Current and Emerging Youth Policies and Initiatives with a Special focus on Links to Agriculture

Mauritius Case Study Draft Report

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Disclaimer

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Agricultural sector in Mauritius is facing several challenges with respect to its development, which are mainly related to climate change, high cost of production, lack of labour and food insecurity with local production of less than 30%. It is a fact that the interest of youth in Agriculture has been declining over the years and they are being attracted to “white collar” jobs, and at the same time, there is a high unemployment rate among youth in the country (7.9% of total employment rate). In order to attract youth to the Agricultural sector, incentives and opportunities should be provided to them. The objectives of this study were to (1) investigate the perception of youth on Agriculture, (2) analyze National Youth and Agriculture policies, (3) identify key institutions, mechanisms and tools for the engagement of youth in policy processes and (4) identify opportunities for streamlining youth and Agriculture into current and emerging youth policies and agricultural policies. To collect data for the Case Study, a desk study was conducted to gather secondary data, followed by unstructured and structured surveys with different Ministries and parastatal bodies, youths and NGOs. The data obtained from the structured surveys were analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) and Microsoft Excel 2007, while qualitative data was analyzed in a descriptive manner. It has been observed that Mauritian youths are not enthusiastic to make their career in Agriculture since it is a sector which is unattractive and due to the fact that they do not pay much attention to the development happening in Agriculture, many youths are not aware about the opportunities in the sector. On the other hand, there are youths who already in the Agriculture and see opportunities in the sector but unfortunately face several challenges. After analyzing existing policies, it was noted that there are no specific programmes or schemes that have been designed for “Youth in Agriculture”. However, there are opportunities in Agriculture which they can grab in entrepreneurship (horticulture, fruit production, livestock production, cross-border initiatives, hydroponics, agro-processing, value-addition etc.) and they can also benefit from the incentives being provided through the Food Security Fund. To bridge the gap that exists in current policies in Mauritius, a mechanism on how to involve different stakeholders in developing and implementing a “Youth and Agriculture” Policy, using the value-chain approach has been proposed and recommendations were given accordingly.
INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Mauritius is a small tropical volcanic island of about 2040 km², with a population of 1.3 million in the Indian Ocean. Over the years, the contribution of Agriculture in the economy of the country has decreased from 23% in the late 70’s to 4% presently (Anon. 2010). Presently, the Agricultural sector in Mauritius is facing several challenges with respect to its development, which are mainly related to climate change, high cost of production, lack of labour and food insecurity with local production of less than 30%, high food import bill (Approximately USD 1 billion/year) (Anon, 2010).

Having recognized the importance of agriculture in the country, the Government of Mauritius invested Rs 1 billion (approximately USD 33 million) in the Agricultural sector in 2008 through the Food Security Fund (Anon, 2011). The Government’s policy aims to promote access to Agricultural land, promote Agribusiness, encourage Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and innovative production methods, improve food quality and safety, reduce dependency on import and ensure food security (Anon, 2009).

In order to achieve these, the engagement of youth in Agriculture is critical since Mauritius has an ageing farming population, who are less likely to adopt new technologies for agricultural development. However, this linkage between youth and Agriculture is weakening as youth’s interest in Agriculture has been declining with time. It is a fact that Agriculture is perceived as unattractive by Mauritian youths and they are reluctant to choose it for their career. For the sustainability of the Agricultural sector, it is crucial to involve youth in the sector and incentives and opportunities must be provided to attract them into Agriculture.

Given the situation of youth and Agriculture in Mauritius, there is a need to analyze National Youth and Agriculture Policies to highlight existing opportunities for youth in Agriculture and also identify space and opportunities for developing a National “Youth and Agriculture” policy within agricultural policies. This will contribute in identifying the gaps which exist with respect to the youth and Agriculture linkage, and hence make appropriate policy recommendations.
CHAPTER 1: COUNTRY BACKGROUND

1.1 Country Background: Republic of Mauritius

The Republic of Mauritius is a small tropical volcanic island of about 2040 km², situated in the West Indian Ocean at about 2200 km off the southern east coast of Africa. In addition to the main island, Mauritius, the Republic of Mauritius also comprises of some outer islands: Rodrigues (Surface area: 10,800 ha), Agalega, St. Brandon, Tromelin and some other small islets. The total area of the Republic of Mauritius is about 2045 km², with an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 1.9 million km², extending 200 nautical miles from the coasts of the island. The island of Mauritius is almost entirely surrounded by coral reefs (Anon, 2011).

Mauritius has an estimated population of 1.3 million, and population density of 628 people per km², with a population growth rate estimated at 0.5% (CSO, 2010). The main pillars of the Mauritian economy are tourism, manufacturing, financial, ICT and Agriculture (Anon, 2010). It had an estimated Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of US$9.7287 billion in 2010 and is considered to be an upper middle income country with its Gross National Income (GNI) per capita at US$7,750 (World Bank, 2012). The poverty rate, whether measured as relative poverty, absolute poverty, or with respect to food poverty, is low (World Bank, 2012). Mauritius is a member of several regional organizations, namely the African Union (AU), The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Commonwealth of Nations, the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, and the Southern African Developing Community (SADC).

1.2 Agriculture in Mauritius

1.2.1 Historical perspective of Agriculture in Mauritius

Originally inhabited, Mauritius was first discovered in the 15th century by Portuguese sailors and has then successively been a Dutch, French and British colony. It was during the Dutch colony (in 1598-1712) that agriculture really started in the country (Addison and Hazareesingh, 1984). When the British left the country after independence in 1968, the country had a mono-crop economy. The sugar industry was the first pillar of the Mauritian economy and very innovative since there was a guaranteed market for exporting sugar to the European Union (EU). In the 1980’s there was the “sugar boom”, whereby there had
been an increase in the price of sugar and Mauritius had earned a lot of foreign exchange. Then it was realized by the government that instead of producing only sugarcane in the country, other commodities that the population is consuming must be produced locally. The poultry sector developed, food crops were grown and supporting organizations like the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute (MSIRI) were established (Manrakhan, 1997). Later, other sectors, like textile, tourism, services emerged and finally, in the year 2000’s Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) became Mauritius’s 5th pillar of the economy (Anon, 2010).

1.2.2 Present situation of Agriculture in Mauritius

Presently, 43% of arable land in Mauritius is under Agriculture, in which 89.2% is under sugarcane cultivation and the remaining land is occupied by other agricultural activities (CSO, 2010). The main cultivated crops grown over the island are potatoes, onions, tomatoes, carrots, chilies, crucifers, garlic and ginger. The contribution of Agriculture in the country’s GDP has decreased considerably. In the late 1970’s, Agriculture contribution to the economy was 23% and has presently decreased to 4% (Anon, 2010).

The Mauritian Agriculture has changed from what it used to be in the last decades. The once mono-crop (sugarcane) economy has diversified into other sectors (tourism, manufacturing, services and ICTs) and agricultural activities have declined.

The figure and table below show the contribution of Agriculture to the Mauritian Economy:

![Figure 1: Contribution of different sectors to the Mauritian Economy](image)

Source: Digest of Agricultural Statistics, Central Statistics Office, 2010
Table 1: Share of Agriculture in the Economy – Republic of Mauritius (2010)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Share in Agriculture (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sugar-cane, tea and tobacco</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food crops and others</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock and poultry</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Services</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Digest of Agricultural Statistics, Central Statistics Office, 2010

The Agricultural sector in Mauritius is also facing some constraints regarding its growth: a narrow domestic market, ageing farming population, land scarcity and a high cost of production (both sugar and non-sugar sector), which is keeping on increasing over time. Moreover, apart from the global food crisis and soaring food prices, Mauritius is fighting other challenges like the cut in its guaranteed sugar import price by the European Union (Price of sugar decreased by 36%) and the rise in world energy prices.

According to the Food Security Strategic Plan for 2008-2011, around 70% of the net food requirements of Mauritius (direct consumption and raw materials for agro-processing) are imported. The net food import bill for Mauritius has increased from Rs 8.4 billion in 2001 to Rs 27.5 billion in 2008 (Anon, 2010). Added to the fact that Mauritius is considered as a net food importer, the sugar sector is also going through a difficult phase.

The Mauritian Government has taken note of the impact of the trade liberalization policy, the rapidly increasing demand for food from emerging countries, the decrease in food production globally, and the increase in production of bio-fuels on a net-importing country like Mauritius. With a view to reduce dependence on food import, a series of program has been initiated with a view to:

- Develop self-sufficiency, whereby the emphasis is on potatoes, onions, tomatoes (for processing), maize milk, meat and fish products
• Develop a modern Agricultural and fisheries sector in line with the sophistication taking place in other sector of the Mauritian economy

• Sharpen its competitive edge on the export front with quality and diversified products, taking into account trade liberalization, globalization process and cross-border initiatives

• Empower economically and technically the Agricultural community, especially youngsters, by giving them opportunities, training and support for them to become Agricultural entrepreneurs

• Seize all opportunities on the regional front for food production and to develop Mauritius into an Agro-business hub through cross-border initiatives

• Address synergistic linkage between tourism and Agriculture for promoting island food and beverage supply chains, hospitality and agro-tourism

• Encourage Artisanal fishermen to fish off-lagoon and entrepreneurs to invest in the fisheries and aquaculture sector

By promoting these, the aim of the government is to shift from the Agricultural sector to an Agro-Industry, which would address the challenges faced in the sector.

1.3 Youth in Mauritius

1.3.1 Youth definition in the Mauritian context
According to the National Youth Policy 2010 – 2014 (Mauritius), a “youth” is defined as a person between 14 and 29 years of age, living in the Republic of Mauritius. However, these youths are different from one another, depending on their residence, religion, community, socio-cultural and educational backgrounds. The Government of Mauritius acknowledges the fact that Mauritian youths are the assets of the country and they are potential candidates on the labour market. Moreover, they also represent a window of opportunity for economic growth and guarantors of future generations.
1.3.2 Youth profile in Mauritius

1.3.2.1 Youth population

According to the Central Statistics Office, in 2010, the youth population between 15-29 years old was estimated to be 306,532 which represented 23.9 % of the population, comprising of 154,863 (12.1%) males and 151,669 (11.8%) females.

1.3.2.2 Youth and Education

The literacy rate for Mauritius is estimated to be of 88% (World Bank, 2012). Primary and Secondary education are free and accessible to all youths in Mauritius, regardless their place of residence (urban or rural area), religion, community and socio-cultural background. In addition, since 2005, the Government has been providing free transport for students at primary, secondary and tertiary level.

1.3.2.3 Youth and Employment

In December 2006, there was amendment to the Labour Act in Mauritius, whereby it was decided that the minimum legal working age for citizens of Mauritius is 16. Following this act, the labour force estimates for Mauritius are based on population aged 16 years and above. The labour force in Mauritius consisted of 26.3% of youths aged between 16-29 years in 2010. In December 2011, the Central Statistics Office published a report on the labour force, employment and unemployment in Mauritius for the third quarter of the year 2011 (July to September 2011). In this report, it was noted that the labour force of Mauritius is estimated to be of 583,700, in which 537,800 are employed and 45,900 (7.9%) are unemployed. Among the unemployed Mauritians, 19,500 were males (42%), 26,400 (58%) were females and around 17,600 (38%) were aged below 25. Therefore, it implies that 3 out of 5 people who are unemployed in Mauritius are youths.

1.3.2.4 Urban and Rural youth

Being a small island, there are 5 towns in the country; Port-Louis (the Capital City), Vacoas/Phoenix, Beau-Bassin/Rose-Hill, Curepipe and Quatre-Bornes and the remaining are villages. Some 56% of the Mauritian population resides in rural areas (Anon, 2011).
However, the percentage of the rural population must be interpreted with caution for the given small size of the island. Having an easy accessibility due to a well-developed road network, the rural sector cannot be clearly demarcated. Similarly, the difference between rural and urban households and their youths is not very clear-cut in Mauritius. In terms of opportunities (education for example), most of them are accessible to both rural and urban youths. Youths in rural areas are as successful as those living in urban areas. What really makes the difference among youths in Mauritius is mainly their education, social and economic background. Instead of “Rural youths”, what we have in Mauritius are under-privileged youths, who for certain reasons (mainly poverty) do not have access to the facilities available for youths in Mauritius. There are pockets of poverty that have been identified in the northern and eastern part of the country (Anon, 2012). As unemployment is rising, other poor areas are emerging in other parts of the country. The households that are most vulnerable to poverty are those which:

- Depend on the sugarcane cultivation or on employment in textile factories
- Are landless or have very small plot of land
- Have low levels of education, often coupled with social problems/marginalization and are poorly equipped to adapt to an economy that is undergoing modernization

1.3.3 Youth clubs and organizations

In 2008, Mauritian youths were grouped into 537 youth clubs spread out across the island. The youth clubs (having a membership of 25 and above) cater for various categories of youth aged between 14 and 29 (Ministry of Youth and Sports, 2009). The welfare of youth in Mauritius is taken care in schools, in social welfare centres, community centres and youth centres, where they are assisted by trained officers and youth leaders. There also exists a National Youth Council (NYC) in Mauritius, which operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Established under the NYC Act 1998 to serve as a bridge between the youth and the Government, it grants affiliation to National Youth Organizations and also functions as an advisory board to the Minister on the development and implementation of programmes to integrate youth in all sectors of national development.
There are 24 Youth Centres and 2 sub-centres around the island (shown in Figure 1.2), that provide facilities to young people, such as having access to the services of the youth section of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. These centres are fully equipped and the objective is to give maximum opportunities to young people to indulge in healthy leisure, vocational and sports activities. The main activities in the Youth Centres are: literary activities, sports activities, dance and music, sensitization campaigns and recreational activities.
1.4 Youth and Agriculture

1.4.1 Youth engaged in Agriculture

Youths in Mauritius are engaged in agriculture for various reasons and objectives. They can be classified into the different categories as follows;

1.4.1.1 Agriculture is a passion or hobby

Agriculture is a hobby for many young Mauritians, who have a small kitchen or roof garden at home where they grow some flowers, fine herbs and salad crops like coriander, mint, thyme, carrot, beetroot etc. or they rear some livestock (Broilers, layers, rabbits and ducks). These youths are self-motivated and are really committed to these agricultural activities as they are really passionate about the subject. Such activities are considered to be sustainable because they are producing some food at home and at this level, they do not really apply chemicals (fertilizers and pesticides), which make the food healthy and safe to eat.

1.4.1.2 Youth clubs and other agricultural activities

Many Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and youth centres or clubs propose agricultural activities to their members, including establishment of kitchen garden and rearing of layers or broilers as this is considered to be part of some recreational activities and at the same time, they are sensitized on environmental issues.

1.4.1.3 Chosen Agriculture as field of studies

The youths who choose agriculture as their field of study are those who are at secondary, tertiary or vocational levels. In most cases, the aim of choosing agriculture for higher studies is to obtain a job in the formal agricultural sector after completing their studies. Depending on the type and level of study, these youths gain knowledge and skills in agriculture in general or are specialised in agriculture-related fields.

1.4.1.4 Working in the formal agricultural sector

Youths who work in the formal agricultural sector in Mauritius are mostly engaged in the public sector, in NGOs or in the private sector. These jobs vary from senior
officials/managers, to technical officers, sales representatives, clerks and other elementary positions.

### 1.4.1.5 Farmers/Entrepreneurs

This category of youth is very important in the agricultural sector in Mauritius since they are the ones who are directly involved in food production (or play any other roles in the agriculture value chain) and are contributing to the economy of the country.

![Diagram of Different Categories of youths engaged in Agriculture]( Mauritius Case study  | April 2012

**Figure 3: Different Categories of youths engaged in Agriculture (Mauritius)**

### 1.5 Agriculture in Education system of Mauritius

Education in Mauritius is a means to equip the younger generation with a set of values and principles to help them throughout their life. Therefore, education and training are of supreme importance and top the priority list for government action. At primary school level, agriculture is taught as part of science as a subject. In few primary schools, young students are involved in gardening, but this activity is dependent on the type of school (public or private) and land availability in the school premises. Agriculture forms part of the education system in Mauritius at the secondary, tertiary and vocational level. However, at all levels, the number of students enrolled for Agriculture-related studies is among the lowest when compared to other subjects.
1.5.1 Agriculture in the Education system at secondary level
Agriculture is taught as a subject in very few schools around Mauritius. In 2009, the number of students who study agriculture for the Cambridge School Certificate (‘O’ Level) is lowest when compared with other science-related subjects (339 out of 16,950 candidates examined). This can be viewed in the figure below:

![Subjects enrolled for Cambridge School Certificate](image)

**Figure 4: Subjects enrolled for Cambridge School Certificate by Mauritians in 2009**

*Source: Digest of Education Statictics (2010)*

1.5.2 Agriculture in the Education system at the tertiary level
At tertiary level, the only institution offering courses on Agriculture and related studies is the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Mauritius. The Faculty of Agriculture, formerly known as the School of Agriculture was the first faculty of the University of Mauritius, was founded in the 1914 (Anon, 2010). The Faculty of Agriculture plays an important role in providing trained human resources for the public and private sectors in Mauritius, as well as in the region for the development of agriculture and related fields. It has 2 departments, namely the Department of Agricultural Production and Systems and the Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences. The Faculty has responded to rapid changes in the Agricultural scene over the past 10 years by offering new programmes of studies and new/revised modules in the programmes on topics such as Agricultural biotechnology, Agribusiness, food processing and marketing, post-harvest technologies, hydroponics culture, organic farming and sustainable Agricultural management practices. Apart from the
Faculty of Agriculture, there are other faculties that have been established at the university; Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Law and Management, Faculty of Science, and Faculty of Social Studies and Humanities. Just like the case at secondary school level, the number of students enrolled for courses offered at the Faculty of Agriculture is lowest when compared to other courses in the different faculties. The number of students enrolled for the year 2010/2011 at the Faculty of Agriculture was 367 out of 10,564 students, in which 313, 37 and 17 students were enrolled for a BSc, MSc and Mphil/PhD respectively. The figure below shows the percentage students enrolled in each faculty at the University of Mauritius for the year 2010/2011:

![Percentage Students Enrolled in Each Faculty](image)

**Figure 5: Percentage of students enrolled in each Faculty at the University of Mauritius in 2010/2011**

*Source: Digest of Education Statistics (2010)*

### 1.5.3 Training on Agriculture by Vocational Training Centres

Trainings on Agriculture are offered by the following Vocational Training Centres in Mauritius.
1.5.3.1 The AREU Training Centre

The Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU) operates as a training centre since 2005 and the trainings offered are MQA (Mauritius Qualifications Authority) approved. The centre has 4 regional centres (also known as model farms) across the island, where training is provided by Extension Officers. Planters and breeders are trained mainly on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), Agro-processing and animal husbandry, to enable them to adopt modern Agricultural techniques for improving their farm productivity and also for minimizing post-harvest losses. The training centre also comprises of an Agro-processing centre where training in Agro-processing are given to women in particular. These trainings include jam making, pickle, potato and banana chips etc. (Anon, 2011).

1.5.3.2 The Mauritius Institute for Training and Development (MITD)

The Mauritius Institute for Training and Development (MITD) is a parastatal body which operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources. It offers training courses in Agriculture-related fields (landscape maintenance, crop and livestock production). MITD in collaboration with AREU have put in place a national trade certification course in agriculture (also known as NTC3). The main objectives are to respond effectively to training needs in Agriculture and the Agro-industry, and to improve the level of professionalism of farmers in the Agricultural sector through the training process (Anon, 2011).

1.5.3.3 Farmers’ Training School

AREU also operates a Farmers’ Training School (FTS), where training courses are targeted towards a wide range of clients, consisting of the farming community, potential entrepreneurs, women, youth, retrenched workers, unemployed and members of the vulnerable groups and members of the early retirement scheme and voluntary retirement scheme of the sugar industry. These training courses cover a wide range of technical and management skills such as hydroponics, livestock, crop, fruits and flower production, irrigation, mechanization, processing and farm management (Anon, 2011).
1.5.3.4 National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs (NFYFC)

The NFYFC is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) working under the aegis of the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security. The federation promotes the formation and affiliation of young farmers’ clubs and coordinates the work of such clubs. It also provides technical and material help to the clubs and organizes training courses and educational activities for its members. On the other hand, the Young Farmers’ Clubs look after the advancement of their members by providing training courses to their members in the field of agriculture, home-crafts etc. (Anon, 2011).

1.5.3.5 The National Institute of Cooperative Entrepreneurship

The National Institute of Cooperative Entrepreneurship provides training in co-operative management. It has been instrumental in the setting up of a number of cooperative societies in various sectors of the Mauritian economy, which contribute to poverty alleviation and the creation of employment opportunities (Anon, 2011).

1.5.3.6 Regional Training Centre

The Regional Training Centre (RTC) in Mauritius is a private centre offering international certificate courses in sugarcane agronomy, cane sugar manufacture and chemical control of sugar factories. It also offers short courses on gardening, business and other allied subjects (Anon, 2011).

1.5.3.7 Fisheries Training and Extension Centre (FiTEC)

The FiTEC provides training primarily to new entrants in fishing as a career and also to registered fishers operating in the off lagoon areas and around Fish Aggregating Devices (FADS). The objectives of the centre are to:

- Enhance the knowledge and skills of fishers in order to operate in the off-lagoon area
- Dispense proper training to new entrants for a career in the fishing industry
- Ensure effective fishing techniques
- Provide training for enhanced safety and security at sea
- Create awareness on the marine environment, protection and conservation
1.6 Youth Employment in Agriculture

Education and the rate of literacy play a vital role in the kind of employment young people would need and the level of education has a direct impact on employment. While there is no data available on the number of youths who are employed or engaged in Agriculture, it is known by people working in the Agricultural sector that Mauritius has an ageing farming population and there are few youths in the Agro-Industry (Pers. Comm., 2012). According to the Digest of Employment statistics (2010), the number of people engaged in Agriculture is gradually decreasing. This is shown in the table below:

Table 2: Employment in the Agricultural Sector – Republic of Mauritius (2010)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Employment in Numbers</th>
<th>Percentage in Employed Workforce</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>44,800</td>
<td>8.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>44,900</td>
<td>8.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>44,900</td>
<td>8.05%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER 2: METHODOLOGY

To conduct the case study, a series of steps have been followed, which started in November 2011 and was completed in June 2012. These steps are shown in the figure 2.1.

![Figure 6: Methodology for conducting case-study](image)

2.1 Plan and time-line of case-study

The first step of the case-study was to make a plan and time-line so as to get maximum information in the proposed time-frame and complete the draft report on time. The following time-line was designed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 3: Plan and Time-line of case-study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nov</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation and Literature Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data collection and Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interview with key persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project write-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission of First Draft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft Presentation to Node Coordinators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission of Final Draft</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.2 Literature Review
An extensive literature review was done as a first step for the case-study so as to have an overview of the “youth and agriculture” situation in Mauritius. This process started in November 2011 and was on-going as the report was in progress. It enabled the consultant to have a broader view and focus on the issue and was useful in conducting the case-study.

2.3 Identify Sources of Information
The sources of information that were identified for the study were secondary data obtained from the different Ministries and organizations that were concerned and primary data was obtained through interviews with key informants (Ministry, NGO, Para-statal bodies) and youths.

2.4 Establish Data Collection Methods
The Data Collection methods that were chosen for the study were interviews using

a) Un-structured survey with key persons from the Ministries and para-statal bodies
b) Focus group survey with youths involved in agriculture
c) Structured survey with NGOs and youths
Other contact methods that were identified to obtain information were through e-mail, telephone and discussion forums initiated on social media (Facebook and Blogger). Data collection was also done using secondary data obtained from different organizations and the internet.

2.5 Collect the information

2.5.1 Un-structured survey with key persons from Ministries and other Para-statal bodies

Face to face interviews were conducted with key persons from the Ministry of Agro-Industry and some para-statal bodies operating under the aegis of the Ministry. These interviews were done through an un-structured survey and the flow of the interview was according to their answers. A checklist of all the points that needed to be covered or questions that needed to be answered was prepared by the consultant and the information required was obtained by the end of the interviews. A total of 10 people from different organizations were interviewed.

2.5.2 Focus group survey with youth involved in agriculture

To have a snapshot on youth interests, the initiatives, opportunities and challenges in Agriculture, a focus group interview was arranged and conducted with 10 students of the Faculty of Agriculture (University of Mauritius) in January 2012. The consultant acted as a facilitator and explained about the objectives of the exercise. Questions were asked to the group and the Agriculture students discussed and shared their opinions, which were noted by the consultant. This activity lasted for 1 hour and the information gathered was used for processing and to generate another questionnaire.

(Output of Focus Group Survey in Annex I)

2.5.3 Structured Survey with Youths and NGOs

Based on the information gathered from secondary data and from the two surveys described above, questionnaires were designed to interview youth and NGOs through structured surveys. The questionnaire was designed based on the information required for each target group. It contained both closed-ended and open-ended questions, which were
to be filled by the respondents or by the consultant, depending on the situation. The target population for each survey was different.

For the interview with youths, a convenience sample of 250 was selected, in which rural and urban youths, as well as all categories of youths engaged in different field of study were included. The survey started in January 2012 and ended in February 2012. (Survey Questionnaire for youth in Annex II)

Regarding NGOs, it was based on the number of NGOs that were engaged in agriculture and was related to youths. Since there are not many NGOs who are engaged in Agriculture and work with youth in Mauritius, all of them were interviewed. The survey started in December 2011 and is expected ended in February 2012. (Survey Questionnaire for NGO in Annex III)

2.5.4 Policy Documents
Agricultural policy documents for Mauritius were obtained from the website of the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security, which were analyzed by the researcher. Other schemes provided to the farming community were obtained from the Small Farmers Welfare Fund (SFWF). (List of some schemes for planters in Annex IV)

2.5.5 List of NGOs and youth Organizations
The list of registered NGOs in Mauritius was obtained from the National Empowerment Foundation, in which there were more than 500 NGOs. Among these 500 NGOs, 122 were related to agriculture/poverty alleviation/environment/entrepreneurship. To know which of these are involved with youth and agriculture, telephone calls were made to have information on their activities. Those that were related to youth and agriculture were interviewed as described in section 2.5.3.

Similarly, youth clubs present over the island were contacted by telephone to confirm if they were involved in agriculture-related activities.

2.6 Analyze the data
Quantitative data obtained from the structured survey were analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) and Microsoft Excel 2007, while qualitative data obtained through un-structured survey was analyzed in a descriptive manner by the consultant. Data
Analysis started in January 2012 and was completed in February 2012. Out of the 250 questionnaires, 8 were wrongly filled and only 242 were analyzed.

2.7 Generalization and interpretation
Based on the results generated after data analysis, the data was interpreted and discussed as per the objective of the study.

2.8 Propose Recommendations
From the findings of the case-study, policy recommendations were proposed for the Republic of Mauritius.

2.9 Submission of final Report
The first draft of the study was submitted on 30\textsuperscript{th} January 2012 and after mid-term review, the final draft report was be submitted on 2\textsuperscript{nd} April 2012. The final report was submitted on 1\textsuperscript{st} June 2012.
CHAPTER 3: FINDINGS

3.1 Perception of youth on changing realities of Agriculture

3.1.1 Changing realities of Agriculture

Today, the world population is 7 billion and according to the United Nation’s Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2010), the global population is expected to increase to 9.2 billion by 2050. Projections also show that global food production must rise by 70% in order to sustain this growing population. Increased food production should however be in synergy with environment protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Despite being a victim of climate change, Agriculture is one of the major sources of greenhouse gas emissions. Hence, it implies that Agriculture will have to play a vital role in increasing food production to contribute to food security, become more resilient to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (Pye-Smith, 2011).

In Mauritius, the Government is encouraging local food production so as to cut down costs on imports and ensure food security. Smallholder farmers are the ones who are contributing the most to our local production, but at the same time they are facing several challenges which include high cost of production, lack of labour, effects of climate change (high incidence of pests and diseases) among others. Another change that is occurring in the Mauritian Agriculture is that as the standard of living of Mauritians is improving, their food habits have shifted towards processed food, with an exigency on quality, food safety and brands. Furthermore, the country is expecting to have an increase in the number of tourist arrivals. In order to produce quality and safe food that meet the demand of the population and that of the tourism industry, new technologies will have to be adopted. In order to respond to these challenges, smallholder Agriculture will need to be more innovative and knowledge-intensive than it is today (MAIFS, 2008).

Through policies and schemes, the government of Mauritius has been encouraging smallholders to increase their production by shifting their production system and adopting new technologies and modern production techniques, while conserving natural resources by practicing sustainable Agriculture. Agriculture today has changed to Agri-business, whereby the next generation of farmers will be at the forefront of this knowledge-intensive Agriculture. Given the fact that Mauritius has an ageing farming population, it is being
realised that there is a need to engage youth in the sector since it is well known that the adoption of new technologies and innovation take place in different phases and youths are more likely to adopt new technologies (the use of ICTs, practice climate-smart Agriculture etc.) than current experienced farmers. Thus, substantial and sustained investments in that generation are essential if their energies and ambitions are to be harnessed (Dalla Valle. et al. 2011).

We already have the problem of youth unemployment in Mauritius and the Agricultural sector has the potential to provide employment to these youths. But how do youth perceive Agriculture and what are the opportunities and incentives being given to them in the Agricultural sector?

3.1.2 Youth Perceptions on Agriculture

In many reports on youth and Agriculture and also in the different papers presented at the Young people, Farming and Food Conference in March 2012 (Ghana), it has been observed that Agriculture is generally perceived negatively by youths in most countries of the world. In Mauritius, for many youths, their ancestors or grand-parents and relatives were working in the sugarcane field, which was hard-working, tiring, and their income was also low. When youth hear about Agriculture, the image that is formed in their minds is sugar-cane fields, with labourers working in them under the hot sun. This situation has contributed in giving a negative image of Agriculture and youths are reluctant to join this sector. Furthermore, in the upbringing of youths, it is very usual to hear parents to tell their children that they will work in sugarcane fields if they fail or do not do well in their exams. This negative perception keeps on growing until Agriculture is not even an option to consider when they choose their career.

Youths in Mauritius prefer to work in other sectors where there are “more” job opportunities, they have a better status in the society and also earn a higher income. In Mauritius, human medicine, engineering, law and management, ICTs and tourism are the sectors that attract our youths the most (white-collar jobs). Mauritian youths are very interested in ICTs and are choosing to make their career in this field as ICT is also the 5th pillar of the Mauritian economy. Today, the application of ICTs (including Web 2.0 tools and social media) are changing the way Agriculture is being practiced in Mauritius and in other
countries over the world, but unfortunately, Mauritian youths still perceive Agriculture as farming instead of an opportunity in getting into entrepreneurship and setting up an Agri-business. In order to get youths into Agriculture, there is a need to identify what is pushing the youths away from Agriculture and what can be done to pull them into the sector.

Statements on youth perceptions with respect to Agriculture obtained from literature, focus group-interviews and discussions with youth on social media were used in a structured survey conducted with youths from the University of Mauritius. The population consisted of both Agriculture students and those from other field of studies. After data analysis, the following results on the perception of youth on Agriculture were obtained.
3.1.2.1 Agriculture is a field for residual youths

Figure 8: Agriculture is a field for residual youths

In Mauritius, Agriculture is usually perceived as a field for those who do not do well in their studies and have to choose it as a last resort. However, from figure 3.1, it is observed that the results obtained from the survey did not match the statement since 44.6% of the respondents strongly disagree that Agriculture is a field for residual youths.

3.1.2.2 Agriculture is an easy job

Figure 9: Agriculture is an easy job

It has been noted that 38% of the youths interviewed are neutral to the statement on whether Agriculture is an easy job, followed by 30.6%, 20.2%, 7.8% and 3.3% who disagree, strongly disagree, agree and strongly agree respectively. The overall results indicate that youth disagree that Agriculture is an easy job.
3.1.2.3 Agriculture is a good recreational activity (leisure time) for youths

![Bar Chart: Agriculture is a good recreational activity (leisure time) for youths]

Figure 10: Agriculture is a good recreational activity (leisure time) for youths

In Mauritius, many youths are not engaged in Agriculture for income generation, but they see it as a good recreational activity. The survey confirmed this statement with the majority of the respondents (33.5%) agreeing that Agriculture is a good recreational activity for youths.

3.1.2.4 Agriculture is a low-income generating sector (low salary)

![Bar Chart: Agriculture is a low-income generating sector (low salary)]

Figure 11: Agriculture is a low-income generating sector (low salary)

The results show that most of the youths interviewed (33.1%) are neutral to the statement that Agriculture is a low-income generating sector, which indicate that they do not have an idea on the income generated in this sector. On the other hand, 16.9% and 9.1% of the
respondents disagree and strongly disagree respectively to this statement, implying that they do not perceive Agriculture as a low-income generating sector.

3.1.2.5 There are not much job prospects in Agriculture

With respect to job prospects in Agriculture, the opinions of youths seem to vary as shown in Figure 3.5. Most of them (33.5%) are neutral to the statement that there are not much job prospects in Agriculture.

3.1.2.6 Agriculture is a sector for poor people

From 3.6, we can see very clearly that more than 50% of the respondents disagree that Agriculture is a sector for poor people.
3.1.2.7 Agriculture provides opportunities in Agri-business and entrepreneurship

50% of the interviewed youths agree that Agriculture provides opportunities in Agri-business and entrepreneurship followed by 28.9%, 14.5%, 4.1% and 2.5% who strongly agree, are neutral, disagree and strongly disagree respectively. This implies that youth are aware that there are opportunities in the Agricultural sector.

3.1.2.8 Youths are very enthusiastic to make their career in Agriculture

Figure 14: Agriculture provides opportunities in agri-business and entrepreneurship

Figure 15: Youths are very enthusiastic to make their career in Agriculture
From reports on youth and Agriculture, we observe that Agriculture has the potential to employ youth and address the issues of youth unemployment and food security, and yet the participation of youth in Agriculture is low. The survey conducted with students from the University of Mauritius revealed that the youths are not very enthusiastic to make their career in Agriculture as shown in figure 3.8, with 45.5%, 25.2%, 12.4%, 10.7%, 6.2% who are neutral, disagree, strongly disagree, agree and strongly agree respectively.

3.1.2.9 Many incentives provided to youths in the Agricultural sector

![Bar chart showing responses to incentives in Agriculture](image)

**Figure 16: Many incentives provided to youths in the Agricultural sector**

When it comes to incentives that are provided to youths in the Agricultural sector, most of the respondents (38.4%) were neutral, implying that they have no idea about the incentives provided in Mauritius. This was followed by 24.8%, 17.4%, 12% and 7.4% of the respondents who disagree, agree, strongly disagree and strongly agree respectively to the statement.

It is to be noted that the results obtained from the survey may not necessarily represent the exact situation in Mauritius, but it gives an indication on how young Mauritians perceive Agriculture.
3.1.3 Sources of information used by young people

The structured survey conducted with Agriculture students revealed that the main source of information used by young people is the internet with a response of 28.9%. Moreover, 26.1%, 23.7%, and 16.5% of the respondents get information on Agriculture through lecture notes, books and journals, and Agricultural Organizations respectively. Other sources of information were televisions, from experienced ones (relatives) involved in Agriculture, personal experiences. However, young Mauritians who are involved in Agriculture (mainly producers) claim to obtain information on Agriculture from extension services, input suppliers, on the internet and from their own experiences in the fields.

From the different data collection methods, it has been observed that Mauritian youths are not enthusiastic to make their career in Agriculture since it is a sector which is unattractive and due to the fact that they do not pay much attention to the development happening in Agriculture, many youths are not aware about the opportunities in the sector.

On the other hand, there are youths who already in the Agriculture and see opportunities in the sector but unfortunately face several challenges. According to them, there is no support in terms of “clearly defined” schemes or programmes meant for “Youth in Agriculture” that may help them overcome these challenges. (Output of Focus Group Survey with youth can be found in Annex I).
3.2 Youth and Agriculture under current National and other policies and initiatives assessed

Over the years, there have been two distinct and separate sets of policies have been developed with respect to Agriculture in Mauritius; one for the sugar sector and the other for the non-sugar sector, with very little linkages between the policies (Anon, 2011). The aim of these policies is primarily to ensure food security and diversifying production (within and away from sugar) in Mauritius. Since 2002, successive governments have produced strategic documents for improving agricultural production in the country.

Mauritius also has a National Youth Policy 2010-2014, which has been developed by the Ministry of Youth and Sports and this policy is to be implemented with close collaboration of the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security.

While the National Youth Policy is prepared with consultations with youth of the National Youth Council (who have little or no linkage at all with Agriculture), the National Agriculture Policies in Mauritius are prepared by the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security, with consultations with the Technical Advisors of the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security and representatives of some para-statal institutions and chairperson of farmer associations. As a matter of fact, youths are not consulted or involved in decision making or policy generation in Agriculture (Pers. Comm., 2012).
3.2.1 Youth awareness on Agriculture and Youth Policies in Mauritius

Youth in Agriculture are not involved in decision making and policy generation and the survey conducted with students of the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Mauritius, revealed that the majority (54.3%) are not sure whether there exist such policies in Mauritius, while 26.6% claim that there are no policies for youth in Agriculture and 19.1% are aware that we do have these policies in Mauritius. These are shown in Figure 3.11. Furthermore, while interviewing the youths, many did not know what is a policy is and what is its purpose.

Figure 18: Youth Awareness on Agriculture and Youth Policies in Mauritius
3.2.2 Youth incorporation in National Agriculture and Youth Policies

Presently, there are 5 Agricultural policies and the National Youth Policy in Mauritius that are still relevant and in use. These policies have been analyzed with respect to their:

- Purpose
- Incorporation of youth or any opportunities for youth in Agriculture
- Whether policy has been implemented

The following is a summary of the analysis done for the 6 policy documents.

3.2.2.1 Non-Sugar Strategic Plan 2003-2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose of policy</th>
<th>Mention of youth</th>
<th>Opportunities for youth</th>
<th>Implemented/not implemented</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| The main objectives of this policy are to: Increase food production and maintain self-sufficiency in certain key commodities, liberalize markets, optimize use of water resources, make optimal use of Agricultural lands, diversify Agricultural production for diversification, ensure National Food Security, Intensify Research and development through biotechnology, promote cross-border initiatives, promote Agro-based industries, promote an Agricultural training policy, develop appropriate marketing strategy. | Mention of introduction of a scheme known as “Young Agricultural Entrepreneurial Scheme” (YAES) with incentives for young entrepreneurs to acquire Agriculture-based training at all levels | Possible opportunities:  
  - Horticulture (anthurium production)  
  - Fruit production (litchi, pineapple for export)  
  - Livestock (dairy and meat production)  
  - Cross-border initiatives  
  - Hydroponics culture  
  - Agro-processing and value-addition | Partly implemented.  
The Young Agricultural Entrepreneurial Scheme (YAES) not implemented yet. |
This 5-year strategic plan was elaborated for the period 2003-2007 by the Ministry of agro-Industry and Food Security for the non-sugar sector. It highlights the current status, challenges, opportunities and actions to be taken in each sub-sector (horticulture, fruit production, livestock, Agro-industry, food technology, IT in Agriculture and Training). All opportunities that exist in each sub-sector were in general and not targeted for youth. For different commodities, there are different incentive package that are available (land facilities, soft loans with 3% interest, irrigation facilities etc.). It has been mentioned that a Young Agricultural Entrepreneurial scheme would be introduced, but to date, this has not been implemented.

3.2.2.2 Strategic Options in Crop Diversification and Livestock Sector (2007-2015)

Table 5: Strategic Options in Crop Diversification and Livestock Sector (2007-2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose of policy</th>
<th>Mention of youth</th>
<th>Opportunities for youth</th>
<th>Implemented/not implemented</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The overall aim of the program is to increase food and Agricultural production by the year 2015 though the adoption of newer technologies and production methods and the development of novel products while opening access to new markets.</td>
<td>Mention of introduction of a scheme known as “Young Agricultural Entrepreneurial Scheme” (YAES) with incentives for young entrepreneurs to acquire agriculture-based training at all levels</td>
<td>Possible opportunities are same as the strategic plan for 2003-2007 with more or less same incentives and schemes in the different sub-sectors (minimal processing and transformation, value-addition, hydroponics, production of novel crops).</td>
<td>Partly implemented. Farmer Training School introduced where youths are being trained on different Agricultural courses (Good Agricultural Practices, hydroponics, kitchen gardening etc.). The Young Agricultural Entrepreneurial Scheme (YAES) not implemented yet.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Following strategic plan of 2003-2007, a revised agricultural plan was launched, which advocates for the adoption of modern production techniques and innovative technology in a well-defined framework to face challenges like climate change, lack of land, rising cost of inputs, incidence of pests and diseases, rigorous sanitary and phyto-sanitary use etc. There are no specific opportunities for youths, but general opportunities remain in agro-processing, value-addition, hydroponics, production of novel crops etc. There has been mention of training facilities for entrepreneurs (especially youths) and with the establishment of the Farmer Training School by the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit in July 2009, this part of the policy has been implemented. But the Young Agricultural Entrepreneurial scheme is still not implemented.

3.2.2.3 Blueprint for a ‘Sustainable Diversified Agri-food Strategy for Mauritius 2008 – 2015’

Table 6: Blueprint for a ‘Sustainable Diversified Agri-food Strategy for Mauritius 2008-2015’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose of policy</th>
<th>Mention of youth</th>
<th>Opportunities for youth</th>
<th>Implemented/not implemented</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The main aims of this strategic plan are to make Mauritius self-sufficient in a number of food crops in the coming years, thereby cutting down on the annual food import bill and to promote the setting up of new agro-industries or Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) with focus on diversification of the agricultural sector.</td>
<td>Policy recognizes the ageing farming population with inadequate replacement. But no mention of youth.</td>
<td>Possible opportunities are same as the previous strategic plans with same incentives and schemes in the different sub-sectors (minimal processing and transformation, value-addition, hydroponics, production of novel crops).</td>
<td>Partly implemented (especially schemes on potato, onion, and other incentives mentioned). But nothing youth-related has been implemented.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Through this policy, the Government’s aim is to promote access to Agricultural land, promote Agribusiness, encourage Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and innovative production methods, improve food quality and safety, reduce dependency on import, promote export and ensure food security. General opportunities in terms of schemes and incentives exist that youth can consider. But nothing youth-related has been mentioned or implemented.

### 3.2.2.4 Food Security Fund Committee Strategic plan 2008-2011

**Table 7: Food Security Fund Committee Strategic plan 2008-2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose of policy</th>
<th>Mention of youth</th>
<th>Opportunities for youth</th>
<th>Implemented/not implemented</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| This strategic plan contains a series of measures to be taken in different sectors (food-crops, livestock, fisheries, Research and Development, training, food safety, cross-border initiatives, National pilot wholesale market, risks and emergency measures, Rodrigues), which will enable the country to increase substantially field productivity and address some immediate food needs of the population. | No mention of youth. But opportunities in Agriculture well-highlighted. | Major opportunities:  
- Land allocated to group of farmers under this fund  
- Many incentives and schemes in all sub-sectors (food-crops, livestock, agro-processing)  
- Soft loans with 3% interest with no security for obtaining loan assistance | Partly implemented (especially schemes and other incentives regarding financing under the Food Security Fund). |
As such, there is no mention of youth in the document, but The Food Security Fund (FSF) is a good opportunity for youths to seize since many projects are presently being financed through it and other incentives are also being provided, depending on the commodity and type of production.

In the National Budget 2012 presentation by the Minister of Finance and Economic Development in November 2011, it was also announced that small planters and small breeders will obtain full VAT refund on Agricultural machinery, equipment and tools that they will purchase in 2012. This incentive can be useful to youths engaged in Agriculture.

3.2.2.5 Multi Annual Strategic Plan for the Sugar Sector (2006-2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose of policy</th>
<th>Mention of youth</th>
<th>Opportunities for youth</th>
<th>Implemented/not implemented</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The main objective of this strategy is to ensure commercial viability and sustainability of the sugar cane sector, so as it can continue in fulfilling its multi-functional role in the Mauritian economy, but at a significant social cost.</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Partly implemented. But not related to youth.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In April 2006, the Government presented its Multi-annual strategy and Action Plan (MAAS) 2006-2015 for the re-engineering of the sugar industry following an impact assessment study on the competitiveness of the sugar industry commissioned in the late 2004. As a matter of fact, the sugar sector is undergoing a difficult phase and opportunities in the sector remains for sugar estates. Hence there is no mention of youth in the policy.
### 3.2.2.6 National Youth Policy 2010-2014

**Table 9: National Youth Policy 2010-2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose of policy</th>
<th>Mention of youth</th>
<th>Opportunities for youth</th>
<th>Implemented/not implemented</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| The purpose of this policy is to ensure that youths are given the opportunities to reach their full potential as individual and citizen. The policy identifies the existing gaps and gives direction to Mauritian youths. | Policy acknowledges challenges faced by youth in agriculture and lays the following objectives:  
- Recognize the potential for enterprise in Agriculture  
- Provide facilities (access to land)  
- Consider tax exemption on Agricultural tools and machinery  
- Create market and Export facilities  
- Help raise status of youth in Agriculture  
- Promote success stories and role models in Agricultural enterprise  
- Information dissemination and training on agriculture, fisheries and entrepreneurship  
- Initiate and motivate youth in Agricultural activities from primary school level and promote Agricultural youth Clubs |  
- Setting up Agribusiness / SMEs  
- Get involved in Agricultural Youth Clubs  
- Training on Agricultural production and Entrepreneurship | Partly implemented. But most the activities that are implemented are existing programmes that were here before generation of the policy. No new programme has been designed with all the mentioned points included. Different organizations are working on the different objectives. |
In the National Youth Policy 2010-2014, there have been many objectives that have been set with respect to youth in Agriculture. This policy generated by the Ministry of Youth and sports is expected to be implemented in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security, but to date, there has been no coordination between the two Ministries regarding this policy. Part of the policy is already being implemented as part of the mandate/activities of specific organizations, but no specific youth programme has been designed to meet the objectives set in the National Youth Policy 2010-2014.

After analyzing the above policies, the observations are that there are no specific programmes or schemes that have been designed for “Youth in Agriculture”. However, there are opportunities in agriculture which they can grab (horticulture, fruit production, livestock production, cross-border initiatives, hydroponics, agro-processing, value-addition etc.) and they can also benefit from the incentives being provided through the Food Security Fund. In addition, opportunities for youth in Agriculture that are highlighted in the National Youth Policy are: setting up of Agri-business or Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), get involved in youth clubs and attend training on Agricultural production and entrepreneurship.

3.2.3 Incentives in place to attract youth in Agriculture

Apart from the incentives being provided (indirectly) through the Food Security Fund and other general schemes for producers in Agriculture, the main incentives on the ground that are in place to attract youth in Agriculture at National Level are those provided by the Agricultural Youth Clubs (AYCs) coordinated and supported by the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU). These incentives are as follows:

a) Training
   - Production techniques
   - Conducted tours to places of Agricultural interest
   - Talks, PowerPoint presentations and demonstrations

b) Inputs to start projects
   - Planting materials such as seeds, seedlings, cuttings etc
   - Basic gardening tools, seed trays, potting bags, rooting hormone, sticky traps for control of pest
c) Transport facilities for implementation of project and club activities

d) Incentive to improve Agricultural project through competitions and rewards for best projects

e) Facilities to participate in agricultural exhibition

f) Support to organize activities for mobilizing youth (e.g. quiz competition, environment conservation project etc)

g) Award of AYC Scholarship to attend University Studies in Agriculture at the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Mauritius (AYC Scholarship Scheme)

h) Success stories of youths who have been remarkable in Agricultural Youth Clubs are published in a magazine called “Farming News” by the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU).

Other incentives that are provided by NGOs (MAA for example) are inputs like animal feeds and planting materials to encourage youths, especially children to practice Agriculture in order to be food secured.

There also exist different schemes provided to planters and breeders, but to date, none of them have been designed or targeted for youth.

3.2.4 Achievements and failures of past efforts to engage young people in Agriculture

3.1.4.1 Achievements of past efforts to engage youth in Agriculture

In terms of engaging youths in Agriculture, the greatest achievement was the establishment of Agricultural Youth Clubs (AYCs) in Mauritius. In 1970, the Agricultural Rural Youth Project (ARYP) was launched, which was supported by the Freedom From Hunger Campaign (FFHC) and technical assistance was obtained from the United Nation’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). This project was also supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Mauritius. The objectives of this project were to arouse the interest of youths in Agriculture and to train them on the subject. A Youth Training Centre was also constructed from the project funds, where AYC members were trained on management, leadership skills etc. Over the years, the number AYCs increased significantly and these clubs had very active members.
This is shown in the table below:

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of Clubs</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>2712</td>
<td>4500</td>
<td>2350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As it can be seen in the table above, the number of AYC and its membership increased from 1970 to 1995. In 1979, one full-time Senior Technical Officer (STO), one full-time Technical Officer (TO) and 27 part-time Field Assistants (FA) were attached to the Rural Youth Programme. Moreover, during a national seminar that was organized to discuss about the future and reorganization of the programme, 6 Regional Federations were created and these federations were regrouped into a council (Mauritius Council of Agricultural Youth Clubs).

Since the Rural Youth programme was better structured, a considerable improvement was noted. New agricultural activities were introduced (apiculture) and also literary, cultural and sports activities were introduced by the supervision of the Rural Youth Office (Extension Service).

3.2.4.2 Failures of past efforts to engage youth in Agriculture

The setting up of AYC had proven to be effective in arousing youth interest in agriculture and engaging them in agricultural activities, but from 1990’s to presently, the number of AYC has decreased, the structure of the youth programme has changed and there are no more Mauritius Council of Agricultural Youth Clubs. There are several factors which have led to this decrease and today AYC are found only in secondary schools and the members are students of these institutions. (List of Agriculture Youth Clubs in Annex V)

The table below shows the decrease in number of AYCs from 1996 to 2012
Some of the reasons that may explain the decrease in the number of AYCs in Mauritius are as follows:

- **Lack of funds and hence lack of staffs to monitor and coordinate the activities of AYCs**

As from 1995 onwards, the AYCs were coordinated by the Women and Youth Division of the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU). Extension staffs were working with AYCs after office hours and were given an additional allowance for this activity. However, due to lack of funding, these after office hours activities were stopped and AYC activities were to be coordinated during office hours itself. Hence, the number of staffs coordinating AYCs has decreased and also compared to before, the number of activities proposed to members of AYCs have also declined.

- **General lack of youth interest over the years**

In the 1970’s to 1990’s, there was not a lot of recreational activities for youths in Mauritius and Agriculture was a recreational activity for many. As there has been the introduction of computers, the internet and broadband in the country, youth interests have shifted from youth clubs and related activities to social media, Play Station, iPod etc. Moreover, with urbanization, there has been loss of land, contributing to the declining youth interest in Agriculture.

- **Decrease in Incentives and activities**

The types of activities and incentives provided to AYCs have declined over the years. There used to be many competitions in different areas of agriculture (home gardening, egg production, hydroponics etc.). As these activities and incentives have declined, the number of AYCs and their members has also declined.
Lack of transparency and awareness on AYC and their activities

Formerly, success stories of young members of AYCs who were remarkable in their specific agricultural activity were published in one of the Publication of AREU called the Farming News and also Magazines on the AYCs were published and distributed to the stakeholders in the agricultural sector. Today, there is a lack of transparency on AYCs and their activities, for many youths in Mauritius who are already involved/interested in agriculture are not aware of its existence.

3.3 Key institutions, mechanisms and tools for the engagement of youth in policy processes

Agricultural Policies are developed and generated by the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security and the para-statal bodies working under the umbrella of the Ministry or organizations working on specific issues (banks, enterprise etc.) are given the responsibility to achieve the goals of the government. If a “Youth and Agriculture” policy is to be developed, more stakeholders should be involved in the process and the value-chain approach should be used.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO, 2005), a “value chain” in Agriculture identifies the set of actors and activities that bring a basic agricultural product from production in the field, to final consumption, where at each stage value is added to the product. A value chain can be a vertical linking or a network between various independent business organizations and can involve processing, packaging, storage transport and distribution (Bolzani, D. et al., 2010).

From the existing Agriculture and youth policies, it is clear that the Agricultural sector is undergoing modernization towards an Agro-Industry, which implies that approach to be used in addressing the youth and agriculture issue should be in-line with the changes occurring in the sector. Opportunities for youth along the value-chain need to be identified and the incentives provided should not be limited to only one level (production level for example), but across the whole chain. Not only youth should be encouraged to set up an agribusiness, but also new jobs should be created. For example, to produce a commodity, production at field level is only part of the process.
Few examples of how youth in Agriculture can be involved in the value chain are as follows:

- Input suppliers (agro-chemicals, planting materials etc.),
- Farm managers/producers/Entrepreneurs
- Processors (value-addition/processing of products),
- Support institutions (banks, research, extension, competent authorities etc.),
- Agricultural consultants (communication, extension, social media specialist etc.),
- Trainers (university and other training institutions),
- Researchers (research institutions – public and private sector),
- Wholesalers/Retailers/Exporters
- Service providers (Agricultural tools/machinery, GIS, GPS, transport, packaging, distribution)
- NGOs and youth organizations (to implement agricultural projects)

When developing a “Youth and Agriculture” policy, together with the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security, other Ministries and stakeholders concerned with opportunities for youth, should be involved and consulted. Some key institutions and stakeholders identified are as follows:

- International institutions
- Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security
- Ministry of Youth and Sports
- Ministry of Education and Human Resources
- Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives
- Agricultural Research and Extension Unit
- Faculty of Agriculture – University of Mauritius
- NGOs, Youth Organizations in Agriculture
- Farmer Organization

The mechanism on how the above stakeholders can contribute in developing, implementing and evaluating a “Youth and Agriculture” policy and design programmes to support the policy are described as follows:
### 3.3.1 International institutions

#### Table 12: International Institutions

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>International institutions</strong> FAO, ILO, NEPAD, IFAD</td>
<td>These organizations have already involved in projects on youth in Agriculture to encourage them to get in the sector</td>
<td>Finance and implement tailor-made programmes</td>
<td>Already existing experience in the field of youth and Agriculture development</td>
<td>Programmes which are designed sometimes are not in-line/ appropriate in the local context, resulting in failure of the programme</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From 2006, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has been working in collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in finding strategies to involve rural youths in Agriculture through programmes that have been designed and implemented in 5 countries (Egypt, Madagascar, Nepal, Nicaragua and Nepal) to promote decent and productive employment for rural youth (Anon, 2012).

Moreover ILO has also been working in collaboration with the FAO and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) to highlight the role and opportunities that exist for youth in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) (Dalla Valle, F. *et al.*, 2011). The CAADP was launched by the African Union (AU) and NEPAD in 2003 and it aims to stimulate Agriculture-led development that eliminated hunger and reduced poverty and food insecurity. This is to be achieved by raising Agricultural productivity by at least 6% per year and increasing public investment in Agriculture to 10% of National Budgets per year (Anon, 2012).

As a matter of fact, Mauritius has not yet signed the CAADP compact, but once this is done, programmes on youth and Agriculture could be designed according to the needs of the country under the CAADP, and implemented and evaluated by local institutions.
3.3.2 Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security

Table 13: Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security</td>
<td>• Main body generating and implementing Agricultural Policies in Mauritius</td>
<td>• Generating and implementing policies that are focused on youth • Provide incentives and schemes for youths involved in Agriculture • Encourage para-statals to involve youths in their activities</td>
<td>• Has the ability to encourage youths in Agriculture • Agricultural services and competent authorities • Many para-statals operating under the aegis of the MAIFS</td>
<td>• Other priorities than engaging youths in Agriculture. • Some policies exist but either not accessible or not implemented</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security is the main body which is involved in Agriculture policy generation and implementation in Mauritius and will have a crucial role to play in developing a “Youth and Agriculture” policy. From existing policies, it has been recognized that youth has an important role to play for the sustainability of the Agricultural sector in Mauritius and to enforce these policies, a separate one, with a well-defined action-plan can be developed with consultation with other stakeholders. Under the aegis of the ministry, there are Agricultural services, competent authorities and numerous para-statals bodies operating along the Agriculture value-chain and these organizations can be involved in implementing the existing policies, as well as new policies on youth and Agriculture. The
major constraint is that the involvement of youth in Agriculture is still not on the top of the Agenda of the Ministry, which is focusing on priorities like food security and climate change.

### 3.3.3 Ministry of Youth and Sports

#### Table 14: Ministry of Youth and Sports

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Youth and Sports</td>
<td>• Involved in policy generation and implementation on youth</td>
<td>• Implement existing policy on youth and Agriculture</td>
<td>• Already working with youth in other fields</td>
<td>• Unable to implement already existing policy on youth and Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Already working with youth on several projects</td>
<td>• Provide other support like logistics and training on leadership etc. to youth in Agriculture</td>
<td>• Same can be applied for Agriculture</td>
<td>• Poor linkages between MYS and MAIFS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Logistics available (youth centres etc.)</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Ministry of Youth and Sports is already involved in policy generation and implementation on youth and the National Youth Policy 2010-2014 is a good example of such initiatives by the Ministry. However, this policy should be developed into an action plan/programme and be implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security and other stakeholders concerned with the policy. In the process of developing and implementing a National “Youth and Agriculture” policy, the Ministry of Youth and Sports can provide support like logistics and training on leadership, sustainable development etc. to youth in Agriculture. The main weakness here is the poor linkages that exist among Ministries and other stakeholders.
To make Agriculture more attractive to youth for them to get into the sector, it is important to include Agriculture in the Education system in Mauritius. The role of the Ministry of Education would be mainly to include Agriculture in the school curriculum (recreational or academic), which would contribute in developing youth interest in Agriculture by involving them in Agricultural activities. The challenge in doing this is that this initiative would be dependent on the priority of the Ministry and the availability of staff for this change in school curriculum.
### 3.3.5 Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives

Table 16: Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives</td>
<td>• Main activities of the Ministry revolve around formulation of policies pertaining to Small and Medium Enterprises</td>
<td>• Through the SMEDA, MBGS and the Cooperatives Division of the Ministry, there are schemes that are provided for youth to set up businesses</td>
<td>• Existing schemes on setting up of Small and Medium enterprises and can support youth in setting up an Agri-business</td>
<td>• Lack of coordination among Ministries and other stakeholders involved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The activities of the Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives revolve around formulation of policies pertaining to Small and Medium Enterprises. Under the aegis of this Ministry, there is the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority (SMEDA), the Mauritius Business Growth Scheme (MBGS) Unit and Cooperatives Division, under which there are several schemes that assist Mauritians in setting up of businesses. It is important for this Ministry to be involved in the development and implementation of the “Youth and Agriculture” policy as they can provide support and incentives to youth who wish to set up an agri-business.
3.3.6 Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU)

Table 17: Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU)

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU)</td>
<td>• Involved in coordination of Agricultural Youth Clubs (AYCs)</td>
<td>• Contribute further in engaging youths in agricultural activities</td>
<td>• Has expertise and trained personnel</td>
<td>• Lack of funds may contribute in decline of agricultural activities and incentives provided to youths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Training Centre or Agriculture</td>
<td>• Re-structure AYCs and providing more activities and incentives to youths</td>
<td>• Has logistics and information / training materials</td>
<td>• More staffs needed but unlikely due to limited funding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU) is an important stakeholder in developing a “Youth and Agriculture” Policy since it is responsible for the coordination of Agriculture Youth Clubs (AYCs) in Mauritius, provides training courses on different topics related to Agriculture, and also run courses at the Farmers’ Training School. AREU has the required expertise in training and information dissemination, logistics, trained personnel, which would be helpful in the generation and implementation of youth and Agriculture programmes. The main constraints however lie in the fact that to be able to implement and evaluate programmes on youth and Agriculture, more staffs would be required and this implies more funding would be required.

(List of training courses offered by the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit in Annex VI)
3.3.7 University of Mauritius (Faculty of Agriculture)

Table 18: University of Mauritius (Faculty of Agriculture)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Mauritius (Faculty of Agriculture)</td>
<td>* Involved in training of students in Agriculture and related fields</td>
<td>* By offering training courses for which there are job prospects</td>
<td>* Students willing to study Agriculture and get into the field already here</td>
<td>* Courses tend to be more theoretical than practical which make it difficult for graduates to be good in the field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Activities and events organized by students in the Agricultural Society</td>
<td>* Trainings should be tailor-made to meet the demand on the job market and as well as providing training that will equip graduates with required Knowledge, skills and attitude</td>
<td>* Has required facilities and expertise to train graduates</td>
<td>* Lack of training on leadership and engaging youths in activities from which they can learn and develop their competencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Producing the future manpower in Agriculture</td>
<td></td>
<td>* Concerned on the quality of training provided</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Faculty of Agriculture (University of Mauritius) is the only institution offering graduate and post-graduate programmes in Agriculture related fields. There are students at the Faculty who are already involved in Agricultural activities and may be involved in policy generation, especially if it is a “Youth and Agriculture” policy. The contribution of the Faculty of Agriculture would be mainly to offer courses which are in line with the requirement on the job market, and this will create opportunities for youths in Agriculture.
3.3.8 NGO/youth organisation: Mouvement pour L’Autosuffisance Alimentaire

Table 19: Mouvement pour L’Autosuffisance Alimentaire (MAA)

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mouvement pour l’Autosuffisance Alimentaire (MAA)</td>
<td>• The only active NGO in Agriculture in Mauritius</td>
<td>• Already working on the ground with youth</td>
<td>• Structure and expertise already there</td>
<td>• Lack of volunteers and staffs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Involved in many micro-projects, for which youths are beneficiaries</td>
<td>• Can contribute in generating Agricultural policies and implement them through the work done by the NGO</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Already involved in many projects, time may be a constraint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Has experience in providing incentives to youth and involve them in agricultural projects</td>
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<td></td>
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</table>

The most active Agriculture NGO in Mauritius is the MAA, which is focused on achieving Food security and eradicate poverty. The NGO has been implementing several micro-projects in Mauritius, and there are many youths who benefit from these initiatives. As an organization working on the ground, it has an important contribution in developing the “Youth and Agriculture” policy and contributing in the implementation of programmes on youth and Agriculture. However, if a “Youth and Agriculture” policy is developed, there is also a possibility of founding a youth-led NGO in Mauritius that would work towards the implementation of the programmes developed under this policy and this NGO could be supported by the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security.
3.3.9 Farmer Organization: MAMCF

Table 20: Farmer Organization (MAMCF)

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmer Organization (MAMCF)</td>
<td>• Young farmers/entrepreneurs regrouped in these cooperative/farmer organization</td>
<td>• Giving their opinions in policy</td>
<td>• Lobbying</td>
<td>• Sometimes see only their benefits through activities that bring short-term results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Their opinion and involvement in Agricultural activities is important</td>
<td>• Beneficiary of incentives/other opportunities</td>
<td>• Youth in Agriculture found easily since they are already grouped</td>
<td>• Not representative of all youth in Agriculture that can benefit from Agricultural policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Implement policies to meet goals of government</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Mauritius Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Federation (MAMCF) is a Farmer Organization in Mauritius, which regroups around 2500 vegetable growers from 63 cooperatives over the island. This farmer organization is very active and the opinion of farmers and their involvement in the generation of a “Youth and Agriculture” Policy is important.

As a matter of fact, there are not many youths who are regrouped under the MAMCF and maybe there is a need to have a Young Farmers Association in Mauritius, which can contribute in generating a youth and Agriculture policy and they can also benefit from the opportunity that it would provide.
CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the Mauritius case study, it can be concluded that Mauritian youths certainly have a negative perception on Agriculture, especially regarding its unattractiveness, and they are not aware of the opportunities that exist in the Agricultural sector. On the other hand, youths who are involved in Agriculture claim that they do not get any support to help them address the challenges they are facing. While there is no specific policy on “Youth and Agriculture” in Mauritius, it has been observed that there are incentives that are being provided to encourage new entrepreneurs to start up an Agri-Business through the Food Security Fund. However, the procedures on how to get access to this fund is not very clear and target beneficiaries are not mentioned. To bridge this gap that exist in the current policies, a “Youth and Agriculture” Policy can be developed and the mechanism of how this can be done by involving various stakeholders (Ministries, Research, Extension, University, NGOs, Farmer organizations etc.) has been proposed and may be considered by policy makers. To attract youths in the Agricultural sector and provide them with opportunities, the following recommendations have been proposed.

Recommendations

Implement Existing agricultural policies and more coordination among institutions

In the National Youth Policy 2010-2014, there is a section on Youth and Agriculture, but no programme has been designed so that the policy is being implemented. Presently, each institution is working independently according to its mandate, but in order to have a proper tailor-made programme for youth in Agriculture, there should be proper coordination among the different stakeholders involved (banks, training centres, Ministries, etc.) so that it is clear for youths about what are the different procedures for benefiting from a scheme/incentive and where they should go at which stage. It is to be noted that different category of youth in Agriculture have different needs and the programmes designed should meet the needs of the youths in each category.
Agriculture in Education system since primary level

To encourage youths in getting into Agriculture and to make the sector attractive to them, Agriculture should be included in the school curriculum as from primary level. Being involved in gardening and livestock rearing, they will have an interest in Agriculture from a very young age and it will not be difficult to attract them in the sector.

Provide incentives targeted to youth in Agriculture

Incentives that are targeted to youth in Agriculture should be provided (loan facilities, access to land, markets, trainings etc.) and most importantly, the direct beneficiaries should be aware of their existence. For example, if loan facilities are provided to start an Agri-business, students and young graduates from the university or other training centres should be aware of these schemes/incentives. Moreover, more youths should benefit from the incentives provided by the AYCs.

Visibility of Schemes/Programmes

It is recommended that all the schemes that are provided to the farming community in Mauritius are published on the Government portal so that all the youths concerned know what is at their disposal and how they can use them.

Encourage use of ICTs in agriculture and promote new technologies

Traditional farming is seen as unattractive to youths, but today with the use of technologies and ICTs along the Agricultural Value chain (production under hydroponics/protected culture, access market information through mobile phones, marketing of products using social media etc.) has changed the way Agriculture is being practiced. Mauritian youths are already interested in ICTs and a more extensive application of ICTs in the Mauritian Agriculture would encourage many of them to consider getting in the sector.

Increase investment in Agriculture

In the National Budget 2012, less than 4% (Rs 2.6 billion out of Rs 76.9 billion) has been allocated to the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security. As a matter of fact, Mauritius has not yet signed the CAADP compact and the current investment in the sector is not enough. If there is a will to engage the youths in Agriculture, it is high time to invest more in the sector and the CAADP is one way of doing it. Through more investment, more
programmes that meet the need of different category of youth in Mauritius could be designed, implemented and evaluated, and hence there will be a chance that more youths get into Agriculture and contribute to the economy of the country and food security, hence reducing the unemployment rate in Mauritius.

**Promote leadership in Agriculture**
Youth leadership and volunteering in Agriculture should be encouraged to enable them to develop their skills and trigger an interest in Agriculture. This can be promoted by the setting up of youth-led organizations/associations in Agriculture, whereby they can get the opportunity to organize events and implement micro-projects on Agriculture.

**Introduce mentorship programmes to guide youths in agriculture**
Youths in Agriculture usually have the feeling that they do not have any support/guidance and they are de-motivated. The introduction of mentorship programmes to guide youths may help them find a ways to make a good living from Agriculture.

**Include youth in policy decisions**
Youths are the leaders of tomorrow and the asset of any country’s economy and thus should be included in decision making and policy decisions. It is therefore recommended that youths are included in committees when policy decisions are being made and their opinions are taken into consideration, since these decisions would impact them directly.

**Pre-job Training Programme for Youth in Agriculture**
There are many Agriculture graduates who are either unemployed after completing their studies, or are forced to take a job which is not related to Agriculture because finding a job in the Agricultural sector is a challenge. Hence, a pre-job programme for Youth in Agriculture is required. Such programmes are already being offered in Mauritius, but the beneficiaries are youth in other sectors. Therefore, such a programme which is specific to Youth in Agriculture is required.
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URL: [http://tinyurl.com/cds6cdd](http://tinyurl.com/cds6cdd) [Accessed on 10th November 2011]


### ACRONYMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AU</td>
<td>African Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AREU</td>
<td>Agricultural Research and Extension Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARYP</td>
<td>Agricultural Rural Youth Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anon</td>
<td>Anonymous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Central Statistics Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMESA</td>
<td>Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAADP</td>
<td>Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEZ</td>
<td>Exclusive Economic Zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTS</td>
<td>Farmers’ Training School</td>
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<tr>
<td>FITEC</td>
<td>Fisheries Training and Extension Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSF</td>
<td>Food Security Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FFHC</td>
<td>Freedom From Hunger Campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAP</td>
<td>Good Agricultural Practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GNI</td>
<td>Gross National Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRDC</td>
<td>Human Resource Development Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOC</td>
<td>Indian Ocean Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information and Communication Technologies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT</td>
<td>Information Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFAD</td>
<td>International Fund for Agricultural Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labour Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAMCF</td>
<td>Mauritius Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Federation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritius Business Growth Scheme</td>
<td>MBGS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritius Institute of Training and Development</td>
<td>MITD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritius Quality Assurance</td>
<td>MQA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute</td>
<td>MSIRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security</td>
<td>MAIFS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security</td>
<td>MAIFS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Youth and Sports</td>
<td>MYS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mouvement pour l’Autosuffisance Alimentaire</td>
<td>MAA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi Annual Adaptation Strategy</td>
<td>MAAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Federation of Young Farmers Club</td>
<td>NFYFC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Trade Certification Course in Agriculture</td>
<td>NTC3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Youth Council</td>
<td>NYC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Partnership for Africa’s Development</td>
<td>NEPAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Government Organization</td>
<td>NGO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Training Centre</td>
<td>RTC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority</td>
<td>SMEDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small and Medium Enterprises</td>
<td>SMEs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern African Developing Countries</td>
<td>SADC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistical Package for Social Sciences</td>
<td>SPSS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States Dollar</td>
<td>USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value Added Tax</td>
<td>VAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Agricultural Entrepreneurial Scheme</td>
<td>YAES</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Annex I: Output of focus-group survey

**Challenges and Opportunities for youth in Agriculture**

Different categories of youths who are in Agriculture in Mauritius face several challenges, but there also exist some opportunities in this sector. The outputs from the survey conducted by the focus-group method with youth involved in Agriculture are as follows:

### Challenges and opportunities for youths in Mauritius

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Opportunities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Few Job Opportunities</strong></td>
<td><strong>Entrepreneurship</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having studied Agriculture at post-secondary</td>
<td>The major opportunity for youths in Agriculture is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>level does not guarantee employment in the</td>
<td>entrepreneurship. With an</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sector. Presently there are very few job</td>
<td>innovative idea, a good knowledge on the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>opportunities in the Agricultural Sector in</td>
<td>subject and managerial skills, they can start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritius. Many Agriculture graduates are</td>
<td>a business in any sector in Agriculture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>forced to find jobs in other sectors.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lack of incentives and initiatives</strong></td>
<td><strong>Agro-processing</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For youths of all categories in Agriculture,</td>
<td>Agro-processing is not being fully exploited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>there are not many incentives which are</td>
<td>in Mauritius. Among the commodities that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>provided to them to be encouraged to have</td>
<td>we are importing in Mauritius (potato chips,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>their career in Agriculture. Also, the few</td>
<td>frozen vegetables etc.), many can be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>incentives that are provided to youths in</td>
<td>produced locally by young “Agropreneurs”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture are very often not known to them.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Perceived as a sector for “residual” Youth</strong></td>
<td><strong>Export</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture is considered to be a sector for</td>
<td>There are many commodities which are not</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“residual” youth, that is, those who have not</td>
<td>consumed a lot in Mauritius, but there is a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>been able to do well at school and had to</td>
<td>demand for them on the international</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>choose it as a last resort.</td>
<td>market. Such products can be exported to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>countries in the region and to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Low salary jobs</strong></td>
<td><strong>Cross-Border Initiatives</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture graduates who do not get job in the sector have to take jobs which do not require a degree and their salaries are lower than what they are supposed to get. Moreover, they do not have the status of a graduate, and as a result, they are discouraged and also discourage others to get in the Agricultural sector.</td>
<td>According to the Government policy, Mauritian are encouraged to venture in cross-border initiatives. Since there is lack of land in Mauritius, they can produce commodities like potato, onion and maize in the region (Mozambique and Madagascar).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Education and training not based on real-life situations</strong></th>
<th><strong>Use of ICTs</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It is believed that the training received on Agriculture is more theoretical than practical and when graduates are employed, they realize that the real work environment is very different from what they had learned and hence they face difficulties to adapt in the new environment.</td>
<td>Youths are the ones who are use ICTs the most in Mauritius, and yet ICTs are not exploited in the Agricultural sector in the country (mobile phones applications, social media and web 2.0 tools etc.).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Unsure about entrepreneurship** |  |
|---------------------------------| |
| The is a category of youth who wants to venture in entrepreneurship through Agribusiness, but they either do not know what are the steps that they should take or they lack motivation and confidence to go forward with their idea. |  |

Annex II: Survey Questionnaire for University of Mauritius Students

This questionnaire has been designed as part of a case study on current and emerging youth policies and initiatives with a special focus on links to agriculture in Mauritius for the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN). It aims to collect information about the perception of youths on agriculture and the challenges & opportunities in this sector.

It would appreciated if you could devote a few minutes to fill this questionnaire.

If you have any questions regarding the completion of the questionnaire please contact me:
(Name: Nawsheen Hosenally, Position: Consultant for FANRPAN, Phone: 9101841, E-mail: nawsheen.hosenally@gmail.com)

Questionnaire No...........................

Section A: Personal Background

1. Name: ......................................................................................

2. Age group:
   - □ 18-20
   - □ 21-24
   - □ 25-30
   - □ 31 and above

3. Gender:
   - □ Male
   - □ Female

4. Time basis of course:
   - □ Part time
   - □ Full time

5. Faculty:
   - □ Faculty of Agriculture
   - □ Faculty of Engineering
   - □ Faculty of Science
   - □ Faculty of Social Studies and Humanities
   - □ Faculty of Law and Management
Section B: Challenges and opportunities in Agriculture

6. Where do you obtain information on agriculture? *You may give more than one answer.*

*If you are not a student from Faculty of Agriculture, please skip to section D*

- From the internet
- From books and journals
- From lecture notes
- From agricultural organizations
- Others, Please specify: ........................................................................

7. As a youth in agriculture/related fields, what are the challenges and opportunities that you see in the agricultural sector in Mauritius?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Opportunities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>5.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section C: Agricultural Policies and youth organizations in Mauritius

8. According to you, do we have agricultural policies on youth in Mauritius?

- Yes
- No
- Not Sure

9. Do you know any youth organization which is involved in agricultural activities or projects?

- Yes
- No

10. If yes, please write the name of the organization(s) and the type of activities or projects run by the organization(s)

Name of Organization: .................................................................

Type of Activities/Projects: ..........................................................
11. What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear about Agriculture?

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………


12. According to you Agriculture is:


| 12.1- Agriculture is a field for students who do not do well in their studies (residual youths) |
| 12.2- Agriculture is an easy job |
| 12.3- Agriculture is a good recreational activity (leisure time) for many youths |
| 12.4- Agriculture is a low-income generating sector (low salary) |
| 12.5- There is not much job prospects in agriculture |
| 12.6- Agriculture is a sector for poor people |
| 12.7- Agriculture provides opportunities in agri-business and entrepreneurship |
| 12.8 – Youths are very enthusiastic to make their career in Agriculture |
| 12.8 – There are many incentives provided to youths for them to work in the agricultural sector |

**********

Thank you for your time!
Annex III: Survey Questionnaire for Youth Clubs and NGOs

This questionnaire has been designed as part of a case study on current and emerging youth policies and initiatives with a special focus on links to agriculture in Mauritius for the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN). It aims to collect information about the work being done by youth clubs/NGOs/other organisations in Mauritius, which are involved in activities related to Youth and Agriculture.

It would appreciated if you could devote a few minutes to fill this questionnaire.

If you have any questions regarding the completion of the questionnaire please contact me:
(Name: Nawsheen Hosenally, Position: Consultant for FANRPAN, Phone: 9101841, E-mail: nawsheen.hosenally@gmail.com)

Section A: Organization Background

1. Name of Organization:

2. Year Established:

3. Address:

4. Contact person:

5. Aim & Objectives of organization:
Section B: Organization Activities and Projects

6. Category of youth targeted by Organization:

........................................................................................................................................................................
........................................................................................................................................................................
........................................................................................................................................................................
........................................................................................................................................................................

7. Please describe in the table below the type of activities/projects run by your organization:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Activity/Project</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8. What are the achievements of past efforts made by your organization to engage youth in Agriculture?

……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

9. What are the failures of past efforts made by your organization to engage youth in Agriculture?

……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

10. According to you, what should be done to encourage youths in Mauritius to be engaged in Agriculture?

……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**********

Thank you for your time!
Annex IV: List of Schemes for planters obtained from Small Farmers Welfare Fund (SFWF)

List of schemes for planters

- **Agricultural Calamities Solidarity Scheme (ACASS)**
  The ACASS is a revolving fund consolidated from contribution received from the Government and planters to be used to provide support in terms of fertilizers and fungicides to assist planters to restart promptly plantation after the occurrence of a calamity causing damages to food crops.

- **Planters Pension Scheme**
  The Planter’s Pension Scheme provides pension benefits to small planters and their families (spouses and children) to assure them a continuous income and therefore a secured retirement in their old age.

- **Action Plan against agricultural thefts**
  The SPWF is assisting small registered planters in creating the proper environment to eliminate thefts of agricultural produce and is also educating planters on their rights and preventive measures to be taken to protect their fields and ensure their own security.

- **Global Accident Insurance Scheme (GAIS)**
  The AIS provides a 24 hours Global Accident Insurance Cover to registered planters and their spouses in terms financial support, including coverage for medical expenses, in case of partial or permanent disability or death caused by accident.

- **Funeral Scheme (FS)**
  The FS provides financial support in the form of a death grant to small planters and/or their families in case of the death of a family member.
- **SPWF Scholarship Scheme**
  The SPWF Scholarship Scheme provides financial assistance to support the children of small registered planters to pursue secondary and tertiary education.

- **B-Carrier Licence**
  The SPWF certifies registered planters to obtain the B-Carrier license from the National Transport Authority (NTA).

- **Planter’s Excellence Award Scheme (PEAS)**
  The PEAS aims at Recognizing and rewarding the contribution, innovation and achievements of outstanding planters in their respective crop sector and motivate them to excel in Good Agricultural Practices, Environment Stewardship, Quality of products, etc.

- **Planter’s Privilege Card**
  The Planter’s Card also acts as a Planter’s Privilege Card providing planters and their family discounts on their purchases at several sales outlets.
Annex V: List of Registered Agricultural Youth Clubs and their activities

To date, there are 30 registered Agricultural Youth Clubs and all of them are found in secondary schools across the island, having members from different backgrounds. The List of these AYCs is shown in the table below:

**List of Agricultural Youth Clubs in 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name of Agricultural Youth Club (AYC)</th>
<th>Number of members (Boys)</th>
<th>Number of members (Girls)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>College St. Esprit</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Terre de Paix – Atelier de savoir</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Riche en Eau</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mahatma Gandhi State School – Flacq</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Universal College</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>L’esperance Quartier Militaire</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Rehabilitation Youth Club</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mare Tabac AGC</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Soondar Munrakhan</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>La Tafie</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Union Park</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Mayflower college</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Youth for a better world</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>BPS AYC</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Medco Cassis</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Peace AGC</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Rehabilitation Centre</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Windsor AYC</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>St. Mary’s</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Pere Laval College</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School Name</td>
<td>Strength</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Jelamie College</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>London College</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Notre Dame College</td>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Poudre D’or Hamlet</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Quatre Bornes State Secondary School</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Forest Side State Secondary School (Boys)</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Doha Academy</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Loretto College Port-Louis Agricultural Club</td>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>B.P.S Fatimah</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Riviere des Anguilles</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The main activities that are proposed to members of the AYCs are:

- Crop Production
- Mushroom Production
- Seedling production
- Hydroponics (small scale)
- Compost making
- Processing and preservation of fruits and vegetables
- Production of fruits like strawberry, Acerolla, Passion fruit, Roselle etc.
- Identification of pests and diseases in crops
- Use of safe pesticides and biological control of pests

The Women and Youth Unit of AREU also coordinate the agricultural Entrepreneur Clubs (AEC), which were formerly known as the Young Farmers Clubs. In 2012, there are 12 AEC which are registered. The members are encouraged to join trainings at the Farmer Training School so as to upgrade their production. Assistance is also being provided to the members for access to lease land for vegetable production on Sugar Estates.
ANNEX VI: Training Courses offered by the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Duration (Hours)</th>
<th>Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Horticulture Foundation (vegetables, ornamentals, fruits, hydroponics)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4 Half Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Crop Production</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6 Half Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ornamental Production</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6 Half Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fruit Production</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6 Half Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Gardening</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5 Half Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Hydroponic Production</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6 Half Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Hydroponic Operator</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>10 Half Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mushroom Production</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2 Half Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Kitchen Gardening</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4 Half Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Good Agricultural Practices – Horticulture</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>7 Half Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Chips Making</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3 Full Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Preservation of Fruits and vegetables with sugar</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>6 Full Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Pickles making</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>6 Full Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Mushroom Processing</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3 Full Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Mechanized Land Preparation (Power Tiller)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4 Half Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Irrigation Network Installation</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4 Half-Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Introduction to marketing of agricultural produce</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3 Half Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Production of planting materials</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6 Half-Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Pesticide Application</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5 Half Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Introduction to Farm Management</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6 Half Days</td>
</tr>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Quality Vegetable Seed Production (QDS)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6 Half Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Livestock Foundation</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3 Half Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Livestock Production (poultry, ducks, small birds)</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>8 Half Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Rabbit Rearing</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3 Half Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Animal Farm Operator</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>14 Half Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Livestock Production (Ruminants)</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>8 Half Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Pig rearing</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5 Half Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Piglets production</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>9 Half Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Egg Production</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4 Half Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Broiler Production</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4 Half Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Duck Production</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4 Half Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Operation of a small dairy farm</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>8 Half Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Goat Production</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4 Half Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Fodder Production</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>12 Half Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Good Animal Husbandry Practices – Livestock</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>7 Half Days</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>Agriculture NTC 3 (Award Course)</td>
<td>1160</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
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ANNEX VII: Links to discussions with youths on social media

Facebook:
URL: http://tinyurl.com/bv5ctw9

Blogger:
URL: http://tinyurl.com/bwxkpva
URL: http://tinyurl.com/cuqnmnp