THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

DRAFT NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURE (NSYEA) 2026/2027 - 2030/2031

JUNE, 2026

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ACRONYMS

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AMP 2050	Agriculture Master Plan 2050
ASDP II	Agricultural Sector Development Programme – Phase II
BBT	Building a Better Tomorrow
BBT–LIFE	Building a Better Tomorrow – Livestock and Fisheries
BBT–YIA	Building a Better Tomorrow – Youth in Agriculture
CCM	Chama Cha Mapinduzi
CSA	Climate-Smart Agriculture
DIRA 2050	Tanzania Development Vision 2050
FYDP	Five-Year Development Plan
FYDP III	Third Five-Year Development Plan
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
LTPP	Long-Term Perspective Plan
LGA	Local Government Authority
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MIS	Management Information System
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
NSYEA	National Strategy for Youth Engagement in Agriculture
NAP	National Agricultural Policy
NEET	Not in Employment, Education or Training
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSYIA	National Strategy for Youth Involvement in Agriculture
PMO–RALG	Prime Minister’s Office – Regional Administration and Local Government
PPP	Public–Private Partnership
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TFSRP	Tanzania Food System Resilience Program
ToC	Theory of Change
TWG	Technical Working Group
UN	United Nations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Tanzania is at a pivotal demographic moment, with youth aged 15–35 years constituting more than one-third of the national population. This demographic structure presents a powerful opportunity to accelerate inclusive economic growth and long-term structural transformation, provided that sufficient youth-centric productive employment pathways are created. Agriculture, as the backbone of the economy and the dominant employer of young people, is central to Tanzania's capacity to harness this demographic dividend in line with national aspirations articulated under DIRA 2050 with its Long-Term Perspective Plan (LTPP) and successive Five-Year Development Plans (FYDPs).

While agriculture has the potential of absorbing a large share of the youth labour force, the nature of youth participation remains a fundamental constraint. Youth engagement is predominantly characterised by low productivity, informality, and weak income generation, low value-added, exposing young people to climate and market risks while limiting asset accumulation and upward economic mobility. Persistent structural barriers including insecure access to land, limited availability of youth-appropriate financial instruments, low value addition, weak market integration, low adoption of modern and climate-resilient technologies, fragmented institutional coordination, and insufficient private sector leadership have constrained agriculture's capacity to deliver decent, sustainable, and scalable decent employment outcomes for youth.

The National Strategy for Youth Engagement in Agriculture (NSYEA) 2026/27–2030/31 responds to these challenges by providing a coherent, results-oriented framework to reposition youth as productive economic actors within a modernizing and commercializing agricultural sector. Drawing on lessons from the previous NSYIA (2016–2021) and implementation experience under flagship programmes such as Building a Better Tomorrow – Youth in Agriculture (BBT–YIA), the Strategy marks a deliberate shift away from activity-driven participation to strategic youth engagement toward commercially viable, market-integrated, and resilient youth employment and enterprise development.

NSYEA is fully aligned with national development priorities and sectoral policy frameworks, including DIRA 2050, FYDP III, the National Agricultural Policy (2013), the Agricultural Sector Development Programme Phase II (ASDP II), and the revised National Youth Development Policy (2024). It also reflects Tanzania's global and regional commitments including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the African Union Agenda 2063, and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and post-Malabo CAADP agenda vested in the Kampala CAADP Declaration on building resilient and sustainable agri-food systems in Africa. The Strategy applies nationally and adopts a differentiated and inclusive approach targeting youth aged 15–35 years across crops, livestock, fisheries, and agri-food value chains, with particular attention to young women, vulnerable youth, and underserved geographic areas that host the most vulnerable, particularly youth and women.

The Strategy is anchored in a clear results framework structured around four mutually reinforcing strategic outcomes: improving economic returns for youth in agriculture; strengthening youth integration into agricultural markets and value chains; accelerating the adoption of modern, digital, and climate-resilient technologies; and enhancing the policy, institutional, and regulatory environment for youth agribusiness. These outcomes are supported by targeted outputs and indicators designed to address binding constraints, strengthen accountability, and crowd in private sector investment, while ensuring coherence across institutions and delivery platforms.

Implementation of NSYEA is led by the Ministry of Agriculture, working in close coordination with Local Government Authorities (LGAs), central government institutions, private sector actors, development partners, and youth-led organizations. Delivery is underpinned by a strengthened governance and coordination architecture and a robust Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system. The MEL framework emphasizes outcome- and impact-level performance, systematic evaluation, and adaptive learning, enabling evidence-based decision-making and continuous improvement throughout the Strategy period.

Through coordinated investments in productivity enhancement, market integration, technology adoption, climate resilience, and institutional reform, NSYEA seeks to transform youth engagement in agriculture from subsistence-oriented participation into commercially viable, resilient, and sustainable employment and enterprise. The intended impact of the Strategy is improved inclusive economic growth driven by productive and sustainable youth employment in agricultural value chains, contributing directly to Tanzania’s long-term development objectives under DIRA 2050.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Information

Tanzania is undergoing a profound demographic transition marked by a rapidly expanding youth population that presents both a significant development opportunity and a critical policy challenge. Youth aged 15–35 years are estimated at over 20.6 million, accounting for approximately 34.5 percent of the total population, with projections indicating continued growth over the coming decades. The extent to which this cohort is productively integrated into the economy will be a decisive factor in determining the country's ability to achieve inclusive growth, social stability, and long-term structural transformation.

National development frameworks, including the Tanzania Development Vision 2050 (DIRA 2050), Long Term Perspective Plan (LTPP), the Fourth Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP IV) 2026/27-2030/31 and Ruling Party Election Manifesto 2025 place youth employment, productivity enhancement, and private sector–led growth at the centre of the national transformation agenda. These frameworks emphasize the need to expand productive employment opportunities, strengthen human capital, and transition toward a more competitive and resilient economy. Within this context, agriculture remains the single most important sector for absorbing the growing youth labour force and anchoring inclusive economic development.

Agriculture continues to serve as the backbone of Tanzania's economy and the primary source of employment for young people, particularly in rural areas. More than half of youth aged 15–24 years and nearly half of those aged 25–35 years are engaged in agricultural activities, either as self-employed producers, family workers or wage labourers. Despite that agriculture sector (agriculture, livestock and fisheries) employs about 60% of youth; the sector is yet to create decent jobs in terms of income. The Tanzanian ILFS (URT 2022[1]) indicates that the monthly median income from the agriculture was around TZS 83,500 (US$ 33.4) compared to the median income earned in other non-agricultural sectors that ranged between TZS 150,000 and 300,000 (US$ 60 and 120). This means agriculture earned the least value-added to

[1]URT 2022. Tanzania Integrated Labour Force Survey, 2020/21. National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). Dodoma.

its workforce compared to other sectors. According to the World Bank database[2], between 1991 and 2022, agriculture value added per worker per year averages at USD 652 (at constant 2015 USD) for Tanzania relatively behind: Uganda (USD 885), Kenya (USD 1,803), South Africa (USD 2,142), Eastern and Southern Africa sub-region (USD 805).

Between 2021 and 2025, agricultural development programmes generated over 1.08 million permanent and temporary jobs, largely through production support, irrigation development, cooperative strengthening, and targeted youth initiatives under the Building a Better Tomorrow (BBT) framework. At the macroeconomic level, the sector remains a key contributor to GDP, export earnings and food security, with recent gains in cereal production and agricultural exports reflecting sustained public investment in inputs, irrigation and value chain development.

However, headline employment gains mask persistent challenges related to the quality, sustainability, and income-generating potential of youth participation in agriculture. Despite agriculture's central role in youth employment, the quality and structure of youth engagement remain a major concern. Youth participation is predominantly concentrated in low-productivity, inadequate value-addition, low-income and informal activities, characterized by high exposure to climatic and market risks. A large share of youth remains confined to primary production with limited access to modern technologies, irrigation, mechanization, finance and structured markets. As a result, agriculture is often perceived by young people as high-risk and insufficiently rewarding, particularly relative to alternative livelihood options.

Structural constraints continue to limit the depth, sustainability and scalability of youth engagement in the sector. Access to land and secure tenure remain a binding constraint, especially for young women, due to customary inheritance systems, high transaction costs and weak tenure security. More often, where youth are given or bequeathed land for agriculture, it is the marginal land on the fringes of the farming system. While block farming arrangements under the BBT programme have improved access for selected beneficiaries typically allocating between one to ten acres per youth, coverage remains limited relative to national demand. Access to youth-appropriate finance also remains inadequate, with concessional lending and

[2] https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NV.AGR.TOTL.CD?locations=TZ&view=chart

guarantee schemes reaching only a small proportion of potential beneficiaries. These challenges are compounded by weak market integration, limited aggregation, broker dominance, low levels of value addition, fragmented institutional coordination, uneven quality of extension and business development services and weak results-based monitoring systems.

At the same time, the current development context presents important opportunities to reposition agriculture as a more attractive and competitive pathway for youth employment. Large-scale investments in irrigation infrastructure, rural roads, electrification, digital platforms, and agro-processing alongside the implementation of Agenda 10/30 and the Agricultural Transformation Master Plan 2050 are reshaping the sector's productive potential. Expanding domestic demand for agricultural products, particularly food; growing regional and continental markets under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA); and increasing private sector interest in agri-food value chains provide new avenues for youth-led enterprise development.

Against this backdrop, a renewed and more strategic approach to youth engagement in agriculture is required, one that moves beyond entry-level participation and short-term employment toward commercially viable, market-integrated and resilient agribusiness pathways. Such an approach is essential to align youth engagement in agriculture with national development priorities under DIRA 2050 and FYDP IV unlock the sector's full employment potential, and ensure that agriculture contributes meaningfully to inclusive growth, structural transformation and long-term livelihood security for Tanzania's youth.

1.2 Rationale for the National Strategy for Youth Engagement in Agriculture 2026/27–2030/31

Notwithstanding the implementation of the NSYIA (2016–2021) and subsequent youth-focused initiatives under the Building a Better Tomorrow (BBT) framework, significant national, regional and global developments have fundamentally reshaped the context for youth engagement in agriculture in the country. These changes, combined with lessons from the implementation of the previous strategy, necessitate a renewed, forward-looking and strategically aligned youth strategy for engagement in agriculture.

At the global and continental levels, Tanzania continues to implement its commitments under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063, both of which underscore youth employment, productive inclusion and agricultural transformation as central to poverty reduction and sustainable development. These frameworks emphasize accelerated agricultural modernization, agro-industrialization, value addition and job creation across agricultural value chains, reinforcing the need to reposition agriculture as a viable and competitive employment sector for youth.

At the national level, FYDP IV and DIRA 2050 articulate a clear development trajectory centred on industrialization, employment creation, human capital development, and private sector–led growth. Agriculture is explicitly positioned not only as a source of food and raw materials, but also as a foundational sector for enterprise development, value chain integration and broad-based employment. The attainment of lower middle-income country status in 2020, together with accelerated urbanization, market integration and rising youth aspirations, has further increased the opportunity cost of remaining in low-productivity agriculture, underscoring the urgency of improving income quality and economic returns within the sector.

A comprehensive review of NSYIA 2016–2021 and early experience under the BBT programmes revealed that, while the previous strategy was relevant and contributed to increased youth participation, it did not consistently deliver sustained income growth, durable employment outcomes or large-scale private sector integration. Youth engagement remained heavily concentrated in public-sector-supported and labour-intensive activities, with limited progression into higher-value segments of agricultural value chains. Persistent constraints related to land access, access to technology, finance, markets, institutional coordination, results management, and private sector leadership were not sufficiently addressed, while emerging priorities such as agro-industrialisation, digital agriculture, climate-smart production, and differentiated youth targeting were not fully operationalized. Without a deliberate strategic shift, risks renders agriculture a sector of last resort for youth rather than a driver of productive employment and enterprise growth.

Thus, the development of NSYEA 2026/27–2030/31 is both timely and necessary. The Strategy is designed to align youth engagement in agriculture with the objectives of FYDP IV and DIRA 2050, respond to evolving global and regional commitments, and address binding structural constraints identified through evidence and implementation experience. It seeks to shift youth engagement towards a youth-led market-oriented, private sector–enabled and results-focused model, anchored in value chain development, risk-sharing finance, coordinated institutional delivery and strengthened results management.

The NSYEA 2026/27–2030/31, therefore, provides a coherent strategic framework for consolidating past gains, responding to emerging challenges and positioning agriculture as a competitive, attractive, and sustainable pathway for youth employment, entrepreneurship and inclusive economic transformation in Tanzania.

1.4 Scope of the Strategy

The NSYEA 2026/27–2030/31 provides a national framework to guide, align, and prioritize interventions aimed at strengthening youth engagement in agriculture during the Strategy period. The Strategy applies to the entire agricultural sector, including crops, livestock, fisheries, and agri-food value chains, and addresses youth engagement across production, value addition, agro-processing, services, and market-related activities.

The Strategy targets youth aged 15–35 years and adopts a differentiated approach that recognizes variations in youth capacity, asset endowment, and livelihood orientation. It applies nationally, with implementation adapted to local agro-ecological conditions, market potential, and infrastructure availability, and with specific attention to inclusion of young women, vulnerable youth, and underserved areas.

The scope of the Strategy focuses on priority intervention areas that directly influence youth outcomes in agriculture, including access to land and productive assets; youth-appropriate finance and risk-sharing mechanisms; skills development, extension, and technology adoption; irrigation and climate-resilient production systems; market integration and value chain development; private sector engagement; and strengthened institutional coordination and Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL).

The NSYEA does not replace existing sector programmes or institutional mandates. Rather, it serves as an overarching strategic framework to ensure coherence, sequencing, and results orientation of youth-focused agricultural interventions implemented by government, local authorities, the private sector, and development partners during the strategy period.

1.5 Layout of the Strategy

The Strategy is structured into six chapters that together provide the analytical foundation, strategic direction, and implementation framework for enhancing youth involvement in agriculture. Chapter One introduces the Strategy by outlining the background, rationale, stakeholder landscape, scope and overall structure. The Chapter establishes the demographic imperative, macroeconomic relevance and policy justification for a renewed National Strategy for Youth Involvement in Agriculture. It situates youth engagement in agriculture within national development priorities and broader regional and global commitments, and clarifies why agriculture remains central to harnessing the demographic dividend.

Chapter Two presents the Situational Analysis, providing an evidence-based assessment of youth participation in agriculture. It examines demographic and sectoral trends, institutional arrangements, access to land and finance, skills and extension services, irrigation and climate resilience, value addition, and market integration. The Chapter shifts the discussion from rationale to evidence. It interrogates the structural, institutional, and market dynamics that shape youth participation in agriculture, evaluates the performance of previous interventions, and identifies the binding constraints limiting productivity, income growth, and scalability. By distinguishing symptoms from root causes, the Chapter provides the analytical foundation upon which a credible and results-oriented strategic response must be built.

Chapter Three demonstrates Strategic Framework and Policy alignment. The chapter situates the proposed strategic framework within the broader international, national, and sectoral policy architecture guiding Tanzania’s development trajectory. It demonstrates how the Strategy aligns with global commitments, national development visions, political priorities, and sectoral policies, while also highlighting the implementation gaps and misalignments that necessitate a more integrated, market-oriented, and youth-responsive approach sets out the Strategic Framework of the NSYEA 2026/27–2030/31, including the vision, mission, strategic objectives, guiding principles, and priority intervention areas. It translates diagnostic findings into a coherent, results-oriented strategy aligned with national development frameworks.

Chapter Four details the subject matter, which is the “Strategy” The chapter translates policy commitments and diagnostic findings into a focused, results-oriented strategy

Chapter Five details the implementation, coordination, and financing arrangements, clarifying institutional roles and responsibilities, mechanisms for inter-sectoral and multi-level coordination, partnerships with the private sector and development partners, and indicative approaches to financing and resource mobilization. It also explains the risks associated with the implementation of this Strategy.

Chapter six presents the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework, outlining the results framework, key indicators, reporting and accountability arrangements, and learning mechanisms to support adaptive management and evidence-based implementation throughout the Strategy period.

Supporting annexes provide detailed analytical tables, stakeholder mappings, implementation matrices, and technical references to complement the main text.

CHAPTER TWO

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

2.1 Overview of Youth Engagement in Agriculture

Tanzania has a significant youth population, with approximately 34.5% aged 15-35 years, which presents both opportunities and challenges. Agriculture is the primary employer, engaging over 51% of youth aged 15-24 and 46.6% of those aged 25-35. Despite the potential in agriculture, youth engagement is often characterized by low productivity, limited income, and vulnerability to shocks. In response, the government has implemented various policies and programs, such as the Building a Better Tomorrow (BBT-YIA) and Tanzania Food System Resilience Program (TFSRP), to promote youth involvement in agriculture.

2.2 Performance Review of NYSIA 2016-2021

The NSYIA 2016–2021 was implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in collaboration with other government institutions, development partners, civil society organizations, and the private sector. The strategy was designed to enhance youth participation in agriculture by addressing structural constraints related to access to land, finance, markets, knowledge, skills, and an enabling policy environment. Implementation progress was assessed through stakeholder consultations, implementation reports, review meetings, and zonal youth forums conducted by the Ministry.

Overall, the implementation of NSYIA recorded notable progress in mobilizing youth into agricultural value chains and strengthening youth capacities in agribusiness. Government-led interventions played a central role in creating an enabling environment for youth engagement. Through collaboration with FAO, the MoA reached more than 2,000 youth through value chain development projects implemented in Singida, Dodoma, Morogoro, and Coast regions. In addition, the Prime Minister's Office, working with MoA, established 117 greenhouses across 117 Local Government Authorities (LGAs), which have been used as practical training centers for modern agricultural technologies. Through this initiative, 12,580 youth were trained, significantly improving their technical knowledge and skills.

Access to productive resources was addressed through enforcement of national directives and targeted public investments. The Government continued to enforce the requirement for LGAs to allocate 10 percent of their own-source revenue to special groups, with 4 percent earmarked for youth economic empowerment. As a result, 811 youth groups in agriculture accessed loans through the Youth Development Fund (YDF). Pursuant to directives issued by the Prime Minister's Office, Local Government Authorities (LGAs) allocated land for agricultural activities, thereby strengthening youth access to land for agribusiness investments. Overall, a total of 217,882.36 hectares were allocated to youth across 48 Local Government Authorities (LGAs) as reported during the implementation of the Uhuru Torch Relay in the respective areas. While these allocations represent a major achievement, implementation challenges persist, particularly land conflicts and delays in compensation in some areas.

Recognizing the limitations of commercial financing for youth, the Government introduced alternative financing mechanisms tailored to youth needs. Initial efforts to link youth to commercial banks were largely unsuccessful due to stringent requirements such as collateral and financial records. In response, a dedicated revolving fund amounting to TZS 1.1 billion was established through the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB). To date, over TZS 900 million has been disbursed to 20 youth groups, benefiting 106 youth engaged in agricultural enterprises.

Non-state actors significantly complemented government efforts by expanding outreach, deepening skills development, and strengthening youth organization. SUGECO, in collaboration with MoA and FAO, trained 4,250 youth with informal education through its agricultural incubation centers in Mkongo–Rufiji and Morogoro. Additionally, 445 youth graduates received advanced practical training in Israel and the United States, and now serve as role models and peer trainers. Heifer International supported 15,612 youth under the East Africa Youth Inclusion Program to formalize their groups and establish Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOS), enhancing youth access to capital.

Youth networking, market exposure, and motivation were further strengthened through platforms such as the Tanzania Youth in Agribusiness Forum (TYIAF), which conducted five regional roadshows and business-to-business meetings, reaching 600 youth across Morogoro, Manyara, Lindi, Dar es Salaam, and Arusha. Productivity-focused interventions were also implemented, including AMSHA Competitive African Rice Initiative, which reached over 2,400 youth in Kibiti and Rufiji LGAs and aimed to benefit an additional 3,000 youth in Lindi Region. Other initiatives, such as the Youth Investment Forum in Songwe, mobilized youth participation in agribusiness and livestock value chains.

The implementation of NSYIA 2016–2021 demonstrates that coordinated government leadership and multi-stakeholder partnerships can effectively enhance youth involvement in agriculture. The strategy has established a strong foundation through policy enforcement, capacity building, land allocation, and tailored financing mechanisms.

However, the previous strategy suffered from structural limitations such as overemphasis on crop production and an inability to anticipate emerging areas, such as digitalization. Following its expiry in 2021, implementation momentum transitioned to the BBT programmes BBT-YIA for crops and BBT-LIFE for livestock and fisheries, which became the primary vehicles for advancing youth inclusion from 2022 onward. Nonetheless, its implementation was constrained by weak institutionalization, poor coordination as progress was uneven across intervention areas, and a lack of a structured monitoring and evaluation system.

Overall, the previous strategy generated modest and uneven impact, with limited long-term sustainability due to high dropout rates and continued dependence on public support. Going forward, scaling up successful models, strengthening land tenure security, expanding inclusive financing, and improving market systems will be critical to achieving sustainable and inclusive youth participation in agriculture at the national level.

2.3 SWOC Analysis

Strengths	Weaknesses
- Strong policy and institutional anchoring - Demonstrated political commitment - Established institutional platforms - Rising youth interest in agribusiness	- Inadequate coordination and weak M&E systems - Limited and inadequate private sector engagement - Persistent financing constraints - Over-focus on primary production - Limited access to land tenure and security - Limited access to finance, including agricultural insurance - Inadequate skills and technology adoption
Opportunities	**Challenges**
- Diversity of agricultural value chains, including horticulture - Strong natural resource endowment - Digital and financial innovation - Growing food and agricultural demand - Expansion beyond farming - Government investment in enabling economic infrastructure - Regional and international market openings - Existing and emerging agricultural technologies	- Climate and production risks - Negative perceptions of agriculture - Weak market power and value chain positioning - Sustainability and scalability risks

2.4 PESTEL Analysis

The PESTEL analysis provided a systematic lens for assessing external dynamics and understanding how they interact to influence youth engagement.

2.4.1 Political Factors

The government has consistently positioned agriculture as a central pillar of national development, reflected in flagship initiatives and increased budgetary allocations. The key issue is leveraging this strong commitment into coordinated and actionable programs.

2.4.2 Economic Factors

Agriculture employs about two-thirds of the workforce and contributes about a quarter of the GDP, with significant under-utilised arable land. The strategic issue is converting this potential into youth-centric employment by improving access to finance and reducing entry costs.

2.4.3 Social Factors

Youth constitute a large labour force, but negative social perceptions of agriculture as low-status and labor-intensive discourage participation. Addressing this requires rebranding agriculture through mentorship and success stories.

2.4.4 Technological Factors

While youth are digitally connected, adoption of modern technologies remains low due to high costs and limited access. The strategy needs to embed technology and innovation by expanding access to mechanization and digital platforms.

2.4.5 Environmental Factors

Heavy dependence on rain-fed agriculture exposes youth to climate variability and production uncertainty. Integrating climate-smart agriculture and risk mitigation training into programmes is crucial for resilience.

2.4.6 Legal Factors

The government has always remained supportive in setting the legal and regulatory frameworks. However, limited youth access to land and weak enforcement of land rights remain the most significant barriers. Hence, interventions are necessary to promote youth-friendly land access mechanisms.

2.5 Stakeholder analysis

The implementation of the Strategy relies on a broad set of public, private, and non-state actors whose mandates, resources, and incentives directly shape outcomes along the youth–agriculture pathway. These stakeholders operate at national, sub-national, and community levels and collectively influence policy direction, financing, coordination, service delivery, innovation, and market integration. The full stakeholder mapping detailing interests, influence, capacities, risks, and engagement approaches is provided in Annex 1.

At the policy and coordination level, central government institutions play a decisive role. The Ministry of Agriculture serves as the lead implementer, providing sector leadership, policy coherence, and overall coordination of strategy execution. Core central agencies including the National Planning Commission, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Finance, and PMO-RALG are critical for ensuring alignment with national development priorities, budget integration, inter-ministerial coordination, and effective decentralized implementation. Regulatory bodies, crop boards, and land institutions shape the enabling environment through market regulation, land tenure security, quality assurance, and enforcement mechanisms that directly affect youth participation and investment in agriculture.

At the delivery, innovation, and market level, research institutions, seed agencies, irrigation authorities, extension systems, and training institutions underpin productivity growth, climate resilience, and skills development. Private sector actors including agribusiness firms, seed companies, off-takers, financial institutions, and cooperatives are essential for translating public investments into sustainable market opportunities, finance, value addition, and employment for youth. Development partners, NGOs, and civil society organizations provide financing, technical assistance, implementation support, and accountability, while local communities and youth groups remain central beneficiaries and co-implementers whose engagement determines uptake, ownership, and long-term sustainability of strategy outcomes.

The Situation Analysis presented in this chapter demonstrates that while youth participation in agriculture in Tanzania is extensive, it remains predominantly characterized by low productivity, weak market integration, limited access to land and finance, and high exposure to climate and market risks. These constraints are systemic, mutually reinforcing, and rooted in institutional, market, and incentive misalignments rather than in the absence of policy frameworks. At the same time, the analysis highlights significant untapped opportunities arising from supportive national policies, expanding domestic and regional markets, technological innovation, and ongoing investments in irrigation, infrastructure, and agro-processing. Collectively, these findings underscore the need for a more focused, market-oriented, and results-driven approach to youth engagement in agriculture, providing the analytical foundation for the strategic priorities set out in subsequent chapters. The detailed evidence, diagnostic tables, and supporting analysis underpinning this chapter are provided in Annex 2.

2.6 Critical Issues

The NYSEA 2026/27-2030/31, as informed by the analysis of internal and external environment, diagnosis of constraints challenging youth engagement in agriculture, and implementation of NYSIA 2021-2026, will address the following critical issues:

i) Improve economic attractiveness for youth engagement in agriculture;
ii) Enhance access to land and secure tenure;
iii) Improve access to agricultural finance;
iv) Improve adoption of modern technologies in agricultural value chain;
v) Strengthen value chain development and market integration;
vi) Promote circular enterprises in the value chains;
vii) Enhance private sector engagement in agriculture;
viii) Improve social perceptions and youth organizations legal and regulatory frameworks; and
ix) Enhance sustainability and scalability of pilot-driven interventions.

CHAPTER THREE

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AND POLICY ALIGNMENT

3.1 Introduction

Chapters One and Two established the rationale for a renewed youth-in-agriculture strategy and provided an evidence-based assessment of the structural, institutional, and market-related constraints shaping youth engagement in the agricultural sector. The analysis demonstrated that while youth are heavily engaged in agriculture, their engagement remains concentrated in low-productivity activities, constrained by limited access to land, finance, skills, technology, and markets, and weakly linked to private sector–led value chains.

This chapter situates the proposed strategic framework within the broader international, national, and sectoral policy architecture guiding Tanzania's development trajectory. It demonstrates how the Strategy aligns with global commitments, national development visions, political priorities, and sectoral policies, while also highlighting the implementation gaps and misalignments that necessitate a more integrated, market-oriented, and youth-responsive approach. By doing so, the chapter provides the normative and policy foundation upon which the strategic objectives, priorities, and interventions of the Strategy are built.

3.2 Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, provide the overarching global framework guiding inclusive, sustainable, and resilient development. The SDGs articulate a comprehensive plan of action for people, planet, and prosperity, while recognizing poverty eradication in all its forms as the greatest global development challenge.

Tanzania has demonstrated strong commitment to the implementation of the SDGs through national planning frameworks, sectoral strategies, and institutional reforms. Within the context of youth engagement in agriculture, SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) are particularly salient. SDG 2 commits to achieving food security, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture, directly aligning with the productivity, resilience, and value addition challenges identified in Chapter Two. SDG 8 emphasizes sustained and inclusive economic growth, productive employment, and decent work, reinforcing the need to move youth engagement beyond subsistence farming toward viable agribusiness and employment along agricultural value chains.

Specific targets under SDG 8 further strengthen this alignment. Target 8.5 aims to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including youth and persons with disabilities, while Target 8.6 seeks to substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education, or training (NEET). These commitments underscore the imperative for youth-focused agricultural strategies that integrate skills development, enterprise support, and labour market linkages, directly responding to the skills–employment disconnect and limited market absorption highlighted in Chapter Two.

3.3 DIRA 2050

Tanzania’s long-term development aspirations are articulated in the Dira 2050, which provides strategic direction for socio-economic transformation up to mid-century. The Vision emphasizes the development of a strong, inclusive, and competitive economy; enhanced human capabilities and social development; and environmental sustainability and climate resilience.

DIRA 2050 explicitly recognizes youth as a central driver of economic growth and social transformation. It positions young people not merely as beneficiaries of development, but as active agents whose skills, innovation, and entrepreneurship are critical to achieving structural transformation. The Vision prioritizes the development of educated, skilled, and visionary human capital to support productivity growth, industrialization, and technological advancement.

In relation to agriculture, DIRA 2050 reinforces the need to modernize the sector and reposition it as a productive, innovative, and climate-resilient economic activity capable of attracting and retaining youth. This directly aligns with the strategic shift proposed in this Strategy from agriculture as a sector of last resort to a platform for youth enterprise, employment, and value creation addressing the negative perceptions, low productivity, and limited scalability identified in Chapter Two.

3.4 Fourth National Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP IV) 2026/27 – 2030/31

FYDP IV underscores youth empowerment as a core pillar of inclusive economic growth. It prioritizes youth, women, and persons with disabilities as drivers of productive transformation, with significant investments in skills development, entrepreneurship, and employment creation.

Despite this emphasis, the analysis in Chapter Two revealed persistent gaps between policy intent and outcomes. While extensive efforts have been made to expand education, vocational training, and entrepreneurship programmes, these interventions have not consistently translated into sustainable livelihoods or scalable youth-led enterprises, particularly in agriculture. A key challenge lies in the weak linkage between skills acquisition and labour market absorption, compounded by gender barriers, limited mentorship, and insufficient transition pathways from training to enterprise or employment.

Access to finance remains a binding constraint, despite multiple youth financing schemes. Institutional bottlenecks, including rigid lending models, weak targeting, and limited post-financing support, have reduced the effectiveness of these interventions. Employment creation efforts have also been skewed toward short-term and fragmented initiatives, with limited private sector leadership, weak market integration, and inadequate aggregation mechanisms.

These challenges point to the need for a strategic framework that moves beyond activity-based youth support toward integrated, market-oriented, and institutionally anchored interventions, strengthening linkages between skills, finance, markets, and private sector participation.

3.5 Ruling Party Election Manifesto 2025

The Ruling Party Election Manifesto 2025 outlines the ruling party’s development priorities and policy commitments for the five-year electoral cycle. Youth employment and poverty reduction are central pillars of the Manifesto, with agriculture identified as a key sector for job creation and inclusive growth.

Of particular relevance is the Manifesto’s emphasis on industrialization and value addition, including commitments to establish industrial sheds for small and mediumsized enterprises at regional and district levels. These investments are intended to support value addition across agriculture, fisheries, livestock, forestry, mining, and construction, taking into account regional comparative advantages.

This focus directly responds to the value chain bottlenecks and limited off-farm opportunities identified in Chapter Two. However, while the Manifesto articulates ambitious infrastructure and industrialization goals, their impact on youth outcomes depends on deliberate integration of youth-targeted mechanisms, including access to productive assets, skills development, finance, and market linkages. The Strategy therefore seeks to operationalize these political commitments by embedding youth more explicitly within agro-processing, aggregation, and market-oriented enterprises.

3.6 National Agricultural Policy (2013)

The National Agricultural Policy (NAP) 2013 provides a strong diagnostic foundation for youth engagement in agriculture, explicitly recognizing youth as a central constituency in agricultural transformation. The policy identifies structural barriers particularly limited access to land, finance, irrigation, mechanization, and markets as key constraints shaping youth engagement and retention in the sector.

The policy also frames youth engagement in agriculture as an entrepreneurial and value-chain-oriented endeavour, rather than subsistence farming alone. It emphasizes agribusiness skills, innovation, and modernization as essential pathways for attracting educated youth and enhancing sector productivity.

However, as demonstrated in Chapter Two, the translation of this policy vision into strategic plans and implementation frameworks has been uneven. Youth are often treated as programme beneficiaries rather than central actors within a restructured agricultural system. Structural reforms related to land access, youth-responsive finance, and mechanization have remained weakly operationalized, resulting in persistent gaps between policy intent and implementation outcomes.

This Strategy builds on the strengths of the NAP while addressing its implementation shortcomings by prioritizing concrete, scalable, and youth-specific mechanisms across land, finance, technology, and markets.

3.7 National Youth Development Policy (2007, Revised 2024)

The revised National Youth Development Policy provides overarching guidance for youth empowerment and engagement in social, political, and economic development. Within this framework, the Ministry of Agriculture is tasked with facilitating youth engagement and investment in agriculture, including access to extension services and market opportunities.

While the policy provides a strong mandate for youth inclusion, its effectiveness depends on alignment with sectoral strategies and implementation instruments. This Strategy operationalizes the policy's objectives by embedding youth development goals within agricultural value chains, enterprise development, and private sector engagement.

3.8 Agricultural Master Plan 2050

The National Agriculture Master Plan (NAMP) places youth employment, productivity enhancement, commercialization, and private sector–led growth at the centre of inclusive agricultural transformation. The NAMP aims at ensuring that youth involvement is embedded within priority agricultural value chains, spatial development corridors, and strategic investment areas identified at national level.

The Strategy supports NAMP's emphasis on increasing productivity, strengthening input and output markets, promoting agribusiness and agro-industrial development, enhancing climate resilience, and improving coordination across public and private sector actors. The Strategy promotes decent job creation, youth entrepreneurship, enterprise formalization, and investment-ready agribusiness development across NAMP priority value chains in crops, livestock, fisheries, and agro-processing.

3.9 Building a Better Tomorrow – Youth in Agriculture (BBT–YIA) Initiative (2022–2030)

The BBT–YIA Initiative represents a flagship government programme aimed at engaging youth and women in profitable and sustainable agribusiness. Through block farming, capacity building, financial and legal support, and public–private partnerships, the Initiative seeks to establish youth-led agribusinesses in villages nationwide and create over 1.5 million jobs.

The Initiative aligns strongly with the objectives of this Strategy, particularly in promoting entrepreneurship, job creation, and climate-smart practices. However, its long-term impact depends on stronger integration with land governance systems, market linkages, private sector off-takers, and scalable business models. The Strategy therefore positions BBT–YIA as a critical implementation platform, while emphasising the need for stronger coordination, market anchoring, and institutional sustainability.

3.10 Agricultural Sector Development Programme Phase II (ASDP II)

ASDP II is the principal sector-wide programme driving agricultural commercialization, productivity, and competitiveness in Tanzania. It prioritizes inclusive participation, with explicit recognition of youth as key drivers of transformation across agricultural value chains.

Through investments in infrastructure, extension services, skills development, financing mechanisms, and private sector partnerships, ASDP II provides a critical platform for integrating youth into modern, market-oriented agriculture. Its emphasis on value addition, entrepreneurship, and private-sector-led growth directly addresses many of the constraints identified in Chapter Two. This Strategy builds on ASDP II by sharpening the youth lens ensuring that sectoral investments translate into tangible employment, enterprise, and income outcomes for young women and men.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE STRATEGY

4.1 Introduction

The NSYEA 2026/27–2030/31 is grounded on the prevailing national development priorities and frameworks, sectoral policies and international commitments as outlined in the previous chapters of this Strategy. These development frameworks recognize agriculture as a foundational sector for employment creation, source of raw materials, enterprise development and value chain integration, particularly for youth and other priority groups. The strategic goal, objectives and targets are designed to respond directly to the major challenges identified in the Situational Analysis, while aligning with the country's long-term development vision and ongoing agricultural transformation agenda.

This chapter translates policy commitments and diagnostic findings into a focused, results-oriented strategy. The Strategy prioritizes improving economic returns, strengthening market integration, promoting technology adoption and climate resilience, and enhancing the enabling environment for youth engagement in agriculture. The Strategy shifts from fragmented, activity-based youth support toward an integrated, market-oriented, and institutionally anchored approach capable of delivering sustainable employment and inclusive growth outcomes during the Strategy period.

4.2 Vision and Mission

4.2.1 Vision

"Empowered youth for achieving sustainable food security, commercial production, resilient and competitive agricultural sector".

4.2.2 Mission

"To facilitate youth engagement in agriculture for improved national food security through access to agricultural assets, agricultural technology and digitalization.

4.3 Goal, Objectives, Strategies, Targets and Outcome Indicators

The goal, objectives, strategies and targets of this Strategy are informed by the situation analysis and review of the previous strategy. The Strategic Goal defines the long-term development outcome that the Strategy seeks to achieve, while the Strategic Objectives (SOs) identify the priority areas of action required to address the constraints affecting youth engagement in agriculture. The SOs are mutually reinforcing and provide a coherent framework for transitioning youth participation in agriculture from subsistence-oriented activities to productive, market-oriented, and sustainable livelihoods.

Strategic Goal

To promote productive and sustainable youth engagement in agriculture in support of inclusive economic growth.

SO1: Improved Agricultural Productivity and Profitability

Rationale

Although agriculture absorbs a substantial share of Tanzania's youth labor force, the economic returns associated with youth participation remain structurally low, volatile, and insufficient to support durable livelihood advancement. Youth engagement is disproportionately concentrated in low-productivity segments characterized by limited asset accumulation, weak capital intensity, and high exposure to climate and price shocks. The result is income instability, constrained reinvestment capacity, and persistent attrition from the sector.

Addressing this structural imbalance requires repositioning youth participation toward higher-value and income-responsive subsectors such as horticulture. Improving agricultural productivity and profitability requires deliberate efforts toward commercially viable value chains, strengthened access to productive assets and risk-sharing finance, and structured integration into markets.

Strategies

i) Improve land access and tenure security;
ii) Enhance agricultural financing; and
iii) Strengthen agriculture and agribusiness skills.

Targets

i) 550,000 acres of agricultural land accessed by youth farmers by June, 2031;
ii) Agricultural land access for 2,500,000 youth farmers strengthened by June, 2031;
iii) Financial access support for 3,500 youth-led agribusinesses strengthened by June, 2031;
iv) 230,000 youth agripreneurs provided with skills on productivity enhancement and farm business management by June, 2031; and
v) Business development services provided to 230,000 youth-led agricultural enterprises by June, 2031.

Outcome Indicators

i) Percentage change in average annual agricultural income among youth agripreneurs;
ii) Percentage of youth agripreneurs accessing formal agricultural finance; and
iii) Percentage change in average annual net income from horticulture among youth agripreneurs.

SO2: Strengthened Youth Participation in Agricultural Markets and Value Addition

Rationale

Youth participation remains largely confined to upstream production, with limited integration into aggregation, processing, logistics, and structured domestic and export markets. This structural positioning weakens bargaining power, reinforces exposure to intermediary dominance, and limits value capture. Consequently, productivity improvements alone have not translated into proportional gains in income or employment quality.

These distortions are particularly pronounced in some value chains such as horticultural markets, which require coordinated aggregation, grading, cold storage, packaging, compliance with quality and phytosanitary standards, and reliable off-take arrangements. In the absence of these systems, youth producers remain vulnerable to post-harvest losses, price compression, and exclusion from higher-margin formal markets.

The evidence indicates that prior interventions emphasized production expansion without commensurate investment in market architecture. Strengthening youth integration into value chains must therefore prioritize structured market access, private sector partnerships, collective organization, and value addition especially in high-value chains such as horticulture where upgrading potential is significant. Deepening youth participation across downstream nodes will enable progression from subsistence-oriented engagement to commercially viable enterprise and employment pathways.

Strategies

i) Strengthen youth integration in agricultural markets and value chains; and
ii) Strengthen public–private partnerships for youth-led agribusiness.

Targets

i) Market linkage support provided to 150 youth producer organizations by June, 2031;
ii) Youth participation in higher-value segments of agricultural value chains increased to 20% by June, 2031;
iii) 150 youth producer organizations strengthened for collective action and market representation by June, 2031; and
iv) 10 public–private partnerships strengthened for youth-led agribusiness value chains by June, 2031.

Outcome Indicators

i) Percentage of youth agricultural output sold through structured markets in the context of formal market participation;
ii) Total value of agricultural sales by youth-led enterprises in the context of market-oriented agribusiness;
iii) Percentage contribution of youth-led enterprises to agricultural export value in the context of youth participation in value chains; and
iv) Percentage of youth horticultural output sold through structured markets.

SO3: Enhanced Climate-Resilient Agricultural Technologies and Practices

Rationale

Productivity constraints in youth-led agriculture are closely linked to low adoption of modern technologies, limited mechanization, and insufficient integration of climate-smart practices. Heavy reliance on rain-fed systems, weak irrigation penetration, and inadequate access to post-harvest technologies expose youth to disproportionate production and climate risk, dampening investment incentives and long-term commitment.

Horticulture illustrates both the vulnerability and transformative potential associated with technology uptake. As a high-value and climate-sensitive subsector, horticulture responds strongly to irrigation systems, protected cultivation (including greenhouse technologies), improved seed varieties, integrated pest management, digital advisory platforms, and cold-chain solutions. When deployed at scale, these technologies generate measurable productivity gains, reduce post-harvest losses, and stabilize incomes.

The current scale of adoption remains insufficient relative to national demand and opportunity. Accelerating technology diffusion particularly in horticultural and other commercially intensive chains serves as a catalyst for productivity enhancement, climate resilience, and income growth. Integrating irrigation expansion, digital extension, and climate adaptation within youth-targeted programmes is therefore essential to achieving sustained and risk-adjusted improvements in performance.

Strategies

i) Promote technology adoption in commercially intensive chains;
ii) Integrate irrigation, digital extension and climate adaptation.

Targets

i) Climate-resilient agricultural technologies and practices adopted by 2,730,000 youth producers and agripreneurs;
ii) Technical assistance provided on modern and digital agricultural technologies to 2,730,000 youth producers and agripreneurs; and
iii) Climate risk management services accessed by 2,500,000 youth in agriculture.

Outcome Indicators

i) Percentage of youth farmers adopting climate-resilient technologies in the context of climate-smart agriculture;
ii) Percentage change in post-harvest losses at enterprise level in the context of youth-led value chains;
iii) Total land area under climate-resilient production managed by youth in the context of climate resilience; and
iv) Percentage of youth horticulture farms using irrigation or protected cultivation.

SO4: Improved Enabling Environment for Youth Agribusiness Development

Rationale

Youth agribusiness development operates within a broader ecosystem shaped by regulatory systems, land governance frameworks, institutional coordination, social norms and private sector incentives. Persistent barriers including complex land administration procedures, regulatory uncertainty, limited enforcement of quality standards, weak youth organization, and fragmented institutional mandates constrain enterprise scale and deter private investment.

These systemic weaknesses are amplified in commercially sensitive subsectors such as horticulture, where compliance with standards, certification requirements, logistics coordination, and market intelligence are prerequisites for competitiveness. Inadequate cold-chain infrastructure, weak inspection systems, and limited access to export facilitation mechanisms disproportionately affect youth attempting to scale horticultural enterprises.

Improving the enabling environment requires regulatory streamlining, strengthened land tenure security, improved coordination across public institutions, enhanced quality assurance systems, and structured platforms linking youth to processors, exporters, financial institutions, and technology providers. Transitioning from subsidy-dependent pilots to scalable and market-anchored enterprise ecosystems is essential for long-term sustainability.

Strategies

i) Strengthen the enabling environment for land access and tenure security;
ii) Improve coordination for youth economic empowerment; and

iii) Facilitate structured platforms to link youth to processors, exporters and financial institutions.

Targets

i) 25 advocacy, awareness and outreach initiatives on agriculture as a viable youth livelihood strategy implemented;
ii) Five regulatory and administrative guidelines for youth-led agribusinesses developed and/reviewed; and
iii) 184 youth agribusiness development platforms strengthened.

Outcome Indicators

i) Number of youth-responsive agricultural policies or reforms adopted in the context of an enabling environment for youth agribusiness;
ii) Average number of days required to register a youth-led agribusiness in the context of regulatory efficiency;
iii) Percentage of youth agribusinesses operating formally in the context of business formalization; and
iv) Number of youth-responsive horticulture regulatory reforms adopted.

CHAPTER FIVE

IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

5.1 Introduction

The successful delivery of the NSYEA 2026/27–2030/31 depends on a clear institutional anchoring, well-defined stakeholder roles, and effective governance and coordination mechanisms. This chapter outlines the implementation framework of the Strategy, identifying the lead institution, clarifying roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders, and establishing governance and coordination arrangements to ensure coherence, accountability, and results-oriented delivery.

The framework responds directly to implementation gaps observed under the previous NSYIA and subsequent youth-focused initiatives, notably fragmented coordination, weak private sector leadership, and limited results management systems

5.2 Identification of the Lead Institution

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) shall serve as the Lead Institution for the implementation of the NSYEA 2026/27–2030/31. This mandate is grounded in the Ministry's statutory responsibility for agricultural policy formulation, coordination, regulation, and sector oversight, as well as its central role in implementing flagship youth-oriented programmes such as the Building a Better Tomorrow (BBT) initiatives. The Ministry's approved organizational structure provides the institutional depth required to operationalize the Strategy across crops, livestock, fisheries, value addition, markets, land use planning, and extension services. Within the Ministry, overall strategic oversight and coordination of the NSYEA shall be vested in the Policy and Planning Division, working under the authority of the Permanent Secretary. The Division shall be responsible for mainstreaming the Strategy into sector planning, budgeting, monitoring, and reporting processes, and for ensuring alignment with national development frameworks including the Agricultural Sector Development Programme (ASDP II), the Agriculture Master Plan (AMP 2050), and the National Five-Year Development Plans.

Technical implementation of NSYEA interventions shall be undertaken through relevant technical divisions of the Ministry, notably those responsible for crop development, agricultural marketing and food security, mechanization and value addition, land use planning, training and research, and extension services, in line with their respective mandates.

5.3 Roles and Responsibilities of Stakeholders

Implementation of the NSYEA requires a multi-actor approach that recognizes youth engagement in agriculture as a cross-cutting development priority. Key stakeholders and their roles are outlined below.

5.3.1 Central Government Institutions

i) Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

Provide overall leadership, policy guidance, coordination, and monitoring of Strategy implementation. The Ministry shall lead the design and execution of youth-focused agricultural interventions, mobilize public resources, and create an enabling environment for private sector participation.

ii) Ministry responsible for Youth, Employment, and Skills Development

Support alignment of NSYEA interventions with national youth development, employment, and skills strategies; facilitate youth mobilisation, targeting, and capacity development; and strengthen linkages between agriculture and youth employment frameworks.

iii) Ministry responsible for Finance and Planning

Integrate NSYEA priorities into national planning and budgeting processes; support resource mobilization; and facilitate alignment with medium-term expenditure frameworks and development financing instruments.

5.3.2 Local Government Authorities (LGAs)

LGAs shall serve as the primary delivery platform for NSYEA interventions at the local level. Their responsibilities include identification and allocation of land for youth agribusiness, mobilization and targeting of youth beneficiaries, coordination of extension and advisory services, and integration of NSYEA priorities into district agricultural development plans. LGAs will play a critical role in ensuring geographic targeting, inclusiveness, and sustainability of youth interventions.

5.3.3 Public Agencies and Specialized Institutions

Institutions such as agricultural research and training institutes, regulatory agencies, irrigation authorities, and cooperative development bodies shall provide technical support, research, innovation, skills development, and regulatory oversight relevant to youth engagement across agricultural value chains.

5.3.4 Private Sector and Producer Organizations

Private sector actors including agribusiness firms, processors, off-takers, input suppliers, financial institutions, and cooperatives are expected to play a central role in driving market pull, value chain integration, and sustainable youth employment. Their engagement will focus on contract farming, aggregation, processing, logistics, financing, and technology transfer, shifting youth participation from subsistence-oriented activities toward commercially viable agribusiness ventures.

5.3.5 Development Partners and Civil Society Organizations

Development partners, NGOs, and civil society organizations shall provide complementary financing, technical assistance, innovation support, and knowledge generation. Their role will increasingly focus on catalytic and system-strengthening interventions rather than parallel implementation, in line with lessons from past NSYIA and BBT implementation experiences

5.3.6 Youth and Youth-Led Organizations

Youth beneficiaries and youth-led enterprises are central actors in Strategy implementation. Youth organizations, cooperatives, and agripreneur networks will participate in programme design feedback, implementation, monitoring, and learning processes, ensuring that interventions remain responsive to youth needs and market realities.

5.4 Governance and Coordination Mechanism

5.4.1 National Governance Arrangements

A National NSYEA Steering Committee shall be established and chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture. The Committee shall comprise representatives from key sector ministries, selected LGAs, private sector associations, youth representatives, and development partners.

The Steering Committee shall provide strategic direction, approve annual implementation plans, oversee inter-ministerial coordination, and ensure accountability for results. It will also serve as the principal forum for resolving policy and implementation bottlenecks.

5.4.2 Technical Coordination Mechanism

A Technical Working Group (TWG) housed within the Policy and Planning Division of the Ministry of Agriculture shall support day-to-day coordination of Strategy implementation. The TWG will be responsible for harmonizing interventions across institutions, supporting technical coherence, tracking progress, and facilitating learning and adaptive management.

5.4.3 Vertical and Horizontal Coordination

Effective coordination will be ensured through:

i) Vertical alignment between national, regional, and local levels to ensure policy coherence and implementation fidelity; and
ii) Horizontal coordination across ministries, agencies, and programmes to avoid duplication, enhance synergy, and leverage complementary investments.

5.4.4 Private Sector and Market Coordination

Structured engagement platforms shall be established to facilitate dialogue between government, private sector actors, and youth enterprises. These platforms will support aggregation, off-take arrangements, value chain financing, and public–private partnerships, ensuring that market demand remains the primary driver of youth inclusion.

Execution discipline must be complemented by continuous learning and adaptive management. In complex systems such as youth employment in agriculture where market conditions, climate risks, and institutional capacities evolve static implementation models are insufficient.

5.5 Implementation Risk and Mitigation Strategies

The effective implementation of the NSYEA will depend not only on the coherence of its strategic priorities but also on the capacity of implementing institutions to anticipate, manage, and adapt to a range of potential risks that could affect delivery and sustainability. As a multi-sectoral initiative operating within complex institutional, economic, and environmental systems, the Strategy is exposed to several categories of risk. These include challenges related to institutional coordination, adequacy and predictability of financing, the depth of private sector engagement, youth retention within agribusiness systems, climate and production shocks, and limitations in data systems that support performance monitoring and evidence-based decision-making.

Recognizing these realities, the NSYEA adopts a structured and forward-looking approach to risk management anchored within the Strategy’s Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework. Under this approach, risk management is treated as an integral component of adaptive strategy implementation, enabling continuous monitoring of emerging risks, timely identification of implementation bottlenecks, and the deployment of corrective measures as circumstances evolve. In practical terms, this ensures that implementation remains responsive to institutional, market, and environmental dynamics while safeguarding the achievement of strategic objectives.

The principal implementation risks and their corresponding mitigation measures have therefore been systematically assessed and are summarized in Annex 4. The table provides a consolidated framework outlining the major risk categories, their potential implications for strategy performance, and the institutional mechanisms required to manage them effectively. This structured risk management framework strengthens implementation resilience, reinforces institutional accountability, and supports evidence-informed decision-making throughout the life of the Strategy.

CHAPTER SIX

RESULTS FRAMEWORK

6.1 Results Framework

The Results Framework establishes the strategic and operational backbone for implementing the National Strategy for Youth Engagement in Agriculture (NSYEA). It translates the Strategy's vision into a clear, sequenced, and measurable results architecture, ensuring that policy intent is systematically converted into implementable actions and verifiable outcomes. The full Results Matrix is provided as Annex 3 and constitutes an integral part of this Strategy.

6.2 Results Chain and Strategic Logic

The Results Framework is explicitly aligned with the NSyEA's strategic priorities and national development objectives. It is structured across three interdependent levels:

i) **Impact:** reflecting the Strategy's long-term contribution to inclusive economic growth and quality youth employment in agriculture;
ii) **Outcomes:** capturing medium-term changes in youth economic performance, market integration, technology adoption and resilience, and the enabling policy and institutional environment; and
iii) **Outputs:** defining the concrete policy, institutional, and programmatic deliverables through which outcomes are achieved.

This structure enforces strategic coherence and causal discipline: outputs are designed to address binding constraints faced by youth in agriculture; outcomes reflect sustained behavioral and system-level change; and impact represents aggregated national-level effects consistent with broader development objectives.

6.3 Strategic Outcomes and Alignment with NSYEA Priorities

The Results Framework operationalizes NSYEA through four Strategic Outcomes, each corresponding directly to a core strategic priority of the Strategy and supported by a defined set of outputs and indicators.

6.3.1 Outcome 1: Improved Economic Returns for Youth in Agriculture

This outcome focuses on improving the economic viability of youth participation in agriculture through increased productivity, enhanced access to finance, improved access to land and productive assets, and strengthened agribusiness capabilities. The outcome is implemented through four outputs and measured using three outcome-level indicators.

6.3.2 Outcome 2: Strengthened Youth Integration into Agricultural Markets

This outcome addresses structural barriers to youth participation in agricultural markets by promoting access to structured markets, value addition, public–private partnerships, and collective organization. It is operationalized through four outputs and tracked using three outcome-level indicators.

6.3.3 Outcome 3: Increased Technology Uptake and Climate Resilience

This outcome targets the adoption of modern and digital agricultural technologies, reduction of post-harvest losses, and enhanced resilience to climate and environmental risks. It is implemented through three outputs and measured using three outcome-level indicators.

6.3.4 Outcome 4: Improved Enabling Environment for Youth Agribusiness

This outcome focuses on improving the policy, regulatory, institutional, and social environment for youth-led agribusinesses, including regulatory efficiency, institutional representation, and positive social norms. It is delivered through three outputs and monitored using three outcome-level indicators.

6.4 Indicator Architecture and Measurement Standards

All indicators under NSYEA are formulated using a standardized specification that clearly defines the unit of measure, unit of analysis, and context. This ensures consistency across implementing institutions, enhances comparability over time, and supports independent verification.

Impact-level indicators are anchored in national statistical systems and assess NSYEA's contribution, rather than direct attribution, to long-term development outcomes. Outcome-level indicators capture sustained changes in youth behavior, performance, and institutional conditions. Output-level indicators focus on delivery, coverage, and functional uptake of NSYEA-supported interventions.

6.5 Monitoring, Reporting, and Institutional Responsibilities

Baseline values and end-of-strategy targets are defined for all indicators to support systematic performance tracking over the NSYEA implementation period. Data sources draw on national surveys, administrative records, sector management information systems, and targeted assessments, ensuring alignment with existing government systems.

Monitoring frequency is calibrated to the results level: outputs are tracked quarterly or annually to support implementation management; outcomes are reviewed annually to assess sustained change; and selected impact indicators are assessed at mid-term and end-term. Roles and responsibilities for data collection, validation, analysis, and reporting are clearly assigned among sector ministries, local government authorities, implementing agencies, and the NSYEA Monitoring and Evaluation function.

6.6 Use of the Results Framework

The Results Framework serves as the primary tool for strategic oversight, performance management, accountability, and learning under NSYEA. It informs annual planning and budgeting, inter-ministerial coordination, and policy dialogue with development partners and the private sector. The framework also enables evidence-based adaptation of interventions, ensuring that implementation remains responsive to emerging challenges and opportunities.

The complete Results Matrix is attached as Annex 3 and forms an integral part of the NSYEA, providing the evidence base for tracking progress and assessing results throughout the Strategy lifecycle.

6.6 Theory of Change for the NSYEA

The Theory of Change for the NSYEA articulates the causal logic through which strategic interventions are expected to transform youth engagement in agriculture and contribute to national development objectives. It is grounded in Tanzania's long-term development vision as articulated in DIRA 2050 and successive FYDPs, which prioritize inclusive economic growth, employment-led structural transformation, and effective utilization of the demographic dividend. Within this national policy framework, agriculture is positioned as a foundational sector for generating productive employment, raising incomes, and supporting the transition toward a competitive and semi-industrialized economy.

Despite agriculture's central role in employment, youth participation remains predominantly subsistence-oriented, informal, and low-return. This structural pattern constrains productivity growth, limits income generation, and weakens agriculture's contribution to inclusive growth and employment outcomes envisaged under FYDPs and DIRA 2050. The NSYEA Theory of Change therefore defines the pathway through which youth engagement in agriculture can be transformed from survival-based participation into commercially viable, market-integrated, and resilient employment and enterprise, anchored in productivity enhancement, market integration, technology adoption, and an enabling institutional environment.

Theory of Change Logic (IF–THEN)

IF Tanzania's national development framework prioritizes inclusive growth, employment creation, and structural transformation, AND IF agriculture is recognized as a primary platform for productive youth employment and income generation, THEN transforming the quality and structure of youth participation in agriculture becomes a necessary condition for achieving FYDP and DIRA 2050 objectives.

IF youth participation in agriculture continues to be characterized by low productivity, informality, and weak market integration, THEN agriculture's contribution to employment-led growth and the demographic dividend will remain limited, despite high levels of youth engagement in the sector.

IF NSYEA deliberately repositions youth as productive economic actors within a modernizing and commercializing agricultural sector, THEN youth engagement can shift from survival-oriented activities toward commercially viable, market-oriented, and resilient forms of employment and enterprise.

IF youth are simultaneously supported to enhance productivity and enterprise management capabilities, AND IF they gain access to secure land, appropriate finance, and productive assets, AND IF they are integrated into structured markets and higher-value agricultural value chains, AND IF they adopt modern, digital, and climate-resilient technologies within a predictable and youth-responsive policy and regulatory environment, THEN youth will transition from low-return, informal agricultural activities into viable and resilient agribusiness and farming systems.

IF this transition occurs at scale, THEN youth-led agricultural enterprises will generate higher and more stable incomes, improve employment quality, and strengthen functional linkages with private sector actors across agricultural value chains. AND IF value addition and market integration increase, THEN youth will move from price-taking positions toward competitive participation in domestic and export markets, consistent with FYDP priorities on private sector–led growth.

IF technology adoption and climate resilience measures are effectively scaled, THEN productivity will increase while exposure to climate and market shocks will decline, supporting sustainability and long-term growth in line with national climate and environmental commitments.

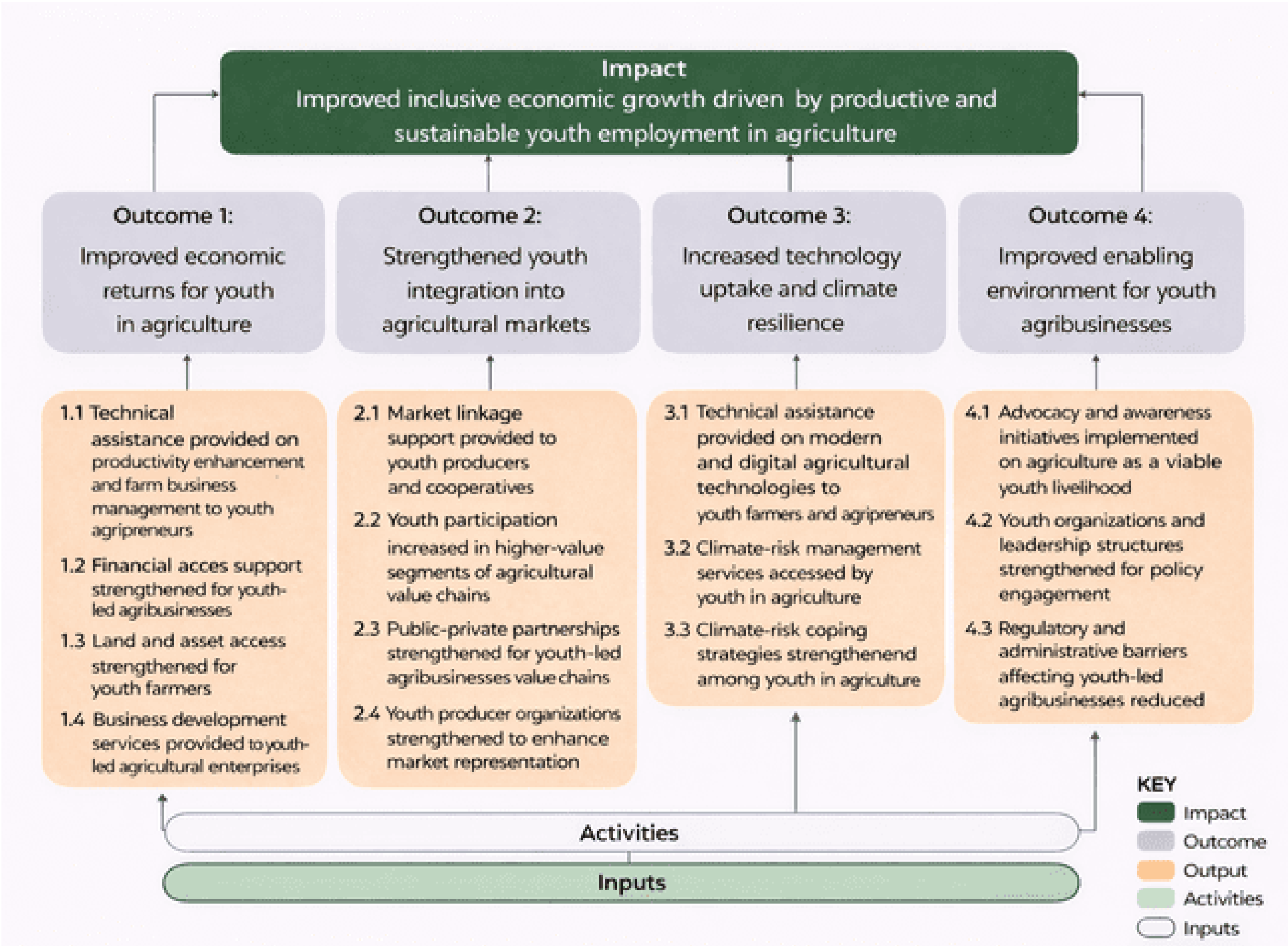
IF the enabling environment is strengthened through policy and regulatory reforms, institutional inclusion of youth, reduced transaction costs, and positive social norms around agriculture as a viable economic sector, THEN barriers to entry will be lowered, regulatory efficiency will improved, youth representation in policy processes will be strengthened, and conditions for sustained private investment and long-term youth participation in agriculture will be established, consistent with DIRA 2050's emphasis on institutional effectiveness and social transformation.

IF these pathways operate coherently and at scale across productivity, markets, resilience, and institutions, THEN their effects will be mutually reinforcing, enhancing agriculture's contribution to employment-led growth, improving the quality and sustainability of youth jobs, and accelerating structural transformation of the economy.

Therefore, the intended impact of NSYEA is improved inclusive economic growth driven by productive, resilient, and sustainable youth employment in agriculture, fully aligned with DIRA 2050 and FYDP outcomes.

AND IF this Theory of Change is operationalized through a Results Matrix translating strategic objectives into one impact, four outcomes, fourteen outputs, and fifty-seven indicators, THEN NSYEA implementation will remain results-oriented, policy-aligned, and adaptive, enabling evidence-based monitoring, accountability, and continuous learning throughout the Strategy lifecycle.

ToC Diagram



6.7 Monitoring Plan

Monitoring under the NSYEA 2026/27–2030/31 is designed as a core management function rather than a compliance exercise. It provides the primary mechanism through which implementation progress is tracked, institutional accountability is enforced, and evidence is generated to support timely decision-making. The Monitoring Plan directly addresses limitations observed under the previous NSYEA, notably fragmented reporting, activity-centric tracking, and weak linkage between data and strategic action.

The monitoring system is explicitly anchored in the NSYEA Results Framework and Results Matrix and is structured along the Strategy's results chain. At the output level, monitoring focuses on delivery, functionality, and coverage of interventions, ensuring that inputs and services reach intended youth beneficiaries in a timely and effective manner. At the outcome level, monitoring tracks sustained changes in youth economic performance, market integration, technology adoption, climate resilience, and the enabling environment. At the impact level, monitoring assesses the Strategy's contribution to national objectives related to productive youth employment and inclusive economic growth, recognizing that attribution at this level is shared with broader macroeconomic and sectoral dynamics.

Data for monitoring are drawn primarily from existing government administrative systems, sector management information systems, and national statistical instruments, supplemented where necessary by targeted surveys and tracer studies. This approach strengthens sustainability, reduces reporting burdens, and ensures alignment with national systems, while allowing for improved data quality and analytical depth. Monitoring frequencies are calibrated to decision needs, with outputs tracked on a quarterly or annual basis and outcomes reviewed annually to assess behavioural and system-level change.

Institutional responsibilities for monitoring are clearly defined. The Ministry of Agriculture, through its Policy and Planning Division, holds overall responsibility for consolidating monitoring data, analyzing performance trends, and reporting on Strategy progress. Implementing institutions and Local Government Authorities are responsible for routine data collection and validation at the operational level. The NSYEA Technical Working Group provides technical oversight and supports corrective action, while the NSYEA Steering Committee uses monitoring evidence to guide strategic direction and resolve implementation bottlenecks.

6.8 Evaluation Plan

Evaluation under the NSYEA is conceived as a core instrument of strategic governance rather than a retrospective compliance exercise. It is deliberately framed to assess not only whether planned interventions are implemented, but whether they deliver durable, welfare-enhancing outcomes for young women and men and advance national objectives related to inclusive growth, employment quality, and agricultural transformation. In doing so, the Evaluation Plan directly addresses the historical underinvestment in rigorous assessment of youth-in-agriculture initiatives and embeds evaluation as an integral pillar of Strategy implementation and oversight.

The Strategy provides for a sequenced and systematic programme of evaluations across its implementation cycle. A Mid-Term Evaluation will be undertaken at the midpoint of the Strategy period to assess progress toward intended outcomes, test the continued validity of the Theory of Change, and identify strategic, institutional, or operational adjustments required to enhance performance. An End-Term Evaluation will assess the overall effectiveness of the Strategy, the sustainability and scalability of achieved results, and NSYEA contribution to inclusive economic growth and productive youth employment. Where necessary, thematic or rapid evaluations will be commissioned to examine specific intervention modalities, delivery mechanisms, or emerging policy questions requiring timely evidence.

Evaluations will apply mixed-methods designs that combine quantitative analysis of monitoring systems, administrative data, and surveys with qualitative evidence drawn from youth beneficiaries, private sector actors, and implementing institutions. This methodological approach ensures analytical rigor while capturing contextual and behavioural dynamics, enabling evaluators to explain not only the magnitude of observed changes, but the mechanisms, incentives, and conditions through which those changes occurred. Independent evaluators will be engaged to safeguard objectivity, credibility, and policy relevance.

Evaluation findings will be formally disseminated and systematically integrated into planning, budgeting, and policy dialogue processes at national and sub-national levels. Through this structured feedback loop, evaluation functions as a continuous learning and accountability mechanism, strengthening implementation performance during the Strategy period while generating actionable evidence to inform future youth-focused agricultural policies and programmes.

6.9 Learning Plan

Learning under NSYEA is operationalized as a continuous and deliberate process that transforms monitoring and evaluation evidence into improved performance and more effective policy. The Learning Plan is designed to institutionalize adaptive management, ensuring that implementation remains responsive to emerging challenges, market dynamics, and youth needs over the Strategy period.

Learning objectives focus on identifying what works, for whom, and under what conditions in promoting productive and sustainable youth engagement in agriculture. The Strategy prioritizes learning that informs scale-up decisions, improves cost-effectiveness, and strengthens institutional capacity for results-based delivery. Learning is therefore embedded within implementation rather than treated as a retrospective exercise.

Key learning mechanisms include annual performance reviews that synthesize monitoring and evaluation findings, targeted learning briefs and policy notes that distil actionable insights, and structured multi-stakeholder learning platforms that bring together government institutions, youth representatives, private sector actors, and development partners. These mechanisms support shared understanding, cross-institutional coordination, and alignment around evidence-based priorities.

The NSYEA Technical Working Group serves as the focal point for learning coordination, ensuring that lessons are documented, disseminated, and integrated into annual work plans, operational guidelines, and programme design. Through this approach, the Strategy moves away from repeated pilot-driven interventions toward cumulative learning and scalable solutions.

Appendix…..: **Strategic Risk Assessment and Mitigation Framework for NSYIA Implementation**

Risk Category	Key Risk	Strategic Description	Likelihood	Potential Impact on Strategy Delivery	Mitigation and Management Measures	Lead and Supporting Institutions
Institutional Coordination Risk	Fragmented institutional coordination	The multi-sectoral nature of youth-in-agriculture interventions requires coordinated action across ministries, agencies, implementing partners and the private sector. Weak alignment of institutional mandates may lead to duplication of efforts, policy inconsistencies, and suboptimal use of public resources.	Medium	High	Establish a formal inter-ministerial coordination mechanism; clearly define institutional roles and accountability frameworks; integrate NSYIA priorities into national development planning and sectoral implementation platforms.	Ministry responsible for Agriculture, Prime Minister's Office, National Planning Authorities
Financing and Resource Mobilization Risk	Insufficient or delayed financing	The implementation of NSYIA may be constrained by fiscal limitations, delayed public expenditure releases, or insufficient mobilization of complementary financing from development partners and private actors.	Medium	High	Mainstream NSYIA priorities within medium-term expenditure frameworks; mobilize blended financing arrangements; leverage development partner support and catalytic public investments to	Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, Development Partners

Risk Category	Key Risk	Strategic Description	Likelihood	Potential Impact on Strategy Delivery	Mitigation and Management Measures	Lead and Supporting Institutions
					crowd in private capital.	
Private Sector Engagement Risk	Limited private sector participation	The transformation of youth agribusiness systems depends significantly on active private sector investment and market linkages. Weak engagement could limit value chain integration, technology adoption, and access to commercial markets.	Medium	High	Deploy targeted incentives to attract agribusiness investment; promote public–private partnerships; utilize risk-sharing instruments and investment facilitation platforms to stimulate private sector participation.	Ministry responsible for Trade and Investment, Private Sector Associations, Investment Promotion Agencies
Youth Participation Risk	High youth dropout from agricultural programmes	Youth engagement in agriculture may decline if economic returns remain uncertain, access to productive assets is constrained, or agribusiness opportunities are perceived as insufficiently attractive relative to alternative employment pathways.	Medium	Medium	Strengthen the economic viability of youth agribusiness by expanding access to finance, modern technologies, business development services, and structured markets.	Youth Development Institutions, Agricultural Extension Services

Risk Category	Key Risk	Strategic Description	Likelihood	Potential Impact on Strategy Delivery	Mitigation and Management Measures	Lead and Supporting Institutions
Climate and Production Risk	Climate variability and production shocks	Agricultural production systems remain vulnerable to climate variability, extreme weather events, pest outbreaks, and environmental degradation, which may undermine productivity and the sustainability of youth enterprises.	High	High	Scale up climate-smart agricultural practices, promote diversified production systems, expand agricultural insurance mechanisms, and strengthen early warning and climate risk management systems.	Ministry responsible for Agriculture, Meteorological Authority, Insurance Providers
Data and Information Systems Risk	Weak data quality and utilization	Limited availability of reliable and timely data, coupled with weak institutional capacities for data analysis and utilization, may undermine evidence-based decision-making and performance monitoring.	Medium	Medium	Strengthen management information systems; improve data collection, verification, and reporting protocols; institutionalize the systematic use of monitoring and evaluation evidence in policy and programme management.	National Statistical Office, M&E Units, Implementing Ministries
Implementation Capacity Risk	Limited programme	Institutional and technical capacity	Medium	Medium	Invest in institutional capacity	Implementing Ministries,

Risk Category	Key Risk	Strategic Description	Likelihood	Potential Impact on Strategy Delivery	Mitigation and Management Measures	Lead and Supporting Institutions
	management capacity	constraints within implementing entities may affect programme coordination, monitoring, and the effective delivery of interventions.			development, strengthen programme management systems, and embed performance monitoring mechanisms within implementation structures.	Capacity Development Institutions
Market and Economic Risk	Market volatility and price fluctuations	Agricultural markets are subject to price volatility and demand fluctuations, which may reduce profitability and undermine the financial sustainability of youth-led enterprises.	Medium	Medium	Promote value chain diversification, facilitate access to structured markets, strengthen contract farming arrangements, and improve market intelligence systems.	Agricultural Marketing Authorities, Private Sector Actors

Annex

Annex 1: Stakeholder Analysis

STAKEHOLDERS
ANALYSIS-20260130.

Annex 2: Situation Analysis

SITUATIONAL
ANALYSIS 20260302.

Annex 3: Result Matrix

Results Matrix
20260130.docx

Annex 4: **Strategic Risk Assessment and Mitigation Framework**