

**Current and Emerging Youth Policies and
Initiatives with a Special Focus on Link to
Agriculture**

Swaziland Case Study Draft Report

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Disclaimer

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The views expressed in this report do not necessarily represent the views of
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Execetive summary

This was a qualitative study was undertaken supported by The Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) to identify gaps and opportunities for developing national youth and agriculture policies within agricultural polices. The youth in Swaziland (defined as ‘young men and women aged from 15 to 35 years of age) have been recognized as being key in addressing feeding the nation and that they need to be involved in agriculture to implement new technologies and help grow the sector at an early age so that they can take the industry forward. However, the study findings have indicated that youth participation is minimal in decision making-making processes at National and local levels as there is no access for youth to legislative and policy making bodies in order for their close involvement in the formulation, execution and monitoring of youth activities and programmes.

The study further revealed that two policies have covered youth and agriculture as key stakeholders within their programs being; the Comprehensive Agriculture Sector Policy and the Food Security Policy while the National Youth Policy is silent as regards to agriculture and general participation of the youth in policy processes.

Further analysis highlight that the unemployment rate is high amongst the youth (69%) under the age group 15-19 years. This indicates a high dependency burden on the workforce as a majority of the youth are unemployed and depend on those under employment to survive and have an active life. The migration is high and indicates that most young people do not want to reside in the rural areas where agriculture is mainly practised. This situation therefore comprises agricultural production as the body abled individuals who have the potential to farm migrate to the urban areas to engage in none agricultural based initiatives rendering the country food unsecured

The survey highlighted that the youth are not aware of most of the current trends in agriculture in including value chains, green evolution and they they virtually lack of knowledge regarding the Comprehensive Agricultural Sector policy and what it entails regarding youth participation and engagement in agriculture by the youth

The youth indicated that opportunities for their participation in the agricultural sector was mainly through agri-business. This realization was a result of lack of employment for the youth in the Country which has made the youth realize that

they need other support measures to make their livelihood. There is general realization by the youth that agriculture is still not an attractive career path and that it is still regarded as an inferior career in Swaziland. However a number of strategies were proposed to make agriculture attractive to the youth.

The main conclusions that can be drawn from this survey are as follows:

- There is minimal participation of the youth in the policy formulation processes in Swaziland. This is in part attributed to the following:
 - The youth are not sensitized on their role in the policy formulation process and therefore do not prioritize their participation in the processes
 - The youth do not attend forums especially at community level where the policy issues are discussed during data collection and verification exercises
- Swaziland does not have a policy formulation guideline which could in part have contributed to the policy formulators not considering the youth as part of the key stakeholders during the policy formulation processes yet the policy also borders on youth as well
- The Youth Policy appear to be working in isolation of other sectors as indicated by its silence on agricultural considerations or agri based policy issues, which would promote the engagement of youth in agriculture.
- The Ministry of Agriculture lacks adequate capacity to mainstream youth issues in policies and programs
- A majority of the youth lack pertinent information in relation to the current status quo of agriculture evolution within the region and the country and how they can participate and benefit from these various initiatives such as CAADP, NEPAD, G20
- Agriculture remains unattractive to a majority of the youth in Swaziland
- The Department of Youth Affairs has a serious challenge regarding staff capacity which compromises service delivery of the department.

The following recommendations were made for the study:

- The challenges articulated for the Youth Ministry as outlined earlier in the report need to be addressed as a priority intervention towards addressing all youth issues in Swaziland. The interventions need to be classified in a prioritized manner and under immediate, short term and medium term interventions to facilitate the implementation process

- The Youth policy needs to be integrated with key macro and sectoral policies to avoid youth activities to operate in isolation
- Given the severity of the unemployment situation in Swaziland, the Youth policy needs to articulate a more elaborative and practical approach to addressing this concern
- The Youth Policy has to indicate how it is linked to the other policy documents where the youth also have a stake
- The youth needs to be sensitized by MOSYCA through SNYC on the importance, on its role and actual participation in policy formulation processes as well as the consequence of lack of participation
- A policy formulation guideline needs to be developed by Swaziland. This responsibility should be taken up by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
- Promotion of innovative agriculture to promote or attract youth into the agricultural sector
- Strengthen the capacity of the Department of Youth Affairs and SNYC to undertake its role effectively
- There is a need to develop a supportive policy environment for youth participation in the country
- Farmers national institutions like SNAU need to promote a Youth Wing or Network within their organization to solely focus on youth agriculture based concerns (this is subject to SNAU being fully capacitated and stable as a national farmer organization)
- Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture to mainstream youth issues in policies and programs

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of the study

The study seeks to identify gaps and opportunities for developing national youth and agriculture policies within agricultural policies and make appropriate policy decisions.

1.2. Background

The Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) hosted an Annual Regional Food Security Policy Dialogue in Swaziland on the 19–23 September 2011 focusing on ‘Advocating for the active Engagement of the Youth in the Agricultural Value Chain’. There is recognition that for Africa to achieve food security the youth must be regarded as critical agricultural players who need and deserve special attention, support and follow-up as they have the energy, passion and talents which they can apply to contribute towards solving many of the serious problems the world faces today.

In his opening remarks during the dialogue the Prime Minister of Swaziland emphasized on the need to ‘enhance knowledge to ensure that youths get involved in agriculture and that the success of agriculture depends on the continuity and transfer of knowledge to the youth’. The Prime Minister however lamented the conspicuous absence of the youth in the agricultural sector and encouraged a change in the perception towards agriculture as a means to ‘win the war against poverty and hunger’. The youth have been recognized as being key in addressing feeding the nation and that they need to be involved in agriculture to implement new technologies and help grow the sector at an early age so that they can take the industry forward.

Other key issues discussed focused on how young people can engage with the agrifood sector in Africa as producers, processors, entrepreneurs, employees, consumers and citizens. The dialogue also discussed the different components of the agrifood sector and its implication for young people and at alternative policy

approaches to the development of the agrifood sector. The dialogue re-affirmed that there are opportunities for youth engagement in agriculture policy development and that the youth need to be part of decisions and policy processes for agriculture in Africa as they are the generation that will have to ensure that the continent's growing population is fed. This was further echoed by the Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs in Swaziland, when she emphasized that as Government, 'we shall ensure the youth are part of decisions about the future of agriculture in Africa as they are the generation that will have to ensure that the continents growing population is fed.' It has however been noted that the youth is most often excluded from participation in the policy processes yet the policies also have a bearing on the youth. In Swaziland, although 43% of the total population comprises of the youth, the current urban and rural structures allow for very minimal participation of the youth in the economic, social and political arena. Youth participation is therefore minimal in decision making-making processes at National and local levels. Furthermore there is no access for youth to legislative and policy making bodies in order for their close involvement in the formulation, execution and monitoring of youth activities and programmes. This is in contrary to a poll that was undertake by Future Agricultures Organization where the survey indicated that that 54.7% of the voters agreed that young people should play a central role in formulating agricultural policy.

It is against this background that FANRPAN commissioned this survey to study on current and emerging youth policies and initiatives in Swaziland with a special focus on links to agriculture while identifying gaps and opportunities for developing national youth and agriculture policies within agricultural policies with appropriate policy recommendations.

2. Country Background

2.1. Swaziland agricultural profile

The Kingdom of Swaziland is a small landlocked country bordering South Africa and Mozambique with a population of about 1.0 million, of which 76 % is rural with approximately 53% of the population being females and 47% male, while the proportion of those under age 15 years is 40 percent with a life expectancy at birth of 41 years (UNDP 2007). According to the Human Development Report (UNDP, 2007) the population size and structure have been significantly affected by the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS. As a result of the pandemic, the population has declined over the previous decade.

Findings from the Swaziland Demographic Health Survey (SDHS) conducted from 2006–2007 estimated an adult HIV prevalence rate of 25.9 %, (31% for females and 20% males) which is one of the world's most severe HIV/AIDS epidemic and poses a serious challenge to the country's economic development. The regional breakdown of the HIV prevalence is Hhohho (29%), Lubombo (26%), Manzini (25%) and Shiselweni at 23%. UNAIDS (2004) estimates that approximately 220,000 people in Swaziland are HIV positive, including 15,000 children under the age of 15 years.

Swaziland is classified as a lower half of the medium human development countries with a Human Development Index (HDI) in 2005 of 0.547, ranked 141 in the world, down from 0.641 in 1995 and 0.592 in 2000. The country has a Gini Index of 50.4, which indicates a high inequality in income distribution. The share of income or expenditure is only 1.6% by the poorest 10% and 4.3% by the poorest 20%; it is 56.3% by the richest 20 % and 40.7% by the richest 10 %. (HDI, 2007)

The Swazi economy is based largely on agriculture and agro-industry. Soft drink concentrate, wood pulp, canned fruit and sugar are the main exports. Primary as well as secondary sugar-cane-based industries constitute the largest part of agro-processing in Swaziland. Sugar contributes about 18% to GDP, 7% to foreign exchange earnings and 35% to agricultural wage employment. It is estimated that

Swaziland contains 166,000 ha of commercial forests; among the largest such tree plantations as a percentage of land utilization in the world. Three companies, with a combined 110,000 ha of land, dominate the industry and are major employers. It is believed that when contractors and their families are added to the core numbers employed they provide a living for at least 20,000 people.

Swaziland's currency is pegged to the South African rand, subsuming Swaziland's monetary policy to South Africa. With an estimated 40% unemployment rate, Swaziland's need to increase the number and size of small and medium enterprises and attract foreign direct investment is acute. Current in Swaziland concern limited supplies of potable water; wildlife populations being depleted because of excessive hunting; overgrazing; soil degradation and soil erosion. Agriculture related statistics (Table 1) show a high proportion of land (80.93%) as arable, but only about a quarter (26.04 %) of cropland is irrigated which may limit diversification and yields.

Agricultural land > % of land area	80.93 % of land area
Agricultural land > sq. km	13,920 sq. km
Permanent crops	12,000 hectares
value added > annual % growth	1.69 %
Agricultural machinery > tractors per 100 hectares of arable land	221.91
Agricultural raw materials exports > % of merchandise exports	7.83%
Agricultural raw materials imports > % of merchandise imports	2.2 %
Agriculture, value added > constant 2000 US\$ (per capita)	129.654 \$ per capita
Agriculture, value added > current US\$ (per \$ GDP)	65.403 \$ per \$1,000 of GDP
Land use > Arable land	10.25%
Agriculture, value added > current US\$ (per capita)	157.898 \$ per capita
Irrigated land > % of cropland	26.04%

SOURCES: World Development Indicators database; Agribusiness Online; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2000; The World Bank

There has been a general decline in exports to the Southern African Customs Union (SACU)'s exports to world as well as diminishing imports into the country (Swaziland) from world in various products. The GDP - per capita (PPP) has remained stable between 2008 and 2010 (\$4,500 est.), declining only slightly in 2009 (\$4,400 est.). Aid constitutes only 0.9% of GDP (Aid as %). According to 2010 estimates, agriculture contributed 8.6–12% to GDP; industry contributed 42% while services accounted for 49.4%.

Inflation rate (consumer prices) declined between 2009 (7.3% est.) and 2010 (5% est.). Over the same period, imports increased from \$1.585 billion (2009 est.) to \$1.643 billion (2010 est.). The import commodities machinery, transport equipment, foodstuffs (including vegetables of which are estimated to account for 85–90% of the national consumption), petroleum products and chemicals. The proportion of agricultural raw materials as depicted by Table 2 below indicates a significant decline between 2000 (2.3%) and 2007 (0.97%).

Table 2: Agricultural raw materials imports (% of merchandise imports)	
Year	Value
2000	2.30
2001	2.70
2002	2.22
2003	1.86
2004	1.21
2005	0.94
2006	0.89
2007	0.97

Export commodities are dominated by soft drink concentrates, sugar, wood pulp, cotton yarn, citrus and canned fruit. Agriculture products for the export market also include corn, tobacco, rice, pineapples, sorghum, peanuts; cattle, goats and sheep (Table 3).

Table 3. Trade Indicators for Fresh food exports in 2009	
Indicator's Description	Fresh food
	(Value)
Value of exports (in thousand US\$)	66,875
Export growth in value, p.a. (%)	27%
Share in national exports (%)	6%
Share in national imports (%)	13%
Relative trade balance (%)	26%
Relative unit value (world average = 1)	0.9
Net exports (in thousand US\$)	27,816
Per capita exports US\$/inhabitant)	57.3
Share in world market (%)	0.01%

Source: ITC Trade Map database (2009)

According to the Agricultural Diversification Strategy (2010), a healthier, more profitable agricultural sector will be required to make contribution to domestic revenues in view of dwindling SACU revenue. The decline in customs revenue will be associated with an increase in the flow of goods into SACU without customs duties (following trade liberalisation).

2.2. Youth in Swaziland

2.2.1. Definition of the youth

Based on the Youth Policy, the youth in Swaziland are defined as ‘young men and women aged from 15 to 35 years of age.’

The policy definition however recognizes that this definition has generally been used to characterize a segment of the population seen as violent, unruly, undisciplined and underdeveloped and seeks to provide an environment and mean whereby the concept of ‘youth’ is defined more positively.

2.2.2. Critical areas of consideration for youth

2.2.2.1. Literacy level

According to the Multiplier Indicator Cluster Survey (2010), the literacy rate for Swazis is high (89.1%) with 90.2% for males and 88.3% for females. For the age group between 15–24yrs is quite higher among women than men as indicated by the 94% for women and 91% for men. However the literacy rates are higher for the urban areas than in the rural areas of Swaziland with Manzini region indicating higher percentages (93.5%) than the other regions where Lubombo has the lowest rate with 82.2%.

There has been an increase in the literacy rates over the past 30 years for Swaziland as highlighted. In 1986, it was 70.1%; in 1997 it was 81.3% and 89.1% in 2007.

The high literacy levels ought to have a positive impact on the participation of the youth in policy processes. It is therefore has a bearings regarding participation of the youth in policy processes as the expectation is that those literate have better comprehension on policy structures and issues. This however is not the case with the Swaziland situation where a majority of the youth do not participate in policy formulation processes as per the expectation. This could be in part attributed to that the youth are not sensitized on their role in the policy formulation processes and the impact of their non participation in the formulation processes.

2.2.2.2. Labour Force breakdown

The labour force breakdown considers the population aged 15 years and above and is illustrated as follows: (Population and housing Census, Volume 5, 2007)

- Total population 15 years and above totals 616 056
- Out of this population, 29.6% (182233) is economically inactive while 54.4% is economically active. Only 16% of the population is unaccounted for
- Amongst the economically inactive, the breakdown is as follows: 26.2% are students, 29.4% are home workers while the remaining population comprising of others is 44.4%.

- Under the economically active category, 40.6% are unemployed while 59.4% are employed.

The Report further outlines that labour force participation for the country is 54% with higher rates for the urban than the rural areas. Further analyses indicate that the Shiselweni region of the country has lower rates than all the other regions for both males and females. Noteworthy is that amongst the 15-19 years age group, more females (25%) participate in labour force than males at 22%, while for the rest of the age brackets (20-80+), males comprises higher rates than females.

Furthermore, the highest percentages are realized for the age ranges of 25-44 years with the highest in the 30-34 year age brackets being 85% for males and 78% for the females.

In terms of unemployment (40.6%), the Population and Housing Survey indicate a higher unemployment rate for females than males with 47.4% for females and 33.6% for males. Furthermore the unemployment rate is lower in the urban areas compared to the rural areas, with Manzini region (35%) with a lower percentage while Shiselweni region has a 51% unemployment rate.

Further analysis highlight that the unemployment rate is high amongst the youth (69%) under the age group 15-19 years. This indicates a high dependency burden on the workforce as a majority of the youth are unemployed and depend on those under employment to survive and have an active life. The rural youth indicate higher unemployment rates than those in the urban for both males and females.

This situation poses a threat to the nation as the non employed youth also has needs that may not be fully met by their parents/guardians and as survival strategies the youth might turn to crime rendering the country unsafe and unstable. Those also unemployed are tempted to engage in other vocations including being sex workers leading to increased early pregnancies, higher HIV incidences and increased drug abuse amongst others.

According to Table 4 below, the distribution of the population in terms of occupation is illustrated as follows:

Table 4: Table of Occupations.

Occupation type	Male (%)	Females (%)	Overall (%)
Legislators, senior officials and managers	3.7	2.0	3.0
Professionals	6.8	11.1	9.0
Technical and associate professionals	3.0	2.5	3.0
Clerks	3.4	7.6	6.0
Service, shops and marketing sales workers	15.0	18.9	17.0
Skilled agricultural and fishery	5.7	4.3	5.0
Craft and related trade	18.1	9.4	13.0
Plant and machinery operators	12.1	9.4	10.0
Elementary occupations	21.6	24.7	24.0
Unstated	10.7	10.2	10.0
Total	100	100	100

Source: CSO (2007)

The above table illustrates that a very small proportion of the population is employed in agriculture as depicted by the 5% yet agriculture is considered as the backbone of the Swaziland economy. This state of affairs might be a result of the negative perceptions towards agriculture including that agriculture is dirty and a backward profession.

This is further illustrated by the Table 5 below which provides, statistics of students enrolled in the University of Swaziland (UNISWA) under the Faculty of Agriculture and studying agricultural programs.

2.2.2.3. Migration

Internal migration in Swaziland is mostly by young people between the ages 24–34 years and has continued to be positive for Hhohho and Manzini regions (due to urbanization status) with negative net migration for Shiselweni and Lubombo. Findings indicate that females indicate higher proportions (52.7%) than males (47.3%) regarding migration where most of the migrants are those with secondary and high school education. Furthermore, a majority of those who migrate are unmarried. The higher proportion of females migrating into urban areas may result in the rising incidence of poverty, crime, prostitution, violence and exploitation.

The migration is high and indicates that most young people do not want to reside in the rural areas where agriculture is mainly practised. This situation therefore comprises agricultural production as the body abled individuals who have the potential to farm migrate to the urban areas to engage in none agricultural based initiatives rendering the country food unsecured as the farming is then left for the elderly who most often are incapable to farming vast lands due to their conditions. The youth view migration as an avenue to improve their status, learn new skills and transit into adulthood.

3. Methodology

Approach adopted in undertaking the survey

The study is qualitative in nature and seeks to identify gaps and opportunities for developing national youth and agriculture policies within agricultural policies and make appropriate policy decisions. This was achieved through a desk review process where an assessment of the current policies and initiatives with a special emphasis to agriculture including the Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Programme (PRSAP), National Youth Policy, Food Security Policy and Comprehensive Agricultural Sector Policy (CASP). Other national documents that were reviewed included Human Development Report and Annual Reports from the Ministry of Agriculture and Department of Youth Affairs.

Focus group discussions were also conducted with key stakeholders that included the Ministry of Agriculture staff working on a Youth Program (4S) where information on the constraints faced by the youth in agriculture was solicited as well as solutions to addressing those constraints and proposed recommendations.

The consultant also had an opportunity to participate in a dialogue hosted by UMOBA UNISWA Society (A youth based association at UNISWA Faculty of Agriculture) on ‘Swazi Youth for Agribusiness to eliminate Hunger and Poverty’ where a number of speakers from the UN (UNDP and FAO), Government (Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs and Swaziland Revenue Authority) and the Swaziland National Agricultural Union. During this forum pertinent information was shared that bordered on youth issues in relation to agribusiness as well as sharing of experiences by some of the panellist.

Furthermore key members of the UMBOA society and some of UNISWA students shared their insight through a focus group discussion on the engagement of youth in agriculture and in the identification of gaps and opportunities for youth participation in agriculture. During the discussion a SWOT Analysis was

undertaken to capture key issues related to strengths and weakness under various topics which shall lead to the identification of the gaps and opportunities for future engagements.

4. Youth and Agriculture under current policies

4.1. Youth and policies

Swaziland has its youth programme housed under the Ministry of Sport, Culture and Youth Affairs (MOSCYA), which has been recently established under the Swazi Government. The vision of the youth affairs department is, ‘creating an enabling environment for young people to actively participate and contribute to the transformation and socio-economic development and good governance processes that shape the present and future destiny of communities in which they live.’

Specifically the department seeks to:

- Provide support, lobbying and advocacy on all issues pertaining to the youth
- Formulate policies and programmes and further provide professional guidance to the Swaziland National Youth Council (SNYC) on their implementation
- Mobilize, secure and allocate financial resources to the SNYC for the implementation of the youth policies and programmes
- Liaise with ministries and other national agencies
- Supervise, monitor and evaluate the performance of the SNYC
- Integrate and harmonize youth development and empowerment programmes at national and local levels

An initial Youth policy was adopted in 2002 after which a review was conducted in 2007 which led to a revised policy being adopted in 2009. This policy seeks to create and ensure an enabling environment for developing youth to their full potential, socially, mentally, physically, culturally and spiritually by providing training and economic empowerment to further the aims of sustainable human development.

The specific objectives of the policy are highlighted as follows:

- provide an enabling environment for the youth development so as to enhance sustainable development by ensuring that young people have access to adequate and appropriate programmes and services regardless of their geographic location, race, gender, level of disability, social, religious and economic circumstances
- recognize and promote the participation and contribution of youth in the development of Swaziland by involving the youth in planning, decision making and implementation levels of all youth and development programmes
- enable the youth to initiate actions which promote their own development and that of their communities by fostering creativity and innovation amongst young women and men which promotes initiative and independence, instead of dependency and entitlement
- develop an effective, coordinated and holistic response to the issues facing youth by building capacity of youth development organizations and any other departments or institutions involved with youth affairs to effectively design, implement, manage and monitor youth development programmes and services

The above objectives would be addressed through:

- a common and mutual understanding on the importance and areas of youth development among all concerned groups and individuals in Swaziland
- setting guidelines for addressing youth related issues through a cross sectoral and integrated approach
- setting guidelines for the implementation of youth related programmes
- ensuring sufficient investment by the government and other stakeholders in youth related matters

4.2. Analysis of the youth policy

The policy has highlighted the following challenges for the Youth that specifically border on strategic interventions are outlined as follows:

- The lack of a clear criteria for defining youth
- The MOSCYA does not have a youth specific vision and strategy
- The Ministry is not supported by an Inter-ministerial Committee to ensure the integration of youth issues in all government portfolios
- There is lack of participation of the youth yet they constitute a high proportion of the Swazi population in the formulation and implementation of policy goals
- There is also lack of a youth specific vision statement to clearly guide planning, coordination, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of youth issues at national level
- It has also been revealed that there is lack of youth specific data to inform youth strategies and programmes as well as monitoring and evaluation mechanisms including indicators to measure the impact of the existing programmes

These challenges pose a serious threat to the comprehensive development of youth centred programs for the Swazi youth as they are the core of all the functions that lead to a vibrant youth with a clear focus or direction. Critical issues being the lack of a clear youth definition, vision and strategy by MOSCYA tasked with the responsibility of leading youth issues.

It is therefore recommended that these challenges need to be addressed as a priority intervention towards addressing all youth issues in Swaziland. The interventions need to be classified in a prioritized manner and under immediate, short term and medium term interventions to facilitate the implementation process.

The policy further considers the following areas of focus as being priority for the youth of Swaziland.

1. HIV/AIDS
2. Education, Training and skills development
3. Participation, partnership and leadership

4. Poverty and Unemployment
5. Drug and substance abuse
6. Gender equity, equality and gender based violence
7. Arts, media, sports and culture
8. Peace, security and law enforcement
9. Environment and sustainable development
10. Sexual reproductive health

The implementation of the youth policy has been mandated to the Swaziland National Youth Council (SNYC) which is the umbrella body for youth associations and the voice of young people in Swaziland through a Memorandum of Understanding. The SNYC is expected to:

- Coordinate at national and community level
- Engage in advocacy on youth issues and inform the Government of Swaziland on youth issues
- Implement the youth programmes through delegation to member associations and implementing partners
- Build the capacity of partner institutions
- Monitor and evaluate

4.3. Linkages of policy with agriculture

Throughout the policy document, there is no direct link with agriculture whatsoever for the youth including review of agri-based policies aligned towards the youth. The expectation would be that following the review and that agriculture is key in Swaziland, issues related to agriculture would be addressed under poverty and unemployment or under environment and sustainable development in the policy. However this is not the case as the strategic intervention proposed for poverty and unemployment is on creating a conducive policy environment to address issues of poverty and unemployment for the youth focusing on the establishment of funds for youth to engage in entrepreneurial initiatives without explicitly highlighting those initiatives as well as job creation policies for the youth. Furthermore under

environment and sustainable development, emphasis on the policy is on youth participation in the design, implementation and evaluation of environmental policies focusing on conservation of natural resources at local and national levels.

However, the policy allows for reviews after every five years, with allowances for policy sectors which would need to be reviewed more frequently. Furthermore the review process also focuses on specific objectives and strategies of the National Youth policy involving a re-evaluation of the major goals and objectives of the policy along with the identified strategies.

Table 5. Matrix for policy analysis

Policy	Mention of youth	Opportunities for youth	Implemented / not implemented	Purpose of policy	Age of policy (relevance)
Comprehensive Agricultural Sector Policy (CASP)	Mentioned under Food Security sub component Food Security and HIV/AIDS	The CASP sets out to facilitate and encourage the youth and unemployed to engage in food production.	Being implemented through the 4S/CYDP program by the Ministry of Agriculture	The goal of CASP is to ensure that the agriculture sector contributes fully to the socioeconomic development of the country. The broad objective is to provide clear guidance on policy options and measures necessary to enhance sustainable agriculture sector development and its contribution to overall economic growth, poverty alleviation, food security and sustainable natural resources management	2005 and relevant to youth engagement in agriculture and there are program being implemented in this regards. Most farming in Swaziland is undertaken in the rural areas where a majority of the youth reside
Food security Policy	Mentioned under promoting the role of	The strategy seeks to promote careers and	Being implemented through 4S/CYDP	The Food Security Policy's specific purpose is to	2005 and relevant to youth and

Policy	Mention of youth	Opportunities for youth	Implemented / not implemented	Purpose of policy	Age of policy (relevance)
	women and youth in food production	participation of youth in agriculture, provide vocational training programmes in agricultural production and marketing, and support agricultural income-generating activities for youth and other vulnerable groups at community level.	under the Ministry of Agriculture The Schools Agriculture Program provides for vocational agriculture at high school level	provide clear guidance regarding the strategies and measures that must be adopted in order to improve food security for all people in Swaziland. At the same time, it must support related initiatives on reducing poverty, improving agricultural production and marketing, enhancing environmental management, strengthening disaster preparedness, improving health delivery and broadening access to water and sanitation.	agriculture
Poverty Reduction and Strategy and Action Programme (PRSAP)	Mentioned under Strategies to create employment and	Review retirement laws and facilitate the employment and	Considerations being made for voluntary exit under	The overriding goal of the PRSAP is to reduce poverty by more than 50% by 2015	

Policy	Mention of youth	Opportunities for youth	Implemented / not implemented	Purpose of policy	Age of policy (relevance)
	business opportunities	<p>business development of the youth;</p> <p>In addition, technical and vocational subjects as well as business skills will be introduced in all schools at an early age in order to build a culture of entrepreneurship among the youth and reduce the dependency on formal employment.</p> <p>PRSAP promotes the development of policies that will put women and the youth in the mainstream of the</p>	<p>Government</p> <p>Establishment of the Youth Fund by MOSYCA to address business development opportunities for the youth</p> <p>Government has supported the establishment of vocational skills training facilities such as MITC, NASTC, SITC</p>	<p>and then ultimately eradicate it by 2022.</p> <p>In addition to reducing income poverty, the PRSAP seeks to achieve an acceptable level of living standards for the entire population free from deprivation, malnutrition, vulnerability to ill health and preventable diseases, illiteracy, isolation, poor shelter, voicelessness and vulnerability to external shocks. The PRSAP advocates for pro-poor fiscal policy and service delivery..</p>	

Policy	Mention of youth	Opportunities for youth	Implemented / not implemented	Purpose of policy	Age of policy (relevance)
		<p>labour market particularly, by improving their access to resources.</p> <p>Government, civil society and the private sector have to assist in developing programmes, which will encourage the disillusioned youth to engage in income generating activities.</p>			
Land Policy	No mention of youth	There are opportunities for youth as land is necessary for agricultural engagement		This National Land Policy is to provide the broad policy framework of directives to which all subsidiary policies are to conform. Most of these subsidiary	

Policy	Mention of youth	Opportunities for youth	Implemented / not implemented	Purpose of policy	Age of policy (relevance)
				<p>policies are yet to be formulated</p> <p>To improve access to land and secure tenure</p> <p>To encourage the rational and sustainable use of land.</p> <p>Specifically the land policy aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -improve productivity, income and living conditions and alleviate poverty. -reduce land-related conflicts. -develop an efficient and effective system of land administration. -encourage land ownership by Swazi citizens 	

Policy	Mention of youth	Opportunities for youth	Implemented / not implemented	Purpose of policy	Age of policy (relevance)
Labour policy					

4.4. Discussion on the policies that have youth considerations

4.4.1. Comprehensive Agricultural Sector Policy

This policy addresses issues related to youth engagement in the agricultural sector. The CASP recognizes the participation of youth in agriculture as depicted in the policy that:

‘For the Agricultural sector to improve and thus develop a vibrant economy for Swaziland, there is need to vigorously engage the youth of Swaziland in agricultural production through initiatives such as the 4-S program.’

The key issues raised in the CASP that border on the youth regarding agriculture were cited as follows:

- Social life and other functions in the rural areas are disrupted by the decimation of the adult population by HIV/AIDS and high absence of males
- Among the vulnerable groups, youth and gender play the most important role
- The youth form an increasingly large portion of rural populations, yet their participation in farming is limited

The following strategic recommendations were therefore made for the youth in the Comprehensive Agriculture Sector Policy:

- The youth should have equal access to arable land, facilities and services including irrigation and appropriate credit services
- Promote careers and participation of youth in agriculture and provide training programs in aspects such as production, services and marketing
- Adapt farming practices to the available labor force which is more that ever dominated by youth and women.

4.4.2. Food Security Policy

This policy emphasises on the role of the youth in the food security sector especially in the production arena.

The key issues on youth highlighted in the policy were highlighted as:

- Youth and women are becoming increasingly more vulnerable, in particular orphans and other children, creating very serious social and food-security problems.
- HIV/AIDS has dramatically changed the population structure and social functions, in particular in the rural areas where the youth forms the majority of the population and the active middle-age group - especially males - is largely disappearing.
- The youth form an increasingly large portion of rural populations, yet their participation in both rainfed and irrigation farming is limited.

The main recommendation made in this policy was the promotion of the role of youth and women in Food Production. However, the policy does not provide strategic recommendations on how the role of the youth would be promoted.

5. Perception of youth on changing realities

5.1. Challenges faced by the Youth in agriculture

During a panel discussion focusing on youth participation and Agribusiness hosted by UMOBA, the following challenges were highlighted regarding youth in relation to agriculture production:

- There is lack of agricultural training especially for the rural youth
- There is lack of rural youth participation in the drafting of policies that also border on youth issues
- There are high agricultural input costs which lead to reduced profits due to competition with imported products
- The none visibility of youth on the land policy especially on access to land (Land Policy in draft)

Through the focus group discussion forums with Officers from the Ministry of Agriculture that work with the youth and the youth representatives, the following constraints were highlighted:

- Low number of youth engaged in agriculture and those that participate in agriculture are based in the rural areas
- Lack of motivation of youth to engage in agribased enterprises due to the negative perceptions on agribusiness
- Absence of a National Youth Network on Agriculture by the youth which should be advocating for youth engagement, participation and recognition in agriculture based programs
- Agriculture being considered as a survival enterprises than a profitable trade where careers can be focused on
- Inability of Government through the Ministry of Agriculture to provide financial support to youth groups engaged in agribased enterprises
- Agriculture being considered as a rural livelihood means
- Lack of exposure to information on innovative agriculture that would entice youth to consider agriculture as a career option

- Stagnant agriculture – not being innovative
- Low returns realized from agriculture due to high production costs and low market prices
- Lack of markets or market gluts leading to poor returns on agriculture
- Low levels of participation by youth in policy discussions and national programs requiring youth involvement especially in the decision making processes

Furthermore, the following recommendations were made as regards to promoting youth engagement in agriculture.

- Need for a shift in the mindset of the youth regarding agriculture so that it is not viewed negatively as a non profit and laborious trade but a profitable career with positive prospects
- Youth should be involved in all stages and areas of policy development
- More focus on evidence based research on youth development issues by the country to facilitate better understanding and how the youth can best be engaged as economic drivers in the country
- Development of policies and programs that are youth responsive
- The National Youth Policy should be strengthened to ensure that youth participation in community and civic affairs

5.2. Perceptions of youth on agriculture

The survey highlighted that the youth are not aware of most of the current trends in agriculture in including value chains, green evolution etc. Notably is that the Food Crisis is known in most circles due to its direct impact in contributing to soaring of food prices in Swaziland as well as Climate Change and Global Warming as it has a direct effect on our everyday existence.

During the UMOBA panel discussion, the Ministry of Agriculture through the Principal Secretary (PS) informed the participants that the Ministry has refocused its mandate to a commercialization oriented approach which is imbedded in value

chain through agri-businesses where the youth are also eligible to participate. It was evident during the discussion that the youth apparently have not been aware of the changes in the Ministries mandate as well as how they can participate and benefit from the value chain through agribusiness. The PS further highlighted a number of potential opportunities where the youth could positively participate and benefit through value chain, which included cassava production, sunflower oil production, and dairy among others.

It has been also revealed that the youth do not pay much attention to policy issues including those that have a direct bearing on the youth. On being probed on what the youth policy entails, a majority of the youth were unaware of its contents except to highlight that the policy should indicate strategies on how to address the issue of unemployment and for job creation for young people. There is however greater awareness by the youth regarding funding for start up capital including the Youth Enterprise Fund as most youths have details and information of this fund though they have reservation on how it is accessed or the eligibility to access the funds through the traditional structures. Other potential funders highlighted included FINCORP and Technoserve BBB Program.

There is virtually lack of knowledge regarding the Comprehensive Agricultural Sector policy and what it entails regarding youth participation and engagement in agriculture by the youth. Upon probing it was indicated by the youth that they are not sensitized on their role in the policy formulation and that they perceive policies as being for the adults as their opinions would not be considered given that they are youth. As such, during forums where community meetings are held where some of the consultations take place, they hardly attend as their parents are the ones that normally attend such forums.

It was further evident during the UMBOBA discussions that the young generation was unaware that the Ministry of Agriculture has a youth program that focuses on skills development and entrepreneurship referred to as the 4S / Children and Youth

Development Program. The observation made by the participants was that the Ministry is not marketing this program to the entire nation and was therefore encouraged to engage in a vigorous national marketing campaign on its existing programs so as to create awareness on the existence of this program to benefit a wider scope of the youth.

5.3. Opportunities for the youth in agriculture

The youth indicated that opportunities for their participation in the agricultural sector was mainly through agri-business. This realization was a result of lack of employment for the youth including those that are graduates from the local University. This has further been motivated by the availability of funding by a number of institutions including Government through the Youth Enterprise Fund where the youth are eligible to loan funds which can be used for capital financing of their businesses either as individuals or associations including agri-based enterprises.

It is however clear that the youth have not yet fully comprehended the agri-based value chain and how they can fully participate in the process through establishment of agri-businesses as producers, processors or employers.

5.4. Engaging young people in agriculture

There is general realization by the youth that agriculture is still not an attractive career path and that it is still regarded as an inferior career in Swaziland. This has been partially attributed to that agriculture has not been innovative to attract the youth and has been stagnant over the years and therefore not motivating the young people to fully participate in this sector. The following recommendations were highlighted to make agriculture attractive to the youth:

- Demystifying the negative myths about agriculture to result in positive mind set

- Presenting agriculture as a profitable venture with practical examples of success stories from others citizens including some of the young people (role modelling agriculture)
- Promoting agri-business through availing Special Agriculture funding for young people engaged in agriculture
- Providing incentives to young people engaged in agriculture e.g. competitive prices for young entrepreneurs engaged in agriculture such as Young Farmers Competition
- Offering preferential treatment for young farmers e.g. water levy, taxation laxity
- Availing market opportunities for young farmers to trade fairly than to be made to compete with seasoned farmers
- Modernising agriculture: Availing and supporting new farming technologies that are efficient, cost saving and not labour intensive
- Providing training opportunities for the youth in new technologies such as Conservation Agriculture, Permeaculture, Hydroponics, Agro-processing
- Recognition and supporting young graduates as potential employees within the agribusiness sector
- Support in establishing and managing a youth network for youth in agriculture

The onus of attractive the youth to agriculture was vested upon the different stakeholders in the agricultural sector including the Ministry of Agriculture, Financing institutions, other government departments such as Natural Resources and the Revenue Authority as well as Non Governmental Organizations.

5.5. Information sharing

The youth highlighted that they share information on various subjects using different media forums. These include the local newspapers where they feature articles, dialogues or panel discussions that are formally organized such as those hosted by UMOBA and other community based trainings offered by NGOs.

However one tool that was identified as having a great potential was the use of the cellphone through internet connection. It is estimated that about 800 individuals out of the 1.1m population of Swaziland are connected to the cellphone network. This illustrates a high number of individuals that have access to internet via their cellphones and can therefore be privy to facebook or twitter where there is a lot of information sharing nationally and internationally.

It was indicated during the survey that such services are utilized by young people who can further share on agriculture information as and when required. Currently the youth highlighted that they do not use these technology for sharing agricultural information but that it has a potential to be used once there is a need to access such information. The decay however was that there is no database for agribased information in Swaziland where agriculture information such as prices for vegetables would be accessed and as such this technology would not be of direct benefit on Swazi based information at the current moment.

5.6. Incentives for engagement in agri based initiatives

Incentives in this context are considered as financial support in the form of grants or loans that are partly or wholly targeted towards agriculture related initiatives for both youth focused and nationalized initiatives including the rural and urban agri-based population of Swaziland.

5.6.1. Youth focused funding support

Youth Empowerment Fund (YEF)

A Youth Fund was established to support business initiatives for youth covering a wide scope including agricultural activities. The funding was established in 2010 for youth entrepreneurial activities and is funded by Government. All youth qualify to borrow funds from this source for viable business enterprises.

4S/CYDP

Grant funding for youth groups engaged in agricultural activities including training and procurement of inputs and materials. Support is for individuals working in groups.

Chinese mission

Supports block farming for youth groups engaged in crop farming through grant support.

Other sources of fund covering agriculture

- FINCORP (loan facility)
- Technoserve through BBB Program (grant)
- Tinkhundla Empowerment Fund (grant)
- Inhlanyelo Fund (loan facility)
- SSGLS (loan facility)

Other incentives

- Agricultural inputs including seeds, fertilizers, animal feeds, pesticides are zero rated under the Government Value Added Tax (VAT)

Table 6: Key institutions, mechanisms and tools for the engagement of youth in agriculture

Who?	Why?	How?	Strengths	Weaknesses
Ministries (Governments) e.g. Agriculture, Youth, Labour	Government is a permanent institutions and all programs need to be under a Government institutions to also benefit from Government budget	This can be achieved through the Government Ministry of Youth affairs	Government has adequate resources including personnel to facilitate the functioning of youth programs	Implementation rate by Government is usually slow
International Organizations	For support in terms of funding for the youth programs These institutions also provide technical support to project activities	This could be directed through farmers organizations and Government Ministries working with the youth	They can play an effective advocacy role especially with Governments	Challenges with protocol and bureaucracy
Academic/research institutions	They act as a resource for information Most youth are	Youth forums could be established within these institutions to act as a link between the institution	They have resources for compiling and storing information	They may not always have the resources to facilitate up to date research

	<p>enrolled in these institutions</p> <p>Such institutions have influence on providing critical advice and information</p>	and the general public	Research institutions can test new technologies for agricultural advancement	Some of the information may be obsolete
Farmer organizations	<p>The organizations require more youthful members who have innovative ideas and body abled individuals</p> <p>To share on information by both old and young farmers</p>	Existing Farmer Organizations need to recruit the youth to be part of their membership	Such institutions can lobby for farmers with Government and other stakeholders	The local farmers organizations are still not well structured and capacitated
NGOs				

7. Conclusions

The main conclusion that can be drawn from this survey is that there is minimal participation of the youth in the policy formulation processes in Swaziland. This is in part attributed to the following:

- The youth are not sensitized on their role in the policy formulation process and therefore do not prioritize their participation in the processes
- The youth do not attend forums especially at community level where the policy issues are discussed during data collection and verification exercises

Swaziland does not have a policy formulation guideline which could in part have contributed to..

- policy formulators not considering the youth as part of the key stakeholders during the policy formulation processes yet the policy also borders on youth as well

Two key policies, being the Comprehensive Agriculture and Food Security Policies have strategic policy considerations for youth engagement in agriculture which however do not articulate how they are linked with the Youth Ministry.

The Youth Policy appear to be working in isolation of other sectors as indicated by its silence on agricultural considerations or agri based policy issues, which would promote the engagement of youth in agriculture.

The Ministry of Agriculture lacks adequate capacity to mainstream youth issues in policies and programs

A majority of the youth lack pertinent information in relation to the current status quo of agriculture evolution within the region and the country and how they can participate and benefit from these various initiatives such as CAADP, NEPAD, G20

Agriculture remains unattractive to a majority of the youth in Swaziland

The Department of Youth Affairs has a serious challenge regarding staff capacity which compromises service delivery of the department.

8. Recommendations

- The challenges articulated for the Youth Ministry as outlined earlier in the report need to be addressed as a priority intervention towards addressing all youth issues in Swaziland. The interventions need to be classified in a prioritized manner and under immediate, short term and medium term interventions to facilitate the implementation process
- The Youth policy needs to be integrated with key macro and sectoral policies to avoid youth activities to operate in isolation
- Given the severity of the unemployment situation in Swaziland, the Youth policy needs to articulate a more elaborative and practical approach to addressing this concern
- The Youth Policy has to indicate how it is linked to the other policy documents where the youth also have a stake
- The youth needs to be sensitized by MOSYCA through SNYC on the importance, on its role and actual participation in policy formulation processes as well as the consequence of lack of participation
- A policy formulation guideline needs to be developed by Swaziland. This responsibility should be taken up by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
- Promotion of innovative agriculture to promote or attract youth into the agricultural sector
- Strengthen the capacity of the Department of Youth Affairs and SNYC to undertake its role effectively

- There is a need to develop a supportive policy environment for youth participation in the country
- Farmers national institutions like SNAU need to promote a Youth Wing or Network within their organization to solely focus on youth agriculture based concerns (this is subject to SNAU being fully capacitated and stable as a national farmer organization)
- Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture to mainstream youth issues in policies and programs

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10. Annexes

a. Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immuno-deficiency syndrome
BBB	Believe, Begin, Become Program
CASP	Comprehensive Agricultural Sector Policy
CSO	Central Statistical Office
FANRPAN	Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network
FINCORP	Swaziland Finance Corporation
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV	Human Immuno-virus
MITC	Manzini Industrial Training Centre
MOSCYA	Ministry of Sport, Culture and Youth Affairs
NASTC	Nhlangano Agricultural Skills Training Centre
PRSAP	Poverty Reduction and Strategy and Action Plan
SACU	Southern African Customs Union
SITC	Siteki Industrial Training Centre
SNYC	Swaziland National Youth Council
SSGLS	Small Scale Guarantee Loan Scheme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNAIDS	Joint UN Programme on HIV and AIDS
UNISWA	University of Swaziland
VAT	Value Added Tax
YEF	Youth Empowerment Fund

b. Guiding research questions

Ministry 4S staff

1. Having worked with the youth in agri based enterprises, what would be the main constraints faced by youth in agriculture in general?
2. What challenges can you outline that the youth encounter in policy formulation?
3. How is the youth engaged in policy formulation processes in the country?
 - a. Who engages them?
 - b. How do they participate?
4. Where are new opportunities for youth in the agricultural sector?
5. What needs to be done to attract youth to agriculture?
6. What would you recommendations for youth participation in agriculture?
 - c. General issues
 - d. Policy issues

UMOBA and UNISWA Students

1. How do you regards the status of agriculture in Swaziland in terms of changing realities?
 - if changing how is it changing and where is it being focused?
2. Where are new opportunities for youth within this change?
3. Which institutions provide support for youth enterprises?
 - general issues
 - agricultural enterprises

4. How do you see yourself as youth participating in this change?
5. How as young people do you share information on agriculture?
 - -what type of information do you share
 - -how often do you share this information
6. How can young people be engaged in agriculture?
7. How can Agriculture be made attractive for youth engagement?
8. What is your understanding on policy issues?
 - which policies are youth focused?
 - what entails the CASP?
 - what entails the Youth Policy
9. How do you participate in policy processes as youth?
10. What are the challenges regarding youth participation in policy formulation?
11. Recommendations regarding youth in;
 - agriculture
 - participation in policy processes