



**TRANSPARENCY  
INTERNATIONAL  
RWANDA**



# **ASSESSMENT OF FARMERS SATISFACTION IN THEIR PARTICIPATION IN IMIHIGO.**



**CASE STUDY: KAYONZA & NYANZA**



**WORLD BANK GROUP**



**GLOBAL  
PARTNERSHIP FOR  
SOCIAL  
ACCOUNTABILITY**

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IN THEIR PARTICIPATION IN IMIHIGO.**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Historically agriculture and livestock have served as a backbone of Rwanda's economy and it is still the second sector contributing to the GDP after the service sector. Agricultural development is key to food security and poverty reduction and currently, both the decentralization policy and Imihigo performance contracts "Imihigo" are used as one of the strategies that Rwanda is using to underpin the development process at national, provincial, district and at individual level, also in the agricultural sector.

To turn farmers' priorities planned in Imihigo into the reality, the entire process should be accompanied by quick and operative service delivery process that respects accountability of local Government, feedback to citizens and participation of citizens. Low citizens' satisfaction in their participation in imihigo planning, implementation and evaluation process in any economic sector like in agriculture is likely to hamper farming activities and citizens' livelihoods.

To ascertain the level of farmers satisfaction in respect with their participation in the planning, implementation and evaluation of agriculture and livestock projects during the fiscal year 2018-2019 Transparency International Rwanda carried out a study on a sample size of nearly 600 farmers in 2 districts (Kayonza and Nyanza) where the GPSA project is being implemented. The data was collected through a structured questionnaire, observation, key informant's interviews and focus group discussions.

The survey informs that farmers' participation in the planning of performance contracts related to farming projects in the course of fiscal year 2018-2019 is 66.8%. Overall, 52.0% of respondents were satisfied with how planned farming related projects were implemented whereas only 49.02% were satisfied with their participation in the evaluation performance contracts related to agriculture and livestock projects. Additionally, farmers rate their satisfaction with the feedback on their proposed priority needs at 45.1%.

Concerning the channels of communication, farmers acknowledged that they mostly express their views through farmers' cooperatives (73.12%) and community meetings (68.6%). Furthermore, findings notify a high level of farmers' satisfaction (75.0%) with the quality of agriculture seeds and fertilizers compared to their request and more than 80% of farmers appreciated the quality of agriculture inputs and equipment other than irrigation machines.

As corruption is concerned, the survey discloses that respondents have heard of corruption in the farming services and programs in their respective location during the fiscal year 2018-2019. The level of perceived corruption was rated at 12% and 9% in the process of farming credits and in the procurement for construction of post-harvest facilities, milk collection centers and purchase of tractors and irrigation machines respectively. The level of experienced corruption by farmers

when seeking farming services during the fiscal year 2018-2019 proves to be at 4.5%. It emerged that 55.6% of respondents who were requested to pay bribe have paid it. It has been identified from this survey that farmers who personally encountered the cases of corruption are reluctant to report their cases to competent institutions as only 3 over 27 respondents reported corruption. The survey reveals that around 41% of those who were requested to pay bribe didn't report due to fear to reprisal from officials while 37.04 % denied reporting due to that it would change nothing.

The overall findings call for 1) Continuous monitoring and making operational existing policies and structures that involves mostly farmers in the planning, implementation and evaluation for long term farming projects 2) interactive and deliberative Community Consultation meetings that allow farmers to really become engaged and expressing their needs 3) enhancing culture of giving the feedback to farmers by different government agencies and other service providers 4) strengthening the culture of fight against corruption and reporting corruption cases.

## Contents

Executive summary.....	3
List of Figures .....	6
List of Tables .....	7
1. Background and Rationale.....	8
2. Objectives of the study.....	11
3. Methodology.....	12
3.1 Approach.....	12
3.2 Methods.....	12
4. Presentation of findings .....	15
4.1 Characteristics of Respondents .....	15
4.1.2 Other Important Characteristics Related to farming Practices .....	17
4.2 Farmers’ Participation in Planning cycle .....	19
4.2.1 Consideration of Farmers’ Priorities .....	21
4.2.2 Farmers ‘Satisfaction of the Feedback on Proposed Priorities .....	22
4.3 Farmers’ satisfaction on the Implementation of selected priorities .....	26
4.3.1 Farmers’ Perception on Quantity of Received Inputs and Equipment .....	26
4.3.2 Farmers’ Satisfaction on their Participation in Price Regulation Process .....	27
4.3.3 Farmers’ satisfaction on timeliness for farming related services/programs .....	29
4.3.4 The Overall Farmers’ Satisfaction on the Implementation .....	31
4.4 Farmers’ Participation in the Evaluation.....	33
4.4.2 Overall Farmers’ Satisfaction on their Participation in the Evaluation.....	36
4.4.3 How Farmers Report their Complaints.....	38
4.4.3 Farmers ‘Satisfaction on the effectiveness of agriculture and livestock services /Programs.....	39
4.4.4 Reasons for Dissatisfaction .....	41
4.4.5 Level and Incidence of Corruption in agriculture and livestock services /Programs .	41
4.4.6 Level of Corruption encountered when asking services.....	42
4.4.7 Reporting of Corruption .....	45
4.4.8 Proposed suggestions for improvement reported by Farmers .....	45
5. Conclusion and Recommendations.....	47

## List of Figures

Figure 1 Farmers 'Market Proximity(n=596) .....	17
Figure 2 Distribution of Land Owned By Farmers(n=596).....	18
Figure 3 Distribution of Size of Land used By Farmers(n=596).....	18
Figure 4 Distribution of Main Grown Crops .....	19
Figure 5 Distribution of Farmers Participation (n=596).....	20
Figure 6 Farmers' Participation in the Price Regulation for Produce and Inputs.....	28
Figure 7 Farmers' Perception on timeliness for farming related services/programs .....	30
Figure 8 Distribution of how farmers rate the delay experienced .....	31
Figure 9 Personal Experience of Corruption Encountered when looking for farming services	43
Figure 10 Distribution of how corruption incidences and Its Payment were happened .....	44

## List of Tables

Table 1 Characteristics of Respondents .....	16
Table 2 Channels of Farmers Participation (n=596).....	21
Table 3 How farmers were active during the planning meeting (n=596).....	21
Table 4 How Farmers Perceived the consideration of each priority.....	22
Table 5 Distribution of Farmers perceive feedback on proposed priority needs.....	23
Table 6 Farmers’ Satisfaction on how their proposed priorities were considered.....	24
Table 7 Farmers’ Appreciation for Quantity Received Inputs and Equipment .....	26
Table 8 Farmers’ Satisfaction for the Quality of Received Inputs and Equipment.....	27
Table 9 Channels Used During the Price Regulation Process .....	28
Table 10 Channels through which Farmers Heard about the Regulated Price .....	29
Table 11 Farmers’ satisfaction on the Implementation.....	31
Table 14 Farmers’ Perception on how some set targets were achieved .....	33
Table 12 Mechanisms Through Which Framers Expressed their Views.....	35
Table 13 Channels through Which Farmers Participate in the Evaluation.....	35
Table 15 Distribution of Farmers’ satisfaction on their Participation in the evaluation.....	37
Table 16 Institution to Which Farmers Reported their Complaints .....	38
Table 17 Farmers’ satisfaction about the effectiveness of agriculture and livestock services /Programs .....	39
Table 18 Corruption perception in agriculture and livestock services /Programs .....	41
Table 19 Corruption encountered Per Institution.....	43
Table 20 Amount that was paid as corruption for agriculture and livestock services/Program.....	44
Table 21 Distribution of Main Reasons why Farmers Don’t Report Corruption Grievances .....	45

## 1. Background and Rationale

Generally, in Rwanda households explicitly or implicitly get their income from agricultural and livestock activities. Around 70% of labour force of Rwanda's population <sup>1</sup> is employed in agricultural sector, which is dominated by subsistence farming.

Historically, agriculture and livestock have served as a backbone of Rwanda's economy and it still second sector contributing to GDP after service sector. At the end of calendar year of 2018, the agriculture sector and related activities have contributed 29 percent to the 2018 gross domestic product (GDP)<sup>2</sup>. Due to the great prominence of the agriculture sector to the Rwandans' livelihood and to the national economy, the Government of Rwanda has paid a special emphasis on the agriculture sector in both short- and long-term national planning.

In the national development strategy "Vision 2020" and in the National strategy for transformation and (NST1), the Government of Rwanda has prioritized the modernization and increase of productivity of agriculture and livestock and has heavily invested in agriculture sector in order to develop it from subsistence to the vibrant commercial agriculture sector. During the EDPRSI & II various agricultural and livestock reforms such as distribution of improved seeds and fertilizers to farmers, land use consolidation, soil erosion control through establishment of radical and progressive terraces, irrigation and agricultural mechanization systems as well as scale up of animal resources' production capacity has been introduced across the country.

Under the aspirations of NST1, the Government of Rwanda intends to increase land covered by radical terraces, as well as to enhance farmers' access to improved seeds on consolidated sites and fertilizers application by 2024 <sup>3</sup>. Likewise, post-harvest facilities will be provided in order to reduce post-harvest losses by availing districts and private storages and capacity of storage facilities constructed will be scaled up from 295,495 MT (2017) to 350,431 MT by 2024. <sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> 7 Years Government Programme: National Strategy for Transformation (NST 1) 2017 – 2024

<sup>2</sup> NISR (2018). The GDP National Accounts, <http://www.statistics.gov.rw>

7 Years Government Programme: National Strategy for Transformation (NST 1) 2017 – 2024

<sup>4</sup> MINECOFIN. 7 Years Government Programme: National Strategy for Transformation (NST 1), 2017-2024. <http://www.minecofin.gov.rw/index.php?id=150&L=ftp%253A%252F%252F2015julho%253Aeueu2301%2540ftp.uhserver.com%252Fteste.php%253F>

In order to rapidly promote sustainable, inclusive and balanced socio-economic development, the Government of Rwanda has initiated the decentralization policy in 2000 that was complemented by performance contracts (Imihigo) in 2006 aiming to positively transform the quality of lives of Rwandans.

Imihigo gets its origin in ancestral culture where all Rwandans should set targets to be achieved under “performance contracts”. Currently, “Imihigo” is used as one of strategies that Rwanda is using to underpin the development process at national, provincial, district and at individual level in order to continuously and gradually improve the quality of lives for all Rwandans. Therefore, both the decentralization policy and Imihigo performance contracts are expected to accelerate socio-economic transformation during the implementation of Vision 2050 and the medium-term strategies, including the National Strategy for Transformation (NST) as well as its sequential initiatives<sup>5</sup>.

All activities selected for implementation in Imihigo should be in the line with Government’s short and long-term development priorities charted under three main pillars namely: Economic Transformation, Social Transformation, and Transformational Governance. To turn farmers’ priorities planned in Imihigo into the reality, the entire process should be accompanied by quick and operative service delivery process that respects accountability of local Government, feedback to citizens and participation of citizens. The development of the agriculture and livestock sector as a component of national economy has been seriously considered in all national sequential strategic plans as a significant number of Rwandans’ depends on agricultural produce. Developing this sector means to improve the quality of live for big part of population. The much attention was paid on the agriculture and livestock sector is recently genuinely evidenced by 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> resolutions of 16<sup>th</sup> National Leadership Retreat<sup>6</sup> as the one of important official governmental forums where His Excellence, The President of the Republic of Rwanda invites high government officials from all institutions and partners to discuss on key development issues and together find out the way forward.

In order to comply with the principles of accountability and participation in Imihigo planning and implementation process, citizens ‘satisfaction and participation were considered as part of evaluation criteria of districts performance contracts and each is valued at 5%.

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<sup>5</sup> NISR (2018). Imihigo Evaluation Report 2017/2018.

[file:///C:/Users/user/Downloads/IMIHIAGO%20Final%20Report%20Sept%202018\\_12\\_October\\_2018.pdf](file:///C:/Users/user/Downloads/IMIHIAGO%20Final%20Report%20Sept%202018_12_October_2018.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Government of Rwanda (2019). 16<sup>th</sup> National Leadership Retreat. RDF Combat Training Centre, Gabiro on 8 – 11 March 2019:

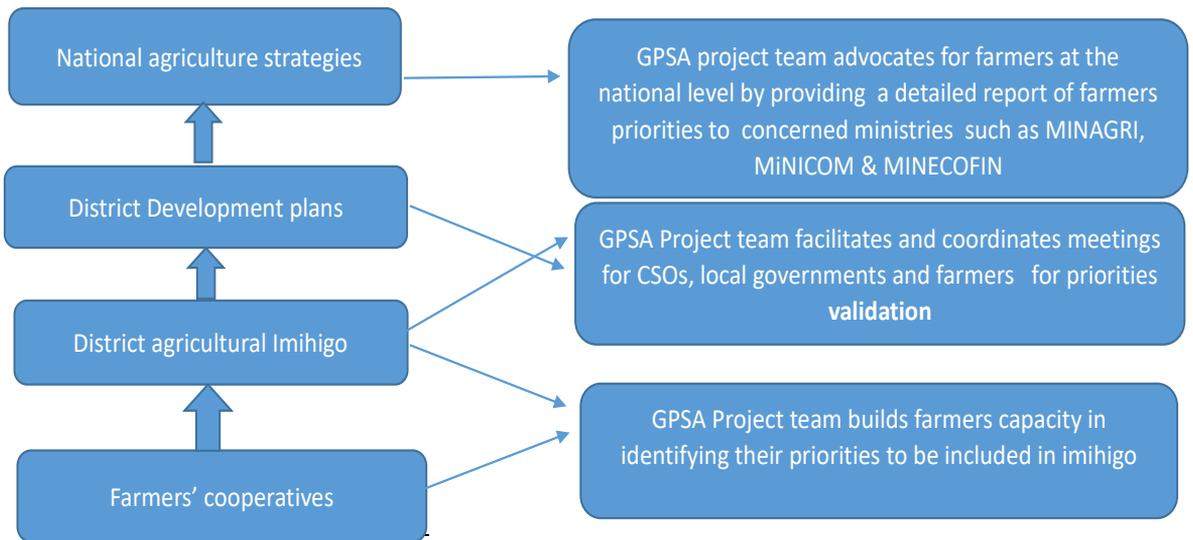
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However, findings from Governance score Card 2016<sup>7</sup> released by RGB, revealed that the level of citizens’ satisfaction on their participation in district planning and budget preparation was found at 7.4% while citizens satisfaction with their participation in performance contracts (Imihigo) planning was 27.30%. Even through, there are remarkable improvements for the two sub-indicators; still they are reported under low performing sub-indicators in GSC 2018 with 47.70% and 48.90<sup>8</sup> respectively.

It is in this context, TI-Rwanda has designed with the support of World Bank through its specialized branch in charge of Social Accountability called Global Partnership for Social Accountability “GPSA”, under «Empowering Farmers at District level through Social Accountability to improve District Performance Contracts “Imihigo” in Rwanda Agriculture Project» in order to fill existing loopholes in Imihigo cycle related to farmers involvement.

In nutshell, the figures below summaries TI-Rwanda contributions to different levels in increasing farmers participation in imihigo and ownership of public agricultural projects as well as identified feedback mechanisms to foster social accountability at all levels

**Farmers’ priorities chain and TI-Rwanda’s interventions**

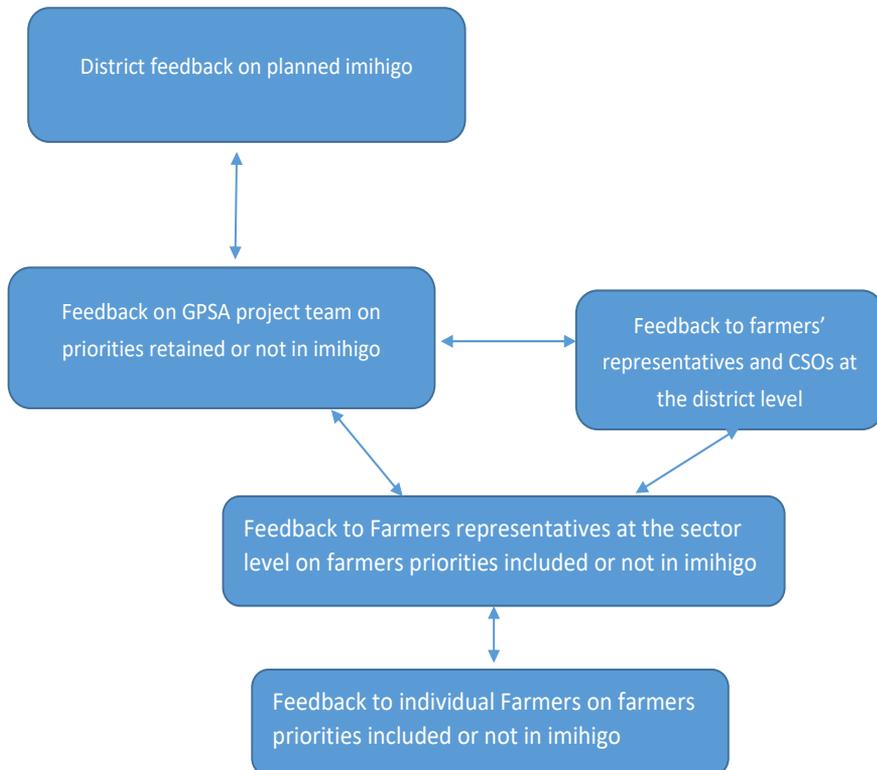


<sup>7</sup>Rwanda Governance Board (2016). Governance Score Card: Participation and Inclusiveness.

<sup>8</sup> Rwanda Governance Board (2018). Governance Score Card: Participation and Inclusiveness, Pg 26

In the framework of enhancing the culture of accountability, GPSA project has established farmers' networks that facilitate in imihigo planning and feedback starting from the grassroots level up to the district level as it summarized in the figure below.

### Farmers feedback chain



## 2. Objectives of the study

The overall objective of the study was to find out; using citizen report card tool, the level of farmers' satisfaction about their (individual) participation in farming projects planned in districts performance contracts (imihigo), precisely in Kayonza and Nyanza Districts. With this, it is the aim to identify farmers' experience on the quality and adequacy of the Imihigo process in

agriculture sector of different service providers as well as leaders from the above-mentioned districts. Apart from the general objective, this survey intended to explicitly meet the following objectives:

- To determine the level of farmers' satisfaction with their participation in planning, implementation and evaluation of Imihigo in Nyanza and Kayonza District
- To assess how farmers are satisfied with available functional mechanisms in Nyanza and Kayonza districts that channeling feedback on imihigo/district development plan to them.
- To evaluate, farmers' perception on how farmers' priority needs are considered and included in imihigo in Nyanza and Kayonza district.
- To ascertain the level of farmers' satisfaction with implementation (receiving seeds& Fertilizers and other agricultural tools on time and at affordable cost, Efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation plan, Transparency in the procurement process, Market price, after harvest storage among others) of agricultural projects planned in Imihigo of Nyanza and Kayonza districts.
- To examine the challenges related to farmers' satisfaction for participation in planning, implementation and evaluation of Imihigo in Nyanza and Kayonza District
- Provide recommendations to concerned stakeholders for corrective actions to address challenges identified in this report.

### **3. Methodology**

This section describes the type of collected data and methodology used in analysis for drawing the extent at which farmers are satisfied with their participation in planning, implementation and evaluations of performance contracts (Imihigo) related to development of agriculture and livestock.

#### **3.1 Approach**

This study uses purely primary quantitative and qualitative data collected from farmers in Kayonza and Nyanza, respective government agencies at national level as well as private companies closely involved in farming activities in the two districts. Quantitative data are to inform about farmers' perception on their participation in planning, implementation and evaluation of performance contracts while qualitative data are experiences obtained from public and private key informant interviews to enhance the overall validity of quantitative findings.

#### **3.2 Methods**

Generally, this study adopted participatory approach under a set of methods including structured survey, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), Focus group discussions (FGDs) and observation were applied to scrutinize farmers' satisfaction on their partaking in intent of performance contracts 2018-2019 related to farming projects at district level. The FGDs helped to get views from

different groups of respondents while KIIs served to get individual opinions (KIIs have been mostly applied for district's officials whose duties are closely linked to farming activities). The structured survey served to collect quantitative data from 600 farmers all aged more than 18 years old coming from stated scope (300 respondents for each district) in May 2019. The qualitative data are experiences from key informants in central and local government entities as well as Farmers/leaders of farmers' cooperatives, CSOs under heterogeneous FGDs. The above-enumerated approaches were supplemented by observation technique in a bid to get more facts on how existing conventional collaboration mechanisms between farmers and district officials are effective to foster farmers' development. This confirmatory method intended to sightsee the availability of understandable Imihigo reports/ordinary meeting minutes/bids analysis related to the planning, implementation and evaluation at farmers' cooperatives and district/sector/cell offices.

### 3.3 Sampling strategy

The sampling was drawn from the entire population as the study population as the two districts are located in rural areas where most of citizens do agriculture and livestock as main economic activities.

The calculation of the sample size using below Raosoft formula allowed getting an appropriate sample size to quantitatively comprehend the subject matter under this research.

$n = \frac{N(zs/e)^2}{N-1+(zs/e)^2}$  , Where:

N = Study population size,

n=sample size of the study

z= 1.96 for 95% level of confidence

s = p (1-p) p = estimated proportion

e = desired margin of error

In this estimation, the confidence level is taken at 90% with a margin of error of 5 %, which is equal to 271 respondents rounded to 300 per district. Such a sample size provides a base for meaningful comparison to undertake statistically valid sub stratifications that fall within acceptable confidence level.

N0	Study population	Study population Size(N)	Confidence level	Margin of error	Sample size(n)
1	Kayonza	346,7519	90%	5%	271 rounded to ( 300)
2	Nyanza	323,71910	90%	5%	271 rounded to (300)
	<b>Total</b>				<b>600</b>

Concerning the qualitative data, exactly 6 FGDs were conducted with farmers and cooperatives' leaders in the two districts. Ten Key Informant Interviews with staffs working in the area of agriculture and livestock were carried at national and district level. Similarly, KIIs were conducted with all representatives of CSOs intervening in the same area at local level. At national level, KIIs conducted from high government officials who are directly involved in the agriculture and livestock projects. The saturation effect was applied on the number of interviews to be conducted.

### 3.4 Data processing and analysis

The data analysis was performed by an experienced statistician using SPSS software. During the data collection, quantitative data have been collected using the tablets by enumerators under the supervision of team leaders who have been submitting collected data online on daily basis to the statistician. The statistician has generated graphs and /or tables on the basis of the tabulation plan. As far as qualitative data is concerned, data from interviews and FGDs have been analyzed by the researchers using the content analysis method. For both quantitative and qualitative data, researchers and statistician performed analysis and interpretation.

### 3.5 Quality Assurance Measures

Conducting such a study requires a set of measures to assure quality data and information. For this purpose, in addition to ensure an effective coordination of the work and more specifically data collection, the following measures have been taken:

- The use of a participatory approach in developing research instruments
- Comply with the authorization procedures from Rwanda Governance Board
- A training of enumerators and team leaders have been done to ensure understanding of the study objectives, methodology and tools.
- A pilot survey was conducted to test the quality of research tools, mainly the questionnaire;
- Continuous field meetings between the consultants, the enumerators and supervisors were done to identify arising issues while collecting data and to develop appropriate solutions;

<sup>9</sup> Number of entire population, Kayonza District: <http://www.kayonza.gov.rw/index.php?id=86>

<sup>10</sup> Number of entire population, Nyanza District: <http://www.nyanza.gov.rw/index.php?id=72>

- Anonymous questionnaire was administered as a way of encouraging free and open expression by respondents.
- Supervision and overall coordination of data collection
- Tablets were used to capture data collected and more particularly to minimize data collection and entry errors.

### **3.6 Ethical Considerations**

Our search of knowledge must not contradict some ethical principles including the obligation to avoid hurting or embarrassing the respondents as well as respecting their privacy. According to some scholars, we, as researchers, must first ask ourselves the ethical relevance of any research with reference to the values and actions that we undertake in order to complete it. For this purpose, the researchers have observed a set of measures to comply with ethical standards during the whole process of research. These are:

- Enumerators during the survey hold a recommendation letter from Transparency International Rwanda justifying the relevance of the study they are involved in and introducing them to various potential informants as well as local authorities;
- They have sought and obtained formal consent from each informant before interviewing him/her or engaging in discussions;
- They have informed respondents that they have the right to refuse any participation in the study;
- Guaranty confidentiality regarding any given information and promised to use it exclusively for the research purpose. Such a measure is intended to gain cooperation and to build trust between information seekers and information givers.

## **4. PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS**

This section deals with the major findings from the analysis of collected data from farmers in districts of Kayonza and Nyanza during the survey. The intention of this work was to assess farmers 'perception on their partaking in planning cycle of performance contracts with emphasis on farmer's projects scheduled in the fiscal year 2018-2019. This part also presents the current context of farmer's appreciation in regarding to the services received from other partners rather than central and local government such as private agro-dealers.

### **4.1 Characteristics of Respondents**

This part describes main demographics features of respondents (farmers) that have participated in this survey. The numbers of farmers who have participated in this survey are equally distributed in the two districts covered by this study. The number of respondents for each district is 300 farmers to make a sample size of 600 respondents for the survey. The dominant age group represents 46.4% of the respondents were between 18 and 44 years of age which is also

considered as the active working population, 25.1% between 45-54 years, and 28.4% were 55 years and above. Of all respondents, 316 (53%) of the respondents were males and 280 (47%) are females.

Overall, 23.9% of the farmers had no or less than primary education, 58.9% had completed primary education, 10.6% had finished Ordinary level, 3.2% and Advanced level education. Additionally, 0.5% had completed university studies while 3% finished technical vocational trainings (Table1).

**Table 1 Characteristics of Respondents**

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<b>Respondents per District</b>		
Kayonza	300	50%
Nyanza	300	50%
<b>Total</b>	600	100%
<b>Sex of Respondents</b>		
Male	316	53%
Female	280	47%
<b>Total</b>	596	100.0%
<b>Age Groups</b>		
18-24	13	2.2%
25-29	38	6.4%
30-34	50	8.4%
35-39	99	16.6%
40-44	76	12.8%
45-49	67	11.2%
50-54	57	13.9%
55-59	59	9.9%
60+	110	18.5%
<b>Total</b>	596	100.0%
<b>Highest Level of Education</b>		
None	142	23.9%
Primary only	351	58.9%
Ordinary Level	63	10.6%
Advanced Level	19	3.2%
University	3	0.5%
Vocational Training	18	3%
<b>Total</b>	596	100.0%
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single	174	11.0%
Married	775	48.8%
Widow(er)	542	34.2%
Divorced	96	6.0%
<b>Total</b>	1587	100.0%
<b>People with any disability</b>		

No	537	90.1%
Yes	59	9.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 4.1.2 Other important characteristics related to farming practices

Regarding the market proximity, 70.30% of farmers mostly take a walk of less than one hour towards the market place and 22.9% of farmers walk more than one hour and thirty minutes (1h30), while 6.7% of farmers walk between 1h and 1h30 to the market place. This reminds that future plans should not skip smoothing market infrastructure and market access in order to add more value to farmers' produce otherwise this can challenge the intended success for farming projects.

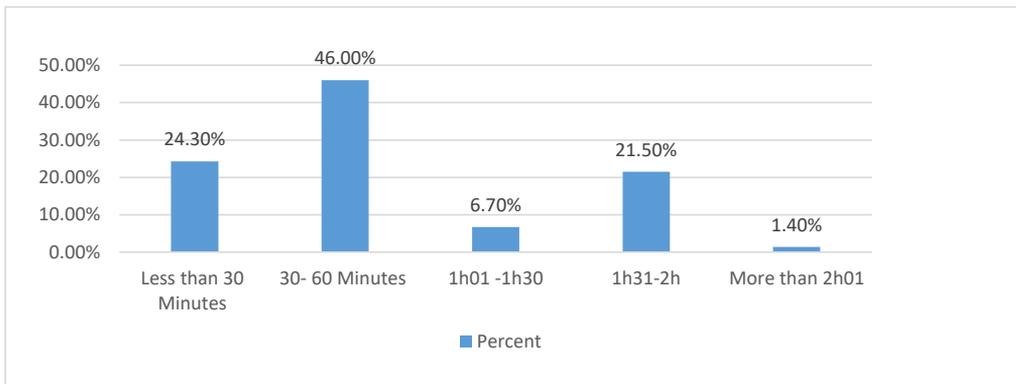


Figure 1 Farmers' Market Proximity (n=596)

Generally, 47.3% of farmers use their own land, 16.8% use their own land and rent from others, 23.2% only rent from others while 12.7% use their own plus government land.

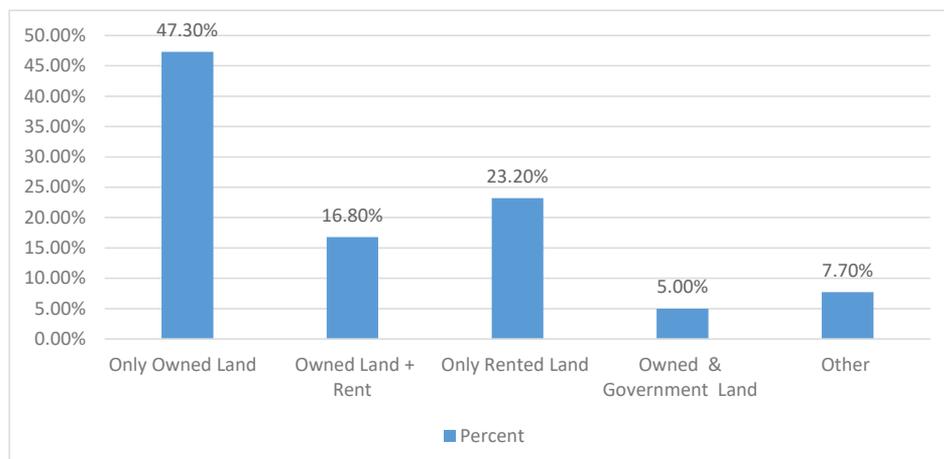


Figure 2 Distribution of Land Owned By Farmers (n=596)

Overall, 67.3% of farmers use a land of equal or less than one hectare to do their agricultural and livestock activities. This is in line with the national average of 0.72 ha, but also underlines the vulnerability of many farmers in our study population who rely on very small land.

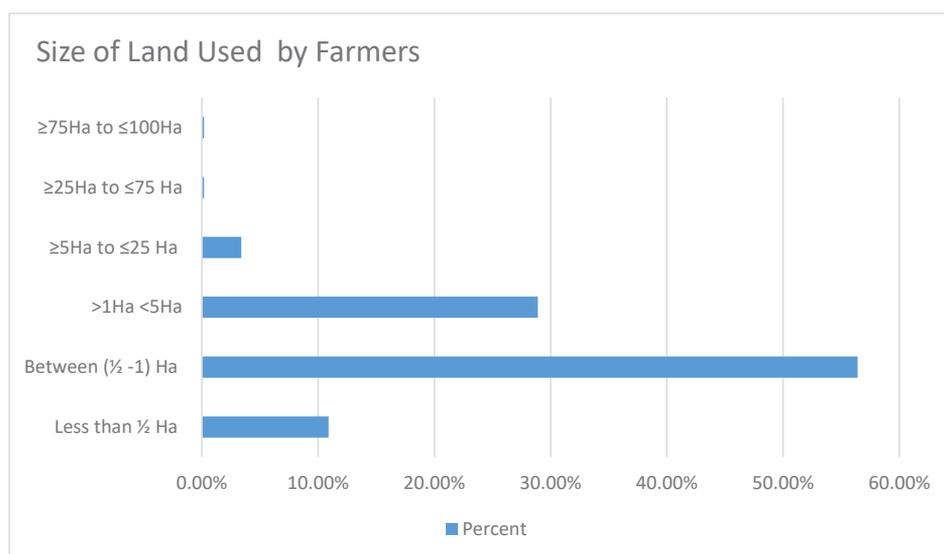


Figure 3 Distribution of Size of Land used By Farmers (n=596)

It is very complex to disaggregate crops grown by farmers as they are widely mixed in all districts covered by this survey. The analysis of data informed that 53% grow a mixture of maize, beans, rice, cassava and soybeans by either alternating or partitioning of their lands. Around of 6.9% and 2.3% of farmers cultivate only maize and beans respectively. Maize and beans, Cassava, Rice

and soya beans are some of the select crops thus they are crucial in agricultural imihigo related as well as in the district development plans.

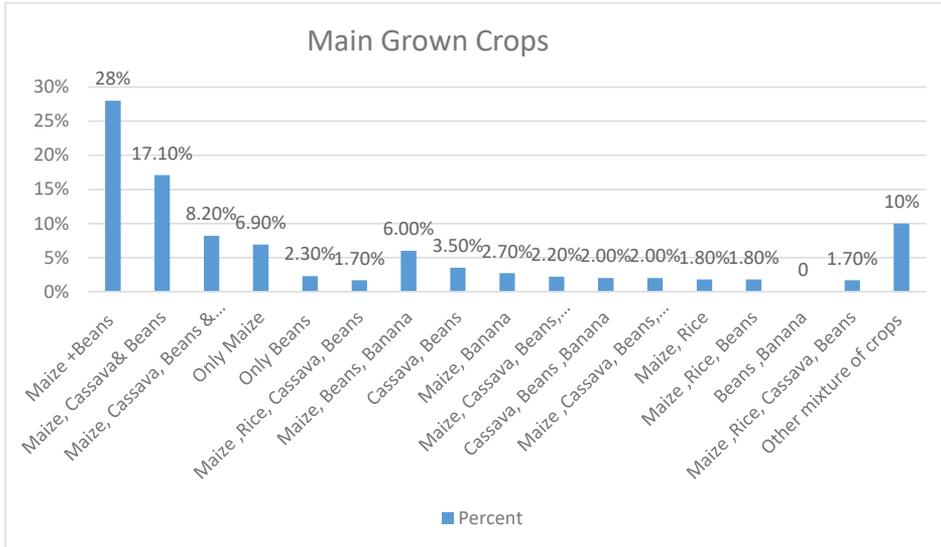
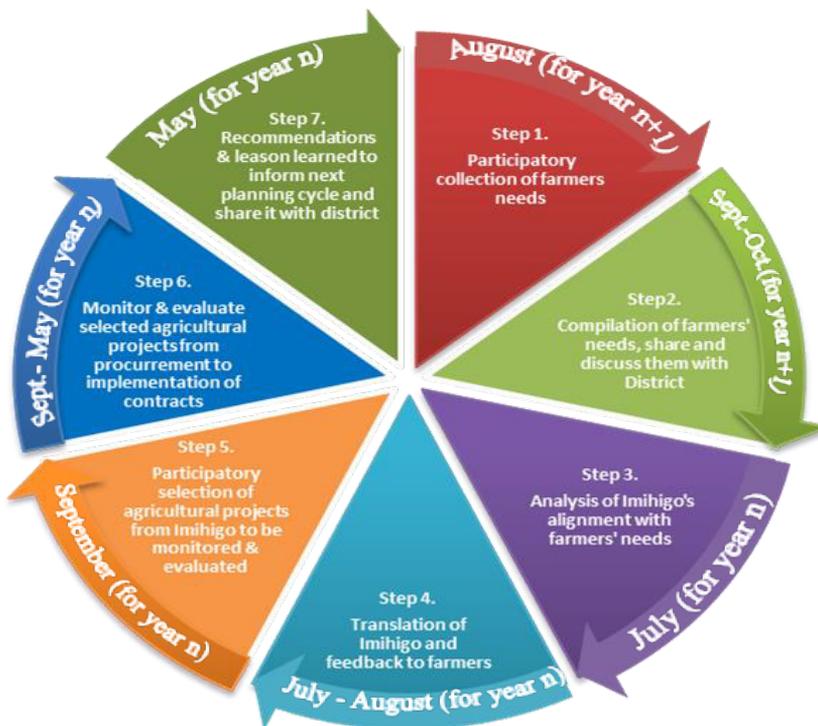


Figure 4 Distribution of Main Grown Crops

#### 4.2 Farmers' Participation in planning cycle

The main aim of this study is to scrutinize the level of farmers' partaking in the planning cycle of performance Contracts (Imihigo) related to agriculture and livestock projects for the fiscal year 2017-18.



The figure above shows the planning cycle and at what level farmers priority are collected and submitted to the district authorities. From quantitative data, exactly 66.8% of farmers confirmed their participation in the planning stage compared to 23.4 percent reported in the baseline study..

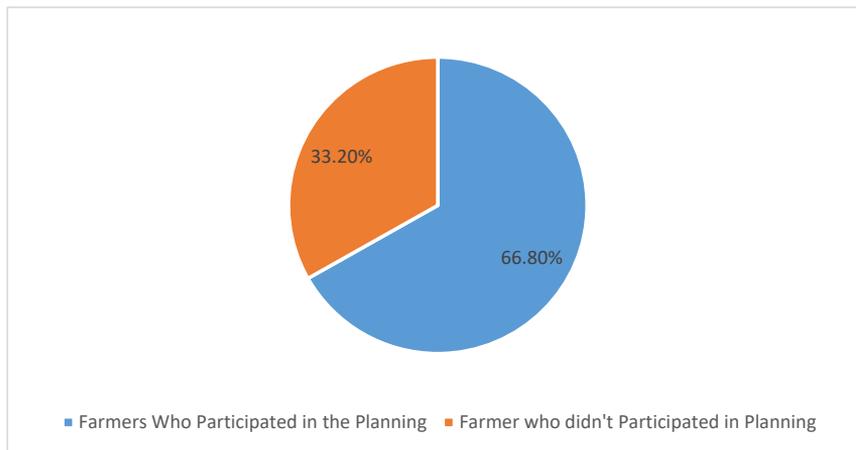


Figure 5 Distribution of Farmers Participation (n=596)

The study disaggregated the level of farmers’ participation by district and the findings revealed that farmers’ participation in Kayonza is at 76.6% whereas framers’ participation in Nyanza is 56.9%. Comparing the female and male participation in imihigo planning, the findings revealed that male participate slightly higher than female at 67.5% and 66.1% respectively

**Results from the desk review and focus group discussions (FGDs) informed that farmers ‘participation (66.8%) is not genuinely evidenced with tangibles facts such as community meetings or farmer’s cooperatives’ reports/minutes.** There is still weakness in the process of collecting and documenting farmers ‘priority needs during the performance contracts planning cycle. However, the cooperatives and community meetings are the most channels used for farmer’s participation with the rate of 73.12% and 68.6% respectively but no clear process found in place like invitation letter which details the agenda of the meeting as a way helping farmers to get ready to express their priorities to district’s authorities. **Additionally, during the FGDs in the two districts covered by this survey, farmers revealed to confuse agriculture season meeting with the performance contracts meeting cognates to agriculture. This confusion underlines weaknesses that may restraint to excellently capture the most farmers’ priorities that can allow the government to respond to the real farmers ‘priority needs.**

**Table 2 Channels Through which Farmers Participation (n=596)**

Channel of Participation	Yes	No	Don't know	No Response	Total
<b>Farmers' cooperative</b>	73.12%	8.04%	2.01%	16.83%	100%
<b>Community Meeting</b>	68.60%	25.00%	0.02%	6.38%	100%
<b>Community Service</b>	29.80%	50.20%	0.04%	19.96%	100%
<b>Village council</b>	13.30%	49.40%	0.04%	37.26%	100%
<b>Cell council</b>	0.06%	55.00%	0.06%	44.88%	100%
<b>Sector council</b>	0.02%	58.50%	0.05%	41.43%	100%

Overall, 59.6% (355 farmers) confirmed that they were active and very active in the discussion and got space to provide their views during the planning meeting. However, during FGDs some farmers pointed out some limitations during community meeting which is among the most channels used to communicate with citizens at village level. Local leaders tend to use more time to announcements than to stress the main agenda of the day or enabling participants to express their burning issues (Table3).

**Table 3 How farmers were active during the planning meeting (n=596)**

Variable	Percent
Very active	21.3
Active	38.3
Neither nor	.8
Not active	6.0
Not active at all	.3
No Response	33.2
Total	100.0

#### 4.2.1 Consideration of farmers' priorities

This section describes how farmers' priorities were taken into consideration during the planning of performance contracts linked to agriculture and livestock. Farmers interpreted the consideration of their suggestions at a rate of above 80% for three projects, one project at (79.9%), another at (74.0%). It is only one project that farmers revealed that it was considered at 65.6% while other 6 projects were perceived at low rate of consideration of less than 44% among projects that were submitted to the districts as (Table4).

**Table 4 How Farmers Perceived the consideration of each priority**

Farmers 'priority need	Frequency	Percent
To increase the number of hectares of land to be cultivated (at hills and marshlands)	274/596	46%
To increase the production of selected crops	478/596	80.2%
To increase the quantity of agriculture inputs	488/596	81.9%
To increase the number of cultivated hectares using tractors	149/596	25.0%
To timely distribute agricultural inputs	494/596	82.9%
To increase the number of irrigated hectares (at marshlands and hillsides)	261/596	43.8%
To increase irrigation machines and small scale technology irrigation system	191/596	32.0%
To heavily control plant disease by increasing mobile plant clinic and training of agronomists	476/596	79.9%
To increase the number of inseminated cows through improved semen and artificial insemination services	391/596	65.6%
To increase the modern milk collection points	259/596	43.5%
To increase the disease control for livestock	441/596	74.0%
Other, specify: Farmers suggested renovation of milk collection centre construct of its fence as well as to Provide water tank to farmers for storing water for the dry season	1/596	0.2%

#### 4.2.2 Farmers' satisfaction of the feedback on proposed priorities

To provide beneficiaries with feedback of what government is doing, why they are doing it, and how decisions were made is one way of enhancing and strengthening the social accountability between duty bearers and beneficiaries. It is in this regard that this survey outlines how farmers perceive the level of feedback on all proposed, retained and not retained priorities in agriculture and livestock. Findings noticed farmers' feedback either on imihigo retained or not at a very low percentage of 45.1%, 43.0 and 24.5% respectively as per table below. **A none negligible rate (25.5% of farmers) claim not to be provided with feedback on all proposed priorities.** This finding is closely to the one of International Alert (2018) <sup>11</sup> revealed that Farmers who received feedback were nearly 67%. Moreover, during the FDGs some farmers in Kayonza and Nyanza confirmed that they do not receive feedback on proposed priority needs related to agriculture and livestock performance as it was shown by the quantitative data whereby only 30.30% of the responded confirmed to have received feedback in Nyanza and 59.9% in Kayonza. Around 90%

<sup>11</sup> International Alert (2018). TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE - An analysis of farmers' participation in agriculture programmes in Rwanda

of selected key informants in agriculture and livestock sector such as district and sector agronomists/veterinaries and other local government authorities confirmed that all reports related to the performance contracts were available to the public. This is also confirmed through observation and desk review. Reports are either on the website of the district or in the room of performance contracts and on the noticeboard of the district. Despite the views from local authorities on the procedures for feedback to farmers, more than 50% of farmers at local level were not aware of those reports. This could be linked to the fact that Nyanza district population is predominantly rural at 92.1% . Only 7.9% resides in Busasamana sector, the only urbanized sector of Nyanza district. Additionally, posting reports on the district website would reduce the number of farmers who can access them because only around 3,216,080 of the whole Rwandan population have internet access , withouth leaving out the internet network connectivity challenges in rural area<sup>12</sup>.This calls to place more emphasis on the dissemination of compiled district performance contracts to all levels and to all beneficiaries as well as to use accessible channels

**Table 5 Distribution of Farmers perceive feedback on proposed priority needs**

Feedback	Frequency	Percent
Feedback for all proposed priorities	269/596	45.1%
Feedback for retained priorities	256/596	43.0%
Feedback for not Retained priorities	146/596	24.5%
No feedback at all	152/596	25.5%

#### 4.2.3 Farmers` satisfaction with their participation in imihigo planning

Farmers were asked how they were satisfied with the consideration of their raised needs among planned performance contracts related to agriculture and livestock projects in the fiscal year 2018-2019. The overall satisfaction for all 11 farmers` priorities considered in performance contracts is nearly 53% which is not different from the one of the baseline results. This finding corroborates result of 2018<sup>13</sup> Rwanda Governance Scorecard (RGS) revealed that overall citizens` satisfaction with service linked to agriculture and livestock sector was rated at 52.5%. Despite more efforts invested in agriculture sector, farmers `satisfaction in planning is still static may be due to that farmers have not strongly participated in setting prices (23%) as per this survey. Additionally, farmers continuing as per results from different sources to report that their return on their investments are low which is surely one of factors led to low level of satisfaction

<sup>12</sup> Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda Fourth Population and Housing Census, Rwanda, 2012 District Profile Nyanza February 2015

<sup>13</sup> RGB: Rwanda Governance Score CARD (2018), 5<sup>th</sup> Edition.

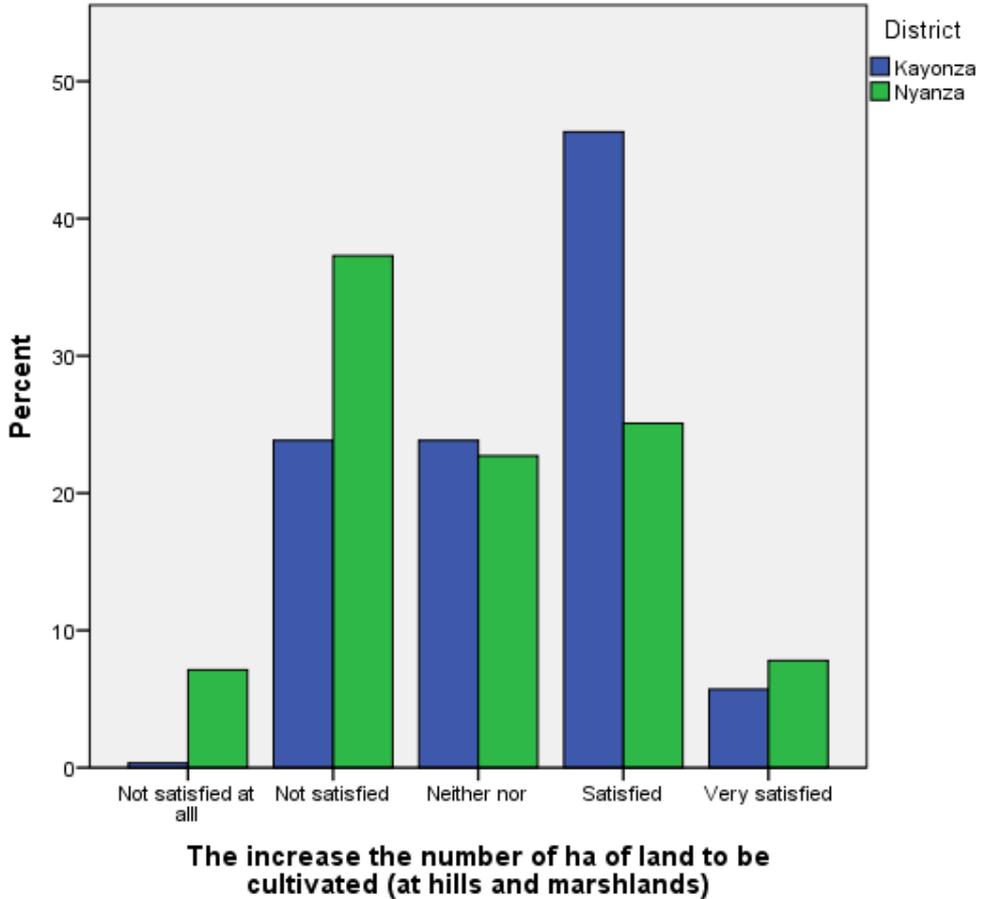
in the planning. The fact that returns on investment for farmers is low; this calls for particular attention to put in place policies that can clue to efficiency in agriculture and livestock businesses. During the FGDs, farmers expressed that local leaders should closely meet with farmers at grassroots level and specifically invited farmers ahead of time to participate in the preparation and planning of their respective performance contracts.

**Table 6 Farmers' Satisfaction on how their proposed priorities were considered.**

Farmers priority Needs		Not satisfied at all	Not satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total	Score
<b>To increase the number of hectares of land to be cultivated ( at hills and marshlands)</b>	n	25	181	138	212	40	596	3.1
	%	4.20%	30.40%	23.20%	35.60%	6.70%	100%	
<b>To increase the production of selected crops</b>	n	5	48	68	381	94	596	3.85
	%	0.90%	8.10%	11.40%	63.90%	15.80%	100%	
<b>To increase the quantity of agriculture inputs</b>	n	3	48	63	306	176	40	4.01
	%	0.50%	8.10%	10.60%	51.30%	29.50%	100%	
<b>Timely distribute agricultural inputs</b>		9	50	63	267	207	596	4.03
		1.50%	8.40%	10.60%	44.80%	34.70%	100%	
<b>To increase the number of irrigated hectares (at marshlands and hillsides)</b>	n	65	170	166	148	47	596	2.9
	%	10.90%	28.50%	27.90%	24.80%	7.90%	100%	
<b>To increase the number of cultivated Ha using Tractors</b>	n	179	212	164	32	9	596	2.13
	%	30.00%	35.60%	27.50%	5.40%	1.50%	100%	
<b>To increase irrigation machines and small scale technology irrigation system</b>	n	171	200	142	64	19		2.26
	%	28.70%	33.60%	23.80%	10.70%	3.20%	100%	
<b>To heavily control plant disease by increasing mobile plant clinic and training of agronomists</b>	n	11	51	81	359	94	596	3.8
	%	1.90%	8.60%	13.60%	60.20%	15.80%	100%	
<b>To increase the number of inseminated cows through improved semen and artificial insemination services</b>	n	10	58	157	273	96	596	3.63
	%	2.00%	9.70%	26.30%	45.80%	16.10%	100%	
<b>To increase the modern milk collection points</b>	n	50	182	173	149	42	596	2.91
	%	8.40%	30.50%	29.00%	25.00%	7.00%	100%	
<b>To increase the disease control for livestock</b>	n	9	43	113	327	104	596	3.79
	%	1.5	7.20%	19.00%	54.90%	17.40%	100%	
	%	8.20%	19.00%	20.30%	38.40%	14.10%	100%	

Average percentage of satisfaction									
Overall score									3.31

**How farmers were satisfied with regard to how proposed farmers' priority needs were considered in Imihigo planning in FY 2018/2019 by district**



### 4.3 Farmers’ satisfaction on the Implementation of selected priorities

In order to assess farmers’ satisfaction on the implementation of farmers’ priorities planned in the performance Contracts 2018-2019, a number of sub-indicators have been evaluated such as: how farmers appreciated quantity and quality of received inputs and equipment, price regulation for farmers ‘produce and inputs, extension of arable land at hills and in marshlands, about irrigation and agriculture mechanization as well as insemination services.

#### 4.3.1 Farmers’ perception on quantity of received inputs and equipment

Concerning the quantity of received agriculture inputs and equipment, approximately 75% of farmers confirmed the reception of the same quantity as they have requested for improved seeds and fertilizers. For irrigation machines almost 90% of respondents didn’t respond to this question as during the FGDs farmers mentioned that they have not requested any irrigation machine due to that they are not able to afford their contribution in order to qualify for the government support through “Nkunganire” program. Exactly 6.7% of farmers who confirmed the same reception as their request are the ones who were able to pay the balance of the government support and those who are satisfied with irrigation machines were at 11.74% in 2018 CRC of RGB<sup>14</sup>.

**Table 7 Farmers’ Appreciation for Quantity Received Inputs and Equipment**

Inputs/equipment		Not Received	Too Less/Not Enough	Approximately what I requested	Same as requested	Total
Improved seeds	n	34	92	25	445	596
	%	5.70%	15.40%	4.20%	74.70%	100%
Fertilizers	n	35	71	33	457	596
	%	5.90%	11.90%	5.50%	76.70%	100%
Irrigation machines	n	530	23	3	40	596
	%	88.90%	3.90%	0.50%	6.70%	100%

Generally, more than 80 % of farmers who participated in this survey consider the quality of received inputs as good or very good. This finding underlines continuous improvement with regard to the quality of used inputs and fertilizers as figures from other sources of information including the 2018 CRC of RGB where farmers rated their satisfaction about the quality of inputs and fertilizers at 74.33%. From detailed used scale of appreciation in the survey, 25.3% and 59.7% of farmers rated their appreciation with very good and good for received improved seeds,

<sup>14</sup> Rwanda Governance Board (RGB): Citizen Report Card ,2018

respectively. 25.8% and 64.4% of farmers rate the quality of received fertilizers as very good and good respectively (Table8).

**Table 8 Farmers’ Satisfaction for the Quality of Received Inputs and Equipment**

Inputs/equipment		Very Bad	Bad	Neither Bad nor Good	Good	Very Good	Total
Improved seeds	n	16	30	43	356	151	596
	%	2.7%	5.0%	7.2%	59.7%	25.3%	100%
Fertilizers	n	9	13	36	384	154	596
	%	1.5%	2.2%	6.0%	64.4%	25.8%	100%
Irrigation machines	n	331	179	19	23	44	596
	%	55.5%	30.0%	3.2%	3.9%	7.4%	100%

#### 4.3.2 Farmers’ satisfaction on their participation in price regulation process

This survey informed that only 23.80% of farmers have participated in the price regulation process for agriculture and livestock’s produce as well as for inputs while around 76% didn’t partake. One of the impacts is, as discussed before, the lower levels of satisfaction, which is also confirmed by RGB (2018). The RGB (2018) citizen report card reported farmers’ satisfaction at low level (43.7%) and queried the market availability for some agriculture commodities (maize, Irish potatoes), price regulation process and management of collection centers as main factors deterred farmers. The above-mentioned source of information was complemented by FGDs where farmers discussed to not take part in the price regulation process. They articulated that dealers/traders pay them a price which can’t break even the cost of production. Moreover, they mentioned that they know the price of their produce from traders (agro dealers), on the radios or from their friends. The low level of satisfaction for price regulation calls all concerned stakeholders to take action in order to solve market related issues such as lack of inclusiveness in the price regulation process. Despite farmers ‘complaints to participate in the price regulation process there is imbalance of negotiation powers between farmers and traders as. It is evident that farmers faced challenges to deeply comprehend the market structure and scenarios in order to successfully negotiate with traders. The low level of education for farmers may lead to the consequence of imbalance in trade negotiations which always disadvantages farmers.

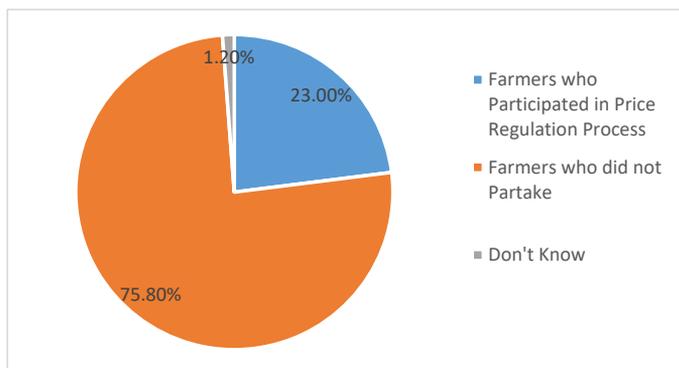


Figure 6 Farmers' satisfaction in the Price Regulation for Produce and Inputs

Overall, 23.0% of farmers who participated in the price regulation process for the agriculture and livestock's produce as well as for inputs. Only 51.82% of farmers who participated have been consulted through community meeting at village level. At policy level, qualitative data collected from MINICOM/directorate of domestic trade specified that farmers are represented by leaders of their respective cooperatives in the validation meeting for price regulation. Similarly, district officials supported the same procedure of farmers 'participation while cooperative' leaders at large majority refuted their participation during the FGDs.

Table 9 Channels Used During the Price Regulation Process

Channel Participation	of	Don't Know	No	Yes	NR	Total
Village's meeting	n	4	50	71	12	137
	%	2.92%	36.50%	51.82%	9%	100%
Cell's Meeting	n	2	52	21	62	137
	%	1.46%	37.96%	15.33%	45.26%	100%
Sector's Meeting	n	4	40	33	60	137
	%	2.92%	29.20%	24.09%	43.80%	100%
District's Meeting	n	2	52	22	61	137
	%	1.46%	37.96%	16.06%	44.53%	100%
RAB	n	3	49	21	64	137
	%	2.19%	35.77%	15.33%	46.72%	100%
PSF's Meeting	n	4	52	22	59	137
	%	2.92%	37.96%	16.06%	43.07%	100%
CSOs' Meeting	n	2	54	18	63	137
	%	1.46%	39.42%	13.14%	45.99%	100%

\*NR=No Response

During the FGDs with farmers, majority of them averred that they are not sure if costing process captures all operating costs which are the basis of selling price setting. As well, few farmers’ representatives who confirmed their participation in the price validation meeting at national level said that they have **only attended the meeting in a kind of hearing announcements as the entire process was completed before the meeting.**

These divergences between government officials and farmers indicate that may be there exist well-designed strategies at policy level to involve farmers in the price regulation process while the implementation process weakly responds to policy intention. The above all facts highlight the need to strengthen or redefine how farmers are represented in the price regulation process for their produce and for improved seeds, fertilizes as well as for other farming facilities. If there is no appropriate framework to settle farmers ‘issues this will impede farmer’s performance as there will be no motivation.

**Table 10 Channels through which Farmers Heard about the Regulated Price**

Source of Information on Regulated price		Don't Know	No	Yes	NR	Total
Friends	n	26	266	103	201	596
	%	4.4%	44.6 %	17.3 %	33.7%	100%
Other Farmers	n	29	273	90	204	596
	%	4.9%	45.8 %	15.1 %	34.2%	100%
Traders/Agro dealers	n	16	149	251	180	596
	%	2.68%	25.0 0%	42.1 1%	30.20 %	100%
Cooperatives	n	14	148	253	181	596
	%	2.3%	24.8 %	42.4 %	30.4%	100%
Radio	n	33	215	143	205	596
	%	5.5%	36.1 %	24.0 %	34.4%	100%
Newspaper	n	69	301	14	212	596
	%	11.6%	50.5 %	2.3 %	35.6%	100%

#### 4.3.3 Farmers’ satisfaction on timeliness for farming related services/programs

This survey indicated that **farmers perceive the timely distribution of improved seeds, fertilizers and irrigation machines at 29.5%** while 28.5% confirmed the delay for the same items. Based on the findings, the majority of respondents didn’t prefer say more about this question.

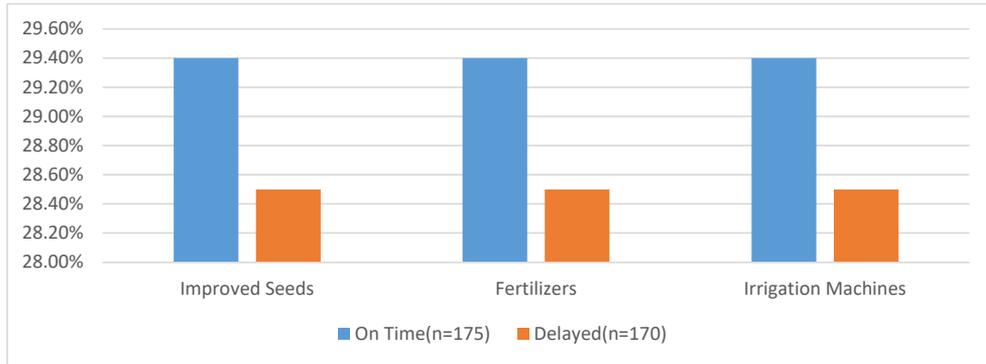


Figure 7 Farmers' satisfaction on timeliness for farming related services/programs

**Regarding the number of delayed days, around 50% of farmers confirmed the delay which is between 16-30 days for distribution of improved seeds and fertilizers.** This is a very interesting result which can have huge negative impact on the cropping season and the amount farmers might be able to harvest. For irrigation machines 11% of respondents confirmed delay between 46-60days. For vaccination and semen percent of farmers who experienced a delay is a single digit percent compared to agricultural service and inputs. Similarly, a dissatisfaction of 46.82% for delayed improved seeds was reported in 2018 citizen report card by RGB. In addition, during the FGDs some farmers underlined this delay but they added that it is not with high intensity as in previous years (Figure8). Long delays to distribute farming inputs surely undermine agricultural produce as farmers may miss to timely plant their crops. If no particular policies and efforts availed to improve the use of technology in agriculture, quick services delivery and involving farmers in decision making process, the overall level of satisfaction for farmers will be not satisfactory.

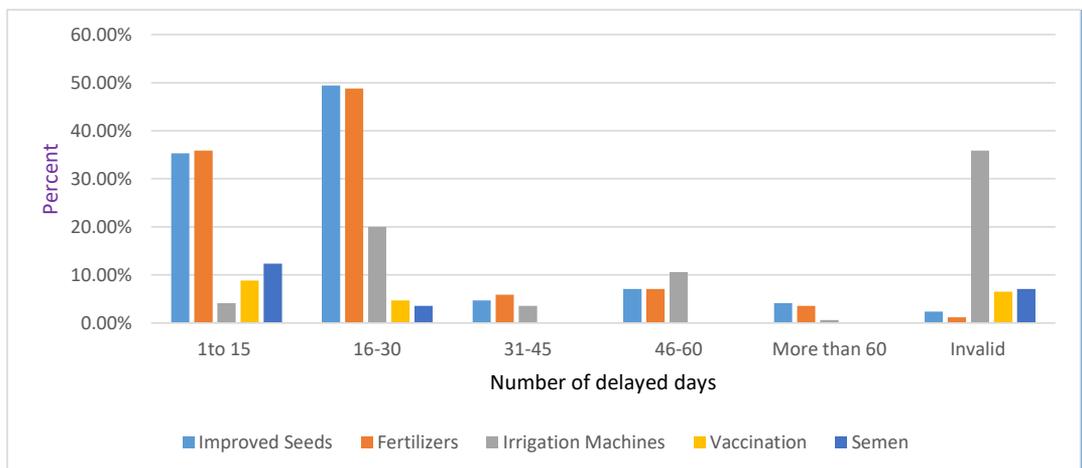


Figure 8 Distribution of how farmers rate the delay experienced

#### 4.3.4 The overall farmers’ satisfaction on the implementation

This survey informed that among 11 implemented farmers ‘priorities needs some were not satisfactory such as irrigation and agricultural mechanization that were implemented at low rate of (6.3%) and (12.8%) respectively. Similarly, for the increase of the number of cultivated Ha using Tractors and for the increase of irrigation machines as well as small scale technology use were implemented at low level too as per table 11.

**Table 11 Farmers’ satisfaction on the Implementation**

Farmers’ Priority needs		Not satisfied at all	Not satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total	Score
To increase the number of hectares of land to be cultivated ( at hills and marshlands)	n	35	187	136	190	48	596	3.0
	%	5.9%	31.4%	22.8%	31.9%	8.1 %	100.0%	
To increase the production of selected crops	n	4	46	61	398	87	596	3.9
	%	0.7%	7.7%	10.3%	66.8%	14.6%	100.0%	
To increase the quantity of agriculture inputs	n	4	49	53	339	151	40	4.0
	%	0.7%	8.2%	8.9%	56.9%	25.3%	100.0%	
Timely distribute agricultural inputs	n	9	58	63	276	190	596	4.0
	%	1.5%	9.7%	10.6%	46.3%	31.9%	100.0%	
To increase the number of irrigated hectares (at marshlands and hillsides)	n	67	204	171	107	47	596	2.8
	%	11.2%	34.2%	28.7%	18.0%	7.9%	100.0%	
To increase the number of cultivated Ha using Tractors	n	202	208	148	30	8	596	2.2
	%	33.9%	34.9%	24.9%	5.0%	1.3%	100.0%	
To increase irrigation machines and small scale technology irrigation system	n	185	208	127	57	19		2.2
	%	31.0%	34.9%	21.3%	9.6%	3.2%	100.0%	
To heavily control plant disease by increasing mobile plant clinic and training of agronomists	n	7	53	75	371	90	596	3.7
	%	1.2%	8.9%	12.6%	62.2%	15.1%	100.0%	
To increase the number of inseminated cows through improved	n	9	59	148	292	88	596	3.7
	%	1.5%	9.9%	24.9%	49.0%	14.0%	100.0%	

semen and artificial insemination services								
To increase the modern milk collection points	n	61	203	166	125	41	596	3.8
	%	10.2%	34.1%	27.8%	21.0%	6.9%	100.0%	
To increase the disease control for livestock	n	10	41	118	342	85	596	3.8
	%	1.7%	6.9%	19.8%	57.4%	14.3%	100.0%	
Overall %		9%	20%	19%	39%	13%	100%	
Overall score								3.3

Regarding the implementation, only 52.0% of farmers were satisfied with how 11 planned priorities were implemented during the performance contracts of the fiscal year 2018-2019. This finding is very much alike with the one reported in RGS 2018 of 52.5% for citizen's satisfaction in regard to agriculture and livestock services/programs in the same period. During the FGDs, the side of district officials acknowledged the role of farmers to implement performance contracts related to agriculture and livestock. On the side of farmers, they stressed to the issues of delays for inputs and fertilizers even through more improvements in timely distribution are recognized. Concerning low rate in the implementation of irrigation practices, local government officials in charge of agriculture confirmed that they have noticed that a big number of farmers still relying

on the weather instead of instantaneously adopt the irrigation mechanism when the time for agricultural season is due. On the same concern, farmers mentioned that they are not greatly implementing the irrigation practices due to that they are not able to pay the balance of Nkunganire that government pays for them to acquire irrigation equipment. On the same note farmers complain not being involved enough in the planning for biggest project which affects the

***The gaps in decentralization structure for local government was mentioned as factor that greatly challenges the smooth implementation for some ministries and government agencies programs at local level. Participants in FGDs mentioned that they face problems when implementing their projects at local government level where they work with employees who are not under their administrative control. They added that it is always hard to hold that staff accountable when something goes wrong due to this mixed management. Employees at district level are on daily basis under the district management. Most of the time they first satisfy their daily management then serve later for the rest "participants said" “.***

**Source: Focus Group Discussion, RAB on 23/08/2019**

overall level of satisfaction on the implementation of farmers priorities considered in performance Contracts. On contrast, it has proved that farmers' engagement increase affect positively the level of implementation. For example farmer's participation in selection of crops has yielded impressive results as it has increased from 71.5% in the baseline to 81.2% as per the current survey.

#### 4.4 Farmers' Participation in the Evaluation

This section reports how farmers participated in the evaluation of performance contracts related to agriculture and livestock projects and how they were satisfied with their participation. Provided with mechanisms through which farmers express their views on how planned agriculture and livestock projects in the performance contracts were implemented during the fiscal year 2017-18, generally respondents rated their participation in evaluation at 18.3% which is slightly higher than 15.3% reported by the baseline for fiscal year 2016/17. Apart from this survey, there exist extra findings reported low rate of citizen's participation in the evaluation. Among others, IRDP reported it at 33% in 2010. To sluggishly involve farmers in the process of evaluation will delay the overall national development ambitions as big portion of population relies on farming.

Referring to the results of this study, **large majority of farmers confirmed that they don't know how selected targets were achieved in Kayonza and Nyanza districts** except number of Hectares for soybeans in Kayonza that was achieved at **86.0%** and in Nyanza distribution of targeted KGS for fertilizers was achieved at **43.0%** (Table 14). Normally are farmers who are supposed to widely implement targets related to the increase of production by cultivating their lands or rising the livestock's following pieces of advice instructed by governments' technicians and other skilled stakeholders but as it is indicated by this survey farmer are not aware about how set targets were implemented. Lacking information on the implementation status indicates the exclusion of farmers in the planning process. To one side districts officials confirm the achievements of set targets through farmers while to another side farmer they have cultivated their lands but irrespective to those targets. Surely those targets were not jointly planned by districts and farmers. There is a need to mark distinction and complementarity of agricultural seasons and performance contracts related to agriculture and livestock at farmer's level.

**Table 12 Farmers' Perception on how some set targets were achieved**

Target in Kayonza for (n= 299)	Strongly agree (1)	Agree	Neither nor	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	NR
Ha 14,000 of maize	3%	17%	2%	15%	3%	60%	-
Ha 1,700 of rice	1%	8%	2%	16%	5%	66%	-
Ha3,000 of cassava	0%	6%	2%	17%	4%	70%	1%
Ha 2,054 of soybeans	1%	<b>86%</b>	3%	14%	6%	66%	1%
Ha 2,000 irrigated at hillsides	1%	2%	1%	18%	8%	69%	1%
Distribution of 100 irrigation machines	-	2%	1%	16%	11%	68%	1%
2,500 inseminated cows	3%	8%	2%	12%	3%	71%	1%
2 livestock pharmacies	2%	2%	2%	13%	7%	72%	0%
vaccination: 15,000 cows for FMD(uburenge), of 30,000 cows for LSD	3%	3%	3%	11%	3%	73%	1%

(igifuruto),30,000 cows for BQ (ubutaka).							
<b>Target in Nyanza (n= 297)</b>							
Ha 4,200 of maize	9%	22%	8%	5%	2%	53%	1%
Ha 1,500 of rice	3%	11%	7%	10%	9%	59%	1%
Ha 7,293 of cassava	16%	13%	13%	4%	1%	52%	1%
Distribution of improved seeds: 85,000kg of maize ; 20,000kg of soybeans	15%	18%	8%	2%	2%	53%	2%
Fertilizers Distribution to maize farmers : 210,000kgs of DAP, 150,000kgs of UREA, 105,000kgs of NPK	<b>23%</b>	<b>20%</b>	3%	1%	1%	52%	1%
Distribution of 291Megatons of limes(travertine), 1163 MT of compost to 120ha of terraces with acidity	14%	25%	3%	4%	1%	52%	1%
Ha 708 of marshland irrigated	6%	15%	11%	9%	5%	53%	1%
Ha 250 irrigated at hillsides	6%	12%	12%	6%	10%	53%	1%
40Ha irrigated using small scale technology	6%	15%	13%	8%	2%	53%	2%
4,884inseminated cows	6%	15%	13%	8%	2%	53%	1%
2livestock pharmacies	5%	9%	7%	8%	8%	53%	6%
Establish and operationalize 6 milk collection point	3%	6%	4%	8%	19%	53%	6%
330,000 litters of milk processed per month	15%	20%	3%	3%	3%	51%	6%
Vaccination:22,332 cows for LDS(indwara y'igifuruto),8663cows for BQ(indrwa y'ubutaka )	9%	18%	13%	2%	2%	50%	6%

\*NR =No Response

Findings from this survey inform that more than 66.0 percent of farmers communicate their views through farmer's cooperatives and community meetings. The other local administration mechanisms such as community service, village, cell, sector and district council as well as government agencies and CSOs were lowly rated (Table12).

**Table 13 Mechanisms through Which Framers Expressed their Views**

Mechanism		No	Yes	Total
Toll free	n	567	29	596
	%	95.10%	4.90%	100%
Farmers' cooperative	n	201	395	596
	%	33.70%	66.30%	100%
Community Meeting	n	182	414	596
	%	30.50%	69.50%	100%
Community Service	n	76.8	138	596
	%	55.20%	23.20%	100%
Village council	n	526	70	596
	%	88.30%	11.70%	100%
Cell council	n	560	36	596
	%	94.00%	6%	100%
Sector Council	n	578	18	596
	%	97.00%	3.00%	100%
District council	n	594	2	596
	%	99.70%	0.30%	100%
Accountability Day	n	586	10	596
	%	98.30%	1.70%	100%
TI-RW	n	581	15	596
	%	97.50%	2.50%	100%
PSF at District level	n	593	3	596
	%	99.50%	0.50%	100%
Media	n	594	2	596
	%	99.70%	0.3	100%
Overall(%) for all mechanisms			<b>18.30%</b>	

In terms of channels used by farmers invited to participate in the evaluation process of performance contracts related to agriculture and livestock, community meeting was mistakenly heavily rate at 73.8% as the most channel use to take part in the evaluation process. Qualitative data from focus group discussions challenged the indicated rate of participation in evolution as farmers 'representatives and farmers themselves contradicted this rate saying that they didn't participate in the evaluation for specific project except to hear about it during the community meeting.

**Table 14 Channels through Which Farmers Participate in the Evaluation**

Channel		No	Yes	Total
Community Meeting	n	156	440	596
	%	26.20%	73.80%	100%
Community Service	n	424	172	596
	%	71.10%	28.90%	100%

Village council	n	516	80	596
	%	86.60%	13.40%	100%
Cell council	n	550	46	596
	%	92.30%	7.70%	100%
Sector Council	n	560	36	596
	%	94.00%	6.00%	100%
District council	n	591	5	596
	%	99.20%	0.80%	100%
Accountability Day	n	588	8	596
	%	98.70%	1.30%	100%
PSF at District Level	n	582	14	596
	%	97.70%	2.30%	100%
Media	n	595	1	596
	%	99.80%	0.20%	100%
Launch of District Reports	n	594	2	596
	%	99.70%	0.30%	100%
Other , specify: no Invitation	n	101	-	
	%	16.90%	-	

#### 4.4.2 Overall farmers' satisfaction on their participation in the evaluation.

Overall, 49.02% of farmers rated their satisfaction about their participation in the evaluation for agriculture and livestock projects planned and implemented in performance contracts of fiscal year 2018-2019. The level of satisfaction in the evaluation of agriculture and livestock related projects in fiscal 2018-2019 has increased more than double compared to the figure from baseline which was 20.8% for 2016/17. During this decade, studies concerning the citizen's participation have been intensively conducted. The study done by IRDP (2010)<sup>15</sup> rated citizens participation in the evaluation of different programs at low level at rate of

*It has been clearly noticed from qualitative data (Interviews and FGDs) that farmers do not understand the evaluation process of performance contracts related to agriculture and livestock as most of them quoted comments made on agricultural seasons harvest or planting during the community meetings as evaluation of performance contracts related to agriculture and livestock. Another point to note is that farmers criticized the methodology of evaluating harvest as district considers as sample only those farmers who achieved high harvest. This methodology can mislead future forecasts.*

**Source: FGDs Kayonza & Kayonza**

<sup>15</sup> Institute of Research and Dialogue for Peace (IRDP) (2010). Citizen Participation and Democracy in Rwanda

33%. About the participation in evaluation of single project, farmers only rate their satisfaction above 60.0% for six over 12 projects: increase of production of selected crops (satisfied is 60.6%, very satisfied 12.6%); to increase the quantity of agriculture inputs (satisfied is 50.0%, very satisfied 25.5%); Timely distribution of agricultural inputs (satisfied is 42.4%, very satisfied 29.0%); the heavily control of plant diseases (satisfied is 60.1%, very satisfied 13.6%), to increase the inseminated cows (satisfied is 41.3%, very satisfied 15.3%), to increase the disease control for livestock (satisfied is 52.9%, very satisfied 15.4%)(Table17). Additionally, 66.67% during the observation agreed and evidenced the availability of monitoring and evaluation reports at district and sector (mu icyumba cy'imihigo) level Although the evaluation of imihigo especially mediterm evaluation is a way of informing farmers the implementation progress and needed steps to achieve targeted results,during the focus group discussions with farmers, they mentioned that they have been never invited in a specific community/cooperative meeting dedicated to the evaluation of performance contracts cognate to agriculture and livestock.

**Table 15 Distribution of Farmers' satisfaction on their Participation in the evaluation.**

Evaluated Farmers' Projects		Not satisfied at all	Not satisfied	Neither nor Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total	Score
To increase the number of hectares of land to be cultivated (at hills and marshlands)	n	36	168	174	187	31	596	3.0
	%	6.0%	31.4%	29.2%	31.4%	5.2%	100.0%	
To increase the production of selected crops	n	6	46	108	361	75	596	3.8
	%	1.0%	7.7%	18.1%	60.6%	12.6%	100.0%	
To increase the quantity of agriculture inputs	n	5	41	100	298	152	40	3.9
	%	0.8%	6.9%	16.8%	50.0%	25.5%	100.0%	
Timely distribute agricultural inputs		8	57	105	253	173	596	3.9
		1.3%	9.6%	17.7%	42.4%	29.0%	100.0%	
To increase the number of irrigated hectares (at marshlands and hillsides)	n	43	208	189	119	37	596	2.8
	%	7.2%	34.8%	31.7%	20.0%	6.2%	100.0%	
To increase the number of cultivated Ha using Tractors	n	170	204	182	28	11	596	2.2
	%	28.5%	34.2%	30.5%	4.7%	1.8%	100.0%	
	n	141	182	173	77	23		2.4

To increase irrigation machines and small scale technology irrigation system	%	23.7%	30.5%	29.0%	12.9%	3.9%	100.0%	
To heavily control plant disease by increasing mobile plant clinic and training of agronomists	n	8	42	107	358	81	596	3.8
	%	1.3%	7.0%	17.9%	60.1%	13.6%	100.0%	
To increase the number of inseminated cows through improved semen and artificial insemination services	n	11	54	194	246	91	596	3.6
	%	1.8%	9.1%	32.5%	41.3%	15.3%	100.0%	
To increase the modern milk collection points	n	68	189	193	98	48	596	2.8
	%	11.4%	31.7%	32.4%	16.4%	8.1%	100.0%	
To increase the disease control for livestock	n	9	35	145	315	92	596	3.7
	%	1.5%	5.9%	24.3%	52.9%	15.4%	100.0%	
Test Seeds Before its largely Used	n	31	79	134	248	104	596	3.5
	%	5.2%	13.3%	22.5%	41.5%	17.4%	100.0%	
Overall average percent	%	7.48%	18.51%	25.22%	36.18%	12.83%	100.0%	
Overall score								3.3

#### 4.4.3 How farmers report their complaints

This section describes how farmers reported their complaints related to the farming projects. 11.9% of farmers have reported their complaints related to the agricultural and livestock imihigo during the fiscal year 2018-2019 to the village level of than other local administration entities. Reporting complaints increases farmers awareness of their rights and obligation to the government as well enhances farmers's capacity of holding their local leaders accountable.

*Table 16 Institution to Which Farmers Reported their Complaints*

Institution		Don't Know	No	Yes	Total
Village	n	4	521	71	596
	%	0.7%	87.4%	11.9%	100%
Cell	n	2	573	21	596
	%	0.3%	96.2%	3.5%	100%
Sector	n	4	559	33	596
	%	0.7%	92.2%	5.5%	100%

District	n	2	572	22	596
	%	0.3%	95.9%	3.7%	100%
RAB	n	3	572	21	596
	%	0.5%	96%	3.5%	100%
PSF'	n	4	570	22	596
	%	0.7%	95.6%	3.7%	100%
RCA	n	2	576	18	596
	%	0.3%	96.7%	3.0%	100%
Cooperative	n	2	576	18	596
	%	0.3%	96.7%	3.0%	100%
Union de Cooperative	n	2	576	18	596
	%	0.3%	96.7%	3.0%	100%

#### 4.4.3 Farmers' satisfaction on the effectiveness of agriculture and livestock services /programs

Information from this survey imparts that the overall farmers' satisfaction for 16 selected sub-indicators is 60.90%. Farmers have very lowly scored procedures of price regulation; fairness of selling price compared to the production cost and has critically queried the non-availability of post-harvest facilities as well as market availability for their produce. During the FGDs, both local government authorities and farmers confirmed the scarcity of storage facilities but district officials stated that the fiscal year 2019-2020 will not leave this issues unsolved. Also, reference made to the 2018 citizens' report card by RGB, exactly 70.63% of citizens was unhappy about storage facilities available for their produce. Surprisingly, during the focus group discussions with staffs from 2 two projects namely Rwanda Dairy Development project (RDDP) and Post-Harvest and Agri-Business Support Project (PASP) operating under MINAGRI especially for PASP they said that its main intervention is to facilitate farmers to get access to post harvest facilities at district level. All above facts indicated that there is inefficiency communication between line ministry and its implementing agencies at district level in order to widely disseminate to farmers.

**Table 17 Farmers' satisfaction about the effectiveness of agriculture and livestock services /Programs**

Service/Program		Not satisfied at all	Not satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total	Score
Test of seeds before approval for large use	n	33	143	95	236	89	596	4.2
	%	5.5%	24.0%	15.9%	39.6%	14.9%	100.0%	
Transparency in the distribution of agricultural inputs	n	4	26	12	376	178	596	4.2
	%	0.7%	4.4%	2.0%	63.1%	29.9%	100.0%	
Productivity of agricultural inputs	n	1	50	11	394	140	40	4.0
	%	0.2%	8.4%	1.8%	66.1%	23.5%	100.0%	

Involvement of farmers in the price regulation process for agricultural inputs and for produce	n	90	274	26	153	53	596	2.7
	%	15.1%	46.0%	4.4%	25.7%	8.9%	100.0%	
Availability of post-harvest facilities	n	51	314	44	148	39	596	2.7
	%	8.6%	52.7%	7.4%	24.8%	6.5%	100.0%	
Availability of the market for the farmers' produce	n	52	293	16	194	41	596	2.8
	%	8.7%	49.2%	2.7%	32.6%	6.9%	100.0%	
The fairness of selling price compared to the production cost	n	66	334	14	160	22		2.6
	%	11.1%	56.0%	2.3%	26.8%	3.7%	100.0%	
Pesticides quality	n	5	56	26	417	92	596	3.9
	%	0.8%	9.4%	4.3%	70.0%	15.4%	100.0%	
Training received by farmers	n	12	129	34	309	112	596	3.6
	%	2.0%	21.6%	5.7%	51.8%	18.8%	100.0%	
Quality of semen	n	11	68	153	293	71	596	3.6
	%	1.8%	11.4%	25.6%	49.2%	11.1%	100.0%	
Land consolidation program	n	32	82	90	324	68	596	3.5
	%	5.4%	13.8%	15.1%	54.4%	11.4%	100.0%	
Selection process of crop Intensification program	n	9	62	43	386	96	596	3.8
	%	1.5%	10.4%	7.2%	64.8%	16.1%	100.0%	
Regular access of livestock's vaccination	n	2	68	109	341	76	596	3.7
	%	0.3%	11.4%	18.3%	57.2%	12.8%	100.0%	
Regular agronomists' field visits during an agricultural season to control plant disease	n	7	85	124	312	68	596	3.6
	%	1.2%	14.3%	20.8%	52.3%	11.4%	100.0%	
Credit facilities for farming projects	n	38	166	131	213	48	596	3.1
	%	6.4%	27.9%	21.9%	35.7%	8.1%	100.0%	
Feedback on the proposed farmers 'priority needs	n	9	102	120	264	101	596	3.6
	%	1.5%	17.1%	20.2%	44.3%	16.9%	100.0%	
Overall average %		4.43%	23.63%	10.98%	47.40%	13.52%		
Overall score								3.5

In addition to the price regulation, availability of the markets for their produce as well as exclusion in the setting price for inputs and fertilizers, farmers are also not happy with high cost of credits related to farming projects and scarcity of post-harvest facilities.

#### 4.4.4 Reasons for dissatisfaction

Large majority of farmers pointed out the following reasons as factors contribute to their dissatisfaction with agriculture and livestock services and programs.

- Low selling price,
- Non-availability of the market for produce,
- High price of agriculture inputs,
- High costs for irrigation machines,
- High cost of credits related to agriculture projects as well as delays of seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and delays of insemination service.

During the FGDs with farmers and farmer’s representatives reaffirmed that are unhappy with the above mention issues. Similar studies such as RGB-CRC reported that only 46.7% are happy with farming services, facilities and programs.

#### 4.4.5 Level and incidence of corruption in agriculture and livestock services /programs

This part underlines: corruption perception and experiences, forms of corruption for agriculture and livestock services and program in Kayonza and Nyanza districts. Overall, 12% of farmers have perceived corruption practices in process of farming credits followed by Procurement process of post-harvest and milk collection points construction, purchase of tractors and irrigation machines rated at 9% of corruption perception while the corruption perception for the rest of farming services and programs is between 4-6 percent. Qualitative data through interviews and FDGs farmers confirmed that they didn’t experience corruption incidence during the fiscal year 2018-2019 at all.

**Table 18 Corruption perception in agriculture and livestock services /Programs**

Service/Program		Don't Know	No Corruption	Very Low	Low	Mod erate	Hig h	Very High	Tota l
Distribution of improved seeds	n	108	462	9	7	6	2	2	596
	%	18.1%	77.5%	1.5%	1.2%	1.0%	0.3%	0.3%	100%
Distribution of fertilizers	n	105	468	10	8	4	-	1	596
	%	17.6%	78.5%	1.7%	1.3%	0.7%	-	0.2%	100%
Seeds and fertilizers' price regulation	n	110	463	10	4	7	1	1	596
	%	18.5%	77.7%	1.7%	0.7%	1.2%	0.2%	0.2%	100%
Agronomists services	n	114	453	11	9	6	1	1	596
	%	19.1%	76.0%	1.8%	1.5%	1.0%	0.2%	0.2%	100%

Veterinaries services	n	114	449	12	7	8	3	1	596
	%	19.1%	75.3%	2.0%	0.7%	1.2%	0.5%	0.2%	100%
Selection of irrigation machines 'beneficiaries	n	153	405	6	9	9	10	2	596
	%	25.7%	68.0%	1.0%	1.5%	1.5%	1.7%	0.3%	100%
Land consolidation program	n	126	444	16	3	5	-	1	596
	%	21.1%	74.5%	2.7%	0.5%	0.8%	-	0.2%	100%
Crop Intensification program	n	115	458	9	5	7	1	-	596
	%	19.3%	77.7%	1.5%	0.8%	1.2%	0.2%	0.2%	100%
Selection and approval of farming projects, beneficiaries and location	n	121	442	8	9	9	3	2	596
	%	20.3%	74.2%	1.3%	1.5%	1.5%	0.5%	0.3%	100%
Procurement process of post-harvest and milk collection points construction, purchase of tractors and irrigation machines	n	143	396	7	8	13	13	15	596
	%	24.0%	66.4%	1.2%	1.3%	2.2%	2.2%	2.5%	100%
Credits facilities for farming projects	n	142	380	6	13	19	17	17	596
	%	23.8%	63.8%	1.0%	2.2%	2.9%	2.9%	2.9%	100%
Hidden costs	n	162	397	9	7	5	7	4	596
	%	27.2%	66.6%	1.5%	1.2%	0.8%	1.2%	0.7%	100%
Conflict of interests	n	161	408	8	7	7	3	2	596
	%	27.3%	68.5%	1.3%	1.2%	1.2%	0.5%	0.3%	100%

\*NR=No Response

#### 4.4.6 Level of corruption encountered when asking services

Alongside the perception of corruption scrutinized in the forgoing section, this survey likewise gauged the magnitude of experienced corruption in the implementation of agriculture and livestock projects in the course of fiscal year 2018-2019. This survey informed too that exactly 4.5 % (n=27) of farmers have personally experienced corruption when seeking for agriculture and livestock services and programs in the course of mentioned period.

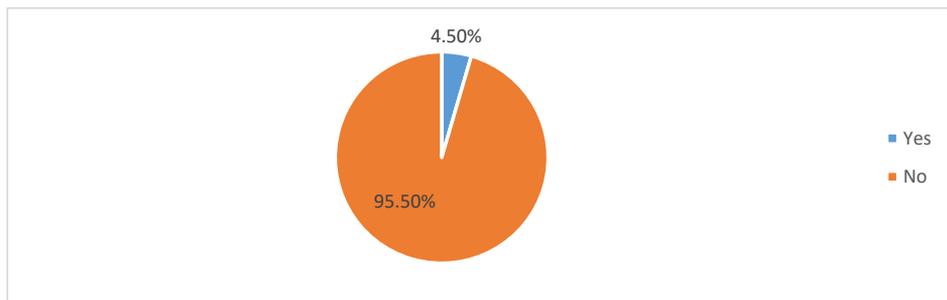


Figure 9 Personal Experience of Corruption Encountered when looking for farming services

Furthermore, concerning the corruption encountered per institution, results from this survey revealed that most of the respondents who have experienced corrupt practices reported a big number of local government institutions including village, cell and sector on one side while on another side there are RAB and Umurenge Sacco (Table19).

**Table 19 Corruption encountered Per Institution**

Institution		Yes	No	No Response (NR)	Total
Village	n	8	19	-	27
	%	29.63%	70.37%	-	100%
Cell	n	11	16	-	27
	%	40.74%	59.26%	-	100%
Sector	n	4	23	-	27
	%	14.81%	85.19%	-	100%
District	n	2	25	-	27
	%	7.41%	92.59%	-	100%
RAB	n	1	26	-	27
	%	3.70%	96.30%	-	100%
Distributors of Inputs	n	-	27	-	27
	%	-	100.00%	-	100%
Umurenge Sacco	n	1	26	-	27
	%	3.70%	96.30%	-	100%
Site Engineers for modern market, storages and milk correction points construction	n	-	27	-	27
	%	-	100.00%	-	100%
other : Cooperative Leaders	n	3	-	24	27
	%	11%	-	89%	100%

Most of farmers rated cash as the form of bribe among others during the fiscal year of 2018-2019. Moreover, 92.6% of respondents who have encountered the corruption incidence testified that

they were demanded a bribe when seeking for farming related services while 55.6% of those who have experienced corruption confirmed that they have paid a bribe when it was requested (Figure4).

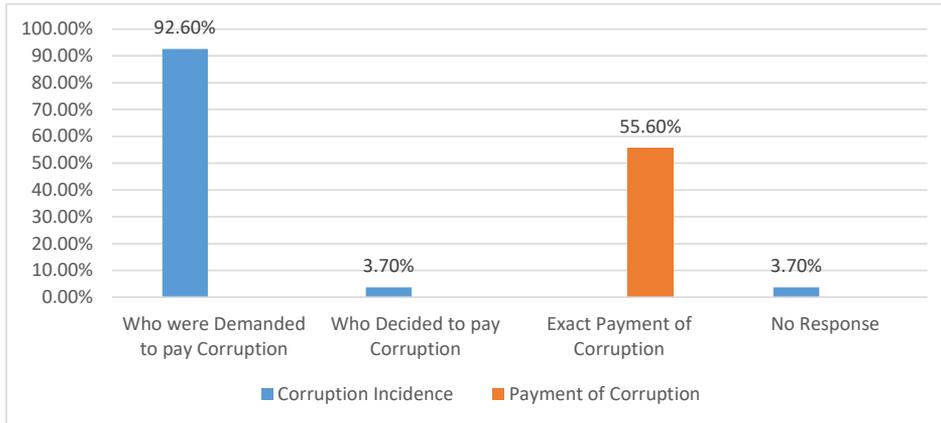


Figure 10 Distribution of how corruption incidences and its Payment were happened

The study discloses that around 15 in 25 respondents who were requested to pay a bribe did truly pay it though 10 in 25 didn't do it. Even though findings from this survey revealed a small number of farmers who were experience the corruption compared to the sample size that can let a statistical inference to be made but still facts from those who have been affected by corrupt practices alert that measures combating the corruption must be strengthened in agriculture sector. Another important finding is that a significant number of respondents in respect to those who have been encountered the corruption didn't fight back the corruption request.

In respect of the amount of bribe paid, findings report that it arrays from RWF 1,000 to RWF 10,000 with 66.7% of respondents who encountered corruption. Those who paid above RWF 10,000 to RWF 30,000 and above RWF 30,000 to RWF 100,000 are 13.33% for each range. While those who witnessed a payment of above RWF 100,000 are around to 7 %.

Table 20 Amount that was paid as corruption for agriculture and livestock services/Program

Amount Paid in RWF	Frequency	Percent
Less than 1000	-	-
1,000-10,000	10	66.67%
Above 10,000 to 30,000	2	13.33%
Above 30,000 to 100, 000	2	13.33%
Above 100,000	1	6.67%
Total	15	100.00%

#### 4.4.7 Reporting of corruption

Farmers are likely to decide not report grievances encountered when seeking for agriculture and livestock services. The survey unveils that only 3 over 27 farmers who experienced corruption grievances, 2 turned to local government for help while one farmer reported it to Transparency International Rwanda. This finding recall that deep analysis is needed in a bid to know why farmers are reluctant to report the corruption grievances while there are in places a significant number of institutions that fighting against corruption around them such as for example local government, Rwanda Investigation Bureau, Rwanda National Police, ombudsman, TI-RW and their respective cooperatives.

Overall, 40.74% of farmers who have experienced corruption grievances pointed out that they didn't report their cases due to the fear of reprisal from authorities/officials while 37.04% of farmers didn't report simply because the reporting would change nothing (Table 21).

**Table 21 Distribution of Main Reasons why Farmers Don't Report Corruption Grievances**

Reason of non-Reporting		Yes	No	No Response	Total
Fear of reprisal from authorities/officials	n	11	13	3	27
	%	40.74%	48.15%	11.11%	100%
Fear of losing one's status of beneficiary	n	1	23	3	27
	%	3.70%	85.19%	11.11%	100%
Reporting would change nothing	n	10	14	3	27
	%	37.04%	51.85%	11.11%	100%
Ignorance of relevant authority to report to	n	1	23	3	27
	%	4%	85.19%	11.11%	100%
Ignorance of one's rights and procedures	n	2	22	3	27
	%	7.41%	81.48%	11.11%	100%
It is the common practice	n	4	20	3	27
	%	14.81%	74.07%	11.11%	100%

#### 4.4.8 Proposed suggestions for improvement reported by farmers

Among other highly proposed suggestions, farmers for improvements include:

- Availability of affordable irrigation machines in order to mitigate the dry season's effects
- As the veterinary services are privatized, farmers suggest that the local government can intern for advocating an affordable price to be charged by veterinaries.
- Price regulation should mainly base on the cost of production
- Farmers need government intervention in order to get the market for their maize production
- Farmers strongly requested more agriculture and livestock related trainings in order to professionally do them.
- Availability of collection point for agricultural produce

Suggestion		Yes	No	No Response (NR)
To enhance farmers 'participation in imihigo planning	n	592	3	1
	%	99.30%	0.50%	0.20%
To enhance farmers 'participation in imihigo implementation	n	588	6	2
	%	98.70%	1.00%	0.30%
To enhance farmers 'participation in imihigo evaluation	n	587	6	3
	%	98.50%	1.00%	0.50%
To consult farmers during the price regulation process for inputs and for produce	n	588	4	4
	%	98.7	0.70%	0.70%
To distribute agricultural inputs on time	n	554	41	1
	%	93.00%	6.90%	0.20%
To test seeds, semen and fertilizers before the approval for large use in order be sure for the level of their productivity and quality	n	567	27	2
	%	95.10%	4.50%	0.30%
To provide regular livestock's vaccines and drugs	n	550	43	3
	%	92.30%	7.20%	0.50%
The government institutions in charge of agriculture and animal resources should closely assist farmers to get market of their produce at reasonable price	n	587	8	1
	%	98.50%	1.30%	0.20%
The financial sector should reduce the cost of loans for farming projects	n	585	3	8
	%	98.20%	0.50%	1.30%

## 5. Conclusion and Recommendations

This survey analyzed the level of farmers' satisfaction in respect with their participation in the planning, implementation and evaluation of agriculture and livestock projects during the fiscal year 2018-2019. This study has too analyzed the level and incidence of corruption in the farming projects.

This study was conducted on a sample size of nearly 600 farmers in 2 districts (Kayonza and Nyanza) where the GPSA project is being implemented. The data was collected through a structured questionnaire, observation, key informant's interviews and focus group discussions.

The survey informs that the farmers 'participation in the planning of performance contracts related to farming projects in the course of fiscal year 2018-2019 stands at 66.8%. Overall, 52.0% of respondents were satisfied with how planned farming related projects were implemented though in regard to the participation in the evaluation performance contracts related to agriculture and livestock, farmers rate their satisfaction at 49.02%. Additionally, farmers rate their satisfaction with the feedback on their proposed priority needs at 45.1%.

Concerning the channels, of communication, farmers acknowledged that they mostly express their views through farmers 'cooperatives (73.12%) and community meetings (68.6%).

Furthermore, findings notify a high level of farmers' satisfaction (75.0%) with the quality of agriculture seeds and fertilizers compared to their request and more than 80% of farmers appreciated the quality of agriculture inputs and equipment other than irrigation machines.

As for the corruption is concerned, the survey discloses that respondents have heard of corruption in the farming services and programs in their respective location during the fiscal year 2018-2019. The level of perceived corruption was rated at 12% and 9% in the process of farming credits and in the procurement for construction of: post-harvest facilities, milk collection centers and purchase of tractors and irrigation machines respectively. The level of experienced corruption by farmers when seeking farming services during the fiscal year 2018-2019 proves to be at 4.5%. It emerged that 55.6% of respondents who were requested to pay bribe have paid it. It has been identified from this survey that farmers who personally encountered the cases of corruption are reluctant to report their cases to competent institutions as only 3 over 27 respondents reported corruption

The survey reveals that around 41% of those who were requested to pay bribe did not report due to fear to reprisal from officials while 37.04 % denied reporting due to that it would change nothing.

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are generated for taking actions by different stakeholders, such as government, farmer's cooperatives and non-governmental

organizations in order to improve farmers' participation in the planning cycle of performance contracts related to farming projects.

#### 1. District

- To pay a special attention to the agriculture and livestock projects during the performance contracts planning cycle as significant number of citizens are engaged in these activities,
- To avail strong mechanisms to involve farmers in preparation, implementation and evaluation of performance contracts related to agriculture and livestock at village level,
- To largely mobilize farmers to own planned performance contracts related to farming projects and work to excellently achieve them.
- To regularly train farmers in order help them to resist to dynamics requirements
- To soundly include farmers during the price regulation process for inputs and produce
- To mobilize and partner with farmers to access post-harvest facilities.
- To enhance the culture of giving the feedback to farmers by different government service providers.

#### 2. MINAGRI:

- To design policies and strategies that involves mostly farmers in the planning, implementation and evaluation for long term farming projects.
- To intervene in market networking (locally, regionally or internationally) in case of over production for a particular crop.

#### 3. Farmers:

- Should hold the cooperative culture among themselves with active participation
- To employ skilled staffs who can help farmers to improve the reliability and quality of their produce on technical side and those one who are skilled in the areas of the contract and price negotiation for their produce.
- Should themselves initiates strategies that can create an opportunity to involve different stakeholders such farmer's day.
- To always have spirit of holding their leaders accountable in order to fill loopholes that ease the embezzlement of members' funds.
- To understand the land use consolidation program in order to get at largely access to the government facilities.

#### 4. Traders

- Should embrace relationship with farmers as at one hand they are their clients and suppliers to another hand,
- Should establish the framework to train farmers on how they can meet with desired quality on the market.

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