

27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture

Item 2.10: Rural Youth Action Plan (RYAP)

Introduction notes

In 2018 COAG discussed the theme of revitalizing rural areas for youth recognizing that young women and men in rural areas suffer from unemployment and lack of decent jobs, which contributes to outward-migration and the degradation of rural areas. COAG highlighted that supporting youth is essential to revitalize rural areas and contribute to achieving FAO's overall aims and ensuring the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. COAG further identified five Action Areas for the Action Plan and the territorial approach as an overall framework to revitalize rural areas and create decent job opportunities (COAG/2018/06). COAG's recommendation to develop a rural youth action plan, based on existing instruments, was endorsed by the FAO Conference at its Forty-first Session (C2019/21 Rev.1).

A five-year Action Plan has been developed which is aligned to the five thematic areas identified by COAG. The Action Plan is developed under 5 pillars: Pillar 1: Support youth participation in rural development, within the context of integrated Landscape and Territorial Approaches; Pillar 2: Foster youth employment in an inclusive green economy; Pillar 3: Strengthen rural youth capacities for the use of innovative approaches and technologies in food and agriculture; Pillar 4: Promote rural services for youth and agripreneurs, and Pillar 5: Building FAO institutional capacity to address rural youth areas of work. The action plan is considered a "living" document to ensure it has the flexibility to accommodate new developments such as the emerging challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Action Plan recognizes that youth are not a homogeneous group since rural youth's challenges are even more evident in the case of younger youth, young women, youth with disabilities, youth from poorer families, and ethnic or indigenous groups.

The action plan is in line with the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Youth (Youth-SWAP) and the UN Youth Strategy' that were developed by the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD) of which FAO is a member. The action plan has also been aligned with other major international processes such as the SDGs and international years such as the International Year of Family Farming and the 2021 International Year for the Elimination of Child Labor. The RYAP was developed by HQ and regional FAO youth and children focal points in consultation with IANYD members in particular the Rome-based Agencies and the International Labour Organization (ILO). Consultations were also made with a number of youth networks and constituencies.

The Committee is invited to:

- Endorse the Rural Youth Action Plan (RYAP) contained in this document.
- Request FAO to strengthen its organizational and budgetary arrangements, including the establishment of a "youth desk" to ensure FAO has the capacity to integrate and address youth and youth-sensitive elements in its programmes and initiatives.

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