



RURAL DEVELOPMENT

CASE STUDY ON HOW TO
INTEGRATE MIGRATION INTO INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT



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Project Details

Title: Youth mobility, food security and rural poverty reduction: fostering diversification through enhanced youth employment and better mobility (RYM project)

Countries: Tunisia and Ethiopia

Donors: Italian Development Cooperation

Implementer: FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization

Period: 2015-2018

The vast majority of the poor and food insecure in Africa live in rural areas. Most of them view agriculture as a means for both sustenance and livelihood (FAO, 2016). However, given the associated difficulties of working in the agricultural sector and lack of appeal, many young women and men seek opportunity elsewhere.

Efforts have been taken to create rural employment opportunities for youth and address the constraints that deter youth from contributing to agricultural activities. By promoting viable employment opportunities for youth in rural communities there is the potential to make rural livelihoods more sustainable.

Key Words

Social inclusion; Economic inclusion



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HOW WAS MIGRATION INTEGRATED?

The RYM project aimed to address the adverse drivers of youth migration that were linked to wider rural development considerations, while enhancing the positive impact of rural out-migration (FAO, 2018). Some of the concrete measures taken to effectively integrate migration included:

- Training and capacity development on the causes and implications of migration on agricultural production, opportunities for seasonal migration and agro-entrepreneurship for youth; and
- Pilot mechanisms to create innovative ways for the engagement of the diaspora to enhance positive contributions to rural areas of origin.



WHAT WERE LESSONS LEARNED?

Migration-related data is needed to achieve sound and evidence-based policies on migration and rural development:

Data on migration determinants, patterns, and impact on rural areas of origin help ensure that programmes and policies reflect the realities of migration. Under the project, studies were developed to test mixed methodologies for data collection to better analyze the drivers and impacts of rural migration. Although specific to the local contexts of Tunisia and Ethiopia, the data collected in the studies helped inform the action and serve as a good practice to be emulated.

Context-sensitive approaches should identify local problems and emerging challenges: The identification of problems and challenges faced by the communities were defined through a participatory approach with actors at local level. In addition to the consultations conducted, policy analysis was also undertaken to promote coherence between migration and rural development efforts.



References:

FAO, 2016. Youth mobility, food security and rural poverty reduction.
FAO, 2018. RYM project: Methodology and Results.

Further information:

FAO. Migration, Agriculture, and Rural Development: Addressing the root causes of migration and harnessing the its potential for development. IOM, 2017. Micronesia Newsletter.