



**« 9 SCENARIOS FOR RURAL YOUTH ON WHETHER OR
NOT THEY RELY ON FF TO BUILD THEIR FUTURE »
EXCERPTS FROM BOOKLET 2**

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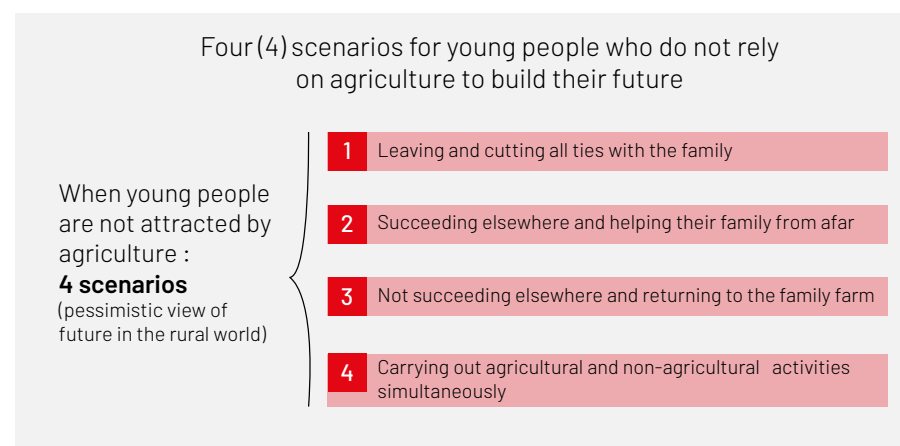
Booklet 1 clearly demonstrated how much the attractiveness of the family farm for rural youth to develop and build their future depends on their life courses, and how they are listened to, considered, involved and integrated into these FFs. Booklet 2 presents and puts into perspective the scenarios that emerge from the accounts of rural youth about their future, depending on whether or not they rely on agriculture to build their future.

Nine scenarios that emerge from the testimonies of young people, depending on whether or not they bet on FF

There are four scenarios for young people who do not rely on agriculture to build their :

- (1) Leaving and cutting all ties with the family: this is an extreme scenario experienced in particular by young people who put themselves on the margins of society ;
- (2) Succeeding elsewhere and helping their family from afar ;
- (3) Not succeeding elsewhere and returning to the family farm ;
- (4) Wearing a «double hat» by carrying out, as a main or supplementary activity, non-agricultural activities.

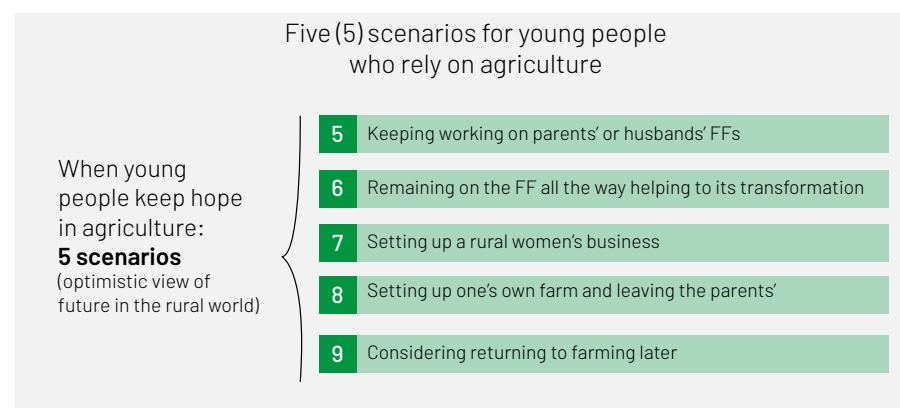
Booklet 2 explains the reasons for their pessimism about farming and family farms.



Five scenarios are possible for those who rely on the family farm :

- (5) Keeping working on the family farm of one's parents or husband without really transforming it ;
- (6) Remaining on the family farm, helping the parents to transform it often by creating their own activities to preserve their autonomy ;
- (7) Creating a rural women's business (product processing, catering, etc.) ;
- (8) Setting up one's own farm by leaving the parents' farm ;
- (9) Considering returning to farming later after having made a career in another sector ;

Booklet 2 explains the desire for change that motivates these young people.



Scenarios that are illustrated through the accounts of the young people who participated in the research.

Booklet 2 contains 23 illustrations of the 9 scenarios that emerged from the testimonies of the rural youth who participated in the research. A few are selected for this sheet.

Illustration of Scenario 1: Leaving and severing all ties with the family

Husbands who leave and forget about their families

Some young women have their husbands who have gone on adventures (migration to Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana or gold panning...) and do not return and/or do not send them money. Sadia explains: «My husband has been away for a while now, but he is not sending me anything at the moment. I manage alone with the children, his brothers help me at times» (CPF Burkina Faso research and focus group from the Center-West).

Illustration of Scenario 2: Succeeding elsewhere and helping one's family from afar

Hope to succeed elsewhere

«I decided one day to leave my family to start gold panning activities which led me to Komabangou, an area located about 200 km from Niamey, the capital city, in the district of Téra, Tillabery Region « with the hope of finding a better life than the one I was leaving in the village» (a young agro-fisher, focus group Niger).

«If we don't have the necessary support to evolve, we will be forced to try to do something other than agricultural production. If we are called to leave the village for another job in another country, we can only provide support to alleviate their difficulties» (focus group Imasgo, Central West - Burkina Faso).

Illustration of Scenario 3: Not succeeding elsewhere and coming back home, often as a last resort, to the family farm

Comeback to family farming

Coming back to the village empty-handed, and start from scratch

«Lack of support from parents or family and community members has resulted in many young people experiencing adventure. Many have experienced difficulties in the adventure, victims of false promises and exploitation in various forms, they have not been able to achieve their goal. They came back to their village to start all over again» (CTOP research, Togo).

My main activity is the production of animal feed using a millet stalk grinder. It is the grinding of millet stalks, mixed with cowpea leaves to produce multi-nutrient blocks for animal feed. I do not own the grinder, but I am a simple laborer who signs a contract with the grinder owners.

My second activity that brings me money is the production and marketing of fresh cow's milk, produced from my dairy cows. This activity provides me with an income of about 2000 F/day.

Finally, the third activity is my job as an endogenous animator. Thanks to a training on the simplified balance sheet of the farms, I have been able to acquire the experience of conducting simplified balance sheets within the volunteer families and the resulting advisory support. «(accounts of Amadou, focus group Niger).

Illustration of Scenario 4: Conducting Non-Farm and Farm Activities Simultaneously

Fostering non-farming activity to have an income that does not depend on FF

A large number of the young people we met are involved in agriculture as a secondary activity. Many do it for their own consumption. Above all, they have learned a trade (mechanics, sewing, hairdressing, etc.) which they practice in one way or another as their main occupation. Some unemployed people prefer to engage in other activities, which they believe to be more lucrative, such as petty trade, driving motorcycle cabs, selling adulterated fuel, etc. These people are more likely to be employed in these occupations than in agriculture. Thus, in the future, they would like to develop these first professions before thinking about farming. (CTOP research, Togo)

Illustration of Scenario 5 : Continuing to evolve in her parents' or husband's family farm

A young woman who, as the eldest daughter, wants to take over in the family

Aïssata Ba is 31 years old, she is divorced and has two sons. She has a field and a herd of 15 cows, and does business in her village. Her elder brother manages the family's herd; he is in charge of the sale. She has been a member of 3 associations and also a relay of the ASBEF (Family Planning) for 3 years. Aissata says that she is a strong woman who only takes care of her own business, given her situation as a divorced woman who is not well appreciated in her community. She has no problems with her family. After her divorce her father pre-financed her to start her own business; that's where she got the idea to open a store. She also plans to ask her father for some of their family land so that she can take over since she is her mother's eldest child. (focus group North Senegal)

Illustration of Scenario 6: Staying on the family farm by helping the parents transform it

The case of Bassirou Diaw, who turns around a family business in difficulty

«I was born in Dagana. After my Koranic studies, I started school up to the 5th secondary class. I stopped my studies to revitalize the family business which was badly exploited by workers (my father had a hulling machine, the only one in the area). After 3 years, I had turned the family business around and handed it over to my younger brother who had just stopped his studies and devoted myself to the fields and to the operation of the family GIE which is active in rice, market gardening, poultry farming and the husking machine. In 2007, I became a relay of the tomato sector, trainer in market gardening. Today, the family business ensures all the needs of the family" (focus group North Senegal).

Illustrations of Scenario 7: Creating a Rural Women's Enterprise

De l'école à la création de son entreprise : the journey of a young Nigerien woman, Aminatou Garka Mahamadou, as a fighter.

«... After completing my secondary education in an institution close to my neighborhood, I continued my higher education in a training institute in rural animation. Suddenly my mother

died suddenly when I was twenty-five years old. I then had to fight for resources to be able to continue my higher education. I started income-generating activities that I had seen my mother carry out since I was a child (making scarves, braids, making juices from local products, etc.), and I was able, by selling these products in the neighborhood and at school, to pay my school fees (schooling, supplies, transportation, clothing). After graduating as a rural animation technician in 2014, I developed the skills I had acquired and created a company to process agri-food products, make articles from local materials and trained women and youth on income-generating activities based on my experience as a processor. I charge 5.000 F for these trainings, it's like a small business.

Today, I have diversified my activity by widening the range of my products by transforming rice, corn, wheat into couscous, making soaps based on potatoes, peanut oil, and water acid. Then other products were added, notably ointments based on moringa, almond, coconut and garlic oil. Also, I specialized in the production of perfumes (men and women), incense, earrings, decorative paintings, night lights and culinary art.

I allocate part of these revenues to support other family members to provide for their needs. I also support my young brothers to continue their studies, participate financially in their clothing, etc.

At the same time, I have been active in political parties where I met a farmer leader who directed me towards development associations».

(story told during the regional sharing workshop by Aminatou, Niger, and transcribed by Adamou Bangna)

Illustration of Scenario 8: Starting your own farm by leaving your parents' family farm

The issue of land as a mobile for off-farm settlement

According to TOSSA Yaovi : « If I have the means and buy arable land, I can settle down, but I have to forget my parents' land because I have to share the income with others » C'est ce que pense également PELLA Kodjo Victor : « Our parents are selling their land and not all the children are engaged in farming. When you share the inheritance, you don't have much to farm »

« I know that if I have to dedicate myself to agriculture, I have to do it in a big way to have enough profit to make my dreams come true... I will have to leave my locality to do the activity as I want because of the difficulty of access to land that all young people have at the moment. »

(focus group Togo)

Illustration of Scenario 9: Consider returning to agriculture at a later date

A future computer scientist who plans to invest later in agriculture

«I attended elementary school in Keur Socé, and I passed the high school diploma in Louga, and I graduated with a bachelor degree in computer networks and communication in Thiès. I come back to cultivate during the rainy season. And after the master 2 I want to enter the professional world and at the same time continue my doctorate. My brothers are taking over. When I'm rich, I plan to invest in agriculture» (focus group from the groundnut basin, Senegal).

Scenarios that are not fixed at all: each scenario can have a positive or negative evolution.

These forward-looking scenarios are likely to have a more or less favorable outcome in the future depending on the factors that will continue to influence them.

When young people rely little or nothing on agriculture	Desirable Change	Change to be feared
1 Leaving and severing all ties with the family	Reconciliation → scenario 3 ?	The youngster gets lost
2 Succeeding elsewhere and helping the family from afar	Keeping the ties → scenario 9 ?	Reversal of fortune of the youngster → Passage scenario 1 or 3 ?
3 Failing to succeed elsewhere, and returning to the FF as a last resort	Warmful welcome by the family, the youngster regains confidence → scenario 5 or 6 ?	No confidence building, frustration → back to scénario 1 ?
4 Carrying out agricultural and non-agricultural activities simultaneously	Non-farming activities allow to invest in FF → scenario 6 or 7 ?	The FF stagnates in a situation of survival → discouraging the young person.
When young people rely on agriculture	Desirable change	Change to be feared
5 Continuing to progress in the parents' or husband's FF	Openness of the parents or husband allows the young person to blossom → scénario 6 ?	Rigidity of the operations manager blocks the young person → Risk of departure of the young person
6 Remaining in the FF and working toward its transformation.	Successful transformation of FF	Poor technical choices, unfavorable economic conditions → Family discouragement
7 Starting a rural women's business	Business success, link to ASPH value chain	Unfavorable environment, bad choice → Failure and frustration
8 Starting your own farm and leaving your parent's farm	Success; positive impact on local development	Individualism → Forgetting solidarity
9 Considering returning to farming at a later date	The homecoming is not to the detriment of the young people who have remained	Land catchments → blockage of young people

Among these factors that may promote a desirable or feared change, the attitude of families, the support that will be provided to them and the political measures that will be taken may be decisive.

Sheet C provides information on «the factors to be resolved and the assets to be developed to reconcile these young rural people with the family farm and/or to unleash their potential».