Youth Decision Making in Agricultural Adaptations to Climate Change An Analysis in East Africa

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In conjunction with the contemporary narrative of Africa’s “youth bulge” and youth’s disinterest in pursuing agricultural livelihoods, this paper explores the extent to which youth (18-35 years old) have decision making power in the implementation of agricultural adaptation practices due to climate change in East Africa. Focus groups discussions, case studies, and individual interviews were conducted with a total of 155 youth and 42 policymakers and stakeholders in selected sites in Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda to assess youth’s knowledge of adaptation measures and their role in the decision to implement them at the household, community, and national levels. Our findings suggest that youth have an understanding of climate change and how to adapt to it. However, they are unable to do so due to lack of agricultural inputs and financial capital, insufficient land ownership, indirect participation in decision making and limited access to markets.