the demand for non-skilled labor. A structural obstacle is also the lack of policies to enable a greater participation of the private sector in developing economic activities: tax incentives, access to credit, guarantee funds, technical and marketing support. It is recognized that the private sector and the banking system might be the only sources of investment that can materialize in the short-term

A conservative attitude by the private sector towards developing new initiatives and risk taking, partly created by the lack of a policy enabling environment, precludes the private sector assuming a leading role in innovation and the emergence of higher productivity activities. Finally, the current lack of institutional capacity at the federal and state levels does not permit the sustained application and monitoring of policies and strategies for youth employment. Such capacity is particularly required in the federal and state institutions dealing with youth and labor.

V. Conclusion

In conclusion, the youths are disenfranchised in the ownership and management of critical assets in agricultural production, especially land. Land ownership and management, particularly agricultural land, is an important asset in the rural setting. It plays a special role in the daily lives and the general social structure of the majority of the households. Land serves as more than just a productive asset and is often used as preferred collateral in the credit market. Land tenure issues continue to impede many youth from engaging in agriculture, with the majority of youth using land without exclusive ownership rights. This not only limits their investment on the land but also their access to loans secured against land title deeds. The inability by the youth to strengthen their investment position in the agricultural production processes is a catalyst to the push factors of the youth out of agriculture.

There is a need to facilitate landownership among the young people in order to attract them into farming businesses, this will help them be able to own and manage on their own this most crucial asset of agricultural production. Furthermore there is a need to make access to credit especially for agricultural production by the young farmers easy, affordable and less tedious; this will ensure that the youth who want to be involved in agribusiness are able to access credit for start-up as well as working capital. Besides it is important to make agriculture attractive to the youth by transforming it from subsistence to commercial farming. In addition there is a need to train youth on relevant and timely agricultural innovations and methods of utilizing technologies, which is very important towards imparting knowledge on agricultural entrepreneurship and encouraging them to join agribusiness. There is a need to provide agricultural infrastructure that will make youth lives in rural emphasized; this will go a long way in helping the young people in agribusiness access market information, reduced cost of goods and services transportation making agriculture profitable and attractive.

VI. Recommendations

Based on the findings of the assessment and a look at existing situation of youth land access they study rest on the following recommendations "The government should ensure that land ownership policy is implemented so that the youth can be able to own their own piece of land. The policy should also indicate the maximum and minimum piece of land a person can hold this will help reduce land subdivision. There is a need

by the government to review policy on youth enterprise fund as well as loan process to ensure that the youth are able to access credit.

The local government needs to promote youth groups associations for the youth to be able to access, agricultural extension and advisory services, financial services and agricultural inputs such as demand driven improved seeds, fertilizers and for ease of marketing their produce. These services are aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity. There is a need to formulate policy within the local agricultural department on how agriculture extension services can be delivered to the youth in agribusiness. This is important because most youth are unaware of that agriculture is viable business because they are used to traditional methods of farming; therefore training youth on how to grow and keep high quality crops and livestock will help them achieve more returns through agriculture. Availing improved seeds, fertilizers, storage and processing facilities as well as market information to the young farmers is crucial need that the local government should address.

A legislative review of all land acts as well as their implementation needs to be undertaken. Overlaps and gaps have to be addressed through legal reform and the putting in place of comprehensive regulatory mechanisms to support processes and procedures. In addition, reflection is needed on approaches for customary law codification and reform to enhance the robustness of customary law and align it with national objectives for rural development and poverty reduction. Improve land rental market: Improving the land rental market in rural Sudan may play an important role in improving the economic opportunity for youth in rural areas. An important step may be to relax the current restriction on the maximum number of years land can be rented out to other farmers and the restriction that maximum half of the farm can be rented out.

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