



# G7 AGRI-YOUNG HACKATHON

Syracuse, September 24-27, 2024

# The process

The Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forests, under the G7 Presidency, recognized that youth-led initiatives are of paramount importance to foster sustainable development and convened the “G7 Agri-Young Hackathon” with the support of the Italian Agency for Youth to address three key topics:

- 1) The Role of Science and Innovation for Agrifood Systems Transformation Under Climate Change
- 2) The Young Generations in Agriculture in the Global South
- 3) Global Food Security Challenges and its Drivers.

# The process

- Hackathon participants include 3 youth (young farmers, university and high school students) and teachers from the G7 countries and the European Union.
- Expertise in crop and livestock management, fisheries, nutrition, environmental sciences, biotechnology, policy, economics, education, and training.

# The process

- Since August, we have met online and prepared written documents to address questions related to key topics
- We have worked in person for the past two days to elaborate our recommendations for the G7 Ministers of Agriculture.

# The process

## **Role of Science and Innovation for Agrifood Systems Transformation Under Climate Change**

- Innovation can be something new, but innovation also can include existing knowledge, technologies, and management practices not yet adopted in a particular region
- Barriers include lack of publicly-owned information, low knowledge sharing, high cost of development, and financial risk for farmer
- Recommendations aim to close the gap between innovation and adoption

# The process

## Young Generations in Agriculture in the Global South

- Barriers to entry are: Environmental - climate change, risk management, unstable weather conditions; Social - education, access to skills and knowledges, opportunity, gender equity; Economic - access to land and land governance.
- Recommendations focus on education (critical to develop and improve skills and knowledge) and financing (essential to support and encourage young farmers and to help them to be competitive)

# The process

## **Global Food Security Challenges and Its Drivers**

- Food security issues - Lack of access to safe and nutritious diets, lack of income, and problems along value chains
- Socio-economic factors - geopolitical conflicts, trade policies, risks due to climate change
- Recommendations focus on inclusion of youth from G7 and developing countries, efficient use of water in agricultural production, water governance, preparedness against extreme weather events

# Empowering young farmers: Financial Solutions for sustainable agriculture in the global south

## **Economic Support:**

- Provide youth-friendly, agricultural-specific loans with tailored financial advising.
- Support all areas of agriculture, including sustainable practices and livestock.
- Establish cooperatives to share financial resources and machinery.
- Offer tax reductions and encourage viable business planning for long-term success.

## **Funding:**

- Implement diverse schemes for financial assistance, focusing on young farmers.
- Provide interest-free loans and eco-schemes to encourage sustainable agriculture.
- Offer incentives for seeking loans and government support.

## **Farmer Safety Net:**

- Ensure income stability through area-based payments and risk management tools.
- Promote fair income and long-term profitability, protecting farmers from economic and environmental risks.



# Recommendation

- Establish a **rural development bank** that caters to the financial needs of farmers.
- Set up an **advisory service** where farmers can seek expert guidance on finance and farm management.
- Introduce a **mobile advisory bus** that visits farms, offering strategic planning and tailored support.
- **Pair farm advisors with bank loans** to provide holistic support for farm investments.
- Focus on **long-term investment** in young farmers as key contributors to agricultural sustainability.
- Develop a **local support system** promoting the use of local crop varieties and farming practices.
- Encourage a **mindset** where anyone can be a farmer by providing equal opportunities and access to resources.

# The lack of skills, knowledge and resources available to young people in the Global South

- In developing countries, every 3 in 5 are **unemployed** with the majority unemployed in the informal economy.
- One of the **barriers** to unlocking this issue is the lack of skills, knowledge and resources available to young people.
- Our solution would be to create a **digital learning platform** for young people to exchange knowledge and access a directory of **mentors** for face to face learning in their area.
- **Successful examples** can already be seen in Wales, France and Germany.

# Recommendation

To conclude, as a group we **recommend** to

- **Align policies** and develop the financial commitment to education, employment and training.
- **Increase collaboration** and partnership with all ecosystem actors.
- **Invest time and funds** in education and skill development by repurposing the two best practices described previously in order to make a tailored scheme that will bridge the skills gap and give young people the tools needed to be successful in their agricultural businesses.

# Barriers of Innovation Adoption

- Knowledge transfer and exchange
  - Between countries, academia and farmers
  - Technology may already exist outside of agriculture that just need to be adapted to the agri sector.
- Costs: (legislative burden, on-farm financial costs) of development and adoption
  - Prevents the adoption of technology/innovations
  - consolidation of ownership of innovations and tech into a few powerful private enterprises

# Recommendation

- International development fund to drive **publicly owned research and intellectual property**
  - weighted financing based on country economic development.
  - Eligibly criteria considering : gender equity, youth empowerment and global South countries
  - Maintaining public ownership of the outcome of the studies
  - Strengthening collaboration between scientific institutions and policymakers

# Lack of Fairness of International Trade

- International trade currently does not value the intrinsic public value of the environment, society and animal welfare
  - What incentive to address climate or biodiversity loss?
  - Risks a race to the bottom on standards
- Consolidated supply chains commoditising and failing to reward the value of environment, society and animal welfare
  - Global trade sees no value in public goods

# Recommendation

- Boarder adjustments need to be made to underpin high environmental, animal welfare and social standards
  - Examples in the UK and Europe, such as the CBAM. Why stop there?
- International supply chain review focusing on the imbalance of power between producer, processor and retailers
  - Trade operates beyond national borders
  - Public goods valued alongside GDP

# The Nexus between Food and Water Security

- Agriculture accounts for 72% of global freshwater withdrawals
- Water availability is essential for producing, cleaning, and processing our food.
- 2.4 billion people live in water-stressed countries

## Main issues:

- Water shortages due to climate change effects
- Water quality: agricultural runoff, microplastics and industrial pollution



# Recommendation

Prioritizing water security management → further dialogues, programs and policies

- Policies:
  - Prioritize upgrading outdated infrastructure
  - Ensure water safety standards for irrigation
  - Capacity-building and educational programs for farmers
- Industrial Phd to bridge the gap between research and application

# Under representation of young people

- There is no network in place for youth across the G7 to collaborate and share best practices
- Worldwide less than 2 percent of politicians are in their 20s

# Recommendation

## **G7 Youth Advisory Council**

- Include youth from all countries who take part in the G7 summit
- Platform for digital knowledge sharing within the council
- Formal framework for youth to provide feedback
- Youth have the opportunity to take part not just observe

# **Closing Remarks**

GRAZIE PER L'ATTENZIONE

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

MERCI DE VOTRE ATTENTION

VIELEN DANK FÜR IHRE AUFMERKSAMKEIT

ご清聴ありがとうございました