



Rural Youth in Global South: Research and Policy Priorities

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Rural Youth in the South...Who Are They



Unique Challenges For Rural Youth

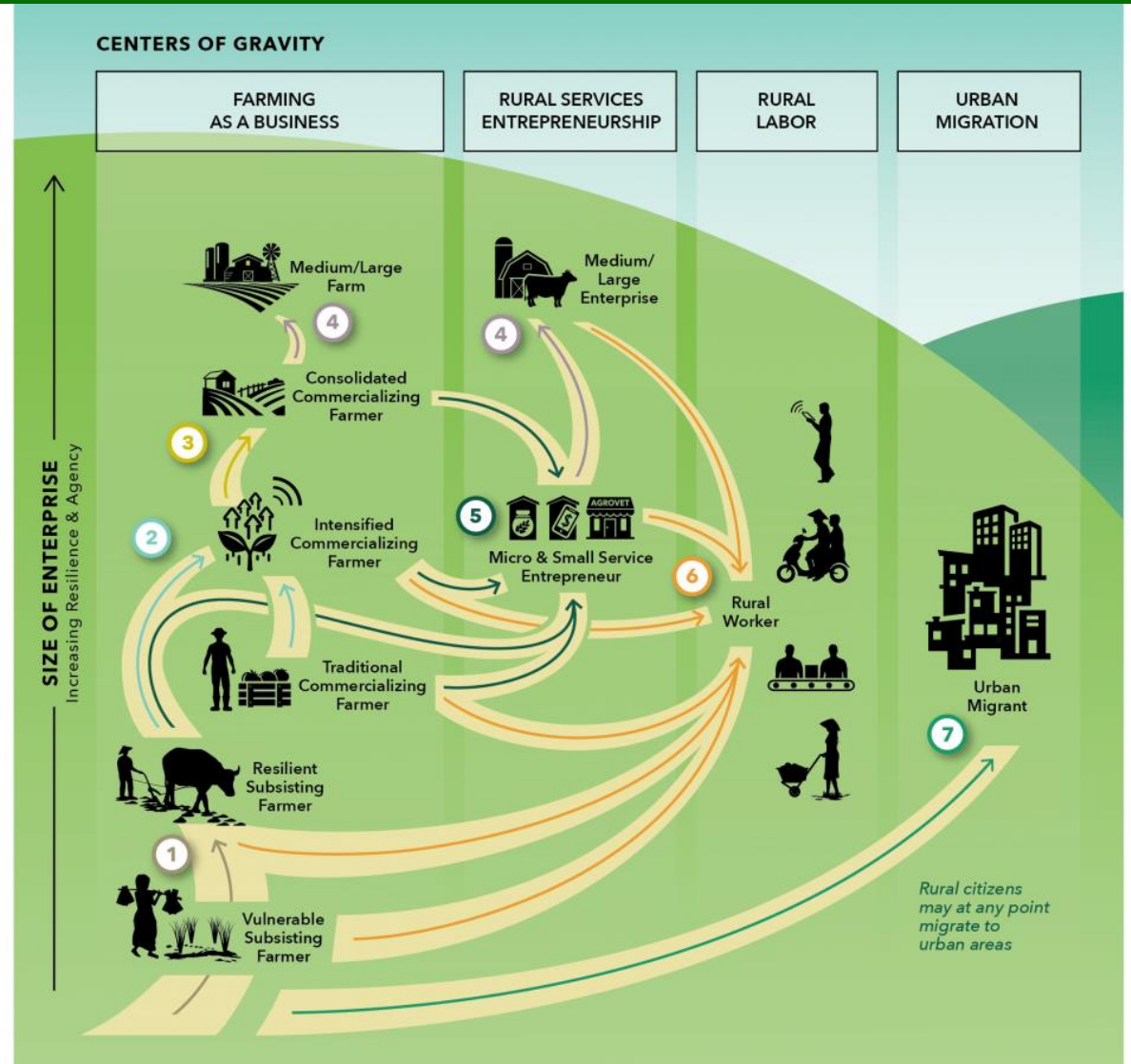
- **Mobility:** Youth tend to be more mobile than older adults, moving between urban and rural areas, between various kinds of formal and informal employment, and inside or outside of agriculture.
- **Urban migration:** That higher level of mobility is associated with higher levels of urban migration, driven at least in part by perceived and actual limited opportunities for employment in rural areas.
- **Assets:** Relative to older adults, youth are significantly less likely to own or manage agricultural holdings and medium or large rural enterprises.
- **Family of origin:** The familial starting point of youth has a very strong impact on their livelihood trajectory.
- **Gender:** Opportunities to accumulate human capital, build social networks and access assets are highly gendered



The Rural Transition Pathways Model And Youth

These transition pathways coalesce around four centers of gravity — broad categories of livelihoods that rural households may choose to engage with:

- Farming as a business
- Rural services entrepreneurship
- Rural labor
- Urban migration



Using a Pathways Lens to Address youth challenges

PATHWAYS

1 Developing a Resilience Buffer

Smallholder farmer continues to farm primarily for subsistence—has little or no surplus—but is able to improve farming practices and build assets to strengthen its resilience to external shocks.

2 Farm Intensification

Smallholder farmer takes a business-oriented approach to farming, and is able to generate a surplus and increase production value through improved inputs, better farming practices, and regular sales to buyers and traders.

3 Land Consolidation

Farmer takes a business-oriented approach to farming and is able to consolidate multiple plots of land for more efficient, cost-effective, and competitive commercial production.

4 Transition to Formal Enterprise

Farmer or service entrepreneur consolidates its activities into a formal enterprise that is fully integrated into the value chain and relies primarily on hired labor and mechanization.

5 Transition to Service Provision

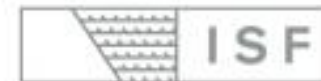
Smallholder farmer shifts away from agricultural production and instead pursues an entrepreneurship livelihood strategy in rural services, either related to agriculture (e.g., agro-vet) or not (e.g., mobile money agent).

6 Conversion to Rural Employment

Smallholder farmer remains in rural areas but shifts away from self-production or entrepreneurship to become labor for on-farm or off-farm activities.

7 Migration to Urban Areas

Smallholder farmer migrates to urban centers, transitioning to non-agricultural activities.





Thank You

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