

Creating opportunities for rural youth

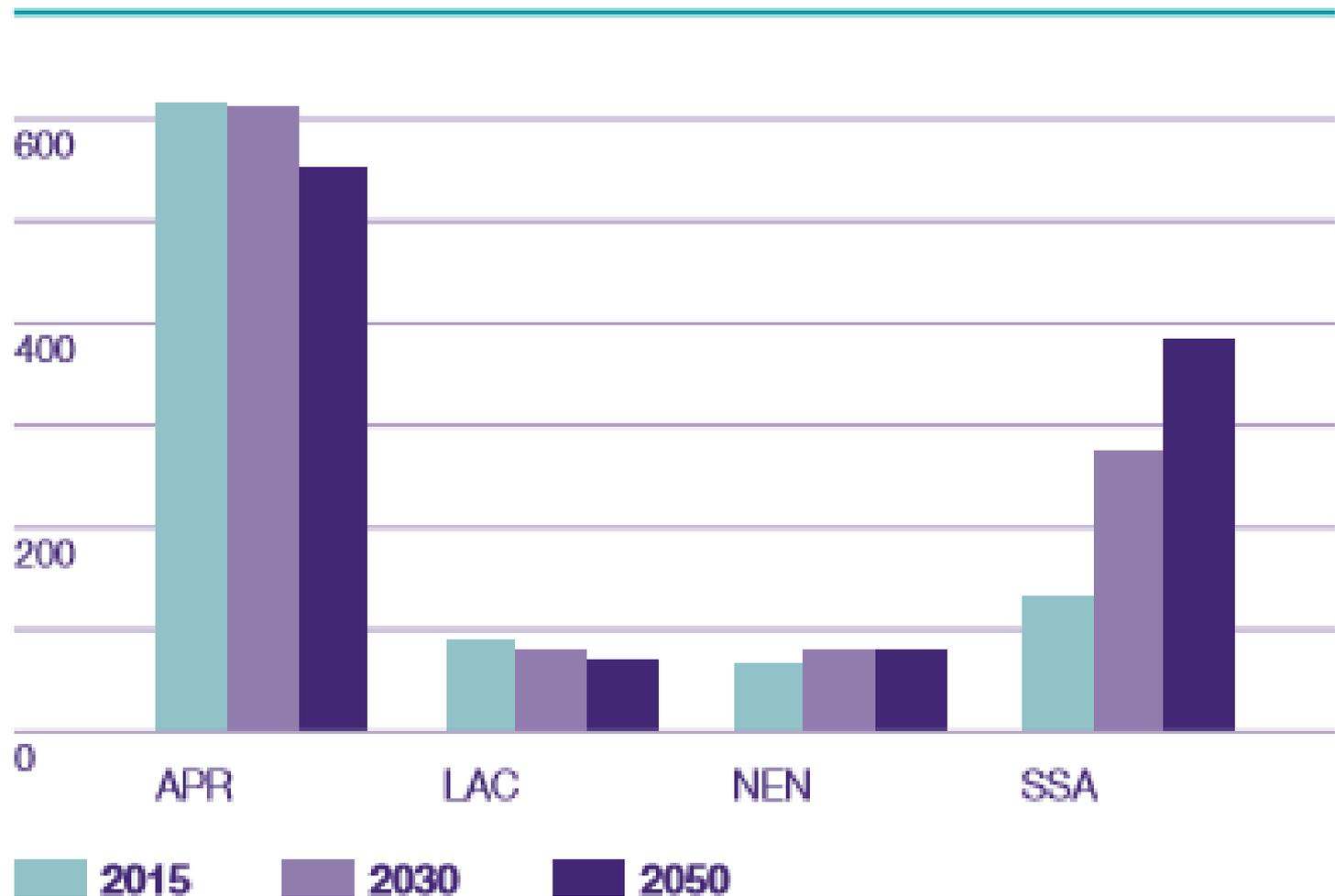
2019 Rural Development Report

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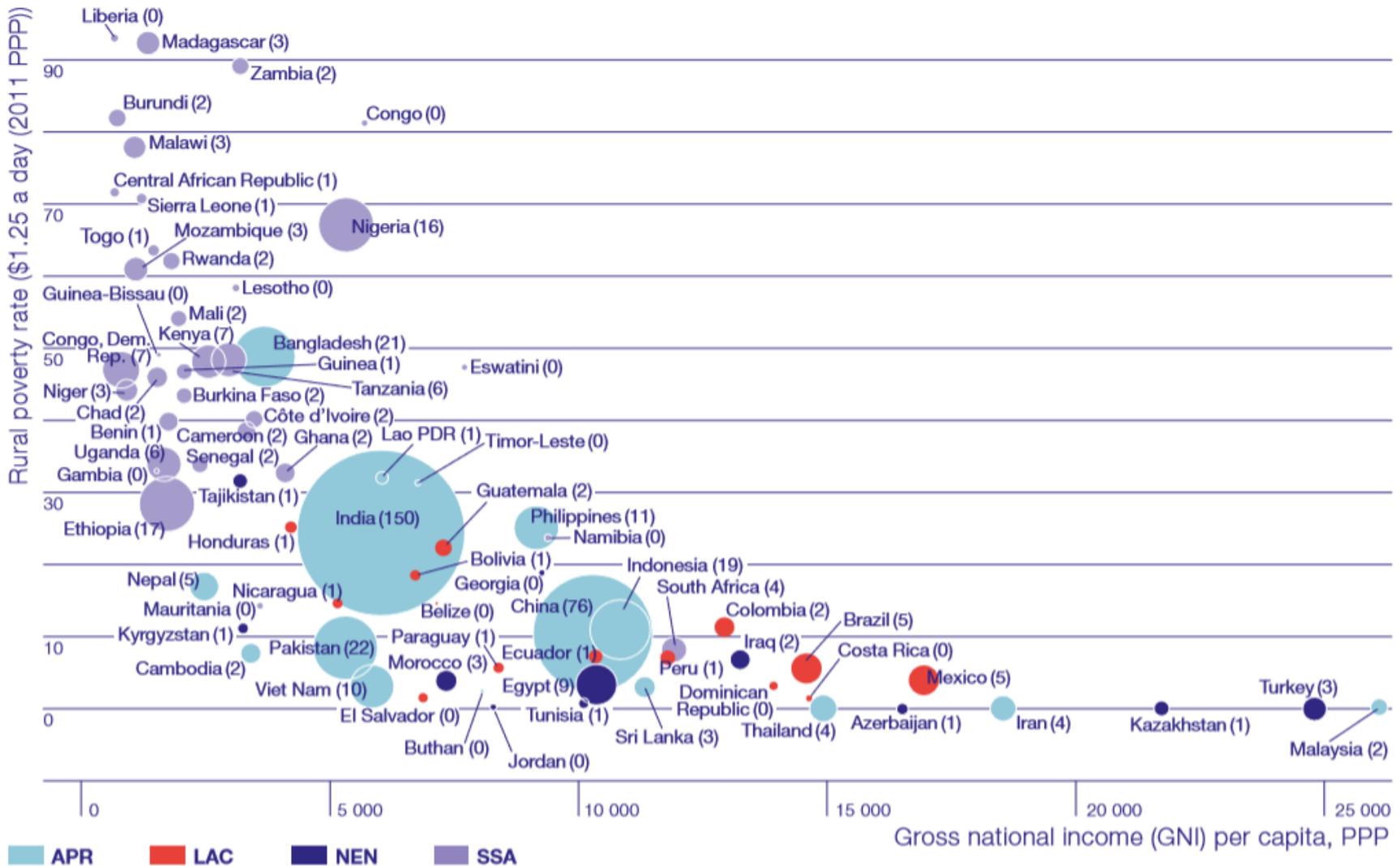
→ 780 million rural young people in developing countries and the number is growing.

Millions of youth by region (2015-2050)



→ The majority of countries with large rural youth populations have high rural poverty rates.

Number of rural youth (in millions)



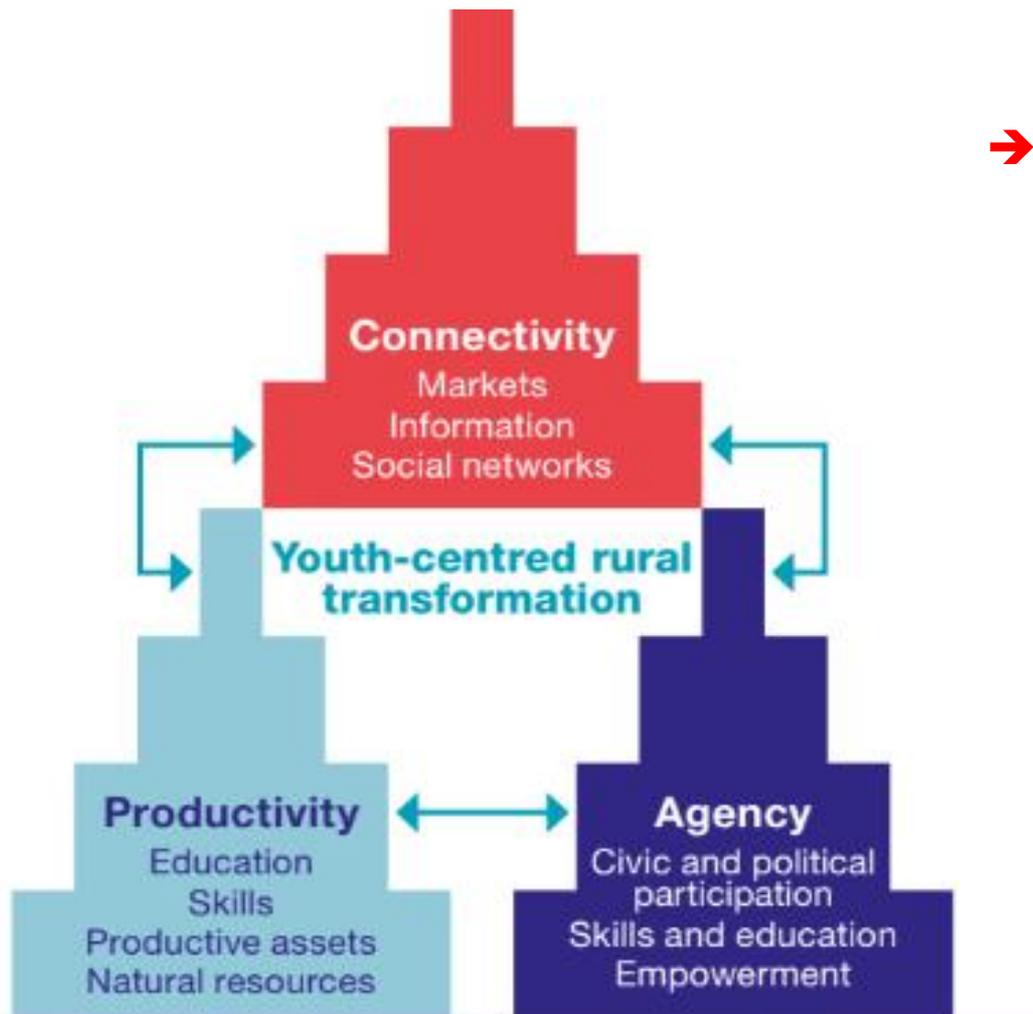
→ Youth are central for rural development and the foundations for their success must be built.

→ Key considerations:

1. **The settings** in which rural youth reside.

2. The **specific constraints** rural young people face.

3. Today's unprecedented and **dynamic nature of change**.



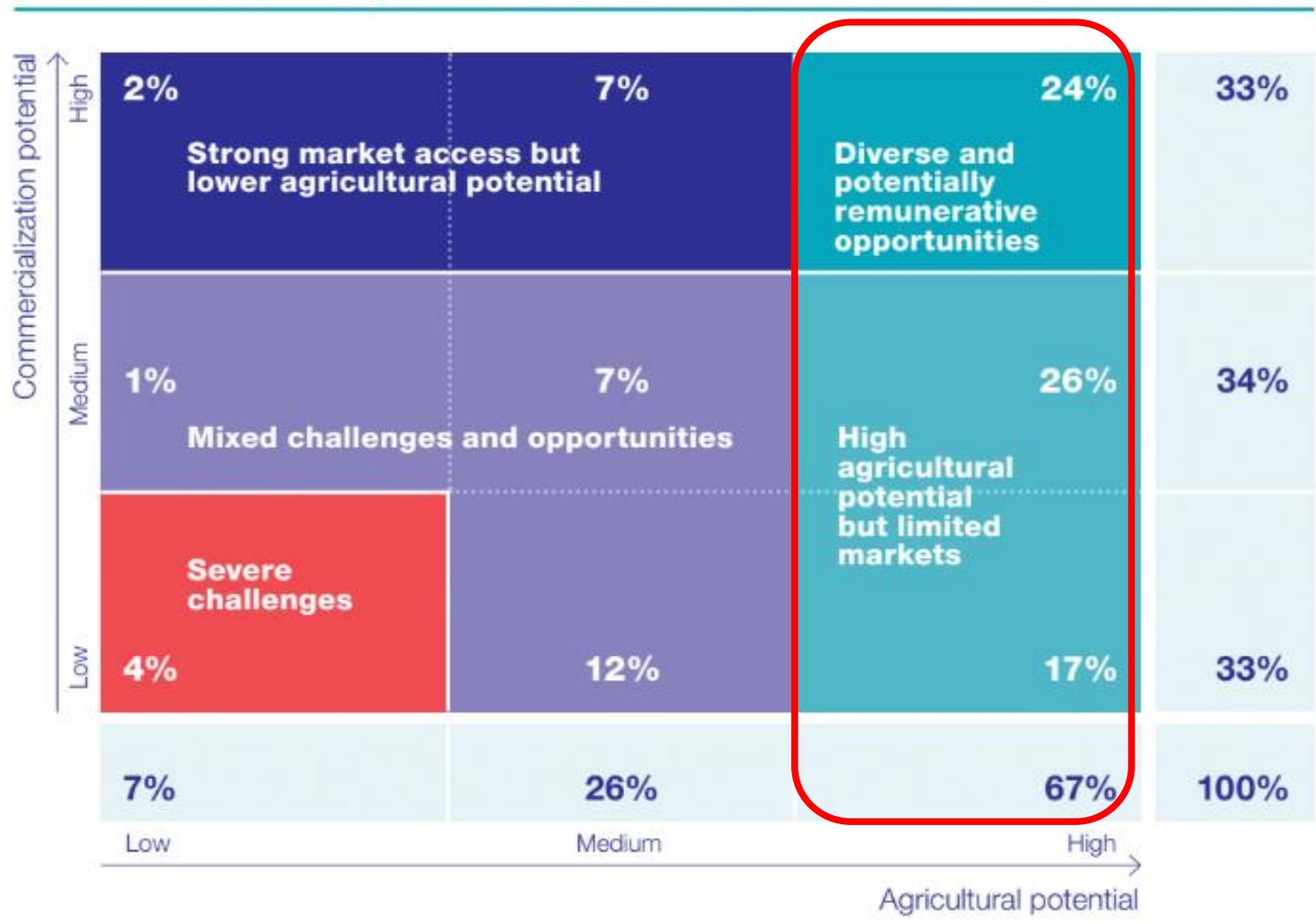
→ Almost three quarters of rural youth live in countries with low rural transformation.

Country transformation typology



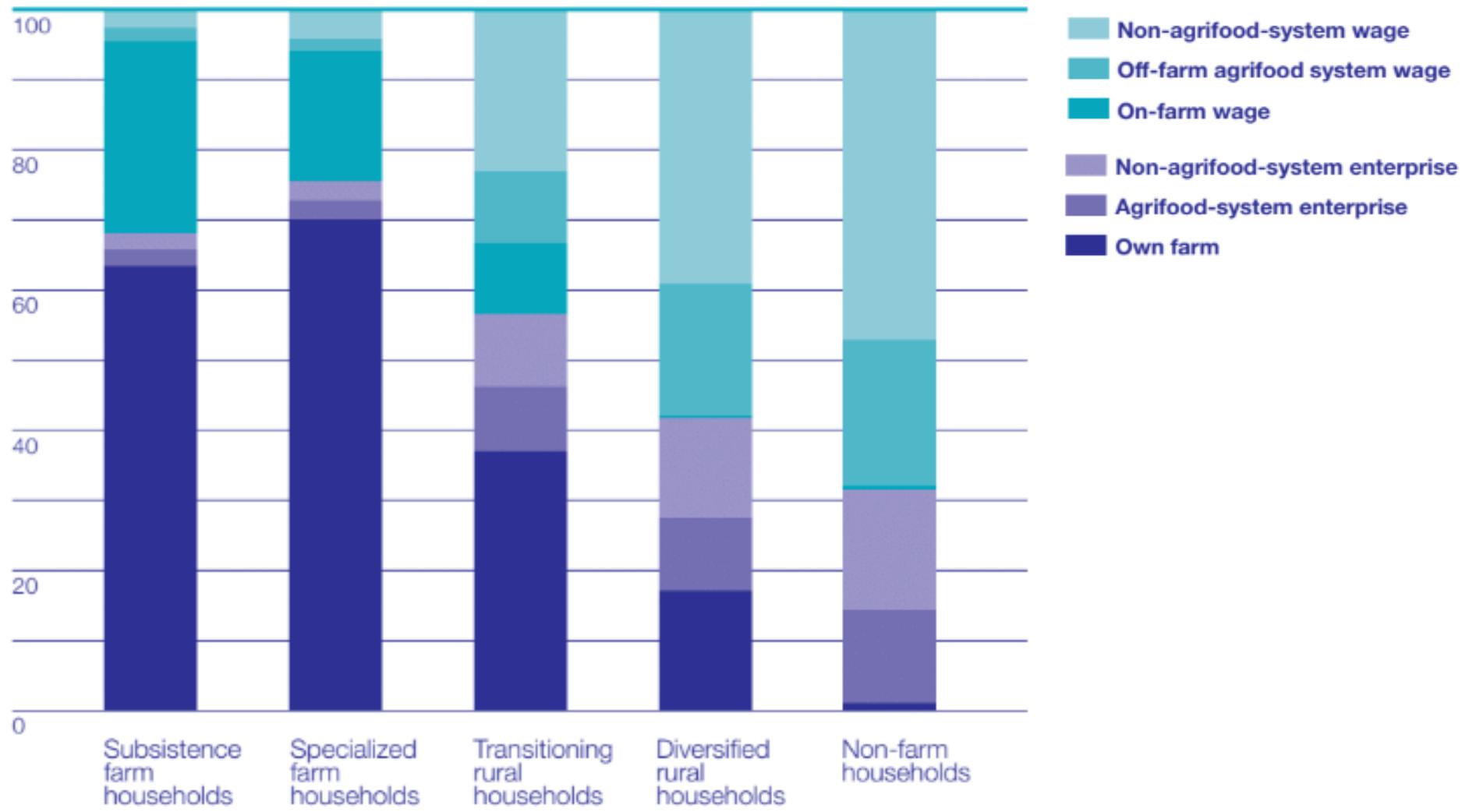
→ Two out of three rural youth in developing countries live in areas with high agricultural potential.

Modified rural opportunity space



→ Like their parents, young people in rural areas are working at jobs in, or related to, agriculture.

Distribution of rural youth work effort, by functional and sectoral employment categories, percentage of full-time equivalents

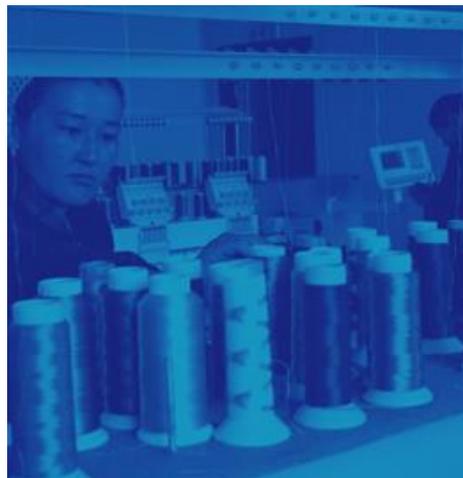


→ Rural youth face particular constraints that need to be addressed simultaneously.

Capacities and skills



Access to finance



Access to land



Gender norms



→ Simultaneous changes are unfolding faster, or in different ways than before, both opening and closing opportunities.



Demographic Change



Climate Change

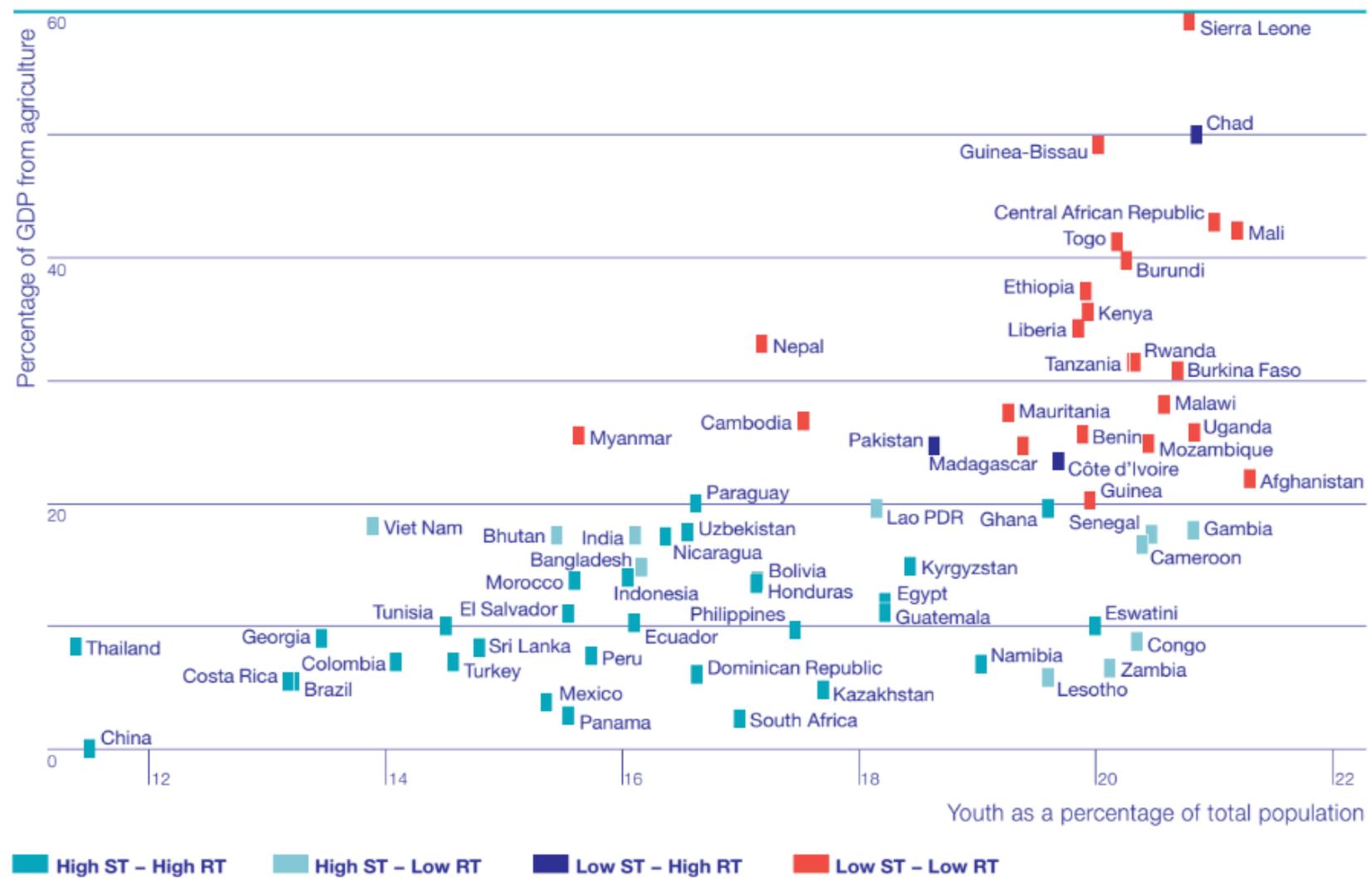


Digital Revolution

Dynamic nature of change

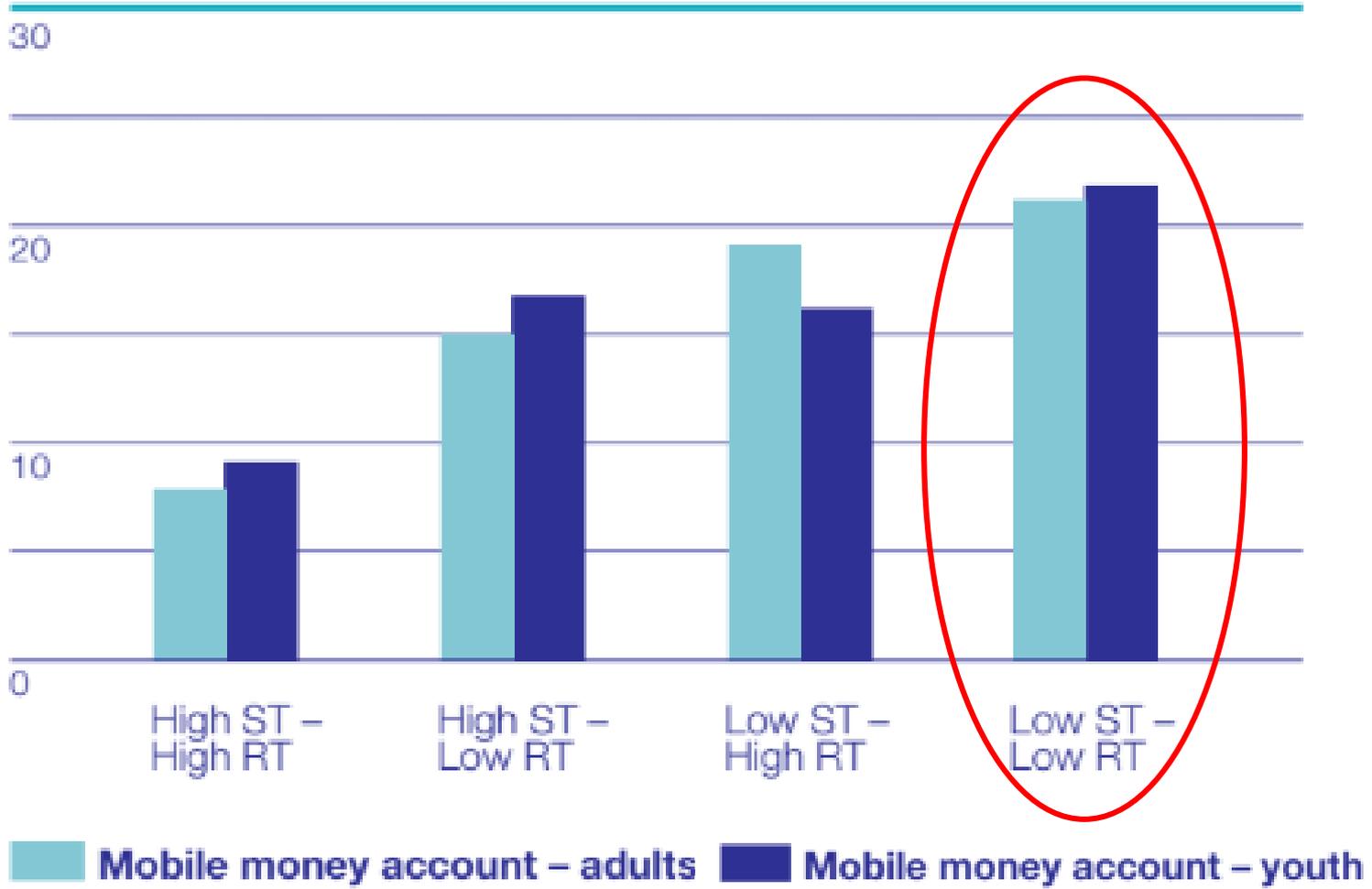
→ Countries with the highest youth shares depend heavily on agriculture and have the lowest capacity to deal with CC.

Agriculture dependency and youth as a percentage of total population



→ Mobile money provides youth in the least transformed countries access to finance.

Percentage of adults and youth with mobile money account



→ Rural youth need cognitive and non-cognitive skills



- Vocational training alone is not enough.
- Non-cognitive skills are - if not more - equally essential than technical skills.
- Partnering with private sector is needed to create opportunity.
- Continuous support is needed to incubate ideas.

→ Rural youth need to be empowered and participate in the decision-making processes



→ Rural youth participation helps to make **interventions more responsive to their needs, increase their ownership and enhance their agency.**

→ Young rural women face a triple challenge requiring that social norms be addressed.



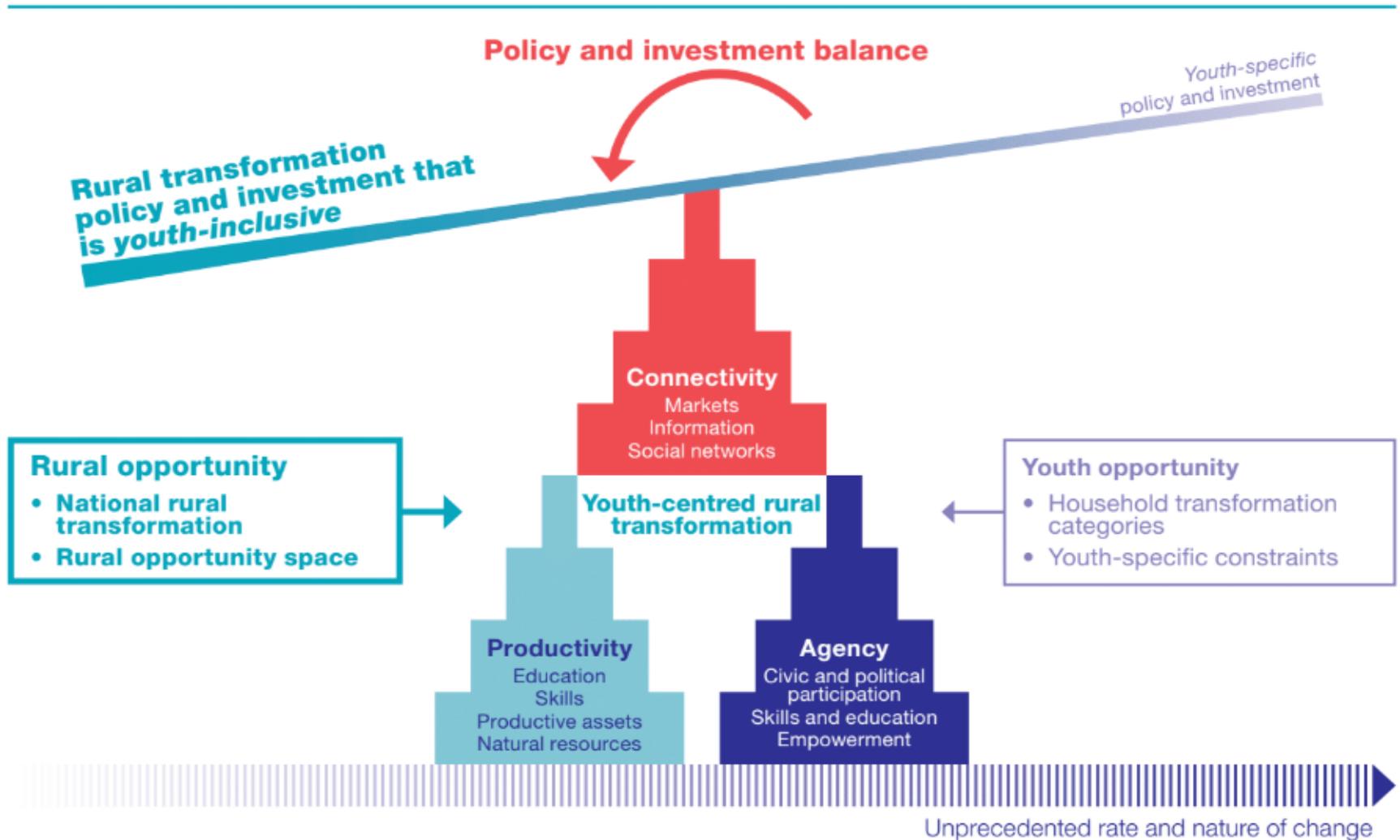
- **Triple challenge:** youth, women, rural.
- **Economic incentives** important for change in women's role.
- **Changing social norms** means to include everyone in the process.

→ Investing in rural youth requires thinking differently

1. Rural youth development policy and investments should be **embedded in broader rural development strategies.**
2. An effective approach to rural youth policy and investment is one that strikes the "**right balance**" **between creating broader rural opportunities and fostering youth specific ones.**
3. Policies and investments to foster rural transformation that is inclusive of youth and/or youth-centred need to consider the three foundations of rural development: ***productivity, connectivity and agency.***

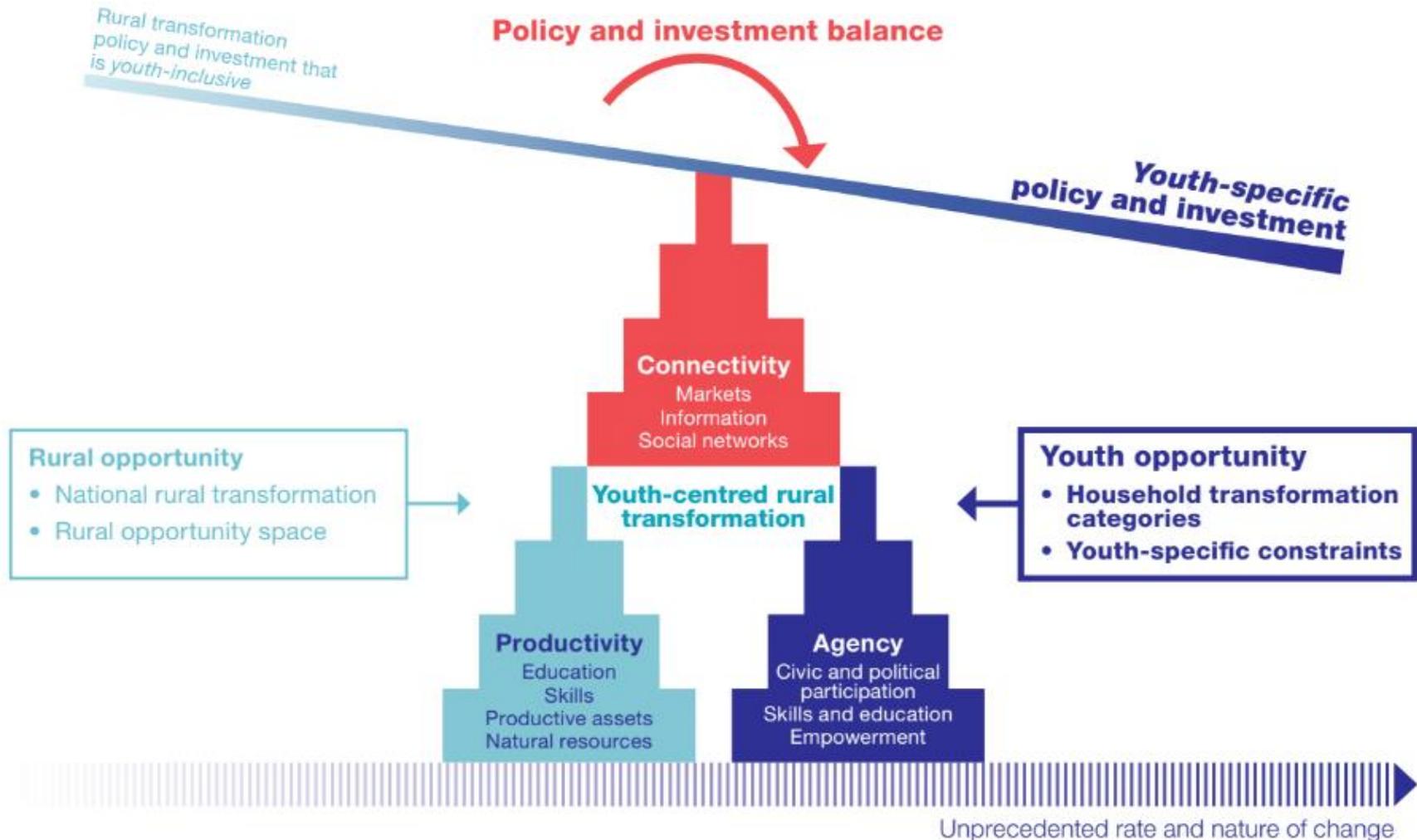
→ Low level of rural opportunity requires focusing on *youth inclusion*

Low level of rural opportunity



→ High level of rural opportunity requires focusing on *youth-specific policies and investments*.

High level of rural opportunity



Thank you