



ANSAF
Agricultural Non State Actors Forum

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

PRESS RELEASE

ANSAF AND PARTNERS CELEBRATE SUCCESSFUL TANZANIAN YOUTH IN AGRI-BUSINESS To be held at Kebbys Hotel in Dar es salaam, 1 December 2014.

ANSAF (Agricultural Non State Actors Forum) in collaboration with Michigan State University and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives has organized an event to honour the achievements of young role models in Agriculture. The event will feature 18 youth from around the country engaged in different agricultural sub-sectors and activities. This event is part of a campaign to encourage more youth engagement in agriculture through television programs “Vijana na Kilimo Biashara” that air every Tuesday from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm on ITV. These youth have been identified as role models for youth engagement in agriculture in Tanzania due to the unique and modern approach to agriculture in a time when many youth are struggling with unemployment.

According to the Tanzania Demographic Health Survey of 2010, 66 percent of the Tanzanian population consists of persons under the age of 25. With 47 percent of the population under the age of 15, the youth population in Tanzania is projected to increase drastically in the next decade. These young people are faced with many challenges including poor education, poverty, staying healthy, achieving sustainable income and participating in decision making. These challenges contribute to the fact that 53.3 percent of those who are unemployed are the youth. Despite the concrete reasons why youth are largely unemployed, there simply isn't enough employment for youth in the areas that they seek employment, the private sector. The rate of job creation in the private sector cannot meet the demand. Nevertheless, the trend shows massive migration of unemployed youth from the rural areas to the urban areas in search of work.

However, the youth are greater risk takers, an attribute important for entrepreneurship in general and in agriculture specifically. Tanzania has an opportunity to benefit from "population dividend" where the proportion of working population exceeds that of dependent population (aged and under-age). The youth do face a number of challenges. They lack experience and have no capital base. Youth sometimes may be impatient, which poses some risks of social instability if necessary policies and programs are not in place to create employment opportunities for them including agriculture.

Traditional agriculture is not appealing to youth and hence the need for new approaches that would encourage youth to participate in agriculture. Preliminary analysis of the agriculture sample census data, using Probit model (Nyange, 2014) show that youth farmers (under 35 years) are more likely (than older farmers) to:

- Grow staples and annual crops (rice, maize, horticulture, etc than traditional permanent and export crops (coffee, cashew, tea, etc).
- Engage in irrigated agriculture.
- Rent land (or being immigrant farmer).
- Produce for the market.
- Engage in post-harvest activities including value addition.

There are success stories, such as the ANSAF documented youth. Capitalizing on such success stories, ANSAF in collaboration with Michigan State University and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives has filmed 18 documentaries of youth who have succeeded in agriculture. These documentaries are now being featured as part of one hour special live programs on ITV. The 12 programs started on 25th November 2014 and will be aired every Tuesday until 10th February 2015. During each program hosted by ITV's Abdallah Mwaipaya , a documentary showcasing the success story of one youth will be aired followed by an interactive panel discussion with the youth and an expert on youth and agriculture. ANSAF and its partners hope that these programs will encourage more young people to engage in agriculture as well as create a platform for dialogue with key stakeholders on the challenges youth face within the sector.

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For further information about this press release please contact 0716573196 or 0688026706 or email advocacy4@ansaf.or.tz.

About ANSAF

ANSAF is a member-led forum for non-state actors to discuss and work towards solutions to improve the agriculture sector in the interests of men and women currently living in poverty. Its members include farmers organizations, private sector and Non-governmental organizations (National and International NGOs) in Tanzania.

ANSAF works with members to bring together a critical mass of actors and as such supports the coordination of critical debates on local, national and global issues focusing on policies and practice. It represents its members' interests and needs in national and local forums of dialogue to influence change using evidence based on research and experience to stimulate growth of the agricultural sector focusing with more interest on smallholder farmers. ANSAF also actively promotes accountability, transparency and citizen engagement (inclusiveness) within the agricultural sector.

ANSAF organizes and conducts informative and regular forums for debate and discussion on pertinent sectorial issues with farmers, parliamentary committees, development partners, as well as private sector and civil society organizations. The focus of the dialogues is to generate learning and sharing best practice within the wider stakeholders, including ANSAF members' farmers, policy makers and other stakeholders.