

Landscape of youth in Agriculture in Muhoroni sub-county, Kisumu, Kenya

Arise and Shine Care Center

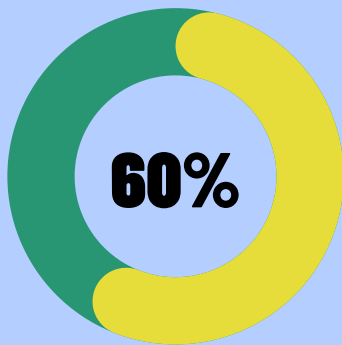
The World Bank mentions that agriculture can help improve food security for 80% of the world's poor, who live in rural areas and work mainly in farming. Muhoroni sub-county in Kisumu is one such area where agriculture is the main source of livelihood for 98% of the population. **In this area, there is widely available fertile land, though this doesn't necessarily translate to sustainable livelihoods for farmers.** Arise and Shine through a Community Agricultural Resource Centre project seeks to equip youth with climate-smart farming skills and improve their livelihoods. Arise and Shine conducted research to explore the limitations that youth face in agriculture in Muhoroni.



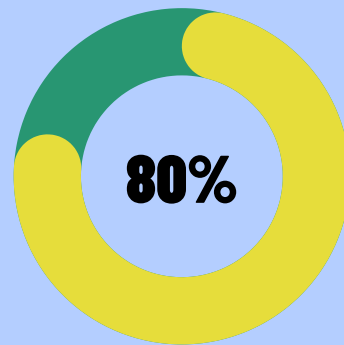
Agriculture is Negatively Perceived by Youth

Agriculture is not an attractive sector for most youth. 68% of the youths interviewed during the research indicated that they have gone through various courses but due to lack of job opportunities to practice whatever they have learnt, they have turned to agriculture as their last resort. Further, 60% of the youth respondents perceive agriculture as *'a job for the dirty man'*, and not as prestigious or as respectable as white-collar jobs.

"I don't see why I should be involved in farming the entire day sweating and working tirelessly yet I went to the University and studied engineering"



60% of the youth respondents perceive agriculture as 'a job for the dirty man'.



80% of youth mentioned lacking skills in financial management, business management and general agribusiness skills.

Youth are Ready for Collaboration

98% of the youth respondents feel that there is a **need for the creation of a farmers' network** and are willing to collaborate in a farmers' network. Of this 98%, 70% are women. At present there is a silo effect with each piece of the value chain (production, value addition, marketing etc.) working autonomously.

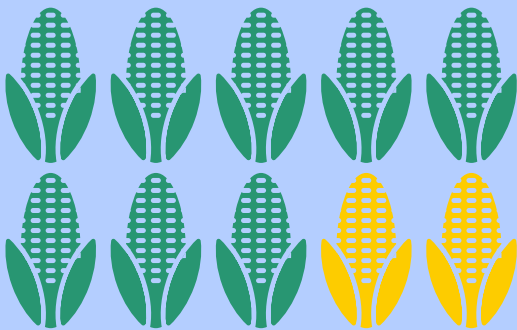
Lack of Proper Training on Agriculture for Youth

There is a **lack of agricultural education facilities in Muhoroni contributing to youth agricultural skills gap**. In the Muhoroni area, there is no local agricultural institution, so youth have limited avenues to acquiring skills in Agriculture. The nearest facility is in Homa Bay which would be costly to access. 80% of youth mentioned lacking skills in financial management, business management and general agribusiness skills.

Farmers Forgoing Long-Term Profit for Short-Term Gains

A trend noted in Muhoroni is farmers leasing their farms to people from outside Muhoroni for as little as Ksh 20,000 for 18 months and being employed by the same people to be manual labourers in their own farms. While this produces better cash flow in the short run, this **limits youth in Muhoroni from reaping the full potential of farming on their own lands.**

"There is no way I will work out my farm for all these seasons yet I don't have finances to enable me to work the entire process until the production stage"



80% would rather be a "boda boda driver" than work in agriculture.

Agriculture Seen as Financially Unattractive

80% of the youth we interviewed were of the view that it's better to be a boda boda driver (motorcycle driver) since there was **money at hand on a daily basis rather than plowing land and waiting for 18 months to harvest** e.g., your sugarcane and at the end of it all you are unlikely to get an attractive profit. Additionally, 98% of the interviewed youths viewed agriculture as capital intensive. Further, youth mentioned fear of factors such as storms, price fluctuation, lack of ready market and competition from enabling them to farm profitably.



Recommendations

- **Behavior change programming should be adapted** by both County Government Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation and YSOs/YLOs working on youth in agriculture programs to help shift the negative perceptions on agriculture as an inferior livelihood option.
- Joint **partnerships** between private sector, (who are key employers in the agricultural sector in Muhoroni) and youth-in-agriculture YSOs/YLOs to provide relevant agribusiness skills training to youth as well as apprenticeships.
- To improve livelihoods for youth involved in different stages of the agricultural value chain, the County Government Directorate of Trade and Enterprise Development in collaboration with YLOs/YSOs working with youth in agriculture should **conduct a mapping exercise to develop a database of youth across the value chain, and work with these YLOs/YSOs to create a joint network.**
- The County Government Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation needs to **provide subsidies and incentives to youth in agriculture to make the sector less volatile and more attractive.**

Methodology: this product is the result of a mixed methods research, conducted by Arise and Shine Care Center, that involved 274 participants from Kisumu Kenya involved in the entire Agricultural Value Chain in Muhoroni sub-county. Additionally, it engaged 20 stakeholders drawn from the National Irrigation Authority and various schools and agricultural institutions. The data was collected through the following mechanisms:

- 85 Surveys
- Focus Groups with 94 participants
- 20 key informant interviews
- 75 Interviews

Arise and Shine Care Center

33 Ahero Nyanza Province, Kenya 40101
info@ariseandshinecc.org
+254 712 170346
<http://www.ariseandshinecc.org/>



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