

To encourage the use of evidence-based knowledge in national policy making in African countries, INCLUDE supports African Policy Dialogues.

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African Policy Dialogues

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Reports

- Mapping of studies on employment creation of agriculture and agro-processing in Kenya
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- Stakeholders mapping for research policy community for employment creation in agriculture and agro-industries in Kenya
- Background Note: Employment Creation in Sugar Sector in Kenya: Challenging the Political Economy Dilemmas and the Role of Utafiti Sera (Research-Policy Community)
- Report of the Utafiti Sera (research-policy) community forum on employment creation in the horticulture sector in Kenya



INCLUDE supports African Policy Dialogues to promote knowledge exchange in Africa. These forums are initiated by INCLUDE Platform members and driven by African policy stakeholders. They aim to encourage the use of evidence-based knowledge and research results in policy making in African countries through meetings and debates between policy actors, researchers and practitioners at national and lower levels. They also provide a forum for sharing INCLUDE's research results and may help to fill the gaps in INCLUDE's knowledge agenda.

There are currently seven African Policy Dialogues. A brief overview of each is given below, or visit www.includeplatform.net/policy-knowledge-communities for more information.

Utafiti Sera: Social protection in Kenya

Social protection has been implemented in Kenya for many years, in response to emergencies and to cushion workers against vulnerabilities. However, no comprehensive analysis has been undertaken of the social protection sector as a whole, with existing studies looking only at safety nets or contributory schemes. Utafiti Sera - a community of researchers, policymakers, practitioners and media personnel - aims to ensure that research evidence on social protection in Kenya is available and used by policymakers at both national and county levels of government. It seeks to sustain a vibrant research-policy community on social protection by generating new research and making the results (and existing evidence) available to policymakers and practitioners in forums and through the media. In 2015, Utafiti Sera contributed ideas to the Social Protection Bill,

including the definition of social protection and to the establishment of a 'Social Protection Authority'. It has also enhanced awareness of social protection policies among national and county governments.

Lead organizations: Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR) and African Institute for Health and Development (AIHD) in Kenya.

Women's entrepreneurship and social protection in Uganda

While women's entrepreneurship and social protection are areas of national policy concern in Uganda, there is need for a more proactive approach to ensure that current commitments do not remain only on paper. In relation to women's entrepreneurship, this includes revisiting national policies with a focus on skills development initiatives, institutions and government budgets. For social protection, this entails a review of institutional reforms and the effective implementation of policies and programmes. The African Policy Dialogue on 'Women's entrepreneurship and social protection in Uganda' seeks to establish an effective national policy-knowledge community to increase awareness of the need to pay special attention to women's entrepreneurship and social protection and to promote interventions that take into account gender, geography and the lifecycle of the target groups. The stakeholders include several Ugandan ministries, members of parliament, researchers, civil society (women's advocacy institutions), development partners, the Uganda Investment Authority and the private sector. In 2016, the community provided the INCLUDE/NWO-WOTRO research group on 'Social protection in Uganda' with a forum to engage the various stakeholders and present their preliminary research findings. Key issues

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discussed included the criteria used to determine who receives social protection grants, the feasibility of financing social protection in Uganda, and the need to prioritize social protection in national planning and budgeting.

Lead organization: Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC) in Uganda.

Entrepreneurship development in Rwanda

Although there is plenty of finance available to support entrepreneurs in Rwanda, access to finance is a challenge, as small business owners often lack the business skills to actually access it. Trust between people is also low and entrepreneurs prefer to work on their own, even if this stands in the way of growing their businesses. The African Policy Dialogue on 'Entrepreneurship development in Rwanda' seeks to develop a deeper understanding of Rwanda's entrepreneurial dynamics, as well as entrepreneurial growth and networking impacts, especially with regards to youth and women, and to facilitate knowledge exchange and synergies by bringing together professionals and experts with common interests. It carries out action research in order to understand the effect of the business reforms started in the early 2000s, with a focus on entrepreneurship growth (especially among youth and women), the role of the private sector in complying with the reforms, and the networking dynamics between entrepreneurs and other stakeholders. The stakeholders include government actors, entrepreneurs, financial institutions, the private sector and educational institutions. In 2016, the community established a platform to enhance knowledge exchange and synergies and, in April 2017, the collaborating institutions hosted a final conference on entrepreneurship development in Rwanda.

Lead organization: Africa 2.0 Netherlands, in collaboration with Entreprenarium in Kigali.

Utafiti Sera: Wage employment creation in Nigeria

A study facilitated by the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR) on wage employment creation in agriculture and agro-processing sectors found that politics and the pursuit of narrow interests by key

actors are major hindrances to employment creation in Nigeria. Another issue at stake is inequality in payment systems: women are paid in rice while men are given cash wages. The African Policy Dialogue on 'Wage employment creation in Nigeria' is working to overcome these hindrances, including through legislation to address wage inequalities. During a forum in January 2017, legislative mechanisms were explored to encourage productive employment creation and narrowing gender disparities in the rice and cotton value chains. This community aims to turn research evidence on employment creation in agriculture and agro-processing in Nigeria into policy action. It is working to build a large coalition of interest groups to promote productive employment creation in the agriculture and agro-processing sectors. Through forums, policy advocacy, and the use of champions during meetings, it seeks to engage key policymakers and practitioners. The stakeholders include farmers' organizations, financial institutions, policymakers (Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Industry) and women's organizations.

Lead organizations: PASGR and the National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS) in Nigeria.

Youth employment in Mozambique's extractive industry

The Government of Mozambique has articulated productive employment policies in various national policy documents. However, implementation of these policies remains fragmented and youth feel excluded from the development initiatives being implemented in their locality. This African Policy Dialogue aims to promote intersectoral debate and action for employment creation for youth in the extractive industry in Mozambique by decentralizing debates to the provinces, with a focus on Cabo Delgado and Zambezia. It aims to create a more structured and holistic network that shares knowledge and promotes the prioritization of local interests by investors in the extraction of natural resources. The stakeholders involved are government agencies at the national, provincial and district levels, youth and women's organizations, and extractive industry companies. The dialogue has increased awareness and generated knowledge among stakeholders, who previously operated in isolation. In November 2016, an intersectoral forum was held in Pemba (Delgado Province), during which the

first results of the dialogue were presented. In December 2016, the proposed policy alternatives developed in this forum were shared with the government. The focus is on a long-term strategy that entails investing in youth's skills that match market demands and that prioritizes youth employment in policy.

Lead organization: Centre for Public Integrity (CIP) in Mozambique, in collaboration with the National Institute of Vocational Training.

Youth employment in Ghana

The Ghanaian economy has experienced high growth rates over the past decade. Yet, the economy is still prone to unemployment and there is a high level of vulnerable employment. Especially youth have been affected by joblessness and low-wage employment, despite a rise in their education levels. The Government of Ghana has struggled to address this challenge, causing it to become an important topic in the national elections in 2016. This African Policy Dialogue on 'Youth employment in Ghana' organizes national youth employment dialogues involving political parties. Because the political discourse and social media reflect a weak understanding of the problem, in 2016, two national dialogues were organized on youth employment. These attracted much (media) attention and engaged all stakeholders (including political parties, the National Development Planning Commission, the World Bank and ILO) in proposing effective solutions. The purpose of the dialogues was to engage the parties in a discussion before they actually acquired their seats in Parliament, so that a consensus could be reached on labour market challenges and their solutions. The main opposition party (which went on to win the election) included youth employment solutions in its political programme for the 2016 elections.

Lead organization: African Centre for Economic Transformation (ACET) in Ghana.

Utafiti Sera: Employment creation in Kenya

This African Policy Dialogue uses research evidence to inform and influence policy on employment creation in agriculture and agro-processing in Kenya, in particular

in the sugar and horticulture sectors. It was formed in response to a study into Kenya's sugar and horticulture sectors, which identified many hindrances to wage employment creation, despite the existence of several employment creation policies. This African Policy Dialogue has established an Utafiti Sera, which provides a platform for the exchange of ideas and learning on the blockages in agro-employment and the promotion of inclusive growth. A forum organized in early 2017 for policy actors (e.g. from the Ministry of Agriculture), practitioners, development partners, civil society organizations and horticulture organizations received coverage in the national newspapers. Proposals were made to develop sector-specific policies for employment creation, diversify Kenya's horticultural produce, and create local innovations and technologies. The dialogue has also advocated for productive employment policies by engaging with one of the political coalitions seeking election in the 2017 national and local elections.

Lead organization: Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR) in collaboration with the Centre for African Bio-Entrepreneurship (CABE) in Kenya

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INCLUDE supports research and brings the results (and existing knowledge on the same topic) to policymakers and practitioners. The aim is to promote evidence-based policymaking for inclusive development in Africa. INCLUDE is one of five knowledge platforms established by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote research for policy.

