

THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN TRANSFORMING FOOD SYSTEMS



Abigail S. Johnson



According to The United Nations, there are *1.2 billion* people between the ages of 15 and 24 globally.

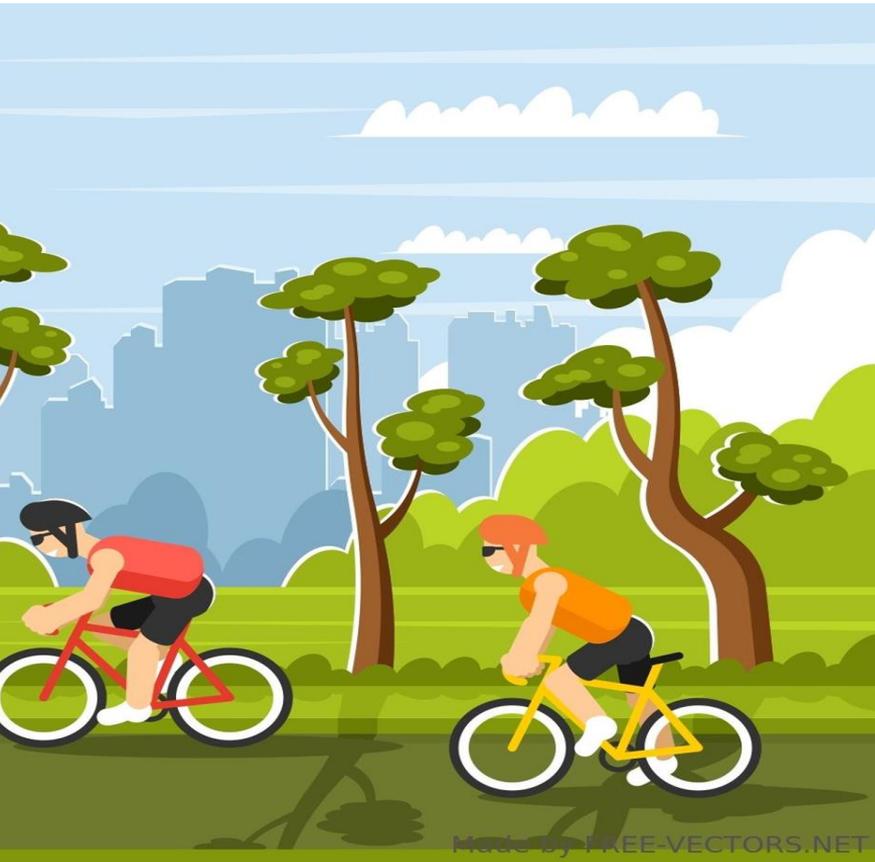
By 2030—the target date for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that make up the 2030 Agenda—the number of youth is projected to have grown by 7 per cent, to nearly 1.3 billion.

WHY IS YOUTH ACTIVISM IMPORTANT?

- Decisions and policies made today will directly affect us as we inherit the future - Singapore
- It is instrumental in driving social change - Nigeria
- Every government that wants to build a strong future for her nation must value the importance of the youth voice - Cameroon
- We represent the largest source of energy that can contribute towards meaningful change by sheer number and volume - India



WHY IS YOUTH ACTIVISM IMPORTANT?



“Never before has a generation been so proactive in the way we think about food and environment. As it stands young people are to inherit a planet that will be four degrees warmer, threatening the availability and nutrition quality of what they eat as well as the air they breathe. The question that has to be answered by all key players in the food systems is: how are young people involved in transforming the food system so that it becomes resilient, affordable and accessible to all?”

– Mike Nkhombo Khunga

WHAT DO YOU SEE?



WHAT ROLE HAVE YOUNG PEOPLE PLAYED?



The border that divides Haiti on the left and The Dominican Republic on the right.

Haiti is now one of the most deforested countries in the world. In 1920, 60% of Haitian territory was covered with forests, compared to only 2% today. The massive loss of forest cover is mainly due to the production of charcoal, which is the main source of energy for the population

WHAT ROLE HAVE YOUNG PEOPLE PLAYED?

USAID Improves Haitian Farmers' Livelihoods and the Health of Their Livestock in Northern Haiti to Protect Natural Resources

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A group of 76 young Haitian farmers (54 men and 22 women) will return to Haiti after a year of exchange, with a greater knowledge of the practices in rural areas as well as agroecology.

Coupled with international organizations and governmental support young people have been able to assist the reforestation efforts in their country.

WHAT ELSE HAVE YOUNG PEOPLE BEEN DOING?

Students' Participation in Tree Planting Activity: Promoting the 21st Century Environmental Education

By Christopher H. Punzalan and Ma. Lyka M. Balanac



Remarks

FOOD AND YOUTH: What I have learned from young people and their desire to fix the food systems they live in

Henrietta H. Fore, UNICEF Executive Director | Martin J. Forman Memorial Lecture

18 Youth Inspiring Change Across the Food System



Press Release
Youth movement leads the charge worldwide for food systems transformation ahead of UN summit

Younger generations adopting diets that help slow down climate change

JANUARY 8, 2022

Did COP27 deliver food system transformation?



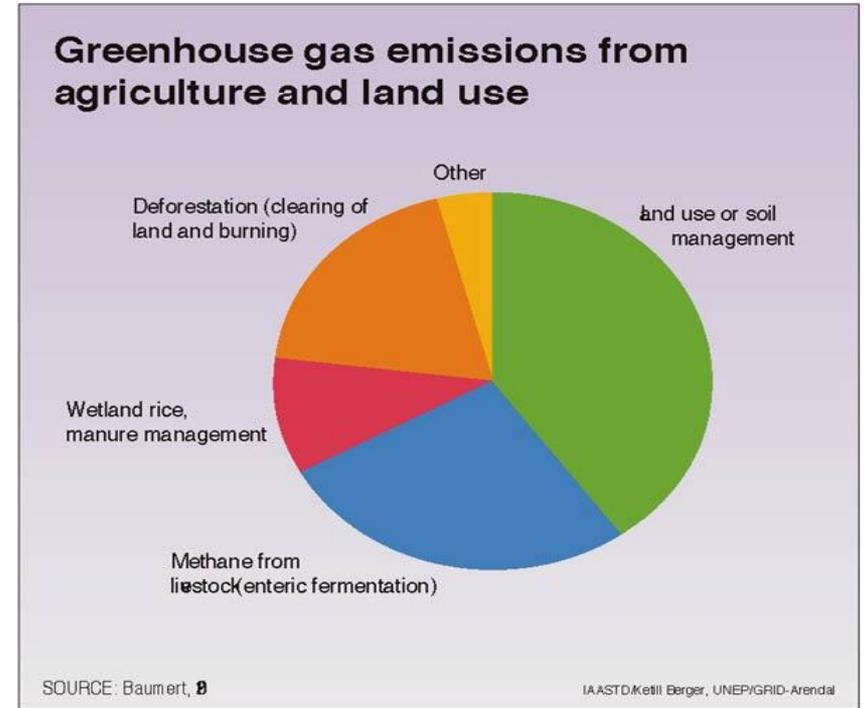
THERE IS **NO 1.5C FUTURE** WITHOUT TRANSFORMING OUR INDUSTRIAL FOOD SYSTEMS

WHAT HAPPENED AT COP27?

Food and farming account for approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of global greenhouse gas emissions however food systems have mainly been ignored at international climate negotiations.

At COP27 however, food systems were on the agenda.

With over 200 events, 4 pavilions and a day dedicated to agriculture and adaptation.



Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture

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The Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) is a landmark decision under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that recognizes the unique potential of agriculture in tackling climate change. The Koronivia decision addresses six interrelated topics on soils, nutrient use, water, livestock, methods for assessing adaptation, and the socio-economic and food security dimensions of climate change across the agricultural sectors. The decision resonates with FAO's core mandate to eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, reduce rural poverty, and make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable.

GETTING FOOD SYSTEMS ON THE GLOBAL AGENDA IS NOT ENOUGH!!



"The industrial food system is responsible for over a third of global warming emissions - and now finally the UN climate talks are recognising that. But if actions are not incorporated across the whole food system, from food waste and loss to sustainable supply chains and healthy diets, we will fail to meet the world's great food and climate challenges."

Mamadou Goïta, IPES-Food expert and Executive Director of the Institute for Research and Promotion of Alternatives in Development (IRPAD)



"Despite all the green buzzwords, COP27 has seen a number of initiatives simply doling out more support to big agribusinesses and their large-scale extractive model of industrial agriculture that's causing climate change. Small-scale farmers have done little to cause the climate crisis but their needs and solutions are being crowded out."

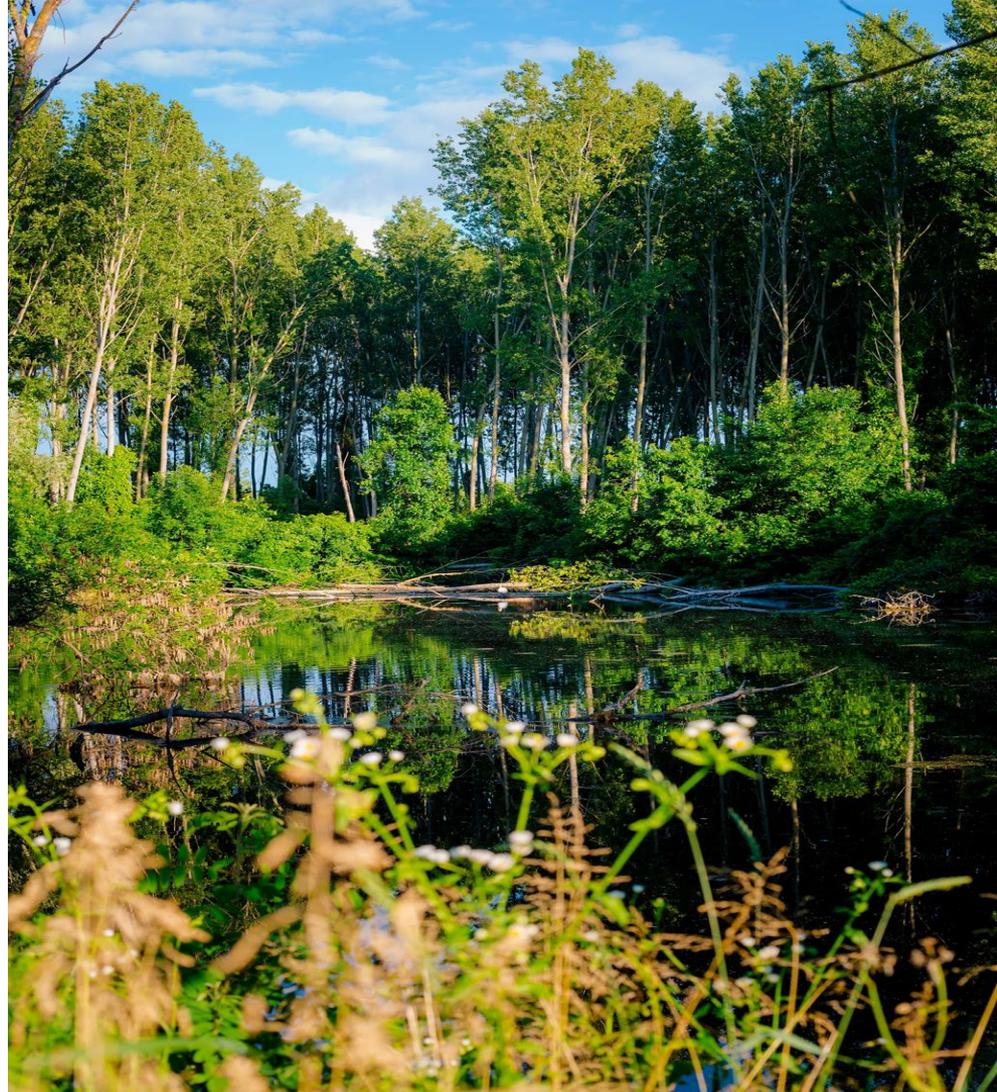
Lim Li Ching, IPES-Food expert and Senior Researcher at Third World Network

14.5%

Of global greenhouse emissions is as a result of livestock.

FINAL POINT

There is no 1.5 degree future without transforming away from industrial food systems



THANK YOU!



“A SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IS ONE WHICH DEPLETES
NEITHER THE PEOPLE NOR THE LAND”

- Wendell Berry