

Optimising Opportunities for Youth in Africa's Agri-food Systems

A Foresight For System Change Initiative

Session 18, Evidence 2023, September 15, 2023



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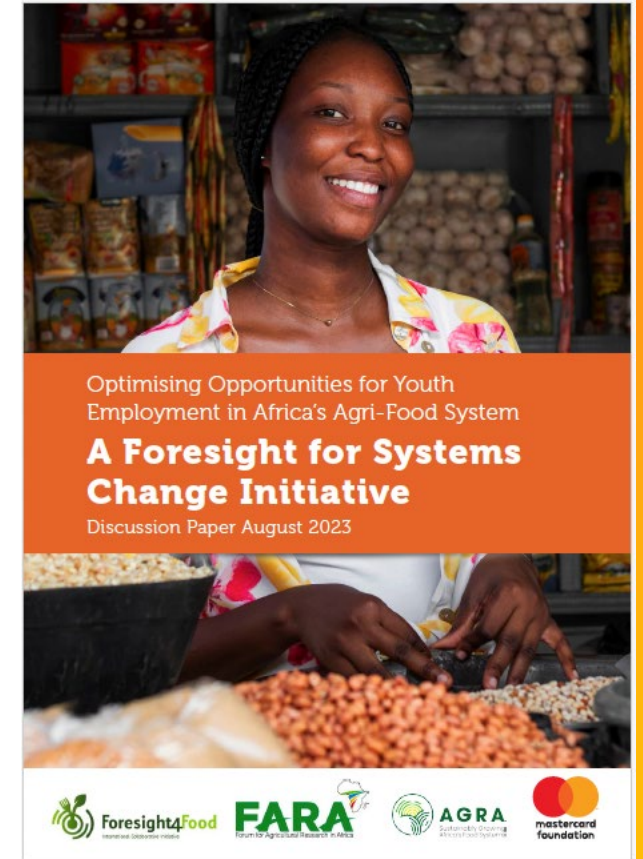
1860: Obituary – New York is dead

- Foresight: peeping into the future with all **informed possibilities** taken on board
- Using **futures thinking and scenario analysis** to help diverse stakeholders **imagine**, together, how the future might unfold.
- To **understand and mitigate future risks and vulnerabilities** ... understand **opportunities** for desired system **transformation** to be recognised and seized.
- To understand **key trends and critical uncertainties** may impact on human and natural systems.
- Overall **preparedness** for possible futures.



Optimizing Opportunities for Youth Employment in Africa's Agri-Food System

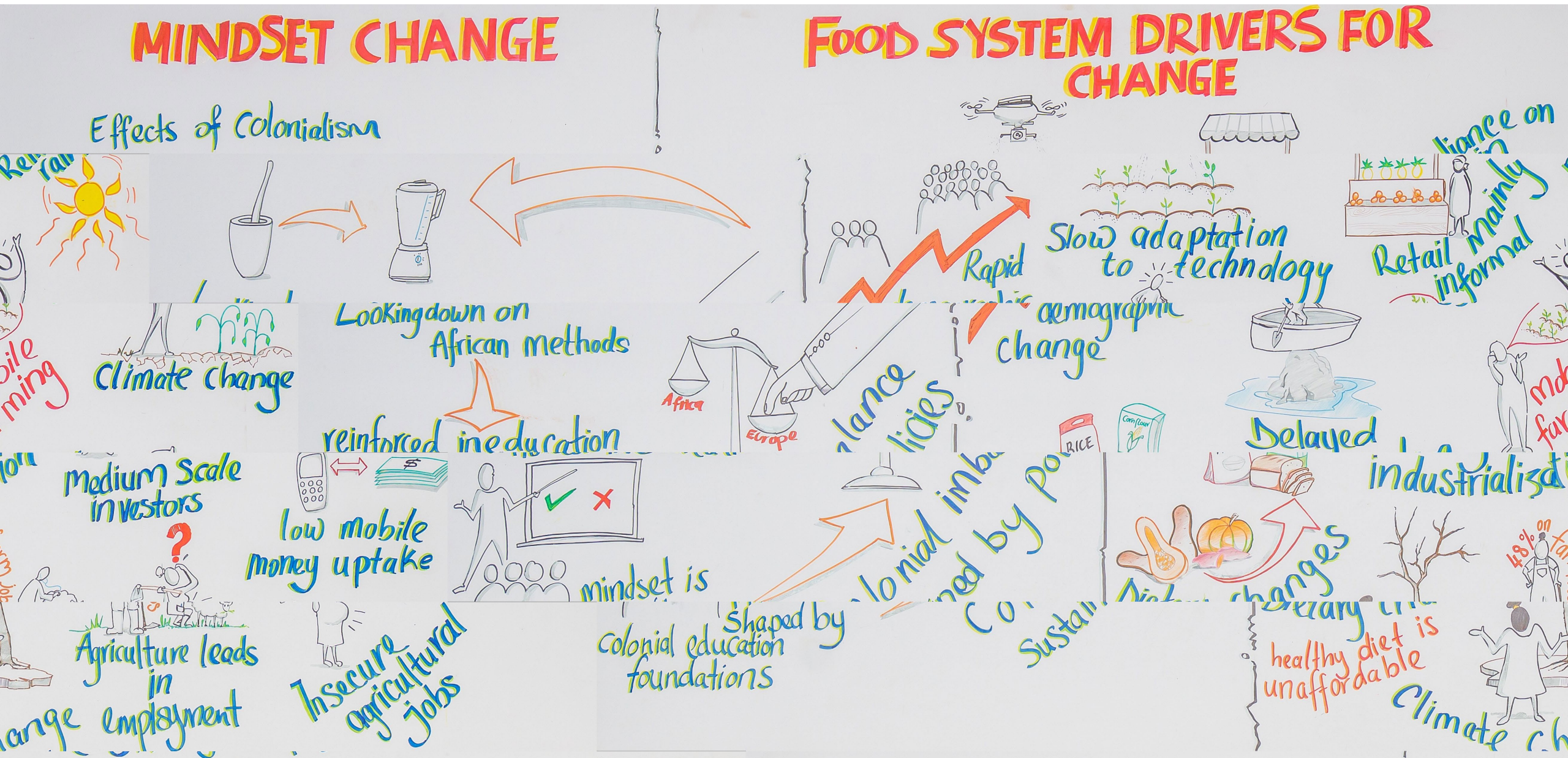
- In 2023, Foresight4Food, FARA and AGRA conducted a **foresight analysis focusing on the future of youth in Africa's food systems**
- Insights emerged from the foresight analysis were generated by **45 youth representatives from across Africa**
- The analysis provided a **20-year future-oriented perspective** on the opportunities and risks for youth employment in the Agri-Food sector
- The outcomes of the foresight analysis are captured in a **discussion paper in October 2023**



What is the future youth want?



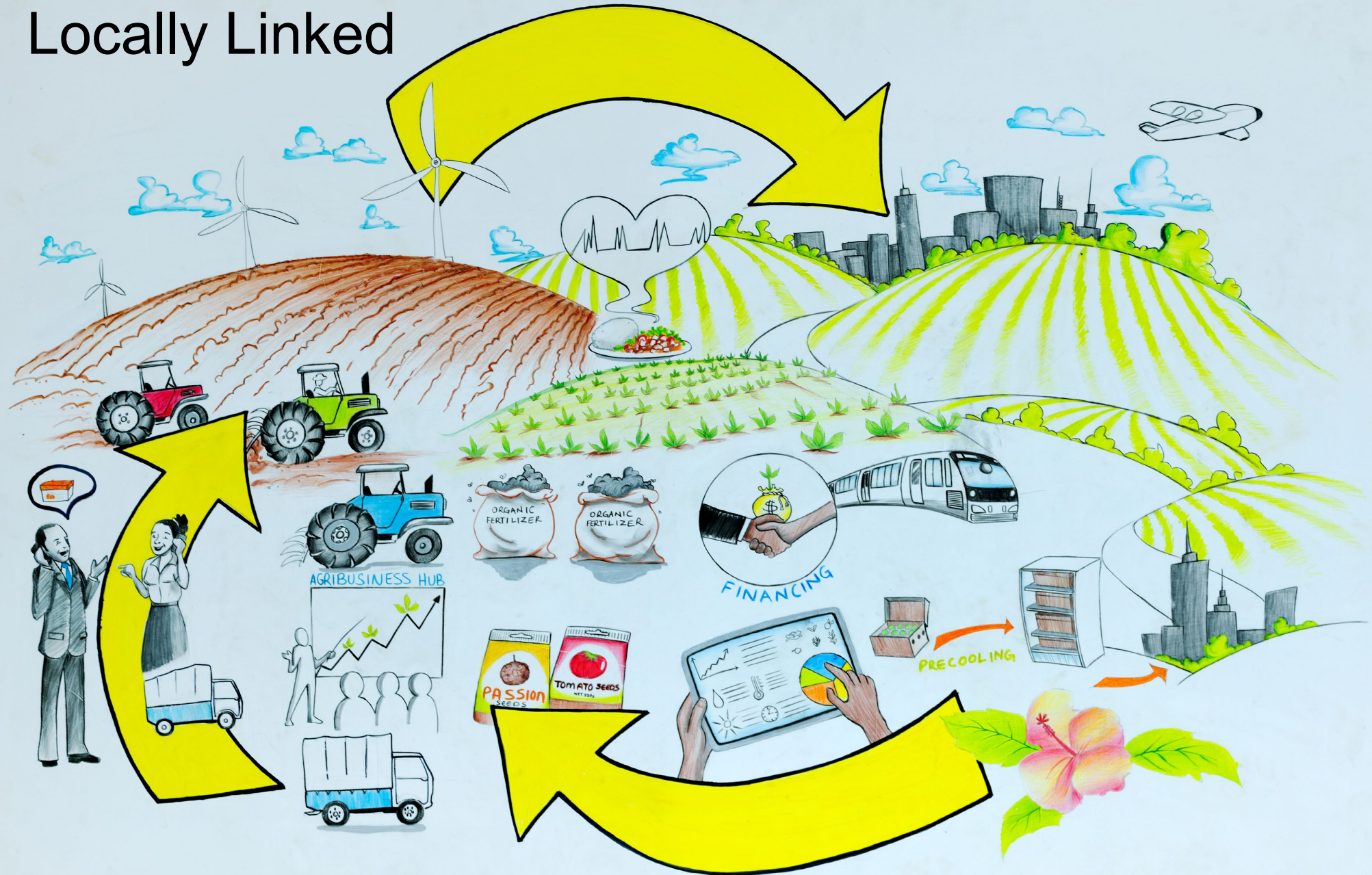
What might the affect the change youth want?



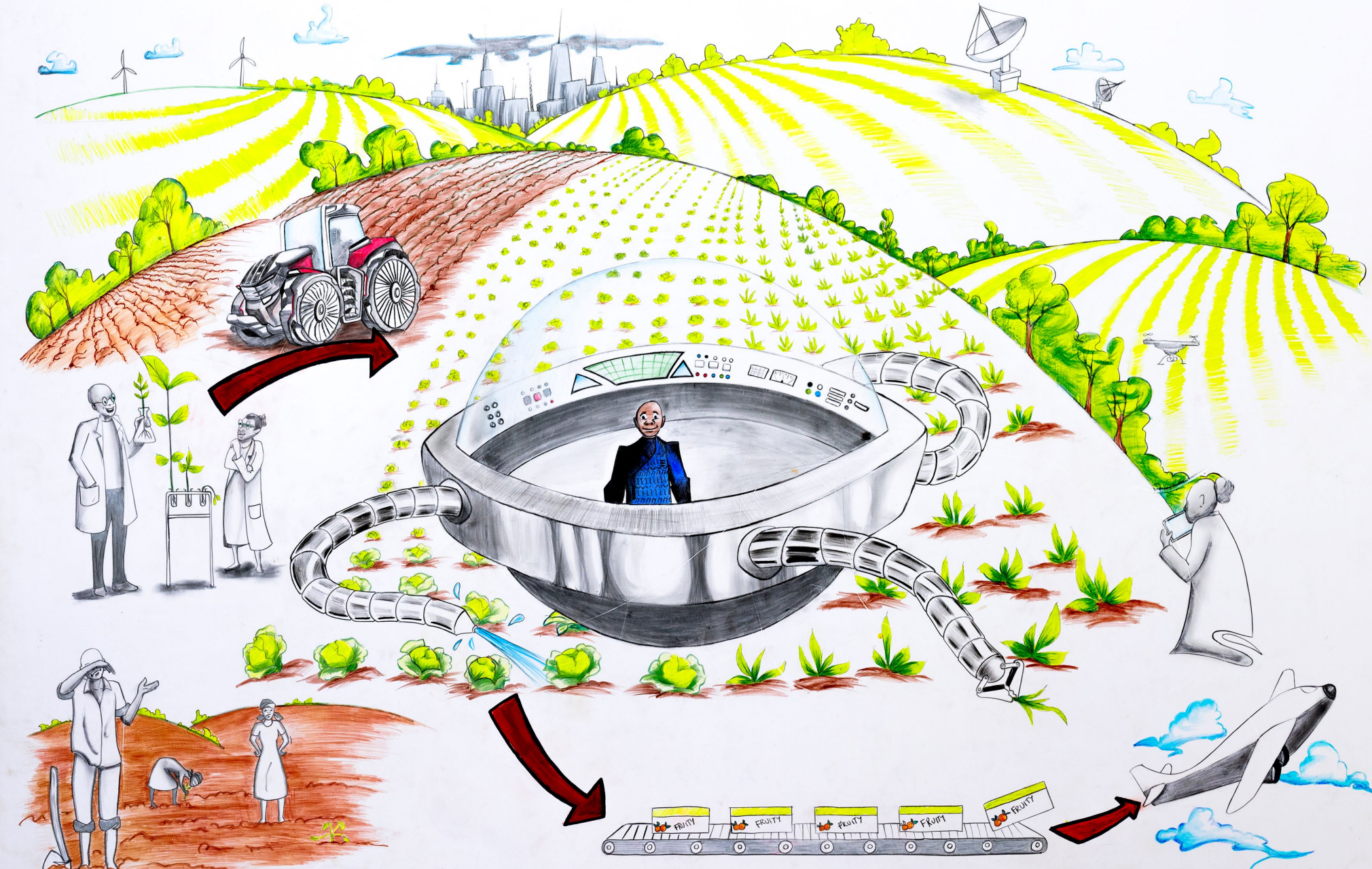
At the “Optimizing Opportunities for Youth Employment in Africa’s Agri-Food Systems”⁸ workshop, participants foresaw four possible outcomes over the next twenty years. These are:

- **Locally Linked:** Youth-led innovation for local food systems
- **Big Tech Dominates:** Divided opportunities for youth in the agri-food system dominated by high tech and larger scale business
- **Africa turns the tables:** Youth capture opportunities as Africa leads the way on changing the global food systems game
- **Collapse and Crisis:** Youth struggle in a collapsed agri-food system

Locally Linked



Big Tech Dominates



Africa Turns the Tables



Collapse and Crisis



Key Messages:

1. Incorporate youth perspectives in **decision-making** at all levels
2. Integrate long-term and adaptive thinking supported by foresight, based on **evidence**
3. Focus on **politics, connections and social mobilization** to make change possible
4. Promote **enabling conditions** for youth and for sustainable development in the agri-food sector



**AFRICA FOOD
SYSTEMS FORUM 2023**
Recover, Regenerate, Act:
Africa's Solutions to Food Systems Transformation

Foresight Youth presenting at Africa Food Systems Forum 2023

#AGRF2023



MODERATOR

NHYIRA GYASI-DENTEH

Policy Consultant, Mastercard
Foundation

DATE

4 September 2023

TIME

11.00am-12.30 CAT

From Farm to Fork For Real

How To Enhance Young People's Employment and Entrepreneurship Opportunities Within
African's Agri-Food Systems



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**DRISSA
TESSOUGUE**

Country Representative,
YPARD Mali



**MILLCENT
ADOBOE**

Co-Founder, Achiever
Foods Ltd.



AFRICA FOOD
SYSTEMS FORUM
PARTNERS



Youth Declaration at Africa Food Systems Forum 2023

- Adhere to the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa
- Stop being a net importer of agricultural products spending over \$50 billion annually on food imports
- Reduce practical and regulatory barriers to trade
- Invest in female agri-preneurship
- Support young people have innovative ideas and the technological adaptability and capacity to mitigate climate change increasing resilience
- Implement education with indigenous pedagogy, climate action, and inclusive practices.
- Develop inclusive Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs
- Foster entrepreneurial ecosystems to bridge education, research, and industry, offering mentorship, funding, and market access to women and youth startups focused on sustainable agri-solutions.

What are the stories/evidence we bring?

The four scenarios are based on international trends, work in small groups to discuss:

- How do we collect evidence and change the future?
- Do you have stories of transformation based on foresight thinking?