



PROMOTING ALTERNATIVES TO MIGRATION FOR RURAL YOUTH IN ETHIOPIA AND TUNISIA

Poverty, food insecurity and a lack of employment opportunities drive many young men and women around the world to search for jobs elsewhere. In Africa, where youth underemployment and unemployment rates are particularly high, many young people move away from rural areas, also because they do not perceive agriculture as an attractive and remunerative sector. The project aimed to address the adverse drivers of migration in two target countries, Tunisia and Ethiopia, which are particularly prone to rural outmigration of youth, while at the same time harnessing the development potential of migratory movements. In particular, the project focused on the promotion of innovative mechanisms to create job and entrepreneurial opportunities in rural areas. It also filled evidence gaps on the determinants and impacts of rural migration and promoted better policy integration between migration, agriculture and rural development.



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WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

At the global level, the project contributed to generating evidence and raising awareness on rural youth migration. In addition, lessons learned from the project (findings from studies and results from pilot activities at country level) helped to inform the global debate on economic mobility. At the national level, the capacities of governments and rural stakeholders to incorporate migration considerations into agricultural and rural development planning were strengthened, contributing to policy coherence between migration and rural development. The project also promoted innovative mechanisms for the creation of employment opportunities and agricultural entrepreneurship for rural youth in Tunisian and Ethiopian areas prone to migration. In particular, it provided unemployed youth with training and equipment, helping them to launch their own small agricultural enterprises, also by investing remittances received from the diaspora.

IMPACT

The innovative employment mechanisms put in place during the project led to the launch of several types of youth-led agricultural activities, resulting in the creation of 89 full-time direct jobs and 83 direct casual jobs in Tunisia (indirectly benefiting more than 400 rural workers and producers), and 454 jobs in Ethiopia. More than half of the agricultural enterprises supported by the project in Tunisia benefited from a financial and/or technical contribution from the diaspora. In Ethiopia, some of the groups of young agricultural entrepreneurs established by the project benefited from the concession of unused land from the decentralized governments.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 2 500 000

Duration

January 2015 – February 2018

Resource Partners

Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della
Cooperazione Internazionale,
Government of Italy

Partners

Ministry of Agriculture and Natural
Resources (MoANR), Ethiopia; *Ministère
de l'Agriculture, des Ressources
Hydrauliques et de la Pêche* and Agence
de promotion des investissements
agricoles (APIA), Tunisia

Beneficiaries

Policy-makers (planning and technical
staff from agriculture line ministries,
extension officers from national and
regional institutions); rural stakeholders
(producers' organizations/youth groups
and migrants' networks); rural youth and
their families in Tunisia and Ethiopia

ACTIVITIES

- Studies conducted on the factors and impacts of rural youth migration in Tunisia and Ethiopia.
- A number of documents/communication materials produced (FAO conceptual framework on rural youth migration, FAO corporate booklet on migration, agriculture and rural development, brochures, computer graphics, videos, interviews and press articles, web pages) to disseminate lessons learned and policy recommendations, including on the occasion of World Food Day 2017.
- Awareness-raising activities organized at global level, including the side-event, “Addressing the Land and Migration Nexus”, organized during the Land and Water Days in collaboration with the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), among others.
- Capacity-building needs of the Tunisian and Ethiopian ministries identified on migration and rural youth mobility; and tailor-made training workshops organized, with material produced specifically for each country.
- Migration and rural development considerations coherently integrated into national policies and strategies of the target countries (such as the National Strategy on Migration in Tunisia and the National Rural Job Opportunity Creation Strategy in Ethiopia).
- The profession of accompagnateur agricole (agricultural coach) systematized and institutionalized in Tunisia through the development of a referential guide.
- The creation of 50 micro agro-enterprises supported in Tunisia (natural sheep breeding, tree nurseries, beekeeping, food processing, valorization of oasis waste products, agricultural services, etc.) through the provision of training, coaching and equipment; and the establishment of 38 youth agribusiness groups (bringing together 454 individuals) supported in Ethiopia (dairy development, livestock rearing/production, fishing, vegetable and fruit production) through training, technical support, and the provision of in-kind grants and agricultural resources.
- Diaspora contribution to agriculture and rural development enhanced through awareness raising on its potential in financially and technically supporting rural and agricultural enterprises of countries of origin.

Project Code

FAO: GCP/INT/240/ITA

Project Title

Youth mobility, food security and rural poverty reduction:
Fostering rural diversification through enhanced youth employment and better labour mobility

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Project webpage

[Promoting alternatives to migration for Tunisian rural youth \(Video\)](#)
[Promoting alternatives to migration for Ethiopian rural youth \(Video\)](#)
[Promoting alternatives to migration for rural youth in Tunisia and Ethiopia - Stories from the field](#)

