

## **IFAD-UNESCO Research Project on Learning Knowledge and Skills for Agriculture to improve Rural Livelihoods**

### **Background**

Today's generation of young people is the largest in history. Although many of this younger generation have abandoned the rural context and migrated elsewhere, a major share of the unemployed youth still lives in agrarian societies and in rural areas. Accordingly, the focus of attention is increasingly shifting to young rural people and, in particular, the next generation of farmers.

For many countries one of the main concerns is to provide sustainable employment opportunities in agriculture for the youth. Understanding the way that future farmers are acquiring knowledge and skills is critical in forming responses to rural poverty and food security. The neglect that agriculture has suffered in terms of national budgets, policies and investment is often being reinforced through inadequate education systems.

The potential pro-poor benefits of finding innovative ways to equip the new generation of rural youth with the knowledge, skills and means of introducing sustainable technology to their agricultural practices are enormous. Only by providing young rural women and men with access to education and training of good quality as well as technology they will be able to contribute with innovative ideas to create a rural agricultural sector that is different from the one they have already seen from their parents and, more broadly, to rural development.

### **Objective of the research project**

This IFAD-UNESCO research project was designed to respond to these concerns through deepening understanding of how teaching and learning for agriculture and rural livelihood is taking place in rural communities and what kind of knowledge and skills are communicated to rural youth. In relation to this, it explores the status of skills development programmes in rural areas. Particular attention will be given to the views of young people on the education and training they receive, how they learn knowledge and skills, and their aspirations and perceptions of agriculture and rural livelihoods.

### **Research focus**

The research activities in Cambodia, Egypt and Ethiopia aim at exploring the following based on desk and field studies:

- Existing knowledge about the topic, policies and programmes
- The content and processes of learning and teaching
- The institutional-settings, governance and quality assurance arrangements
- The implications of research findings for future policies and programmes



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