



ONLINE

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

DECENT JOBS FOR RURAL YOUTH

7 – 18 OCTOBER 2024

 2 WEEKS, 25 HOURS

Information Note



International
Labour
Organization



International Training Centre

OVERVIEW

Approximately 89 per cent of the world's 1.2 billion youth, aged 15-24, live in developing countries ¹, where half of the population lives in rural areas, despite rapid urbanization trends ².

Rural youth in developing countries constitute a considerable number of the incoming labour market entrants. While youth unemployment rates are generally lower in rural areas than in urban ones, poverty among young workers is a major global concern. This is further exacerbated by decent work deficits, high rates of informality, irregular employment and weak labour market institutions. Young people in rural areas are typically employed on a casual or seasonal basis, under poor working conditions and with limited or no access to social protection. Furthermore, young people in rural areas have limited access to technology and mechanisms that can foster innovation, voice and representation. Upward trends in NEET status among rural youth reveal widespread and growing disengagement from education and training, especially among young women. Many of them migrate in the search for education and employment opportunities and do not return to rural areas.

Boosting job opportunities and strengthening the youth employment ecosystem in rural economies is therefore critical to drive inclusive growth and sustainable development, leaving no one behind. It demands an integrated and coordinated approach that is gender-sensitive, rights-based, and underpinned by social dialogue, promoting job creation, human capital development and stimulating market efficiency through public employment services.

To foster the knowledge and the capacity of governments, social partners and global practitioners to effectively boost youth employment in the rural economy, the Employment Policy and Analysis Programme of the ITCILO, the Employment Policy, Job Creation and Livelihoods Department and the Sectoral Policies Department of the International Labour Organization offer this online training course *“Decent Jobs for Rural Youth”*.

The training will provide an in-depth understanding of the specific challenges faced by young people in rural areas, with a focus on developing countries, as well as evidence-based policies, programmes and multi-sectoral partnerships to strengthen the enabling environment needed to create and nurture decent jobs for rural youth.

1 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2022). World Population Prospects 2022, Online Edition. Available at <https://population.un.org/wpp/Download/Standard/Population/>

2 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2022). World Population Prospects 2022, Online Edition. Available at <https://population.un.org/wup/Download/>

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course will offer a solid understanding of the characteristics of rural labour markets and its dynamics in relation to youth employment, assessing the challenges and potential pathways to productive and decent work.

By the end of this training, participants will have:

- Explored the challenges and opportunities in promoting decent work for rural youth in developing countries;
- Analysed policy instruments, programmatic approaches, as well as relevant tools used by the ILO to promote decent jobs for rural youth;
- Discussed lessons learned from ILO rural youth projects and from partners;
- Outlined a new programmatic/project idea benefiting from the collective knowledge and experience of other participants.

Ultimately, this course will strengthen the participants' capacity to design or review policy instruments and programmatic approaches for the promotion of youth employment in the rural economy. Furthermore, it will improve their ability to assess ongoing rural youth employment initiatives and propose actions to enhance their effectiveness.

CONTENT

The course will cover the various policy elements and intervention approaches that are needed to support rural youth in their transition to the world of work. These include economic and sectoral policies for job creation, value chain development approaches, as well as skills development interventions needed to enable young people to successfully enter productive employment. Last but not least, the training will also explore innovative approaches to engage and empower rural youth in sectors with employment and economic potential.

The online training will be structured around the following modules:

Module 1. Introduction: rural labour markets and youth employment

In this module we will start by discussing the challenges faced by rural youth and how to seize opportunities to improve their employment prospects. Within this framework, we will go through the multiple determinants of youth transitions and will reflect about need for integrated and coordinated approaches to unleash the potential of rural economies to promote decent jobs for youth.

Module 2. Creating jobs for rural youth

With this module we will explore policy options that are key to stimulate the creation of jobs for rural youth: pro-employment macroeconomic and sectoral policies for rural areas, youth inclusive public employment programmes, youth-led entrepreneurship programmes and the role of the private sector at large. Complementary policies, such as territorial development policies, infrastructure services, access to technology, education systems, among others will also be discussed.

Module 3. Boosting job quality for rural youth

In this module we will discuss pathways to improve the quality of jobs of rural youth like promoting rights at work of rural youth, occupational security issues, and youth-inclusive social protection and care policies in rural areas. Furthermore, we will analyse strategies to address working poverty and the transition to formality in the rural areas.

Module 4. Supporting labour transitions of rural youth

This module will focus on rural youth employability and on support to labour market matching. The role of Public Employment Services and Active Labour Market Programmes in supporting rural youth to access the right job opportunities will be analysed. Furthermore, TVET, education and training, as well as quality apprenticeships will be discussed.

Module 5. Boosting decent jobs for rural youth in rural tourism and the blue economy

Through this module, we will apply a sectoral approach to the promotion of decent jobs for rural youth. In particular, the module will look into policy and programme approaches to harness the potential for decent job creation of rural tourism and the blue economy. Both sectors have significant employment and economic potential, both directly through jobs in the sectors and indirectly through supportive industries.

Module 6. Youth representation and engagement; Key takeaways and the way the forward

The first part of this last module will be dedicated to the potential power of youth voices and youth engagement in social dialogue. We will discuss on how to ensure that the needs and aspirations of rural youth are consistently reflected in decision making to identify workable and youth-friendly policies and programmes. The final part of the module will offer room for reflecting on the main takeaways from this online training and the way forward to elevating the potential of rural youth to advance social justice.

FORMAT AND METHODOLOGY

The training will be held online for a duration of two weeks, offering an intense program of 25 hours of learning. It will combine learning activities in the course platform with 6 days of virtual classroom. The virtual classroom will offer live webinars (3 hours per day), with peer and trainer interaction, individual and structured group activities. A substantial amount of the time will be dedicated to experience sharing.

Attendance of the webinars will be compulsory. Interested participants should save the following dates:

Session	Date/Time
1. Introduction: rural labour markets and youth employment	Monday, 7 October 10:00-13:00 CET
2. Creating jobs for rural youth	Wednesday, 9 October 10:00-13:00 CET
3. Boosting job quality for rural youth	Friday, 11 October 10:00-13:00 CET
4. Supporting labour transitions of rural youth	Monday, 14 October 10:00-13:00 CET
5. Boosting decent jobs for rural youth in rural tourism and the blue economy	Wednesday, 16 October 10:00-13:00 CET
6. Youth voices; Key takeaways and the way the forward	Friday, 18 October 10:00-13:00 CET

Webinars will be supported by readings and preparatory activities or short assignments. A virtual clinic on rural youth projects from participants will be set up in the course platform.

The programme will be hosted on the ITCILO eCampus, a learning platform that consolidates all the components of the learning journey. Through this platform, participants will be able to access all materials and track progress of the learning journey.

In terms of learning hours, we estimate that participants will need to dedicate around 25 hours to complete this course in the period of the two weeks. Of those overall hours, 18 hours will be dedicated to live sessions, and around 7 hours will be dedicated to activities on the platform.

WHO ATTENDS THIS COURSE?

The course is of particular interest to policy-makers, planners, technical officials of relevant ministries, and other technical experts from relevant national and international institutions. In particular, the course caters for policy advisors and practitioners from ministries of labour and employment, agriculture and rural development, economy and planning, other sectoral ministries, social partners, researchers, representatives of youth-led organizations, and technical staff from international, regional and national organizations, academia and donor organizations, particularly those who are active in the area of rural youth employment.

WORKING LANGUAGES

The training will be held in English and French.

HOW TO APPLY

Go to <https://oarf2.itcilo.org/DST/A9717077/en> and submit your application form before **7 September 2024**.

COST OF PARTICIPATION

1,020 Euro

The ITCILO has a limited number of fellowships for participants from developing countries.

WITHDRAWAL, CANCELLATION POLICY, AND REFUNDS FOR OPEN COURSES

If an enrolled participant wishes or must withdraw from a course, they may choose to apply to a different course or be substituted by another candidate. The participant must notify the Centre, in writing, of their decision at least 14 days prior to the start date of the course. Cancellation of participation in regular courses will result in the following penalties:

- 14 days or more prior to the start date of the course:
No penalty, 100% refund of amount paid less applicable bank charges
- 8 to 13 days prior to the start date of the course:
Penalty of 50% of course price, refund of residual amount paid (if any) less applicable bank charges
- 7 days or less prior to the start date of the course:
Penalty of 100% of course price.

INFO

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

International Training Centre of the ILO
Employment Policy and Analysis Programme (EPAP)
Viale Maestri del Lavoro, 10
10127 Turin – Italy

youth@itcilo.org
www.itcilo.org

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