



# The Looming Youth Employment Challenge in sub-Saharan Africa

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# FEED THE FUTURE

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# Outline

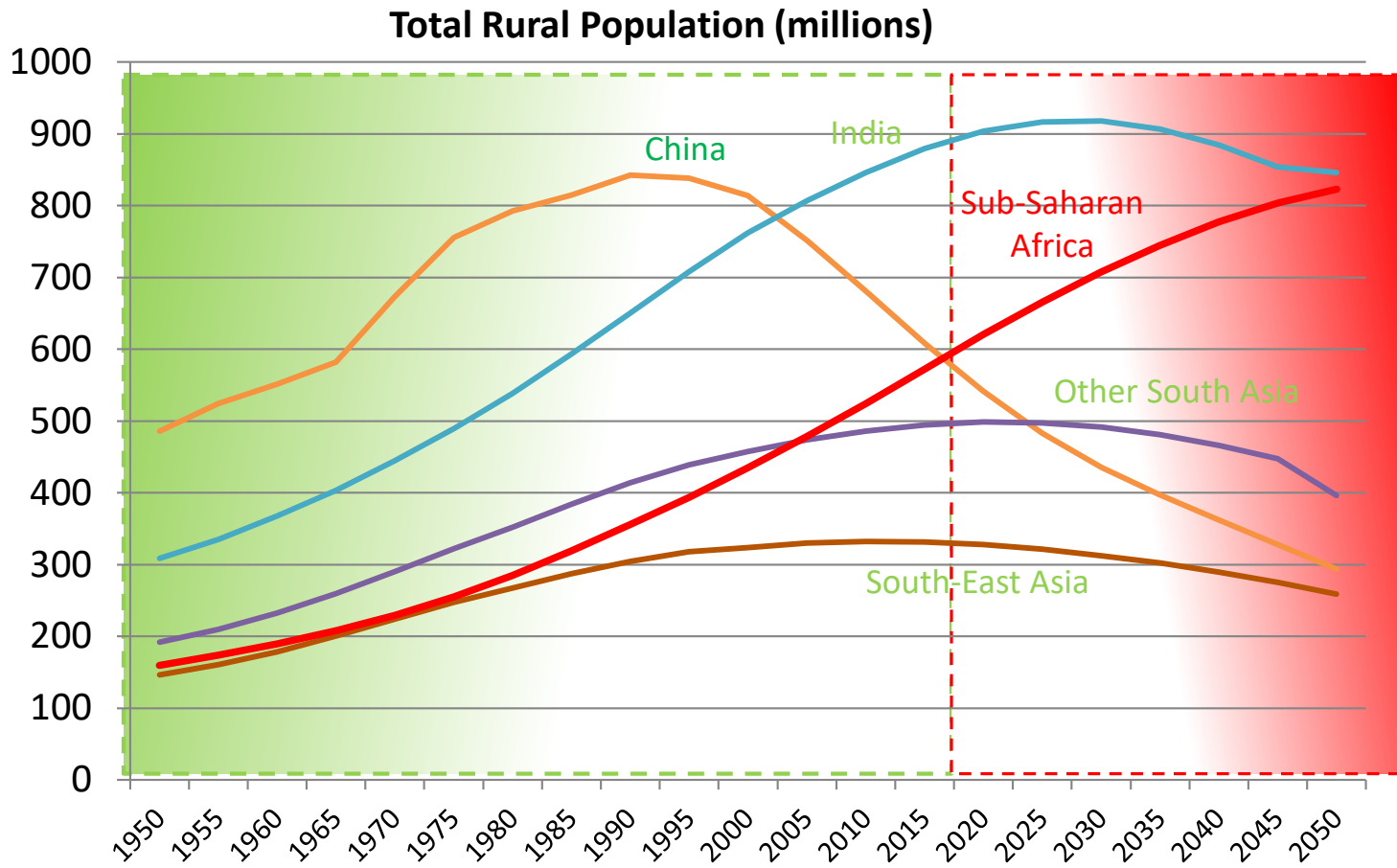
- Looming youth employment challenge-
  - Youth bulge
- Youth livelihood options
  - Thoughts
- Policy implications

# Definitions: youth

- **Youth:** Defined as persons aged between 15 and 24 years
- **Young adults:** Defined as persons aged between 25 and 35 years

# Looming employment challenge in SSA

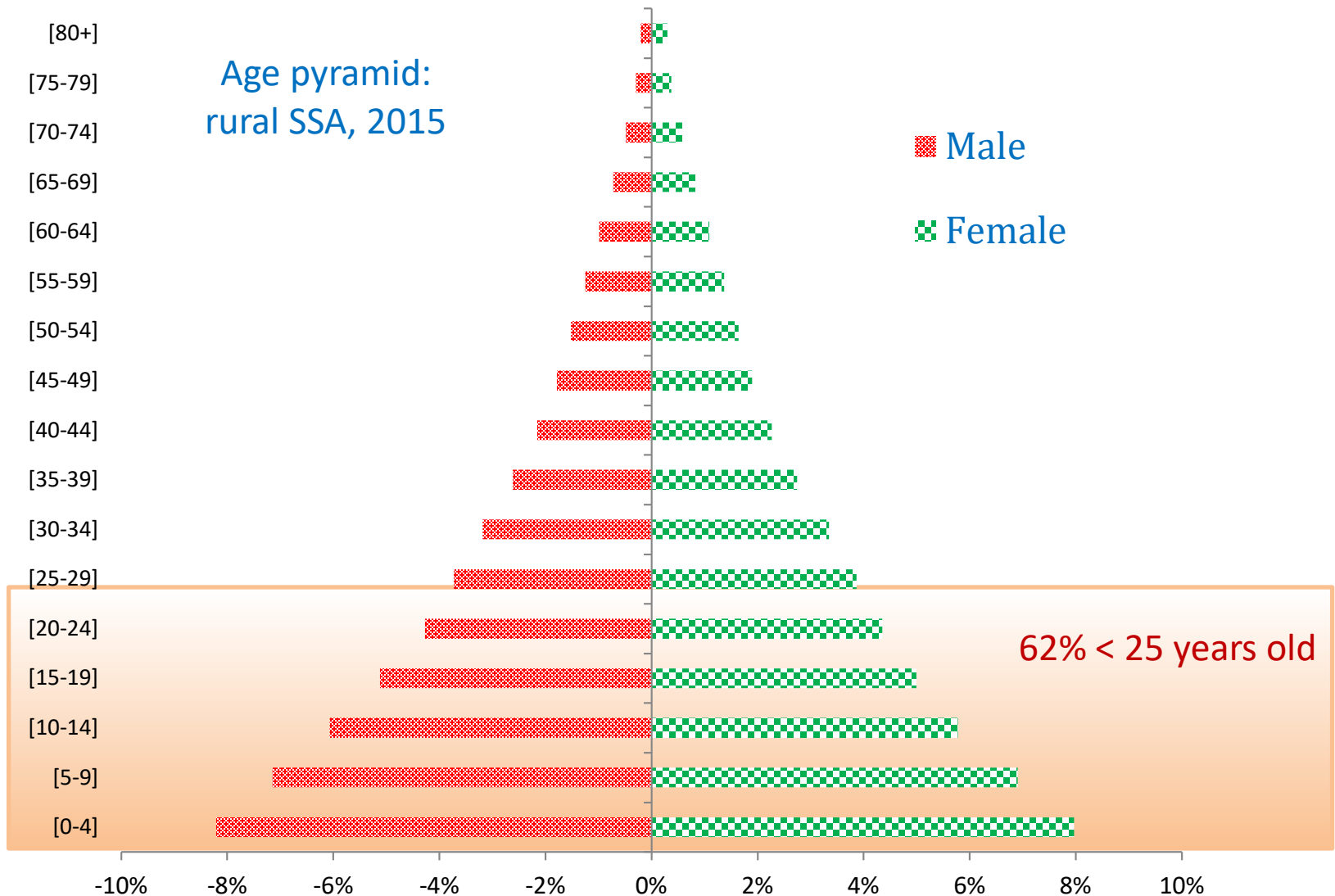
Rural population continues to rise past 2050 in SSA

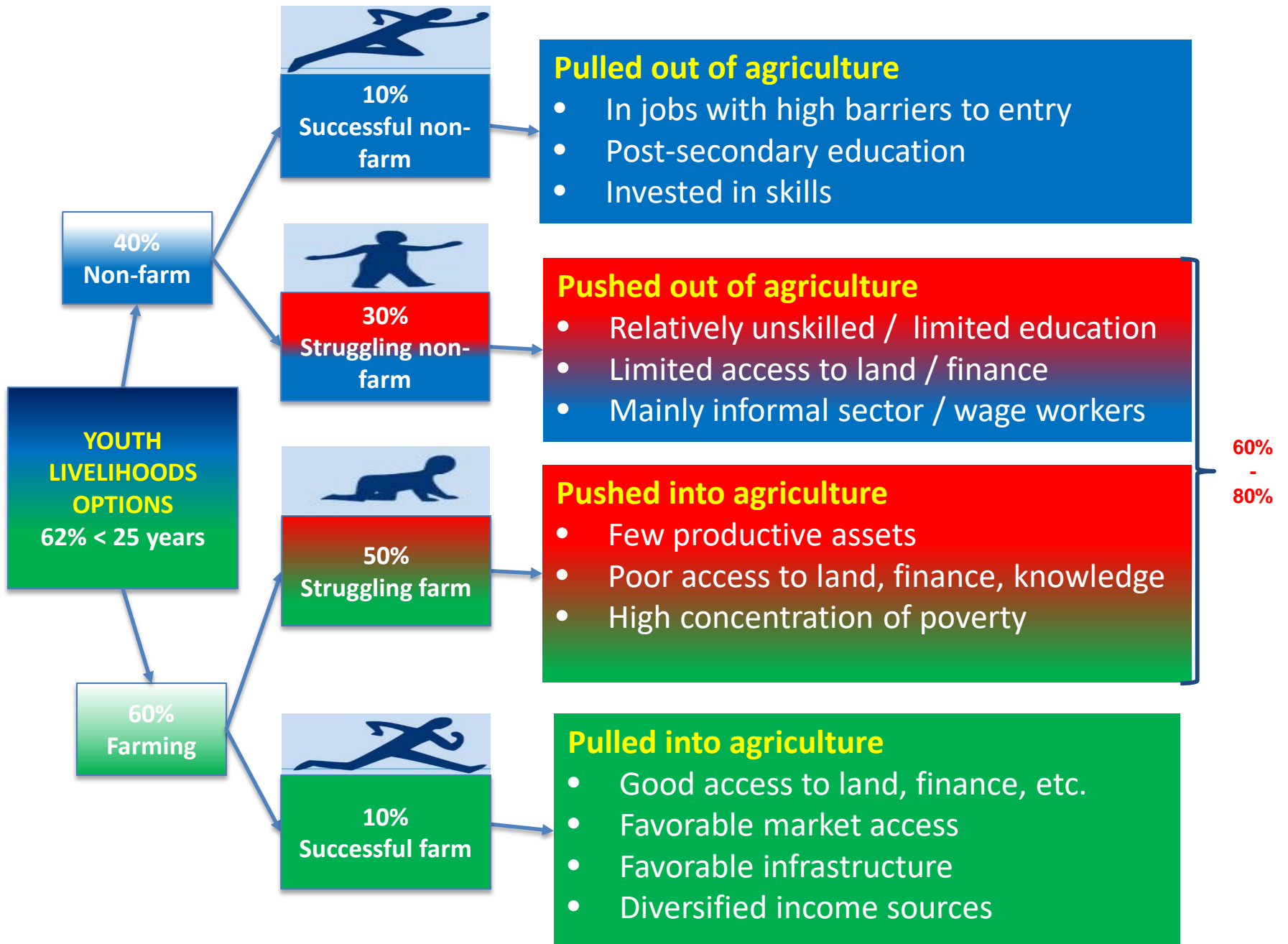


Source: UN 2013

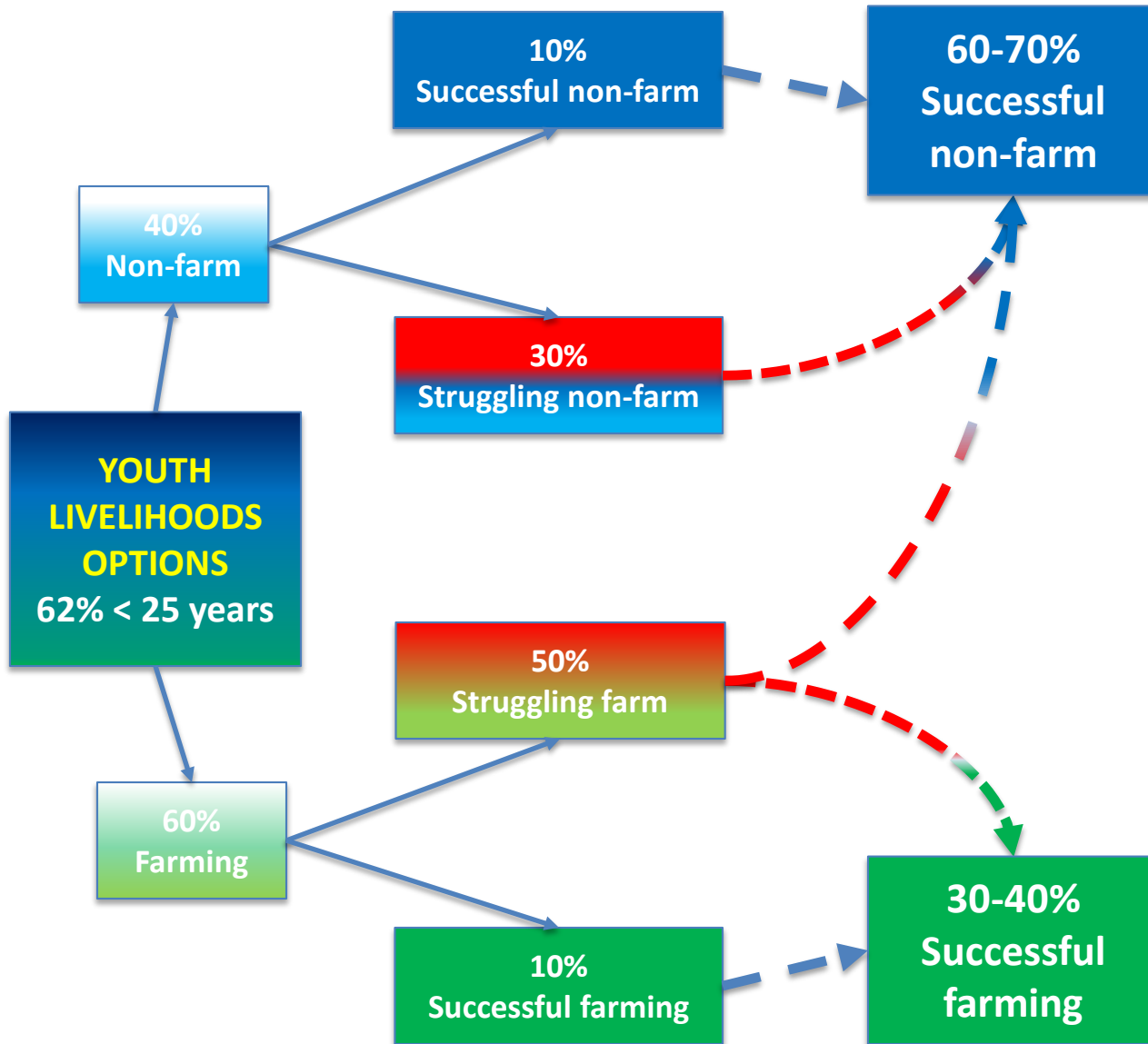
# Looming employment challenge in SSA

## Youth Bulge in SSA



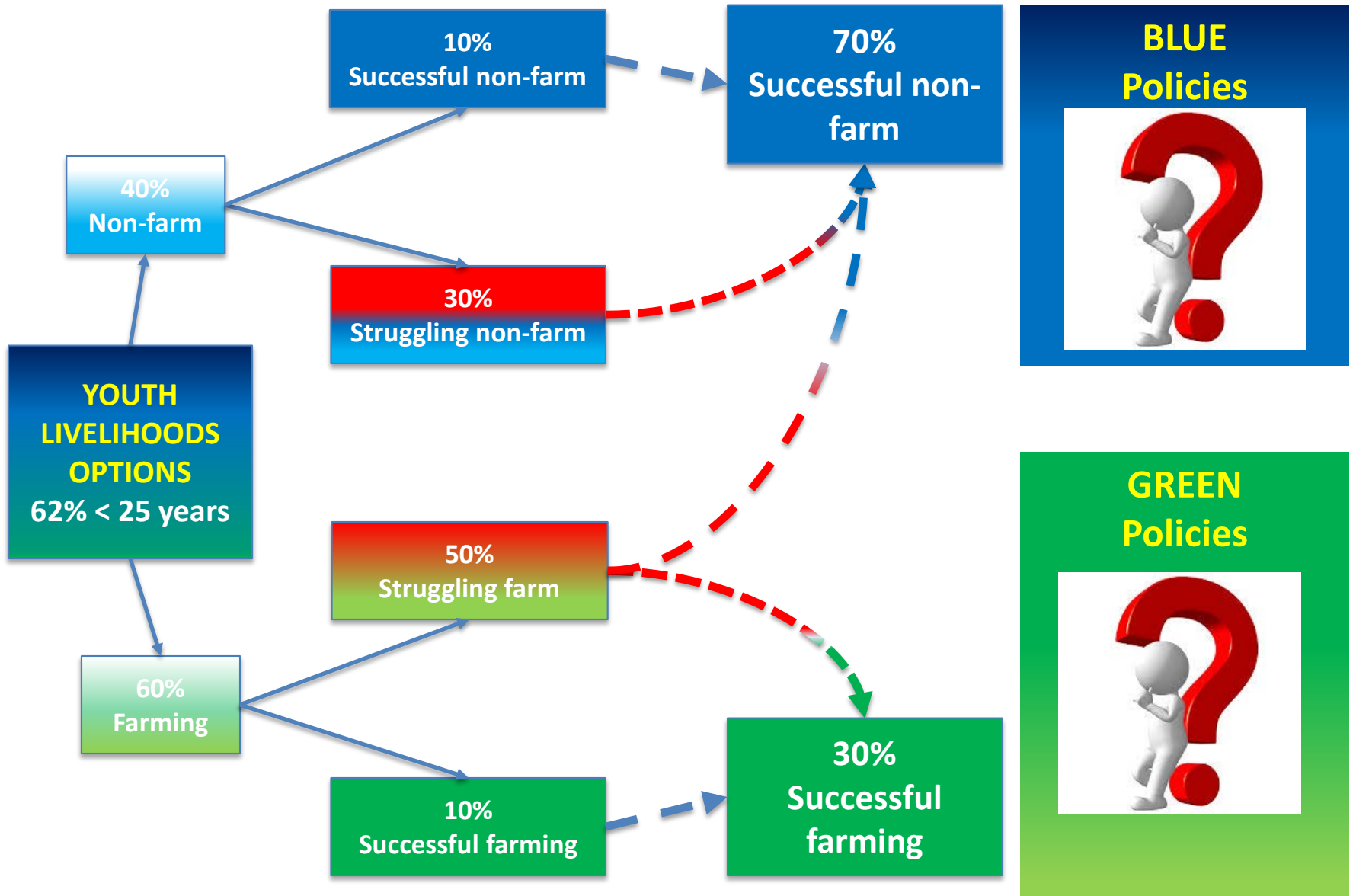


# Successful livelihood options for the youth





# Successful livelihoods- policy suggestions



# What should government do?

- Central plank of a comprehensive youth employment strategy: interventions to raise **agricultural productivity growth**
  - Create new opportunities in farming
  - Multiplier effects: performance of farming will influence the pace of growth in non-farm jobs
- Agricultural sector policies must **anticipate** and **respond** to:
  - Resources needed for youth to succeed in farming (e.g. access to land, finance, etc.)
  - Distinguish between “**trying to keep youth in agriculture**” vs. “**giving youth viable choices**”
- “**Crops growing people**” vs “**people growing crops**”

## Strategic policies include [GREEN PATH]

- Invest in R&D and institutional capacity building to generate new knowledge
- Develop robust and effective extension systems to facilitate access to productivity enhancing technologies
- Improve coverage and quality of physical infrastructure (energy, road, communication, etc.)
- Develop youth-centered programs to make farming profitable for young people
- Facilitate access to productivity enhancing inputs (e.g. fertilizer), market, and resources (e.g. land, finance, labor---saving technologies)
- Promote mentoring by successful farmers (youth mentors)



SOIL PHYSICS





# Ranking of Alternative Investments: Meta-Study Evidence from Asia and Africa

	The Economist	IFPRI study
Policies		
Infrastructure investment		
Agricultural R&D		
Agricultural extension services		
Credit subsidies		
Fertilizer subsidies		
Irrigation		

Ranking with respect to *agricultural growth*:  
Evidence from Asia

	The Economist	IFPRI
Policies	1	
Infrastructure investment	3	1
Agricultural R&D	2	2
Agricultural extension services	5	
Credit subsidies	7	3
Fertilizer subsidies	6	4
Irrigation	4	5

Ranking with respect to *poverty reduction*:  
Evidence from Asia

	The Economist	IFPRI
Policies	1	
Infrastructure investment	2	1
Agricultural R&D	3	2
Agricultural extension services	4	3
Credit subsidies	7	4
Fertilizer subsidies	5	6
Irrigation	5	5

## Strategic policies include [BLUE PATH]

- Invest in **education** and **skill** development to upgrade skills of the labor force
  - Prepare youth to “**spot**” and take advantage of new job opportunities
  - Regular update of **educational curriculum** and approaches
  - Invest in **actionable research** to address the data gaps on labor market issues and impact evaluation, what works well and how?
- Strengthen **youth voice** on decisions concerning them



We cannot always build the future for our youth,  
but we can build our youth for the future

– Franklin D. Roosevelt –

Thank You

