



NEPAD NEWS

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NEPAD Agency – University of Pretoria Internship Initiative

The first group of the NEPAD Agency-University of Pretoria internship programme which runs under the ambit of the **NEPAD Agency Young Professionals Programme** completed their tenure at the end of August 2017.

The initiative is part of NEPAD's Pan-African partnership with universities with the aim to develop responsive skill-sets and a sustainable evidence base for national and regional development.

Drawn from various disciplines across the University of Pretoria, the graduate students were deployed in all areas of NEPAD operations for a well-rounded coverage. The internship afforded the youth, as future pan-African leaders, exposure to the work of the African Union through NEPAD by complementing their development-related studies with practical work assignments.

The Head of the Capacity Development Division, Florence Nazare highlighted during an interview that essentially, the development and deepening of pan-African mind-sets among the Continent's youth is an important priority in the NEPAD Capacity Development Strategic Framework (CDSF).

"Further, this internship programme was valuable in promoting the 2017 African Union theme of 'Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth' she said.

The group was seen off at a farewell function on the 25th of August 2017 held at the NEPAD Agency Headquarters. The NEPAD Agency continues to actively mainstream the input of African universities into related national and regional processes.

Sakhiwe Kokela –

"I was placed in the CEO's Office where I worked on a number of assignments that relate to NEPAD's linkages with the African Peer Review Mechanism, Pan African Parliament and South African renewable energy policy".

Komane Lamola –

"Who better to quote than a Pan-Africanist PLO Lumumba, borrowing from the words of another sage of our time Chinua Achebe.

"The development and deepening of pan-African mind-sets among the Continent's youth is an important priority in the NEPAD Capacity Development Strategic Framework (CDSF)."

- Florence Nazare, Head of NEPAD Capacity Development Division

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Prof. Aggrey Ambali, Head of Industrialisation, Science, Technology and Innovation, handing out certificates and awards to the interns



Komane Lamola

"I was happy to join what I considered to be a very good organization and I looked forward to working together with and build a better Africa. I had promised that I would discharge my duties with the delicacy of sleep-walker. I believe that we had worked together well - accommodated me, you fell for me, I fell for you and we called it a game; PLO Lumumba said this and I equally say so.

God bless Alkebulan and God bless NEPAD."

Joint Planning for Infrastructure Delivery

The NEPAD Agency's Regional Integration Infrastructure and Trade Programme (RIITP) convened a joint planning meeting in the last week of August. The meeting brought together stakeholders from Regional Economic Communities and partners including AfDB, GIZ, NEPAD IPPF, UNECA, JICA, DBSA, and the NEPAD Business Foundation (NBF).

This was the second planning meeting convened by RIITP this year and was organised to take stock of project implementation and agree on approaches to streamline implementation for the remainder of 2017.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to think ahead to plans for 2018 and to exchange ideas with funding and implementing partners.

Speaking during the opening of the meeting, Mr. Symerre Grey-Johnson, Head of RIITP thanked the RECs for their commitment to implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA).

"This is an opportune time for us to be having this meeting since in 2018 we will embark on a new phase of the PIDA Capacity Building Programme (PIDA CAP). GIZ support to PIDA will be renewed with new areas of focus, we will build on our relationship with JICA for infrastructure support and we will develop new partnerships in line with the EU Compact for Africa. We should thus take the time to reflect on our delivery and priorities for the remainder of 2017 and new programming starting in 2018", he said.

In the margins of the meeting, a partners roundtable was held in which the key elements of the adjusted 2017 work-plan were presented.

Representing the AfDB, Mr. Mtchera Chirwa commended the NEPAD Agency for the significant progress that had been attained in advancing implementation of several PIDA projects and reaffirmed the Bank's continued commitment. He urged the team to ensure that PIDA CAP attained its targets for phase 1 so as to pave the way for further support for the next phase.



Participants at the Joint Planning Session

Phase 1 of PIDA CAP focused on strengthening the institutional capacity for PIDA implementation and enabled recruitment of infrastructure experts the majority of whom were deployed by the NEPAD Agency in the Regional Economic Communities.

Ms. Anna Waldman from GIZ remarked that the planning meeting was an important aspect of highlighting critical success factors for PIDA implementation and gave an overview of indicative focus areas that would be considered for support in the 2018-2021 GIZ PIDA support.

Remarks were also made by the representative from UNECA Mr. Yinka Adeyemi, from JICA and from the NEPAD Business Foundation.

The meeting ended with gender sensitisation sessions which touched on issues of how to ensure that infrastructure development was inclusive and paid attention to particular aspects of women's participation as beneficiaries and implementers.



“Without effective education and health infrastructures, without decent jobs creation by the millions, younger generations will not be well trained, will not enter the labor market and will not be healthy”

- CEO of the NEPAD Agency, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki

Faced with galloping demographics, what about public policies?

Posted on 24 August, 2017 by Ibrahim Mayaki

I am following up with my latest thoughts on the demographic transition that our continent is experiencing. We have posed the problem in its major trends in our last post, but it is also appropriate, I believe, to see how we can deal with this phenomenon.

One of the levers on which it is possible to act to better control the growth of the population is fertility. It has been said that this involves the education of girls and young women and raising awareness about the challenges of an uncontrolled population increase. Unfortunately, some leaders still view population's growth as a mark of power, and rely on the so-called demographic dividend, but too often forget that this dividend is only possible if everything else follows, from infrastructure to health specialists and schoolteachers.

Let me explain: without effective education and health infrastructures, without decent jobs creation by the millions, younger generations will not be well trained, will not enter the labor market and will not be healthy. They will therefore be able to participate only at the margin in the national economic wealth creation, if these young people still live long enough to become active workers and find a job. Another growing phenomenon, due in large part to the lack of good education and health infrastructures, is the ever-growing illegal migration phenomenon. Indeed, it seems obvious that the tens of thousands of young people who cross the Sahara then the Mediterranean Sea at the risk of their lives and also take the risk of leaving everything, are part of this issue because they feel they have nothing to lose in this adventure. This message of despair must challenge us, because if the population continues to grow at this rate, emigrants will be more and more numerous.

Governments must therefore look at ways and means to lower the fertility rate. We have already ruled out coercion to achieve this goal. But there are other strategies, other public policies that can be tried or implemented. This has been seen in some countries, such as South Africa, Kenya and Malawi.

In Ethiopia, for example, the government has set up a tight network of 42,000 community health workers. These have reduced the cost of health expenditures by 39% between 2005 and 2015, which is already a good achievement in itself, but they have also helped raise awareness among millions of women about birth control. This experience could be expanded to other countries, or even to the entire continent.

Another possible lever is family planning. In 2011, nine governments in West Africa, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and several large private foundations signed an agreement, the “Ouagadougou Partnership”, intended to promote family planning. There are religious, political and social obstacles, but family planning remains one of the proven methods of reducing fertility, provided access to reliable contraceptive methods is available. In this area also public policies can be put in place. And if states do not want to engage directly, they can support and encourage free work on the part of some specialized NGOs.

According to the available studies, in 2013 worldwide, 63% of women aged 15-49 years who are in a couple used a contraceptive method, and 57% a modern method (pill, IUD or sterilization). But for sub-Saharan Africa, only an average of 20-25% of women had access to contraception, with some countries falling below 10%, such as Mali and Eritrea.

As such, North Africa is an exception on the continent. Algeria, Egypt, Morocco or Tunisia have experienced faster population transitions with a current fertility rate of between two to three children per woman. A figure that can be linked to the high proportion of contraceptive use: between 60% and 68%. South of the Sahara, only South Africa is getting near this global average with 60%.

This demonstrates that public policies can effectively address the challenge of reducing fertility. We just have to do it.



Grow Africa @ the 2017 AGRF

The 2017 African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) “Accelerating Africa’s Path to Prosperity: Growing Inclusive Economies and Jobs through Africa” provided a platform for global and African leaders to develop actionable plans to help transform African agriculture.

Once again, Grow Africa played an active role in this year’s AGRF and hosted two agribusiness investment sessions on the prevailing situation of the rice production, processing, and marketing systems in Africa and showcased the recently launched Country Agribusiness Partnership Framework (CAPF).

The CAP-F breakfast session showcased the robust role CAP-F plays in supplementing CAADP country investment plans by stimulating private investments. CAP-F is the mechanism through which engagement between the private sector, producers and the Government will be structured to accelerate private sector investment in agribusiness and agro-industry. CAP-F will also provide a mutual accountability mechanism where all players can be held accountable for their role in transforming Africa agriculture.

In recognition of the importance of private sector investments in developing agribusiness value chains in African countries as part of the operationalization of the CAP-F, the session themed “Driving Regional Value Chain Development in Africa: Rice Value Chains” provided a forum to discuss roles of different providers to support goods and services delivery including governments, financial institutions, and processing technology providers. Partners who attended the session includes USAID, GiZ, EU, UNDP, AGRA, CAADP non-state actor, Rabobank, AUC and NEPAD.

The Rice Value Chain session aimed at supporting the development of initiatives and strategies of various links in the Africa rice value chain in order to: (i) modernize farming systems, (ii) process and enhance the value of local production, (iii) facilitate regional trade in order to curb external dependence of the continent in rice, (iv) promote rice development environment.

Like editions prior, this year the AGRF announced several new business contracts between the private sector, small and medium enterprises, and communities of smallholder farmers, especially in commodity value chains of interest to smallholder farmers. These included a Grow Africa announcements of a US \$ 223 million potato production and processing deal between BlackPace Group and the governments of Rwanda and Nigeria.



Participants at the CAP-F breakfast session

“CAP-F is the mechanism through which engagement between the private sector, producers and the Government will be structured to accelerate private sector investment in agribusiness and agro-industry.”

- William Asiko, Executive Director of Grow Africa

N EPAD Agency trains Science, Technology and Innovation experts in Seychelles

The National Institute for Science, Technology and Innovation (NISTI) in the Republic of Seychelles, in partnership with key national stakeholders, the Ministry of Education (EMIS), the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the University of Seychelles (Guy Morel Institute) and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency held a training workshop during August.

The training session, held in Seychelles focused on formulating a strategy to create an enabling environment for a knowledge-based economy led by innovation.

In his opening remarks, Dr Conrad Shamlaye, Chairperson of NISTI indicated that because NISTI is a relatively new organisation, it is an honour to partner with the NEPAD Agency and SANBio.

“NISTI aims to be a promoter, catalyst, and supporter and, where appropriate, coordinator in the promotion and application of science, technology and innovation. Together with others we have noted that Seychelles has created and continues to strengthen the national framework for STI and for Research and Development. We will work with all our partners in the creation, dissemination and utilisation of knowledge, including the promotion and protection of intellectual property.

Above all, we will pursue the belief that science, technology and innovation serve to address the needs of communities and the challenges that communities face: be they economic development, industrialisation, climate change, food security, epidemics of communicable or non-communicable diseases, preservation of biodiversity or cultural heritage.” he said.

Representing the NEPAD Agency, Dr Tichaona Mangwende, Head of Research and Statistics Cluster, reminded participants that Seychelles wanted to move from an efficiency driven economy to a knowledge-based economy driven by innovation. Mangwende further highlighted that participants needed to reflect on whether current STI indicators are relevant to what matters for Seychelles’ Socio-economic development.

Mr Hambani Mashilani, Senior Policy Officer at the African Union Commission (AUC) said during his remarks that the presence of Seychelles’ Vice-president, H.E Vincent Meriton underscored the importance of political buy-in to accelerate the implementation of Africa’s Science, Technology and Innovation Agenda.

“In 2015, Heads of State and Government of the African Union adopted Agenda 2063 which commits the African continent to deliver on the rising aspirations of its citizens. We believe that Science, Technology and Innovation are among the enablers, and critical tools that we can collectively use to realise this vision. In order to this, we need to create an enabling environment, and boost the necessary STI capacities: infrastructure, critical mass of researchers and promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship development. Above all, we must invest in STI,” he said.

The CEO of NISTI Mr Xavier Estico expressed gratitude for the training facilitated by the NEPAD Agency and ASTII and indicated that the continued collaboration between NISTI, NEPAD, ASTII and SANBio Network will help enhance the development of STI in Africa.

Throughout the training session, reference was made to The Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024), a framework which aims to achieve the vision of speeding up the transition of African countries into innovation-led, knowledge-based economies.



Participants attending the training session



Dr Tichaona Mangwende speaking to the Media



DRC is one of the countries that has prioritised the SLWM because of the huge adverse impacts of land degradation in the country.

TerrAfrica commits to scaling up Sustainable Land and Water Management in DRC

Kinshasa,— The NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, in collaboration with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) organised the TerrAfrica Partnership Joint Mission in the country from 28-31 August 2017.

The objective of the TerrAfrica joint mission was to take stock and get a full understanding of the ongoing work and status of Sustainable Land Management in the country and to see how best to coordinate TerrAfrica partners' efforts to provide comprehensive support to in the design and implementation of DRC's investment framework.

The mission attracted over 20 participants from various government ministries such as the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Agriculture as well key partners including UNDP for a technical meeting. The ministries representatives and partners all highlighted the critical need to firstly prioritize the official launch of the SLWM Platform, interlinked with existing platforms in the country, which will also serve as the platform for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target setting and other related initiatives such as AFR100 in

line with the TerrAfrica's vision of building a harmonised and coordinated approach for all SLWM related initiatives in the country.

The meeting also highlighted the importance of developing at a later state the Country Strategic Investment Framework (CSIF) as a framework and guideline for identifying country priority areas for SLWM interventions and aligning resources for implementation of identified priorities. This will also help build capacities through demonstrating best practices and practical tools, with a specific objective of generating and initiating work on sustainable land management and restoration in DRC to address desertification, deforestation and climate change.

DRC is one of the countries that has prioritised the SLWM because of the huge adverse impacts of land degradation in the country. In this regard, some projects that combine SLWM with income generation activities such as assisted natural regeneration and bee keeping in the Ibi Village, Plateau des Bateke are on-going. TerrAfrica support to DRC will enable up-scaling and out-scaling of best practices such as these.

In the margins of the mission, the NEPAD TerrAfrica team had also the opportunity to meet and discuss with the Director of Sustainable Development of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Dr. Jose Anga Lofonga on the importance of the SLWM Agenda in the country. He applauded the mission and highlighted the need of prioritising the key SLWM issues in the country.



NEPAD Nigeria CEO takes Nigeria's investment drive to the global community as Infrastructure Africa Business Forum winds up in Johannesburg, South Africa

Johannesburg, August 28, 2017 – Member States of NEPAD and the international business community have been told that the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) 2017-2020 of the Buhari Administration was launched with the overall objective of bringing Nigeria out of recession and placing the country on the path of sustainable and inclusive growth. Prospective investors were, also, called upon to seize the opportunity presented by the Plan to invest in some critical areas of the nation's economy such as Power/Energy, Agriculture, Petroleum and Allied Products as well as Transportation and Solid Minerals; all of which have been seen to possess high return on investment.

The NEPAD Nigeria CEO, Princess Gloria Akobundu, who spoke at a 2-day conference held in Johannesburg, South Africa, last week tagged Infrastructure Africa Business Forum, maintained that, with over 35% return on investment, the 4th across the globe, and a population of over 192 Million people, according to United Nations' statistics, Nigeria remains Africa's topmost investment haven for every investor who seeks to maximize profit in an environment that has been made conducive to business success.

According to Akobundu:

"The current focus of the Nigerian Government presents genuine opportunities for the country to become one of the greatest economies of the world and we invite you to be part of our success story. I know that some of the most successful entrepreneurs in the world are not the best coders or sales people, rather, they are just ordinary people who are really good at seizing great opportunities such as Nigeria presents today", she concluded.

Earlier in a keynote address, the Honourable Minister, Department of Trade and Investment, South Africa, Rob Davies, highlighted the development of infrastructure as an essential catalyst for regional integration, increased inter-regional trade and for industrialization in Africa, stressing that infrastructure development lies in the very heart of Africa's efforts to promote high levels of inclusive growth and development throughout the continent. Davies, also, stated that there was a huge deficit in infrastructure that was necessary to support high levels of inter-regional trade that connects African countries to one another and informed that, as a continent, Africa has an infrastructure deficit estimated at \$93 Billion Per Annum for the next 20 years.

While explaining that colonialism in Africa merely created infrastructure that was only good enough to fulfill its role as mere producers and exporters of primary commodities that were taken to other economies, the South African technocrat said there was need to invest heavily in infrastructure in order to catch up with the level of regional integration Africa needs to even begin to compete with other parts of the world. After noting that, in spite of the gross infrastructure deficit on the continent, Africa was also losing over 40 Percent of its competitiveness, Davies encouraged the continent to launch a number of initiatives, which, he said, were to address the energy challenge in most African countries.

Members of the Nigerian delegation to the meeting, which was led by the Honourable Minister, Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs, Pastor Usani Uguru Usani, included the National Coordinator and Chief Executive Officer of NEPAD Nigeria, Princess Gloria Akobundu, and Al-Amin Musa, General Manager, Gas Pipelines Infrastructure, Gas and Power Directorate, NNPC, Nigeria. Copious presentations and panel discussions were made on the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) 2017-2020, the Ease of Doing Business in Nigeria and on the Trans-Sahara Gas Pipeline (TSGP) project. The Team, also, participated in various networking sessions that were aimed at further engaging investors on the various investment opportunities that exist in Nigeria.

Other Panel and Plenary Sessions, equally, brainstormed on various aspects of regional integration, finance mobilization as well as on transformational technology and innovation in Africa. Parts of the major highlights of the Conference were the presentation of outcomes, recommendations and comments on the entire events. Some of the recommendations include: That partnership initiatives should urgently be put in place by the various African Governments to address energy challenges within the continent and that, African countries must inject a sense of urgency in their infrastructure initiatives or may risk becoming the worst economic destinations in the world, among many others.

The Conference, the 6th in the series of what has come to be an annual event, brought together policymakers, Ministers of Finance and that of National Planning of Zambia; apart from those of Department of Trade and Investment from South Africa and the Niger Delta Affairs Ministry of Nigeria. There were, also, heads and representatives of several international Organizations and Agencies, who led several other investors and stakeholders to the Conference. The 2-day event succeeded in achieving a platform for a conversation by all, including business people and financiers, on what to be done to deliver on the infrastructure needs of the African continent.

Source: NEPAD Nigeria Newsletter



Members of the Nigerian Team to the Infrastructure Africa Business Forum held in Johannesburg, South Africa, recently. Among them are the Honourable Minister, Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs, Pastor Usani and the NEPAD Nigeria CEO, Akobundu

Strengthening Fisheries Management in the Gulf of Guinea

Fisheries resources, and particularly shrimp resources, are abundant in the Gulf of Guinea area. Improvement of fisheries management therefore, represents an important opportunity for increasing revenues, income generation and improving food security and nutrition in the region. NEPAD Agency has previously supported, under the Partnership for African Fisheries (PAF), and through the EAF Nansen project, the development of the management plans for industrial shrimp fisheries in Nigeria, Cameroon and Gabon.

Due to a continued demand at the regional and country levels, to improve management and trade of the marine shrimp fisheries, NEPAD Agency is working with stakeholders in Nigeria, Cameroon and Gabon to build on existing efforts. These efforts are guided by the goals of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS), and also the push by the African Union, through the African Standards Organisation (ARSO), for implementation of ecolabel certification of fisheries at the continental level. NEPAD Agency fisheries team is therefore, supporting capacity strengthening for access to markets, including training on eco labelling principles and providing recommendations on adoption of policies, certification procedures, standards and regulations for fish resource sustainability and trade.

Initial activities have involved a pre-assessment of the semi-industrial shrimp fishery in Nigeria involving 2 stakeholder workshops in July and August along with field visits and meetings with individuals and organisations involved in the shrimp fishing and aquaculture industry. A pre-assessment validation workshop was held in Lagos on 8 August 2017, to validate the first draft pre-assessment report and recommendations towards development of a Fisheries Improvement Project (FIP), and to collect further information on the management of the shrimp fisheries in Nigeria.

To drive the implementation process, stakeholders decided to establish a Working Committee comprising key active representatives of the sector including Government, research institutions, the private sector and civil society. The Secretariat of the Committee is the Federal Department of Fisheries (Monitoring Control and Surveillance Department in Lagos) and NEPAD Nigeria is proposed as the Chair of the Working Committee.

Similar processes are planned for Cameroon and Gabon in coming months as part of the regional initiative.



Young farmers driving rural transformation

Story by Doreen Nawa, Lusaka, Zambia

As more and more young farmers ignite sparks in rural communities, a new generation of ideas has begun to sprout in Kazungula, Mungwi and Choma areas. These young farmers are content with their lives in rural areas and their desire to relocate to urban cities is fading.

The rural people not just aim towards the improvement of living conditions and the activation of agriculture as a business, but also extend the vision to ecological conservation of the surroundings.

Under the activation of rural transformation through improved agriculture activities, rural communities in Mungwi, Kazungula and Choma district have gradually separated themselves from the stereotype of poverty and ruin. Many of them are undergoing successful transformation and have become popular spots of ecological conservation. Ecological conservation deals with the preservation and management of biodiversity and natural resources.

Young people are now enjoying the rural lifestyle by listening to the whispering breeze, feeling the air dancing on the chest, tasting fresh local agricultural products and learning profound cultural heritage. The comprehensive economy is taking root on these rural areas little by little. This experience has given hope to many young people who had plans to relocate to urban cities like Lusaka and other towns along the line of rail.

Florence Simasiku, a 30-year-old cassava farmer of Kapongolo village in Mungwi says her thought of relocating to Lusaka or any other city on the Copperbelt has died out because of the increased agriculture productivity.

"I have always admired living in the cities because of the good roads, better social amenities like schools, hospitals and better sanitation facilities. But from the time I learnt better methods of farming, my yield has improved and I am making more money. This has created a sense of contentment and I no longer think of relocating," Ms Simasiku says. For Ms Simasiku, she now can afford buying clothes and meeting her daily needs, all because she is producing enough for sale and consumption. She has been motivated to remain in the village as opposed to relocating to the city like she has earlier thought.

"We need a thriving agriculture sector that can sustainably intensify its production and cater to the needs of an increasing urban population and the demand for more livestock products, such as eggs and meat. Until then, it will be difficult to convince many young people that you can make it in life anywhere, you don't need to migrate to cities," Ms Simasiku says.

Young people in particular, believe that better opportunities await them in cities, "a better life" so to speak.

Only a few of them like Kawewa Kawewa 31, of Sikaunzwe area in Kazungula district consider that cities cannot cope with the increasing levels of rural to urban migration. Cities do not have the adequate infrastructure, energy, electricity, water or healthcare, to satisfy demand for jobs, housing and other basic needs. Not to mention the already skyrocketing unemployment figures that can be seen in many urban areas.

As most rural to urban migrants are uneducated and unskilled, they tend to find work in the informal sector where conditions of service are pathetic.

But for Gloria Hamweemba, 30 a young livestock farmer of Choma, there is need to figure out how to encourage young people to stay in rural areas. "Government must work hard to provide prospects for youths living in rural areas. As youths, we are doing our best to change our lives but we need Government to help transform rural areas in order to keep us here," Mrs Hamweemba says.

For Mrs Hamweemba, the much needed help from Government must include increased public investments in mechanisation and new digital technologies.

Improved infrastructure to facilitate access to markets in nearby towns and cities, access to finance for farmers to grow businesses is also paramount in ensuring success in rural development. While urbanisation is important and often seen as a sign of economic development, it has implications for rural transformation and for food and nutrition security. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) president Gilbert Houngbo says agriculture and rural development are the best answer to migration of people from the countryside to urban areas. For Mr Houngbo said the need for Zambia and Africa as a whole to come up with policies that will prioritise rural transformation is the way forward.

Currently, a considerably high number of migrants move within their countries, mainly from rural to urban areas or from one rural area to another, in search of better livelihoods because most rural areas are underdeveloped.

Migration can have positive and negative impacts on rural livelihoods and food security, and currently, migrants, who are mainly adult youths, are a potential resource for agriculture and rural development as well as poverty reduction in their areas of origin.

"The migration of rural youths can result in loss of an important share of the most vital and dynamic part of the workforce, with obvious consequences for agricultural productivity.

Moreover, migration is reshaping the traditional social and economic structure of rural areas mainly dependent on agriculture," Mr Houngbo says. Mr Houngbo says there is urgent need for a policy that promotes agriculture and rural development.

"In particular, policies aiming to reduce migration of rural youths should factor in the need to generate viable options for rural youths in farm and non-farm activities," he said. Lombe village headman, John Lombe of Kasama's Lwabwe area says development of rural social services has various effects on rural-urban migration.

Better rural education, which improves the chances of urban employment, will stimulate rural-urban migration, while successful rural agriculture programmes will guarantee food security.

"Better rural health services also reduce the chances of rural-urban migration as well." "I suggest that governments should reconsider policies which rely on rural development to curb rural-urban migration and alleviate problems of urban poverty and underemployment," headman Lombe says.

With the right policies in place, Zambia's agricultural sector can help solve the chronic socio-economic challenges of food insecurity, poverty and unemployment the rural populace face thereby forcing them to relocate to urban cities.

Source: Zambia Daily Mail

Upcoming Events

- 12 - 25 Sep 2017: 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 72), Manhatan, New York
- 16 - 20 Oct 2017: Africa Week, Manhatan, New York
- 30 Oct - 1 Nov 2017: Commemoration of the 8th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security with Continental Symposium on Food Systems, Kigali, Rwanda
- 30 Oct - 3 Nov 2017: PIDA Week, Walvis Bay, Namibia
- 28 - 30 Nov 2017: 4th Global Science Conference on Climate Smart Agriculture, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 27 - 29 Nov 2017: 3rd Biennial Scientific Conference on Medical Products Regulation in Africa, Accra, Ghana

See also: www.nepad.org/events

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Proverb

A GOOD NAME IS BETTER
THAN A GOOD PERFUME.
ETHIOPIA

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