

A photograph of a cable-stayed bridge with a large, colorful, multi-layered structure hanging from its cables. The structure is made of various materials, including what looks like fabric or paper, in shades of red, pink, and brown. The bridge is set against a clear blue sky, and the water of a lake or river is visible in the foreground. The overall scene is bright and clear.

Bridging gender and youth studies
learning from rural young women and
men in Central Uganda

Anne Rietveld
Margreet van der Burg

“**Attracting youth to agriculture:** The future in agriculture programming promising if we focus on working with young people that dominate this country”. Jan 2018 New vision

ful population in the
etic productive
ment agenda.

Unfortunately, this is not the case because majority youth in Uganda have turned out to be violent and hostile” Nilepost Feb 11 2018

“**Why all these youth entrepreneurship grants are not bearing fruit?** Why are we throwing so much into youth enterprise and getting very little impact in terms of actual job creation which is the long term end goal of these efforts?” Nile post Feb 2018

President Yoweri **Museveni** has urged the **youth** in the country to wake up and contribute to the development of Uganda so that they are able to Aug, 2018 Nile

Poor policy implementation a challenge to youth initiatives
The observer, Aug 2017

the Farms?

in the world,

“**Bobi Wine Is Teaching
Minister says”** The m

Uganda, has seen its youths migrate to towns leaving behind ageing farmers and declining traditional agricultural systems. 30cuts international Jan 2013

Study Objectives / RQs

To investigate the aspirations of young men and women in relation to their livelihoods, in order to

1. better understand the range of aspirations of young people and
2. to what extent and how these aspirations are associated or linked to agriculture and
3. the importance of gender and the (dis)enabling environment of young women and men in realizing these aspirations.

Paper lay-out

1. Introduction

2. Conceptual and methodological framework

2.1 Why studying youth and gender together?

2.2 From Youth and Gender to gender and generation

- Livelihood pathways and opportunity space
- Intersecting gender and generational norms in relation to opportunity space
- Aspirations next to ambition in relation to opportunity space
- Inequalities caused by economic deprivation and identity-based discrimination

2.3 Data collection

Kisweeka Trading Center

- 51% less 'youth' recorded than would be expected on basis of national demographics
- Young women leave more often than young men
- About 2/3 that leave, go to Kampala 'metropolis'
- Young men own land, or have prospect on inheriting land, much more often than young women

Qualitative data

- Re-analysis GENNOVATE case-study Kisweeka (2014)
- In-depth interviews with 16 young men and women from Kisweeka but living in and outside of Kisweeka (2017)

Migrants				Stayers			
18-24 YRS old		25-30 YRS old		18-24 YRS old		25-30 YRS old	
Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Siifa	Patrick	Cisse	Miracle	Isa	Gerald	Macalata	Chris
Susan	Francis	Esther	Sunday	Brenda	Richard	Deborah	Ambrose

Results: Migration

All 'stayers' had migrated as much as 'migrants'

Reasons to migrate:

- Work – for women and men
- Education – for women and men
- Marriage – for women

But also:

- Visits or short stays as an 'orientation'
- A preference for urban life

Migration trends reinforce migration trends:

- influences aspirations;
- makes it easier to migrate (chain-migration)



Results: Interest in Farming

'Migrant' or 'stayer', man or woman: majority youth engaged in agriculture in one way or another

Four categories identified presenting different degrees of engagement and interest in agriculture:

- 1) Farming? No!***
- 2) Reluctant farmers***
- 3) Farming as part of diversification strategies***
- 4) Farming? It's my dream and future***

Reluctant farmers

Farming without ambition to farm

- Feeling deprived of agency
- Frame farming as 'dead-end'
- No ownership of land
- Hope to move out of farming soon

Young men dependent on father (family) for support for education, farm as contribution to parents' household

Young women (single mothers) resort to farming, to feed themselves and children



Farming as part of diversification strategies

Young men and women promoting livelihood diversification

- Farming framed as important contribution to livelihoods but one that should be practiced together with other activities. Farming is not focus of aspirations
- For women; additional livelihood activities which generates (small) income and reduce dependency. Farming is for food production / subsistence “You can’t live in the village and not farm”
- For men; farming is geared towards income generation, risk spreading and optimizing use of land owned.

Discussion – Distaste for agriculture?

- Distaste mainly visible in category 1, 2 (3)
- Consists of different elements:
 - Farming = ‘heavy work for low returns’
 - The rural area where there are no facilities
 - **Farming not attractive or even feasible specifically to young women**

Discussion – Farming not for women?

- Women's weaker resource base (no access to land)
- Gender norms which discourage women's independent commercial (agricultural) activities
- Normative expectations for women to 'find a husband, raise a family' and to be under the authority of their husband rather than aiming for professional / economic fulfillment.

Conclusions

- The rural \neq isolated -> Fluidity in rural and urban livelihood pathways, back and forth, village as safety net
- Few young people (m/w), aspire to make farming their primary livelihood, yet many are engaged in farming in one way or another
- Young women tend to invest less in farming and rural livelihoods than young men
- Access to land = issue for most youth, but more for youth from families with little land and for women
- Relations structure young women's opportunity space different from young men's (reproduction / fertility)



Thank you

Anne Rietveld

A.Rietveld@cgiar.org



www.bioversityinternational.org/subscribe

@BioversityInt

