



ASSESSMENT OF FARMERS SATISFACTION IN THEIR PARTICIPATION IN IMIHIGO

CASE STUDY: KAYONZA & NYANZA

December 2020



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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 2019-2020 Transparency International Rwanda carried out a study on a sample size of nearly 300 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 'active participation in the planning of performance contracts related to farming projects that overall, 59.6% of farmers actively participated in the planning of Imihigo for the year 2018/19 while 58% of farmers actively participated in the planning of Imihigo for the year 2019/20. The overall participation change was (-1.6%).

Considering participation by district, the results show that in Kayonza district, the overall active participation change is about (-8.5%) while in Nyanza district, the overall active participation change is equal to (+ 5.5%).

Concerning the channels, of communication, farmers acknowledged that they mostly express their views through village council (87%) is the mechanism place in which community forum allow participation in Imihigo evaluation.

As far as 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 2019-2020.

The level of perceived corruption was rated at 9.7% of farmers who have perceived corruption practices in process of Credits facilities for farming projects followed by Procurement process of post-harvest and milk collection points construction (9.3%), while the corruption perception for the rest of farming services and programs is between 4-6 percent.

The level of experienced corruption by farmers when seeking farming services during the fiscal year 2018-2019 proves to be at 4.5%. This level of corruption has decreased at 3.3% for the fiscal year 2019-2020.

Based on the results of this survey, strategic recommendations are addressed in order to improve citizen participation in imihigo planning related to agriculture and livestock activities in Kayonza and Nyanza districts:

- Districts authorities in collaboration with farmers' cooperative leaders should strengthen the involvement of farmers in the cycle of performance contracts "Imihigo" planning namely in preparation, planning, implementation and evaluation.
- Districts authorities in collaboration with stakeholders engaged in fighting corruption should conduct awareness campaign among farmers and stimulate them to report any form of corruption available in agriculture and livestock services.
- There is need for the district to take into consideration of farmers priorities during preparation and planning of agriculture and livestock service such as construction of progressive terrace in order to increase productivity and production.
- RAB and MINAGRI should strengthen accessibility of inputs and equipment as well as other services requested by farmers on time in order to avoid delay vis a vis the period of agriculture season.
- The District and cooperative farmers should create a framework of involving farmers in price regulation for produce and inputs.

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 ¹is 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)². 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 ³. 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. ⁴.

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

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

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

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

⁴ 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>

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 initiatives⁵.

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 4th, 5th and 6th resolutions of 16th National Leadership Retreat⁶ 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%.

However, findings from Governance score Card 2016⁷ 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 48.90⁸ respectively.

⁵ NISR (2018). Imihigo Evaluation Report 2017/2018.

file:///C:/Users/user/Downloads/IMIHIAGO%20Final%20Report%20Sept%202018_12_October_2018.pdf

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

https://www.primature.gov.rw/index.php?id=40&no_cache=1&tx_drblob_pi1%5BdownloadUid%5D=678

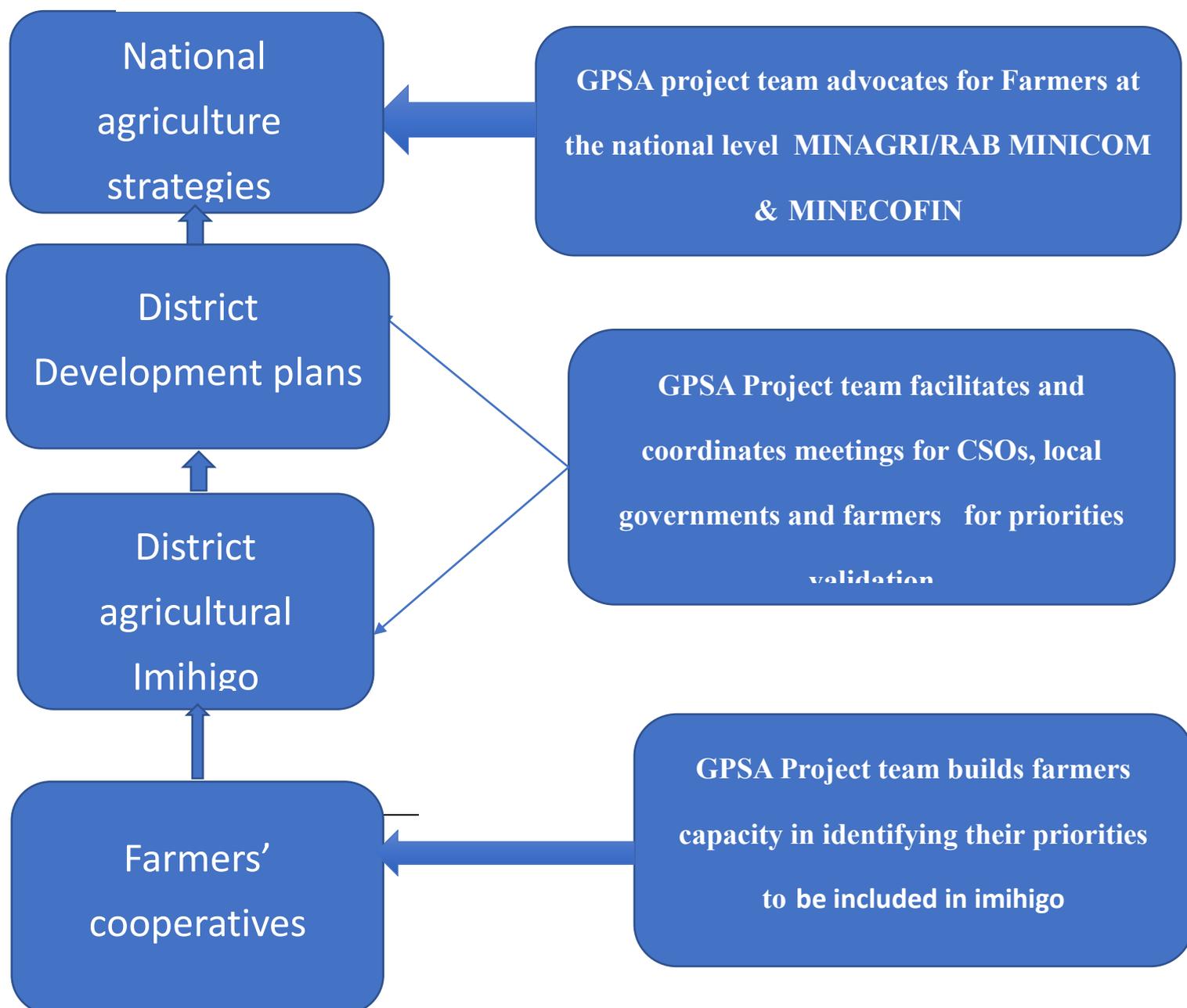
⁷Rwanda Governance Board (2016). Governance Score Card: Participation and Inclusiveness.

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

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.

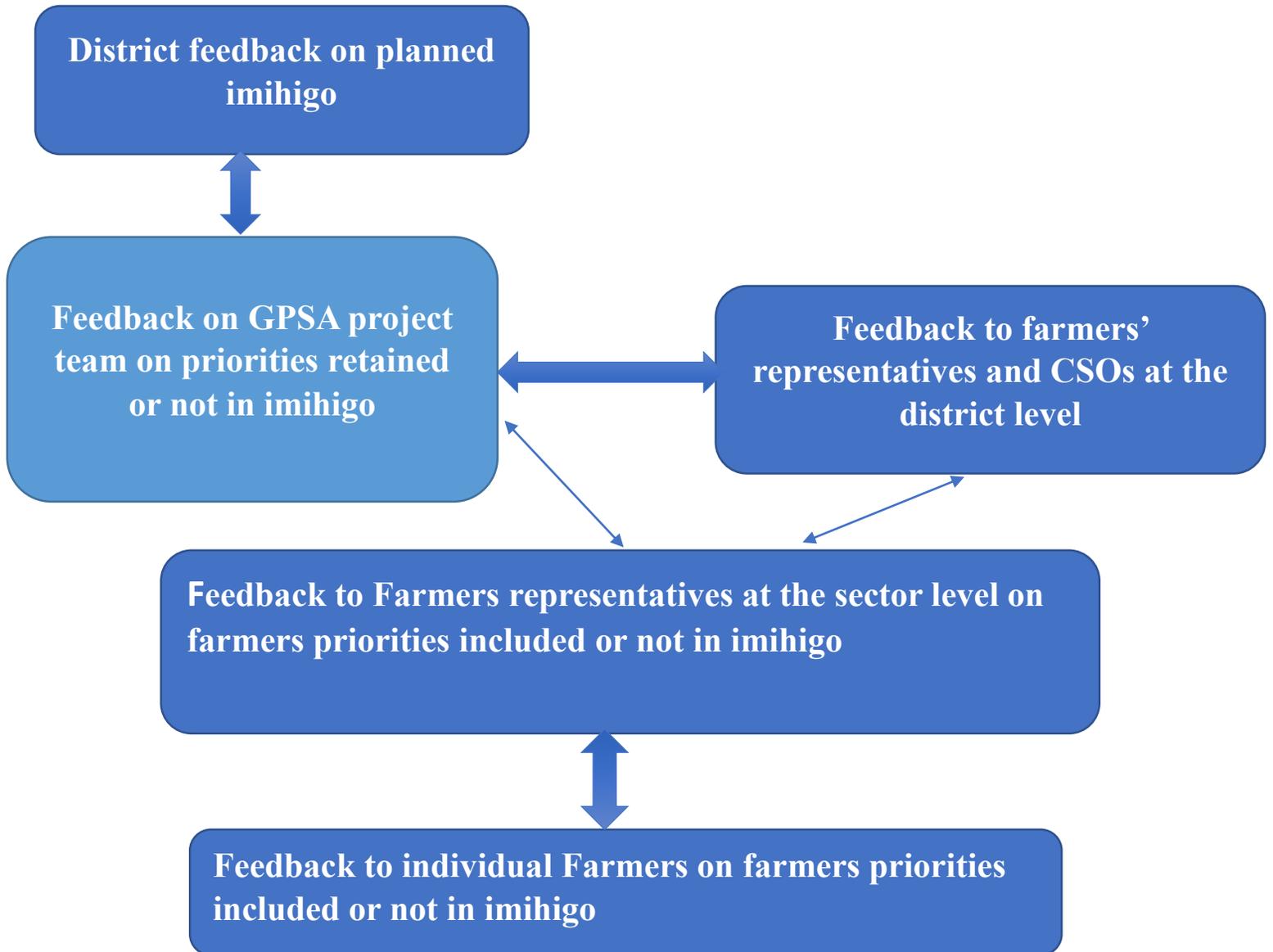
In nutshell, the figures below summaries TI-Rwanda contributions to different levels in increasing farmers participation in imihigo and ownership of public agricultural projects as well as identified feedback mechanisms to foster social accountability at all levels

Figure 1: Farmers’ priorities chain and TI-Rwanda’s interventions



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.

Figure 2: Farmers Feedback Chain



2. Objectives of the study

The general objective of the survey is to get feedback from farmers on how they rate their level of satisfaction as well as the quality of performance contracts in agricultural sector. The survey is intended to provide the quantitative assessment and qualitative appreciation of farmers' priorities taken into consideration in all the dimensions of Imihigo process in agriculture sector.

Specifically, this survey will seek to achieve the following objectives:

- To determine the level of farmer's satisfaction with their participation in planning, implementation and evaluation of Imihigo in Nyanza and Kayonza Districts
- To evaluate the number of open data mechanisms on imihigo process and contents in place in the framework of feedback.
- To assess the level of farmer's satisfaction on the functional mechanisms in place for them to provide feedback on imihigo/ Action plan in Nyanza and Kayonza districts
- To evaluate, based on the farmers' perception on how farmer's priorities are considered and included in imihigo in Nyanza and Kayonza districts.
- To ascertain the level of farmer's satisfaction with implementation of selected agricultural projects planned in Imihigo of Nyanza and Kayonza districts.
- To assess the level of CSO inclusion and participation in the imihigo planning, monitoring process
- To identify the number of public institutions that adapt the social accountability mechanisms to their context
- To examine the challenges related to farmer's satisfaction in planning, implementation and evaluation of imihigo in Nyanza and Kayonza District
- Provide recommendations to mitigate challenges.

3. Methodology

This section describes the type of collected data and methodology used in analysis for drawing the extent to 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 a combination of 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 meant 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 complement the quantitative findings.

3.2 Methods

Generally, this study adopted participatory approach under a set of methods including structured questionnaire, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), Focus group discussions (FGDs) and observation technique. The questionnaire was applied to scrutinize farmers' satisfaction on their partaking in intent of performance contracts 2019-2020 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 questionnaire was used to collect quantitative data from 300 farmers all aged more than 18 years old coming from 150 respondents for each district in May 2020. The qualitative data was used to get experiences from key informants in central and local government entities as well as Farmers/leaders of farmers 'cooperatives, CSOs under heterogeneous FGDs. The above 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 in 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 7 %, which is equal to 138 respondents rounded to 150 per district. Such a sample size provides a base for meaningful comparison to undertake statistically valid sub stratifications that fall within acceptable confidence level.

Table 1: Sampling structure

N0	Study population	Study population Size(N)	Confidence level	Margin of error	Sample size(n)
1	Kayonza	346,7519	90%	7%	138 rounded to (150)
2	Nyanza	323,71910	90%	7%	138 rounded to (150)
	Total				300

Concerning the qualitative data, 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 agriculture area at local level. At national level, KIIs were 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.

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

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

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;
- 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 aim 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 2019-2020. This part also presents the current context of farmer's appreciation in regarding the services received from other partners rather than central and local government such as private agro-dealers.

4.1 Characteristics of Respondents

This sub section on characteristics of respondents presents sociodemographic characteristics of respondents (farmers) who participated in the survey. The number of respondents (farmers) who participated in this survey are equally distributed. In this regard, the number of respondents in each district is equal to 150 respondents respectively in Nyanza and Kayonza which makes a sample size of 300 respondents for the survey.

Among respondents' females outnumber males with 155 (51.7%) of female's farmers against 145(48.3%) of male's farmers.

The dominant age group represents 53% of the respondents were between 18 and 49 years of age which is also considered as mostly active working population. For the remaining age -group 23% belong to the age group of 50-54 while 16.7% of respondents belong to the age group of 60 years and above.

Regarding the highest level of education, the results of the survey revealed that the majority of respondents had primary only 206 (68.7%), however 7.7% of respondents did not have any level of education during the survey. Respondents ever attended university were 0.3% while those ever-attended secondary school were 15.3%.

The dominant range with highest number of people living in the household was 4-5 in which there was 158 (52.7%) and among respondents 41(13.7%) were people living with disability.

Table 2: Characteristics of Respondents

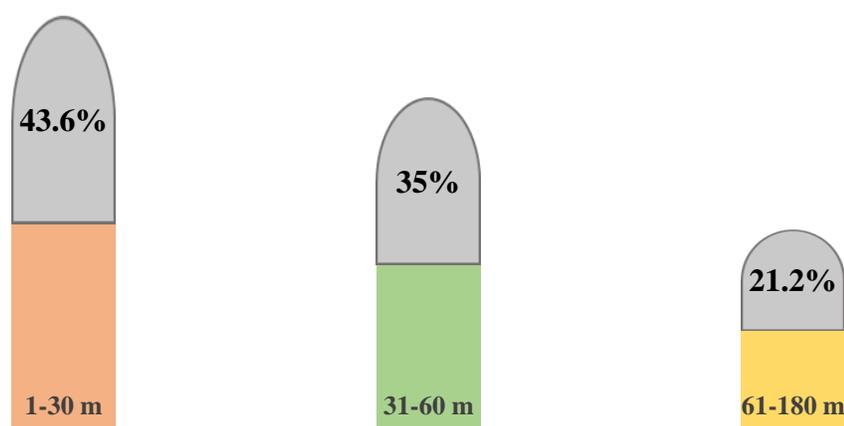
Variable	Frequency	Percent
Respondents per District		
Kayonza	150	50%
Nyanza	150	50%
Total	300	100%
Sex of Respondents		
Male	145	48.3%

Female	155	51.7%
Total	300	100.0%
Age Groups		
18-24	7	2.3%
25-29	10	3.3%
30-34	21	7.0%
35-39	41	13.7%
40-44	53	17.7%
45-49	27	9.0%
50-54	70	23.3%
55-59	21	7.0%
60+	50	16.7%
Total	300	100%
Highest Level of Education		
None	23	7.7%
Primary only	206	68.7%
Reading and writing	16	5.3%
Secondary	46	15.3%
University	1	0.3%
Vocational Training	8	2.7%
Total	300	100%
Number of people living in the household		
1-3	30	10%
4-5	158	52.7%
6-9	94	31.3%
10-12	18	6.1%
Total	300	100%
People with any disability		
Yes	41	13.7%
No	259	86.3%
Total	300	100%

4.1.2 Other Important Characteristics Related to farming Practices

Regarding the market proximity, 43.6% of farmers take a walk about thirty minutes towards the market place and 35% of farmers walk between half hour to one hour whereas 21.2% walk more than one hour and thirty minutes (1h30), to reach the market place as it is presented in the figure below

Figure 3: : Farmers ‘Market Proximity (n=300 for 2019/20)



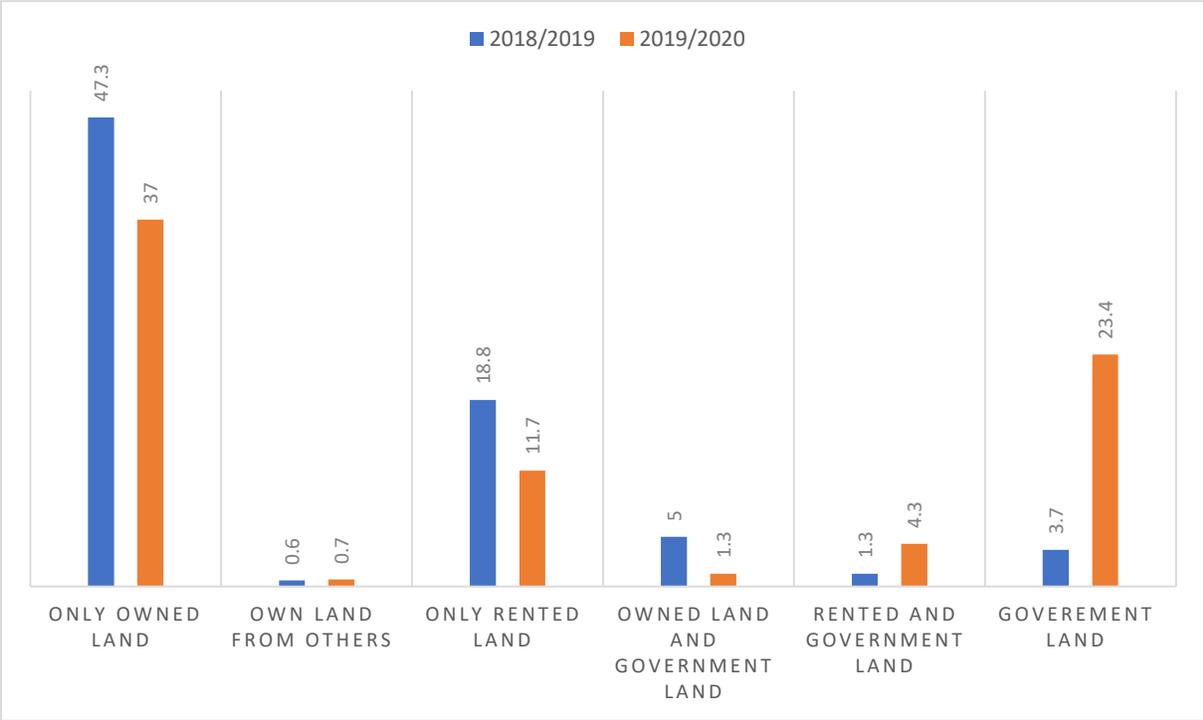
Source: Primary data, Farmers’ Assessment, 2019/20.

Although the majority of farmers in Nyanza and Kayonza (78.6%) take a walk of less than one hour to reach the market, this reminds that 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 4: Distribution of Land Owned by Farmers (n=596 for 2018/19, n = 300 for 2019/20)

To the point of land ownership, farmers were asked whether they own or lease the land for agriculture activities. The findings showed that the percentage of respondents with their own land was 47.3% in 2018/2019 and 37 % in 2019/2020. Farmers who own land from others is more less the same for the year 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 at 0.6 % and 0.7% respectively. Farmers with only rented land decreased from 18.8% in 2018/2019 to 11.7% in 2019/2020. The same decrease has been observed among the respondents with owned land and government land at 5% in 2018/2019 and at 1.3% in 2019/2020. Farmers with rented land and government land have increased from 1.3% in 2018/2019 to 4.3% in 2019/2020 whereas respondents with government

land have significantly increased from 3.7% in 2018/2019 to 23.4% in 2019/2020 as it is clearly detailed in the figure below

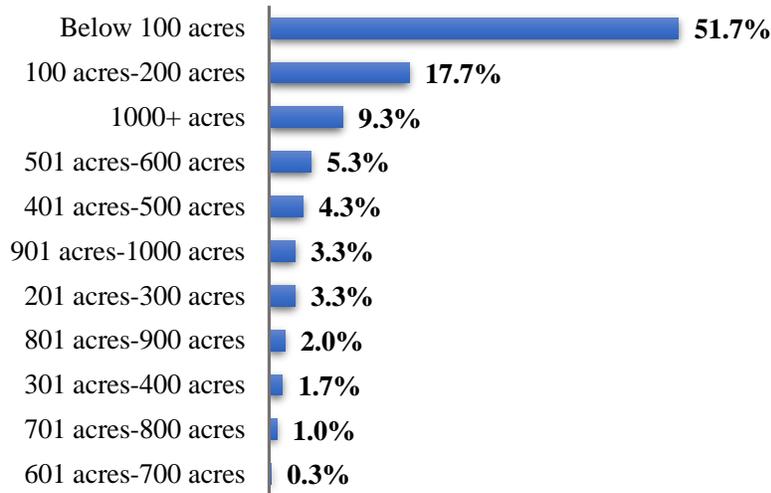


Source: Primary data, Farmers’ Assessment, 2018/19-2019/20.

The findings revealed that the dominant number of respondents use their own land for the period 2018/19 and the period 2019/20 at 47.3 % and 37% respectively. Knowing that all respondents were farmers from different Cooperatives, this finding could indicate that farmers in Nyanza and Kayonza have embraced the land consolidation policy to overcome the effects of land fragmentation. The Nyanza report showed that consolidated land has reached to more 40,000 ha. Furthermore, significant increase in using government land (Waterland and all Waterland are state owned) is fueled by the fact that many big cooperatives are involved in agriculture of rice and government efforts of developing Waterland for especially irrigated crops such as rice.

Figure 5: Distribution of Size of Land used By Farmers (n=300 for 2019/20)

Cumulatively, the majority of farmers 69.4% use a land whose size is ranging between 100 and 1000 acres to do their agricultural and livestock activities while the remaining proportion of them use this underline very small land to perform farming activities.

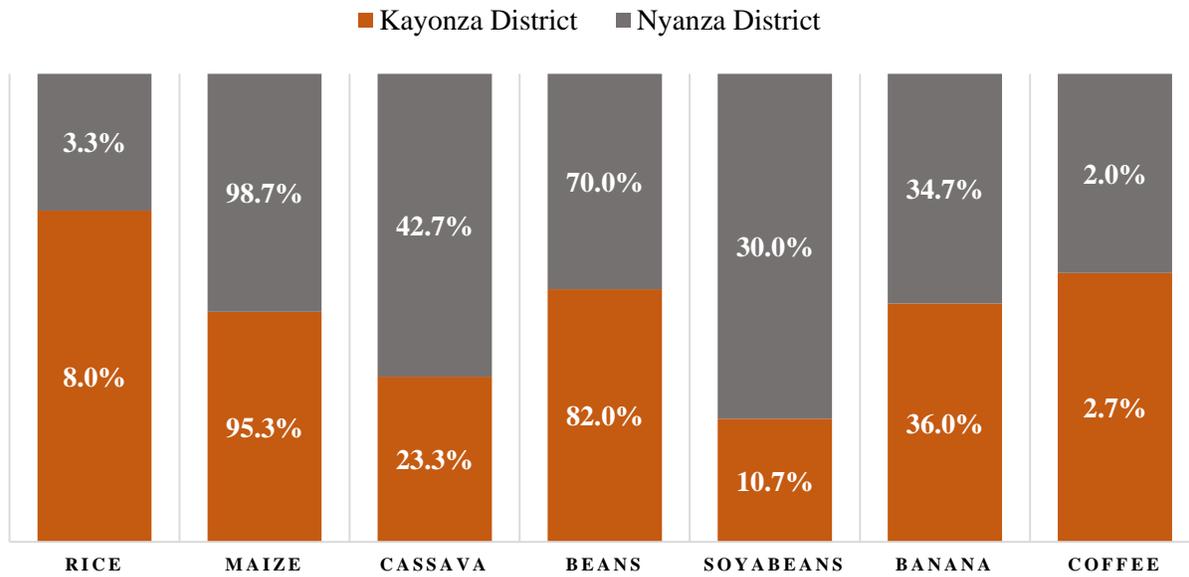


Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019/20.

The small size of land used by farmers remains a key challenge in increasing their productivity. This is supported by Hung et al., 2007 and Lerman and Cimpoiu, 2006 who clearly showed the relationship between the farm size and the productivity by describing the link between land consolidation and concentration to improved productivity.

Figure 6: Distribution of main grown crops per district of intervention (n = 300 for 2019/20)

The figure 6 describe the main grown crops per district of intervention and 98.7% of respondents in Nyanza and 95.3% of respondents in Kayonza were involved in growing maize. The second crop mostly grown by respondents is beans for which 82% of respondents in Kayonza and 70% of respondents in Nyanza were involved in beans growing. The smallest percentage of respondents in both districts were involved in coffee growing whereby 2.7% of farmers in Kayonza district and 2% of farmers in Nyanza district were involved in coffee growing.



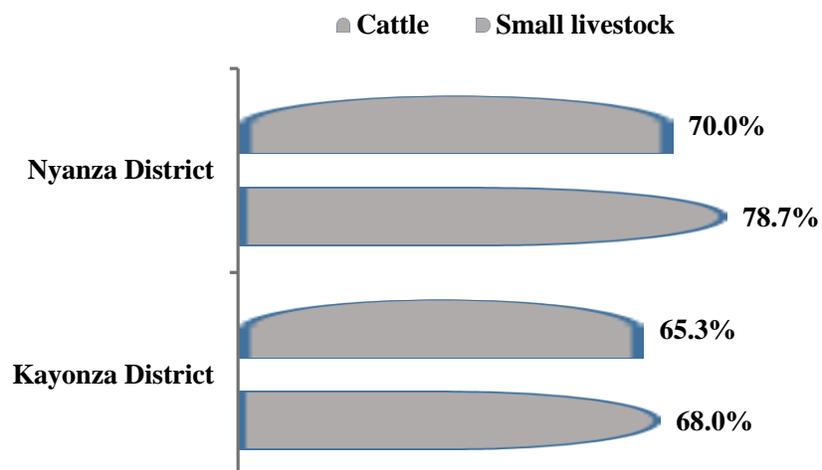
Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019/20.

The results of the survey show that the highest percentage of farmers were involved in growing maize are quite in line with the recent Crop Intensification Program (CIP) that shows maize as one of six priority crops for Rwanda to guarantee food security and strengthen the country's agricultural productivity¹¹.

Figure 7: Distribution of cattle and small livestock per district of intervention (n = 300 for 2019/20)

Figure 7 describe the proportion of respondents with cattle and small livestock by district, In Nyanza district, 70% of respondents reported owning cattle while 78.7% of respondents in the same district reported owning small livestock. In Kayonza district, the proportion of farmers who own cattle were 65.3%. However, 68% of respondents in Kayonza district reported that they own small livestock.

¹¹ Monitoring and Evaluation of Crop Intensification Program Activities in Rwanda.



Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019/20.

Table 3: Agriculture crops in mixed approach of farming (n = 300 for 2019/20)

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 20% grow a mixture of maize and beans occupy the highest percentage, it is followed by the mixture of maize, beans and banana were practiced by 12.7% of farmers while the mixture of maize, cassava and beans is practiced by 12.7% of farmers. 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.

<i>Crops</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Banana	0.3
Beans Banana	0.3
Beans Soya beans Banana	0.3
Cassava Beans	0.7
Cassava Beans Banana	0.3
Maize	14
Maize Banana	3.3
Maize Beans	20.3
Maize Beans Banana	12.7
Maize Beans Banana Coffee	0.3

Maize Beans Coffee	0.3
Maize Beans Soya beans	3.7
Maize Beans Soya beans Banana	2.3
Maize Cassava	1.3
Maize Cassava Banana	0.7
Maize Cassava Beans	12.7
Maize Cassava Beans Banana	7.7
Maize Cassava Beans Banana Coffee	0.3
Maize Cassava Beans Coffee	0.3
Maize Cassava Beans Soya beans	3
Maize Cassava Beans Soya beans Banana	5
Maize Cassava Beans Soya beans Banana Coffee	0.7
Maize Rice	0.3
Maize Rice Banana	0.3
Maize Rice Beans	3.3
Maize Rice Beans Banana	0.3
Maize Rice Cassava Beans Soya beans Banana	1
Maize Soya beans	3
Maize Soya beans Banana	0.3
Rice	0.7
Total	100

Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019/20.

Table 4: Different acre intervals on which farmers grow important crops (n = 300)

The table 4 describes different acre intervals on which farmers grow important crops. The results of the survey show that the majority of farmers were growing important crops on a plot which is included in the range of zero acres and below 100 acres. In this regard the example beans are grown by 64.5% of farmers who grow it on a plot below than 100 acres while 24.3% grow beans on zero acres. For maize, 70.6% of farmers practice the culture of maize on a plot which is below than 100 acres while 2.7% grow maize on less than 1 acre. The proportion of farmers who grow important crops decrease when the range of acres increase. This is shown with the proportion of farmers who grow important crops on plot with the range of 401 acres and 500 acres whereby only 5.7% of respondents grown maize and the remaining crops are grown by non-significant proportion of farmers which vary between 0% for coffee, soybeans and rice and 3.7% of farmers who grown bananas.

<i>Acre Intervals</i>	<i>Maize</i>	<i>Rice</i>	<i>Cassava</i>	<i>Beans</i>	<i>Soybeans</i>	<i>Banana</i>	<i>Coffee</i>
Less an acre	2.7	94.0%	66.3%	24.3%	80.7%	63.7%	98.0%
Below 100 acres	70.6	5.2%	30.4%	64.5%	18.4%	27.4%	1.7%
100 acres-200 acres	12.3	0.3%	1.0%	5.2%	0.3%	2.0%	0.3%
201 acres-300 acres	2.9	0.5%	1.1%	2.9%	0.6%	1.6%	0.0%
301 acres-400 acres	1	0.0%	0.3%	1.3%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%
401 acres-500 acres	5.7	0.0%	0.3%	0.5%	0.0%	3.7%	0.0%
501 acres-600 acres	1	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
601 acres-700 acres	0.7	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
701 acres-800 acres	0.3	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%
801 acres-900 acres	0.3	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
901 acres-1000 acres	1.3	0.0%	0.3%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
1000+ acres	0.6	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%
Total	100	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019/20.

Having more farmers doing their farming activity on land size of less than an acre is supported by the world Bank data indicating that Arable land (hectares per person) in Rwanda was at 0.09362 in 2018¹².

¹² <https://databank.worldbank.org/source/world-development-indicators>

Table 5: Different number intervals and areas on which farmers take care of small livestock and cattle (n = 300)

Table 5 describes different number intervals and areas on which farmers take care of small livestock and cattle. The number interval between 1-2 include the highest proportion of farmers with small livestock and cattle. Therefore 91.2% of farmers own between one and two cows, while 28.7% of farmers own goats between one and two. The range which come after ten include very small proportions of farmers. In this regard no one farmer own cows in the range greater than 10, only 0.3% of respondents own goats for the range between 11 and 15 and 2% of respondents own chicken for the range of 10-15.

<i>Intervals</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Goats</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Chicken</i>
Zero	0.0%	51.6%	98.7%	65.3%
1-2	91.2%	28.7%	1.0%	6.3%
3-5	8.3%	17.0%	0.0%	16.2%
6-10	0.0%	2.1%	0.0%	8.0%
11-15	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	2.0%
16-20	0.5%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%
20 and above	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	2.2%
Mean score for cattle and livestock	1	3	9	7
Below 1 area	41.3%	58.0%	98.7%	68.0%
1-50 area	58.4%	41.7%	1.3%	32.0%
51-100 area	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
101-200 area	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%
200 area and above	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Mean score for areas (m²)	5	5	4	3
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

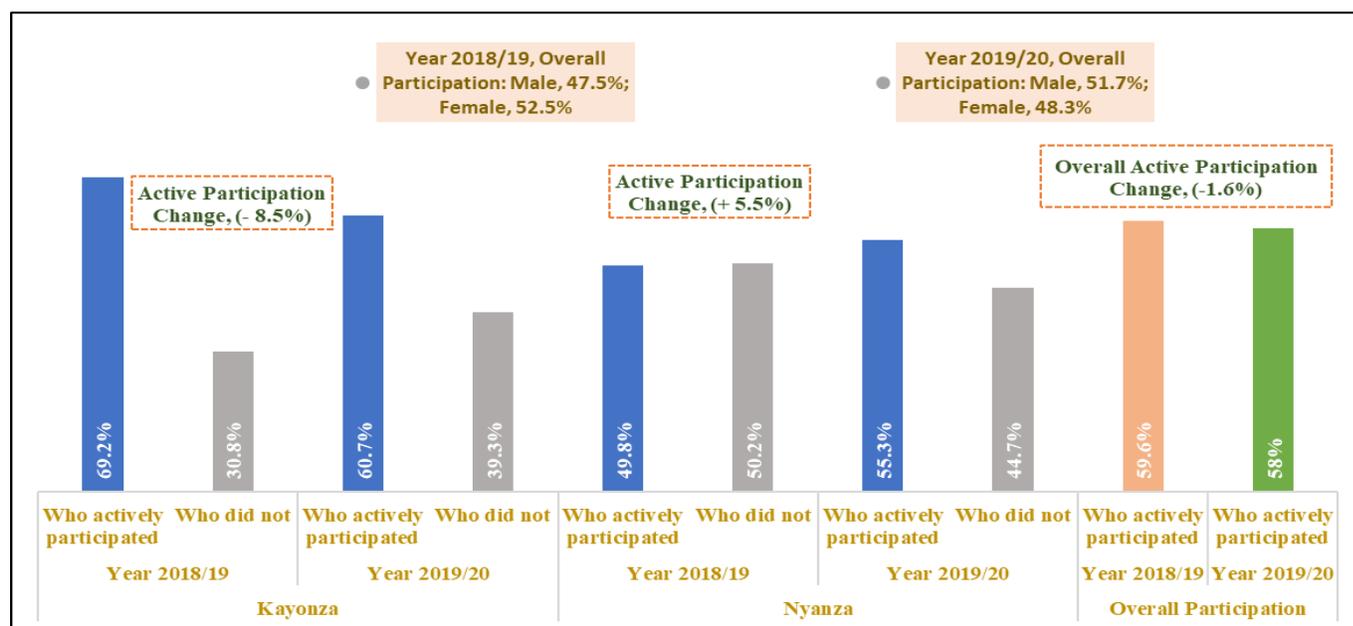
Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019/20.

The survey revealed that 91.2% of farmers own between one and two cows. The increased number of households with cows could have been speed up by GIRINKA Program that provide each poor family with a cow. The available evidence suggests that since 2006 Government, NGOs both Local and International, Private institutions and individual have been contributing to Girinka program and 97% of the target group have benefited from this program¹³.

4.2. Farmers' Participation in planning cycle

This sub section presents the level of farmers' active participation in planning cycle for respondents in both districts Nyanza and Kayonza.

Figure 8: Farmers' Participation in the Planning of Imihigo (n=596 for 2018/19, n = 300 for 2019/20)



Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2018/19 & 2019/20.

From figure 8 the results of the survey show that overall, 59.6% of farmers actively participated in the planning of Imihigo for the year 2018/19 while 58% of farmers actively participated in the planning of Imihigo for the year 2019/20. The overall participation change was (-1.6%).

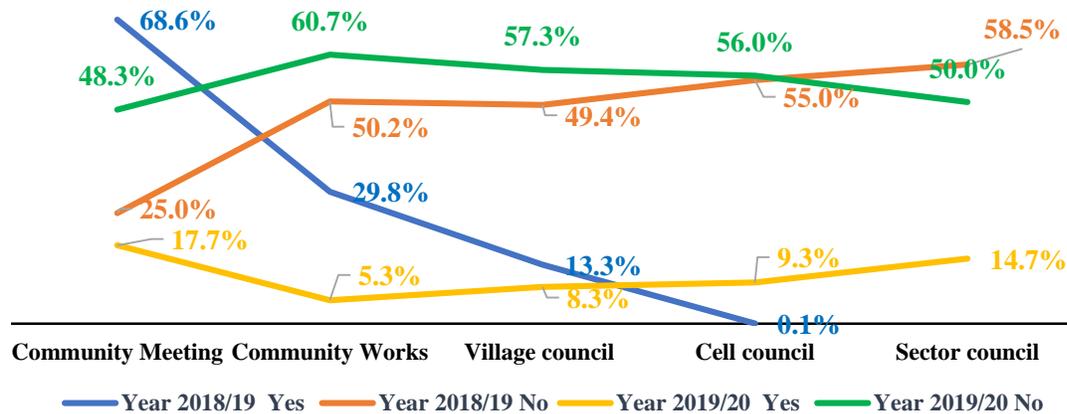
Considering participation by district, the results show that in Kayonza district, the overall active participation change is about (-8.5%) while in Nyanza district, the overall active participation change is equal to (+ 5.5%).

¹³ http://rab.gov.rw/fileadmin/user_upload/Animal_Production/girinka_pamphlet_engl-2.pdf

The respondents from RAB also emphasized on farmers participation in policy making by saying that ‘We make sure that the formulation of any policy is derived from farmers’ needs. This is why we try to collect their views and needs before the start of the season’ said a participant during FG with RAB. On the same note the Director of Domestic trade from MINICOM also confirmed that farmers participation is of paramount importance although at the national level, farmers participate through their representatives.

Figure 9: Channels through which farmers participate in Imihigo planning (n=596 for 2018/19, n = 300 for 2019/20)

The figure 9 presents percentage of farmers by channels through which the later participated in Imihigo planning. In this regard 68.6% of farmers confirmed that community meetings (Inteko z` abaturage) were considered as channel through which farmers participated in Imihigo planning for the year 2018/19, while in 2019/20 about 17.7% of farmers confirmed having used this channel.



Source: Primary data, Farmers’ Assessment, 2019.

Community meetings (Inteko z` abaturage) has also been identified as one of the most used existing mechanisms for CSOs to enhance citizen participation in the governance and development of Rwanda by the study done by Never Again.

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.

Table 6: Extent to which farmers perceive the consideration of each priority needs (n=596 for 2018/19, n = 300 for 2019/20)

<i>Farmers' priority concerns</i>	<i>2018/19</i>	<i>2019/20</i>
To increase the production of selected crops	80.20%	97.7%
To increase the quantity of agriculture inputs	81.90%	95.0%
To timely distribute agricultural inputs	82.90%	90.7%
To increase the number of irrigated hectares (at marshlands and hillsides)	43.80%	68.3%
To increase irrigation machines and small-scale technology irrigation system	32.00%	72.7%
To heavily control plant disease by increasing mobile plant clinic and training of agronomists	79.90%	92.7%
To increase the number of inseminated cows through improved semen and artificial insemination services	65.60%	90.0%
To increase the modern milk collection points	43.50%	90.0%
To increase the disease control for livestock	74.00%	93.7%
To protect soil erosion	0.00%	86.3%
To construct post-harvest storage facilities	0.0%	80.3%
To construct post-harvest drying facilities	0.0%	80.7%
To increase cultivated land and consolidated for growing banana	0.0%	59.0%
To ensure that 100% of all farmers' households have compost	0.0%	78.7%
To construct radical terraces	0.0%	51.0%
To construct progressive terraces	0.0%	42.0%
To plant forest trees	0.0%	60.3%
To plant fruit trees	0.0%	93.7%

Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019.

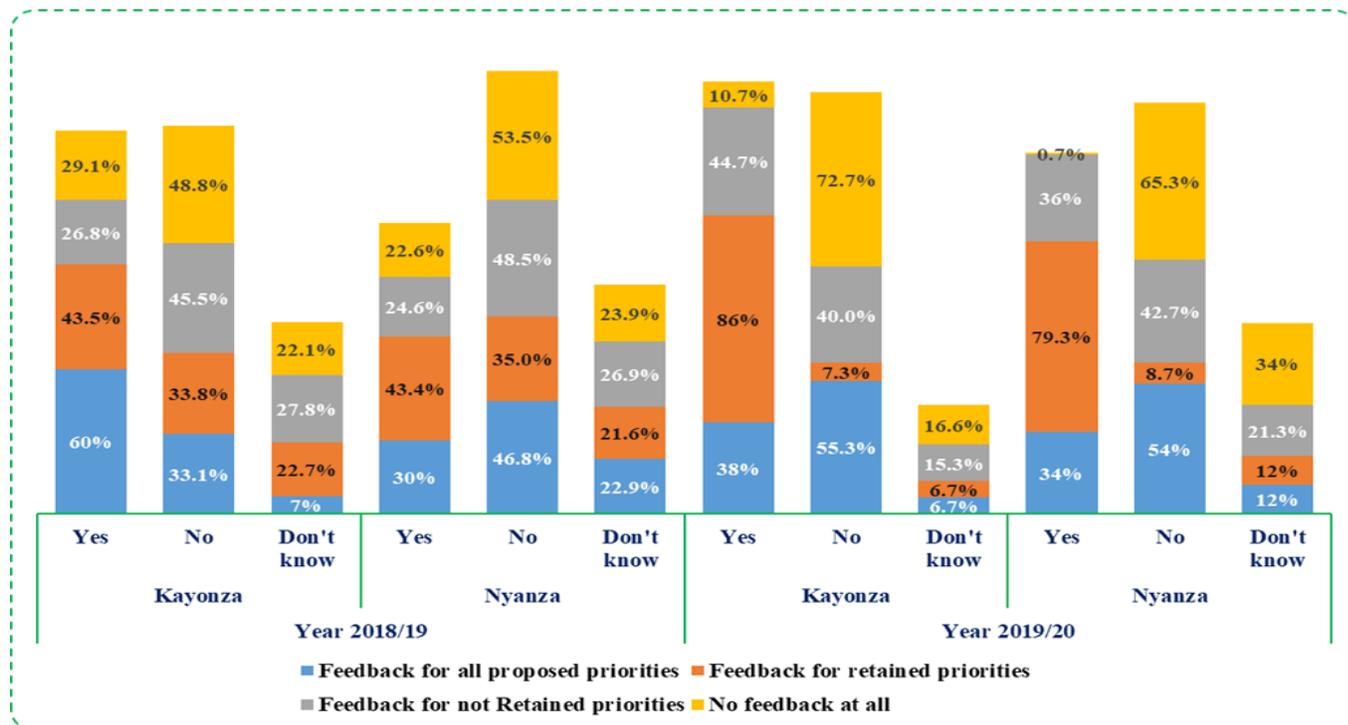
The table 6 presents how farmers perceive the consideration of each priority in their daily activity. The results of the survey show that the consideration of priority increased from the period 2018/19 to the period 2019/20 for all farmers' priorities concern. Farmers submitted 27 priorities in 2018/2019 and 30 priorities in 2019/2020 fiscal year. For the increase in production of selected crops, the consideration increased from 80.2% during 2018/19 to 97.7% during 2019/20. For the consideration of the quantity of agriculture inputs, there was increase from 81.9% in 2018/19 to 95% during 2019/20.

It is important to note that many priorities in planning in farming have been taken into consideration in the fiscal year 2019/2020 but were not planned for the period 2018/19. For instance, the priority of planting fruit trees was taken into consideration at 93.7% for the period 2019/20 while nothing was taken into consideration on fruit trees planting for the period 2018/19

4.2.2 Farmers views on the feedback of proposed priorities

Asked whether they receive feedback about submitted priorities 38% of respondents in Kayonza stated that they got feedback for all proposed priorities, 86% confirmed that they got feedback for only retained priorities and 44% confirmed receiving feedback for only not retained priorities compared to 10.7 % who revealed that did not get any feedback about submitted priorities for the year 2019/2020. In Nyanza, 34% of respondents stated that they got feedback for all proposed priorities, 79.3 % confirmed that they got feedback for only retained priorities and 36 % confirmed receiving feedback for only not retained priorities compared to 0.7 % who revealed that did not get any feedback about submitted priorities for the year 2019/2020. The detailed data are presented in the figure 10 below comparing farmers views on the feedback of proposed priorities for 2018/2019 with 2019/2020.

Figure 10: Proportion of farmers who received the feedback of proposed priorities (n=596 for 2018/19, n=300 for 2019/20)



Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2018/19-2019/20.

The findings show that Higher percentage of respondent at 86% in Kayonza and 79.3% in Nyanza got feedback for retained priorities, as well as for not retained priorities at 44.7% and 36% respectively. Nevertheless, this research also revealed that there is a significant proportion of farmers who did not get feedback in Kayonza District (10.7%) while in Nyanza merely 0.7% did not get feedback at all.

In the last 2years (2018/2019 & 2019/2020) The findings revealed a significant improvement of providing feedback on retained priorities in both districts and significant decrease on farmers who do not get any feedback to all submitted priorities. This positive change corroborates the testimonies provided during Focus Group discussions:

“Citizens get feedback when local leaders go back to collect new priorities “said the director of agriculture in both districts. However, majority of farmers and CSOs representative in both districts confirmed that feedback is not provided. “If you go to the cell or sector office you will see the imihigo displayed in imihigo room however no one have ever explained the criteria of selection of priorities” said a farmer in Kayonza district. In addition, participants in RAB Focus group discussion pointed out that “The work is well done but sometime beneficiaries do not get feedback. There is a need to improve on feedback and as a commitment we vow to put in place a systematic feedback mechanism that will help RAB to provide feedbacks to farmer. The reasons for not providing feedback were also discussed during the FGDs. They include:

- *Leaders in local government are overwhelmed with tasks and always work under pressure*

- *Farming is not being given its weight of importance*
- *Local leaders go to the citizen only when they need them (Providing feedback seems not to be important for them).*
- *Some Local leaders' mindset that they are not accountable towards a citizen, they feel like they are accountable to high structures only*

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 2019-2020 and findings are presented in the table 7 below.

Table 7: Farmers satisfaction on how their proposed priorities were considered (n = 300 for 2019/20)

<i>Farmers' priority needs</i>	<i>Not satisfied</i>	<i>Not satisfied at all</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Somewhat satisfied</i>	<i>Very satisfied</i>	<i>Mean score</i>
The increase of the production of selected crops	3.30%	0.00%	60.00%	9.30%	27.30%	1.89
The increase of the quantity of agriculture inputs	1.30%	0.00%	65.70%	7.30%	25.70%	1.84
To protect the soil from erosion	10.30%	0.30%	51.00%	19.70%	18.70%	2.23
To timely distribute agricultural inputs	2.00%	0.00%	58.30%	6.00%	33.70%	1.76
To construct post-harvest storages facilities	34.30%	1.00%	34.00%	11.30%	19.30%	2.64
To construct drying facilities	25.00%	2.00%	42.00%	13.00%	18.00%	2.51
To increase land consolidated for banana plantation	36.00%	7.30%	24.30%	19.30%	13.00%	3
To ensure that 100 of households have compost	19.30%	1.30%	38.70%	28.00%	12.70%	2.58
To construct radical Terraces	30.30%	1.00%	33.30%	22.30%	13.00%	2.73
To construct progressive Terraces	36.70%	1.30%	27.00%	23.30%	11.70%	2.89

To plant agroforestry trees	5.30%	0.00%	56.70 %	19.70%	18.30%	2.12
To plant fruit trees	2.70%	0.30%	60.00 %	19.00%	18.00%	2.07
To increase the number of irrigated hectares at marshlands	38.00%	2.70%	23.70 %	24.70%	11.00%	2.98
To increase irrigation machines and small-scale technology	48.30%	15.00%	15.00 %	12.30%	9.30%	3.45
To heavily control plant	6.00%	0.00%	58.30 %	18.30%	17.30%	2.13
To increase the number of inseminated cows through improved semen	7.00%	0.70%	54.30 %	24.70%	13.30%	2.27
To increase basic infrastructures to improve livestock activities	10.00%	1.30%	51.00 %	21.00%	16.70%	2.28
To increase the disease control for livestock	4.00%	0.00%	65.30 %	15.70%	15.00%	2.09
Overall average	17.77 %	1.90%	45.48 %	17.49%	17.33%	2.41
Overall satisfaction						62.81 %

Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019/20.

The overall satisfaction for all farmers' priorities considered in performance contracts is nearly 63%. Rwanda Governance Scorecard (RGS) revealed that overall citizens' satisfaction with their participation in Imihigo planning was rated at 63.9%¹⁴. Although the *overall satisfaction on priorities need for agriculture imihigo is good, participants in FGD revealed that the orientation in selection of priorities need is mostly oriented in infrastructures rather than agriculture and most of the time, the raised needs are related to water, electricity, infrastructure, roads and other big projects*

Below are reasons raised by participant in FGD for weak participation

- ✓ *Farmers are not consulted rather informed what to do. The fact that farmers are only informed about what have been thought by the sector or district staff, the existing platforms for gathering farmers needs such as inteko z' abaturage does not dig down to explore citizen`s needs.*

¹⁴ RGB (2019) Rwanda Governance Score Card 2019.

- ✓ *Farmers are represented in different agriculture structure at the low level but not at the district level.*
- ✓ *To misunderstand the concept of imihigo as a planning tool and use it as a competition tool. They don't take it as benefic and work together with their partners, who are citizens. When you analyse targets, performance indicators and measurements you realize that there is a gap in settings achievable and measurable targets. There is a need of training to officials and to also ensure them that it is not about competition or scoring high.)*
- ✓ *Farming activities are taken for granted*

Solutions proposed on how farmers participation in Imihigo may be improved

- ✓ *Local leaders should organize specific sessions for citizen assembly where citizens will discuss and collect priorities for a specific sector (e.g. example education, health, agriculture tec...)*
- ✓ *They should increase the time allocated to priorities collection.*
- ✓ *Extending mechanisms for priorities collection (for example using farmers cooperatives instead of village committees.*
- ✓ *Sensitizing farmers and make them understand their indirect participation especially in price setting.*
- ✓ *Learning from the previous experiences (failure or best practices) “for the last two years we have been at the bottom of the list in imihigo performance. However, being among the last did not discourage rather it gave us time to sit together and assess what is not going right and then put all our effort together for improvement. And we did it. This year (2019/2020 we are at 5th position and our wish is to be number one next year”. Said the district official in Nyanza during FG discussion.*
- ✓ *Helping farmers to understand issues related to type of land, structure of land, type and quantity of manure to use for a specific type of land and specific crops for a given type of land.*
- ✓ *Local leader should encourage Youth to be involved in farming and enhance professional farming.*
- ✓ *Local leaders (Especially villages leaders, & CEDO) should take initiatives and organize meeting with all households in their respective village to collectively identify their priorities need at the village level.*

Table 8: Level of farmers satisfaction with regard to how proposed farmers' priority needs were considered in Imihigo planning in FY 2019/20 by district (n = 150)

Farmers' priority needs	Not satisfied	Not satisfied at all	Satisfied	Somehow satisfied	Very satisfied	Overall Satisfaction
Kayonza District	13.3%	1.0%	39.7%	19.0%	26.9%	66.7%
Nyanza District	22.2%	2.9%	51.2%	16.0%	7.7%	58.9%
Overall (Both two districts)	17.8%	1.9%	45.5%	17.5%	17.3%	62.8%

Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019/20.

Table 8 presents how farmers were satisfied with regard how proposed farmers priorities needs were considered in imihigo planning for fiscal year 2019/20. Overall, 62.8% of respondents were satisfied where 58.9% were overall satisfied in Nyanza district and 66.7% in Kayonza district. It is important to note that 22.2% and 13.3% of respondents in Nyanza and Kayonza were not respectively satisfied on how proposed farmers priorities needs were considered in Imihigo planning for fiscal year 2019/20.

The results of the survey show that a large proportion of farmers was satisfied with priorities needs. However, there are farmers who were not satisfied, this is explained by testimonies from FGD both in Nyanza and Kayonza district.

During Community meeting (inteko z'abatwariye) at the cell level, local leaders ask us to name 3 priorities in every pillar that we want to be considered in the district imihigo. Due to lack of preparation, not knowing the agenda of the meeting, those who are sharp can speak and you find out that one person can speak on behalf of 100 people present in the meeting. Thus, I say that citizen can't actively participate if there are not prepared or informed before, about the purpose of the community assembly meeting. There is need of more sensitization where citizens are informed about priorities collection. Imihigo planning should be announced in advance so that a citizen can get time for preparations." said the farmers during the F.G in Nyanza.

Another farmer in Kayonza added that "Local leaders such as umudugudu leaders have never organized sessions where we seat and discuss on imihigo planning, citizens have not reached that level. But there are some formal groups / associations or cooperative in which discussions are held about pressing issues and later shared with the sector agronomist or veterinary at sector level.

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 2019-20120, 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' appreciation on quantity of Inputs and Equipment received

To the question on how farmers appreciated quantity of received inputs and equipment for the year 2019/2020, majority of respondents revealed that they appreciated receiving the same as requested for improved seeds and fertilizers at 89.3% and 87% respectively whereas 53 % did not receive requested quantity of irrigation machines as shown in the table 9 below

Table 9: Farmers' satisfaction on quantity of Inputs and Equipment received (n=596 for 2018/19, n = 300 for 2019/20)

Items	Response	Year 2018/19			Year 2019/20		
		Kayonz a	Nyanza	Overall	Kayonza	Nyanza	Overall
Improved seeds	Approximately	3.3%	5.1%	4.2%	4.7%	5.3%	5.0%
	Less	20.1%	10.8%	15.4%	4%	5.3%	4.7%
	No received	5.7%	4.7%	5.2%	5.3%	1.3%	3.3%
	The same as requested	70.9%	78.5%	74.7%	86%	88%	87.0%
Fertilizers	Approximately	3.3%	7.7%	5.5%	4%	6%	5.0%
	Less	17.7%	6.1%	11.9%	1.3%	6.7%	4.0%
	No received	7.0%	3.7%	5.4%	2%	1.3%	1.7%
	The same as requested	71.9%	81.5%	76.7%	92.7%	86%	89.3%
Irrigation machines	Approximately	1.0%	0.0%	0.5%	4%	1.3%	2.7%
	Don't know	0.0%	0.0%	0%	26%	24.7%	25.3%
	Less	6.0%	1.7%	3.9%	9.3%	4.7%	7.0%
	No received	64.9%	80.1%	72.5%	46%	58.7%	52.3%
	The same as requested	13%	1%	6.7%	14.7%	10.7%	12.7%

Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2018/19-2019/20.

The findings in table 9 clearly indicates a significant increase of farmers appreciation level on quantity of received agriculture inputs especially for improved seeds whereby appreciation level moved from 74.7% in 2018/2019 to 87% in 2019/2020. Additionally, appreciation with received fertilizers have increased from 76.7% in 2018/2019 to 89.3% in 2019/2020. This increase is also linked to the big number of Smallholder farmers joining Smart **Nkunganire** System (SNS) . Smart

Nkunganire serves as a supply chain management system that has digitalized Rwanda's agri-input subsidy **program**. Smart Nkunganire has removed obstacles such as leakages, late delivery of inputs, and resource diversion, SNS has helped reduce the economic and operational deficiencies of

Table 10: Farmers' Satisfaction for the Quality of Inputs and Equipment received (n=596 for 2018/19, n = 300 for 2019/20)

The table 10 presents farmers satisfaction for the quality of received inputs and equipment for the fiscal year 2018/19 and 2019/20 as is it detailed in the following table

Items	Response	Year 2018/19			Year 2019/20		
		Kayonza	Nyanza	Overall	Kayonza	Nyanza	Overall
Improved seeds	Very Bad	1.3%	4.0%	2.7%	2.7%	1.3%	2.0%
	Bad	3.0%	7.1%	5.0%	5.3%	14.0%	9.7%
	Neither Bad nor Good	3.3%	10.1%	6.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Good	62.2%	57.2%	59.7%	39.3%	63.3%	51.3%
	Very Good	29.8%	20.9%	25.3%	48.7%	19.3%	34.0%
	Don't know	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%	2.0%	3.0%
Fertilizers	Very Bad	1.3%	1.7%	1.5%	2%	1%	1.7%
	Bad	2.3%	2.0%	2.2%	0.0%	1.3%	0.7%
	Neither Bad nor Good	3.3%	7.1%	5.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Good	63.2%	65.7%	64.4%	41.3%	70.7%	56.0%
	Very Good	29.1%	22.6%	25.8%	53.3%	25.3%	39.3%
	Don't know	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	1.3%	2.3%
Irrigation machines	Very Bad	48.8%	62.3%	55.5%	0.7%	1.3%	1.0%
	Bad	12.7%	8.8%	10.7%	4.0%	11.3%	7.7%
	Neither Bad nor Good	3.0%	3.4%	3.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Good	7%	1%	3.9%	16.7%	8.0%	12.3%
	Very Good	13.0%	1.7%	7.4%	8.7%	4.0%	6.3%
	Don't know	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	70.0%	75.3%	72.7%

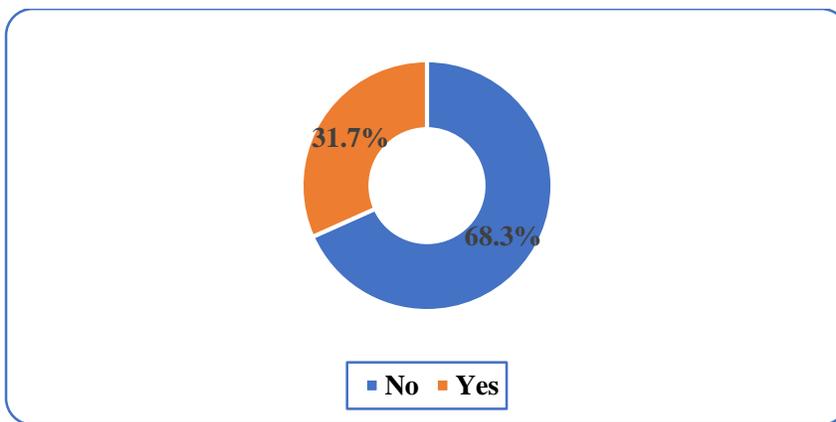
Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2018/19-2019/20.

Generally, about 85 % of farmers who participated in this survey consider the quality of received improved seed as good or very good for the fiscal year 2018/19. Considering the fiscal year 2019/20, the survey shows a slight improvement with 85.3% of farmers satisfied with improved seeds. This finding underline continuous improvement with regard to the quality of used inputs and fertilizers as figures from other sources of information including the 2019 CRC of RGB where farmers rated their satisfaction about the quality of inputs and fertilizers at 64.2% for seeds and 67.8% for fertilizers.

4.3.3 Farmers’ Satisfaction On Their Participation in Price Regulation Process

This sub section analyzes farmer’s satisfaction on their participation in price regulation process for produce and inputs during the Imihigo fiscal year 2019/20 as described in the figure 11 below

Figure 11: Farmers’ satisfaction in the Price Regulation for Produce and Inputs (n = 300)



Source: Primary data, Farmers’ Assessment, 2019/20.

This survey informed that only 31.7% of farmers have participated in the price regulation process for agriculture and livestock’s produce as well as for inputs while around 68.3% didn’t partake for the fiscal year 2019/20. For the year 2018/19 the proportion of farmers who participated in the price regulation process were slightly less than this year with 23.8% of farmers.

It is obvious that few farmers participated in the price regulation for produce and inputs, this corroborate with the testimonies of focus group discussion in Nyanza district: “There has never been a meeting where farmers seat together in cooperative or union and fix the price of inputs and produce. The price of inputs and produce is regulated at the national level. Farmers representatives (presidents of cooperative and unions) participate in the meeting related to price regulations without the proposal of members. Other farmers added that “when they ask information about the inputs and produce price in their cooperative, leaders intimidate them and tell them to accept or leave it because buyers can get other produces at the lower price from the neighboring country.” Said a farmer in the focus group

Although farmers seem not to be happy with their level of participation in price setting, the department of domestic trade explained the price setting process whereby farmers are represented from the cooperatives, unions and federation. The MINICOM has built the farmers capacity by organizing training for trainers on cost of production and price regulation.

A range of price for some commodities is set at national level but the fixed cost and market search is done in cooperatives and it is conducted by specific committees in the cooperative. To improve farmers participation in price setting participants in different focus groups have suggested the following:

- Cooperatives should organize sessions with all members of cooperatives and present the bids of each and every buyer before deciding on the final price.
- Cooperatives should buy direct from its members and then find themselves buyers to avoid conflict of interests that lead to unethical behavior and mismanagement of some cooperatives.
- Youth should be encouraged to be involved in farming and enhanced professional farming and it will solve the issue of record keeping, that would increase bargaining power and facts for discussion while setting the price.
- No bargaining power for farmers in price setting, they only accept what is being set. (Farmers also don't have the bargaining power sometimes because they don't record what they have invested from growing to the harvesting so it is also another issue and the partners, CSOs empowering them are only helping to train them in this knowledge so they can also do professional farming with the whole recording so it will help them to seat at the negotiation table with an informed decision. A farmer will not have bargaining power as long as they don't have data

Table 11: Channels Used During the Price Regulation Process (n = 300)

Asked about the participation channels used during the price regulation, farmers revealed their views as follows

<i>Mechanisms</i>	<i>Response</i>	<i>Year 2019/20</i>		
		Kayonza	Nyanza	Overall
Village	No	44.8%	55.2%	29.0%
	Yes	50%	50%	2.0%
Cell	No	45.2%	54.8%	28.0%
	Yes	44.4%	55.6%	3.0%
Sector	No	40.6%	59.4%	21.3%
	Yes	55.2%	44.8%	9.7%
District	No	41.5%	58.5%	21.7%

	Yes	53.6%	46.4%	9.3%
RAB	No	49.3%	50.7%	23.0%
	Yes	36.0%	64.0%	8.3%
PSF	No	46.8%	53.2%	25.7%
	Yes	37.5%	62.5%	5.3%
CSOs	No	51.5%	48.5%	22.7%
	Yes	0.25	0.75	8.0%

Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019/20

The findings revealed that 2% of farmers participate in price regulation at village level, 3% at cell level, 9.7% at sector level and 9.3% at district level. Other channels used like RAB, CSOs and PSF were confirmed by 8.3%, 8% and 5.3% of farmers respectively. Majority of respondents seem not to participate in price regulation process and this is also supported by a study on the Determinants of Market Participation among Small Holder Farmers that pointed out that smallholder commercialization has received scanty attention. There is a need to understand what factors that hinder farmers' participation in price setting and using existing mechanisms such as district agriculture forum to increase the direct number of farmers who partake in decision making towards price setting of their commodities.

Table 12: Channels through which Farmers Heard about the Regulated Price (n = 300)

Table 12 provides channels through which farmers heard about regulated price. In this regard, 40.3% of farmers confirmed that traders are the channel through which they heard about the regulated price and constitute the main channel. It is followed by cooperative Leadership and Radio which were confirmed by 24% and 23.7% respectively.

<i>Mechanisms</i>	<i>Response</i>	<i>Year 2019/20</i>		
		Kayonza	Nyanza	Overall
Neighboring Friend	No	48.8%	51.2%	41.0%
	Yes	57.1%	42.9%	7.0%
Colleagues Farmers	No	48.0%	52.0%	41.0%
	Yes	57.9%	42.1%	6.3%
Traders	No	28.3%	71.7%	15.3%
	Yes	62.8%	37.2%	40.3%

Cooperative Leadership	No	59.1%	40.9%	31.0%
	Yes	33.3%	66.7%	24.0%
Radio	No	64.6%	35.4%	27.3%
	Yes	31.0%	69.0%	23.7%
Newspaper	No	50.7%	49.3%	45.3%
	Yes	50.0%	50.0%	0.7%

Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019/20.

4.3.4 Farmers' Satisfaction On Timeliness For Farming Related Services/Programs

To understand issues around service delivery of agriculture inputs, farmers were asked whether they receive on time the requested agriculture inputs and findings are presented in the table 13 below.

Table 13: Farmers' response on delayed and or timely delivery of farming inputs (n= 300)

Items	Response	Year 2019/20		
		Kayonza	Nyanza	Overall
Improved seeds	Delayed	3.3%	5.3%	4.3%
	Don't know	2.7%	2.0%	2.3%
	On time	94.0%	92.7%	93.3%
	If delayed, mean score of days	13	24	20
Fertilizers	Delayed	4.7%	4.0%	4.3%
	Don't know	2.7%	2.0%	2.3%
	On time	92.7%	94.0%	93.3%
	If delayed, mean score of days	23	29	26
Irrigation machines	Delayed	8.0%	4.7%	6.3%
	Don't know	64.7%	84.0%	74.3%
	On time	27.3%	11.3%	19.3%
	If delayed, mean score of days	69	40	52
Vaccination	Delayed	6.0%	10.0%	8%
	Don't know	8.0%	6.0%	7%

	On time	86.0%	84.0%	85%
	If delayed, mean score of days	23	17	19
Insemination	Delayed	12.00%	12.70%	12.3%
	Don't know	14.00%	10.00%	12%
	On time	74.00%	77.30%	75.7%
	If delayed, mean score of days	3	16	11

Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019/20.

Based on the findings, the majority of respondents about 93.3% of farmer's response confirmed that the distribution of improved seed and fertilizers on time. Overall, for delayed of improved seed, farmers confirmed a mean score of 20 days of delay. However, the mean score of days delayed for fertilizers was confirmed by farmers for 26 days. 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 as supported by a study conducted by Transparency International Rwanda on Governance Systems Of Agricultural Authorization Processes (2019) whereby the study revealed that delays in Agriculture service delivery have negative impact on the farmers welfare and business development.

4.3.5 The Overall Farmers' Satisfaction On The Implementation of farmers priorities

The data on farmers satisfaction with the implantation of 17 agriculture priorities were pointed out by respondents in the table 14 below

Table 14: Farmers' satisfaction on the Implementation (n = 300)

Farmers' Priority needs	Not satisfied at all	Not satisfied	Satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied	Mean score
The increase of the production of selected crops	0.0%	3.3%	63.0%	12.0%	21.7%	3.26
The increase of the quantity of agriculture inputs	0.0%	2.0%	70.3%	7.0%	20.7%	3.26
To Protect the soil from erosion	1.3%	11.3%	51.0%	21.3%	15.0%	3.37
To timely distribute agricultural inputs	0.0%	3.0%	59.7%	7.3%	30.0%	3.64
To construct post-harvest storages facilities	4.0%	35.7%	31.0%	9.7%	19.7%	3.05
To construct drying facilities	4.0%	26.3%	35.7%	15.0%	19.0%	3.19

To increase land consolidated for banana plantation	7.7%	32.3%	26.7%	20.0%	13.3%	2.99
To ensure that 100 of households have compost	0.3%	3.3%	59.7%	17.0%	19.7%	3.52
To construct radical Terraces	3.7%	28.3%	34.0%	20.7%	13.3%	3.12
To construct progressive Terraces	4.7%	30.3%	27.3%	25.0%	12.7%	3.11
To plant agroforest trees	0.3%	5.3%	54.7%	20.3%	19.3%	3.53
To plant fruit trees	0.3%	3.3%	55.0%	21.3%	20.0%	3.57
To increase the number of irrigated hectares at marshlands and on hillside	3.0%	39.0%	22.3%	24.3%	11.3%	3.02
To increase irrigation machines and small-scale technology	17.0%	51.7%	12.7%	9.7%	9.0%	2.42
To heavily control plant	1.0%	5.0%	62.3%	16.7%	15.0%	3.4
To increase the number of inseminated cows through improved insemination	0.3%	6.3%	57.3%	22.0%	14.0%	3.43
To increase basic infrastructures to improve livestock activities	2.3%	6.0%	56.3%	22.0%	13.3%	3.38
To increase the disease control for livestock	0.7%	2.7%	64.3%	16.3%	16.0%	3.44
Overall average	2.8%	16.4%	46.9%	17.1%	16.8%	3.26
Overall satisfaction						63.07%

Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019/20.

The results of this survey revealed that the overall farmers' satisfaction of 17 implemented farmers' priorities was at 63.07%. Overall, among implemented farmers' priorities need, were satisfied at the rate of 63.07%. Some were not satisfactory such as the number of irrigated hectares at marshlands and on hillside and irrigation machines and small-scale technology implemented at low rate of (39) and (51.7%) of farmers who were not satisfied respectively.

However, for implementation like distribution of agriculture inputs, the satisfaction was rate at the score of 3.64 which is equivalent to 72.8% of respondents. For the planting of fruits trees, the satisfaction was on the score rate of 3.57 which is equivalent to 71.4% of respondents

The increase of farmers satisfaction with the implementation of 17 priorities implemented through imihigo of 2019/2020 is supported by the NIS report¹⁵ stated that districts implemented their Imihigo at the average of 68.44%. Imihigo within Economic Transformation pillar where agriculture is an indicator registered the highest average of 71.88%.

Findings about farmers satisfaction with the implementation of farmers priorities were also disaggregated by district as presented in table 17 and 18 below

The table 15 presents the disaggregated data on farmers satisfaction with the implementation of farmers priorities in Kayonza

Table 15: Kayonza District: Farmers' satisfaction on the Implementation (n = 150)

<i>Farmers' priority needs</i>	<i>Kayonza</i>				
	Not satisfied	Not satisfied at all	Satisfied	Somehow satisfied	Very satisfied
<i>The increase of the production of selected crops</i>	0.70%	0.00%	59.30%	6.00%	34.00%
<i>The increase of the quantity of agriculture inputs</i>	0.00%	0.00%	63.30%	4.70%	32.00%
<i>To Protect the soil from erosion</i>	10.00%	1.30%	32.70%	27.30%	28.70%
<i>To timely distribute agricultural inputs</i>	2.70%	0.00%	54.70%	9.30%	33.30%
<i>To construct post-harvest storages facilities</i>	37.30%	1.30%	18.70%	14.70%	28.00%
<i>To construct drying facilities</i>	33.30%	0.00%	18.00%	22.00%	26.70%
<i>To increase land consolidated for banana plantation</i>	21.30%	0.00%	32.00%	20.00%	26.70%
<i>To ensure that 100 of households have compost</i>	0.70%	0.00%	48.70%	18.70%	32.00%
<i>To construct radical Terraces</i>	24.70%	2.00%	23.30%	27.30%	22.70%
<i>To construct progressive Terraces</i>	21.30%	2.70%	20.70%	33.30%	22.00%
<i>To plant agroforestry trees</i>	0.70%	0.00%	50.00%	21.30%	28.00%
<i>To plant fruit trees</i>	1.30%	0.00%	50.00%	20.70%	28.00%
<i>To increase the number of irrigated hectares at marshlands</i>	30.70%	0.70%	24.70%	21.30%	22.70%
<i>To increase irrigation machines and small scale technology</i>	46.00%	6.00%	14.70%	15.30%	18.00%
<i>To heavily control plant</i>	4.00%	1.30%	52.00%	20.00%	22.70%
<i>To increase the number of inseminated cows through improved semen</i>	4.70%	0.00%	57.30%	17.30%	20.70%
<i>To increase basic infrastructures to improve livestock activities</i>	4.70%	1.30%	44.00%	29.30%	20.70%
<i>To increase the disease control for livestock</i>	4.00%	0.70%	58.00%	16.70%	20.70%
Overall average	13.78%	0.96%	40.12%	19.18%	25.98%
Overall satisfaction					66.09%

Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019/20.

¹⁵ <file:///C:/Users/AMAZON/Downloads/Imihigo%202019-2020-Executive%20report-%23%23.pdf>

The survey revealed that the overall farmers satisfaction with the implementation of farmers priorities in Kayonza is slightly higher than satisfaction level in Nyanza (61.28%) as show in the table 16 below

Table 16: Nyanza District: Farmers’ satisfaction on the Implementation (n = 150)

<i>Farmers' priority needs</i>	<i>Nyanza</i>				
	Not satisfied	Not satisfied at all	Satisfied	Somehow satisfied	Very satisfied
<i>The increase of the production of selected crops</i>	6.00%	0.00%	66.70%	18.00%	9.30%
<i>The increase of the quantity of agriculture inputs</i>	4.00%	0.00%	77.30%	9.30%	9.30%
<i>To Protect the soil from erosion</i>	12.70%	1.30%	69.30%	15.30%	1.30%
<i>To timely distribute agricultural inputs</i>	3.30%	0.00%	64.70%	5.30%	26.70%
<i>To construct post-harvest storages facilities</i>	34.00%	6.70%	43.30%	4.70%	11.30%
<i>To construct drying facilities</i>	19.30%	8.00%	53.30%	8.00%	11.30%
<i>To increase land consolidated for banana plantation</i>	43.30%	15.30%	21.30%	20.00%	0.00%
<i>To ensure that 100 of households have compost</i>	6.00%	0.70%	70.70%	15.30%	7.30%
<i>To construct radical Terraces</i>	32.00%	5.30%	44.70%	14.00%	4.00%
<i>To construct progressive Terraces</i>	39.30%	6.70%	34.00%	16.70%	3.30%
<i>To plant agroforestry trees</i>	10.00%	0.70%	59.30%	19.30%	10.70%
<i>To plant fruit trees</i>	5.30%	0.70%	60.00%	22.00%	12.00%
<i>To increase the number of irrigated hectares at marshlands</i>	47.30%	5.30%	20.00%	27.30%	0.00%
<i>To increase irrigation machines and small-scale technology</i>	57.30%	28.00%	10.70%	4.00%	0.00%
<i>To heavily control plant</i>	6.00%	0.70%	72.70%	13.30%	7.30%
<i>To increase the number of inseminated cows through improved semen</i>	8.00%	0.70%	57.30%	26.70%	7.30%
<i>To increase basic infrastructures to improve livestock activities</i>	7.30%	3.30%	68.70%	14.70%	6.00%
<i>To increase the disease control for livestock</i>	1.30%	0.70%	70.70%	16.00%	11.30%
Overall average	19.02%	4.67%	53.59%	14.99%	7.69%
Overall satisfaction					61.28%

4.3.6 The Farmers’ Satisfaction On Agriculture Services

To ascertain the levels of farmers’ satisfaction with regard to agricultural services, farmers were asked to rate their level of satisfaction and their responses to each agriculture service described in the table 17 below are presented in the table 17 below

Table 17: Farmers' Satisfaction on agriculture services (n = 300)

Farmers' Satisfaction on agriculture services	Not satisfied at all	Not satisfied	Satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied	Mean score
Test of seeds before approval and plantation	1.3%	12.7%	54.0%	12.3%	19.7%	3.36
Involvement of farmers in the price regulation process	4.0%	44.7%	26.3%	11.7%	13.3%	2.86
Availability of post-harvest facilities	4.3%	41.7%	27.7%	15.3%	11.0%	2.87
Availability of the market for the farmers' production	0.7%	25.0%	42.3%	21.3%	10.7%	3.16
The fairness of selling price compared to the production cost	4.3%	49.7%	22.0%	15.7%	8.3%	2.74
Pesticides quality	1.0%	4.7%	64.0%	15.7%	14.7%	3.38
Trainings received by farmers	1.0%	14.7%	40.3%	28.3%	15.7%	3.43
Quality of semen	1.3%	8.7%	59.0%	17.7%	13.3%	3.33
Land consolidation program	1.3%	15.3%	50.3%	20.0%	13.0%	3.28
Selection process of crop Intensification program	0.0%	1.7%	69.3%	13.7%	15.3%	3.43
Regular access of livestock vaccination	0.0%	2.7%	68.0%	10.0%	19.3%	3.46
Regular agronomists field visits during agricultural seasons	1.3%	10.7%	53.3%	14.7%	20.0%	3.41
Credit facilities for farming projects	3.7%	37.0%	29.0%	19.7%	10.7%	2.97
Feedback on the proposed farmers priority needs	0.0%	13.3%	49.7%	23.3%	13.7%	3.37
Overall average	1.7%	20.2%	46.8%	17.1%	14.2%	3.22
Overall satisfaction						61%

Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019/20.

The results of the survey show that 61% of farmers are overall satisfied on agriculture services for the fiscal year 2019/20. Considering the results of CRC 2019) by Rwanda Governance Board this rate is slightly higher than what was published by RGB country wide whereby 55% of citizens were satisfied with agriculture services.

The service with highest score for agriculture services during this survey was Regular access of livestock vaccination with a rate of 3.46 which is equivalent to 69.2% after extrapolation, this result is far low than that is given by CRC 2019 whereby citizens are satisfied with livestock vaccination at the rate of 92.53%. Regarding satisfaction on Regular agronomists' field visits during agricultural seasons the survey show a score rate of 3.41 which is equivalent to 68.2%. This percentage is slightly greater than that revealed by CRC 2019 whereby 63.2% were satisfied with the service of agronomist. Regarding satisfaction on Credit facilities for farming projects, the survey found a score rate of 2.97 which is equivalent to 59.4%. Compared to CRC 2019 results, 36.8%¹⁶ of citizens were satisfied with credits facilities for farming projects. The explanation of the mentioned increase is rooted in farmers testimonies who pointed out farmers trainings and others capacity building programs as factors that have increased their satisfaction.

In the framework of imihigo implementation of Imihigo related to agriculture and livestock, training of farmers is one of the crucial components for which some farmers were not satisfied and this corroborate with testimonies from FGD: *“Farmers and district officials agreed that there was no budget for training activities for 2019/2020 fiscal year, In addition participants in FGD at national level (RAB & MINICOM) confirmed that training for trainers had been organized with hope that every year’s trainers in their various areas are supposed to train their fellow farmers. “The level of capacity of farmers has been obviously low in determining the cost of their production. This is why the MINICOM helps to build their capacity through trainings of farmers in their respective cooperatives. Because the Ministry has no big staff, therefore it can train all farmers but they do it through cooperatives, unions and federation through training of trainers. For instance, the MINICOM developed a useful excel sheet format used by rice farming cooperatives to record all activities and value that determines the cost of production. The same excel sheet is used while setting the price” said the respondent from Domestic trade unity. Participants in FGD from RAB confirmed that in 2019/2020 fiscal year there have been Postharvest machinery trainings to farmers especially in cooperatives and trainings were provided by RAB engineer, district engineer and the service providers (supplier). Nevertheless, the participants recognize some loopholes as some services providers with the mandate to provide training, after service and maintenance may not reach to farmers as agreed in the contract.*

“The system of agriculture inputs and irrigation equipment is decentralized. There is no monopoly in that market, we have suppliers countrywide. However, there are suppliers who fear to go to work in some districts due to a mindset that there is a competitor who has the whole market in the district. There are also cases where the suppliers changed the quality of products especially the irrigation pumps. transport. Thus, (RAB) renew the contracts of the suppliers every year and consider their performance but what would be nice is that districts themselves should be the ones to provide contracts (another way of decentralization)” said participant in the focus group discussion with RAB.

Causes of low satisfaction of farmers

¹⁶ RGB (2019) Citizen Report Card 2019

- *There is market limitation for some unpreserved crops especially for vegetables and fruits*
- *Limitation of transportation of crops due to bad roads/ infrastructure*
- *Long and difficult process to have access on bank loan for agriculture projects*
- *Low knowledge on the benefit of Crop Intensification Program and land consolidation program: Farming activities are not harmonized, consolidated land farmers use different seeds, they are not applying the same quantity of agriculture inputs which affect the quantity and the quality of harvest.*
- *Some cooperatives rules do not allow farmers to decide on their harvest: Farmers pointed out that farmers should have at least a minimum right to their harvest. For instance, of one farmer consume 20Kg of rice from his harvest, the rule of the cooperative provides him a fine of providing !00Kg.*
- *Loss caused by the mismanagement of cooperative.*
- *There are no coping risk mechanisms in place to deal with disasters in agriculture sector*
- *It is not easy for farmers to implement imihigo while they did not participate in its planning.*
- *Farmers satisfaction relies on the cost of production which is still high. At this stage, farmers will never be satisfied by prices unless collective effort and synergy across sectors are strengthened to reduce the cost of production.*

4.4 Farmers' Participation In The Evaluation

This section reports presents how farmers perceived he evaluation of performance contracts related to agriculture and livestock projects and how they were satisfied with their participation. The evaluation is based on agriculture and livestock projects in the performance contracts of the districts and how they were implemented during the fiscal year 2019-20 and the findings are disaggregated by district in the table 17 and 18 below

Table 18: Farmers' Perception on KAYONZA District Imihigo 2019/20 Evaluation (n = 150)

<i>KAYONZA District Imihigo 2019/20: Farmers' response on the evaluation</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	<i>Mean score</i>
Maize 10647 Ha	9.3%	1.0%	1.0%	14.0%	0.0%	1.61
Rice 3000 Ha	2.3%	2.3%	13.0%	7.0%	0.7%	3.41
Beans 35000 Ha	6.0%	1.0%	2.7%	15.3%	0.3%	1.78
Soybeans 500 Ha	6.7%	2.0%	4.3%	11.7%	0.7%	2.18

Cassava 2000 Ha	3.7%	1.3%	2.7%	17.7%	0.0%	1.67
Sorghum 8000 Ha	3.7%	1.7%	11.0%	8.0%	1.0%	3.13
Selected seeds 60000 Kg	5.0%	0.7%	1.0%	18.3%	0.3%	1.45
Fertilizers delivered and used by farmers 1080000 Kg	7.0%	0.7%	2.7%	15.0%	0.0%	1.75
All households have compost 100%	8.7%	3.0%	0.7%	12.7%	0.3%	1.72
Irrigation machines 100	1.7%	3.7%	5.0%	6.0%	9.0%	3.21
Radical terraces 150 Ha	8.3%	2.7%	2.7%	7.0%	4.7%	2.51
Consolidated land for growing banana 500 Ha	4.0%	4.0%	2.3%	7.7%	7.3%	2.71
Build post-harvest facility store 1	4.7%	4.3%	2.0%	11.3%	3.0%	2.2
Build post-harvest facility drying point 14	5.7%	3.3%	1.0%	13.0%	2.3%	1.92
Insemination 2500 cows	8.7%	0.3%	2.0%	14.3%	0.0%	1.68
Pharmacy for animals 2	7.3%	0.7%	2.3%	14.3%	0.7%	1.79
Vaccination Ubutaka 31000 Igifuruto 45000 uburenge 40000	10.7%	0.7%	2.0%	11.7%	0.3%	1.83
Infrastructure Storage of weeds 40 Water dams with solar power	9.7%	1.3%	3.7%	10.0%	0.7%	2.14
Fully washed coffee parchment produced at CWS 200Tons	5.3%	0.7%	11.3%	7.0%	1.0%	3.17
Vegetable planting 521 Ha	8.7%	0.3%	2.0%	14.0%	0.3%	1.72
Overall average	6.24%	1.86%	3.86%	11.68%	1.70%	2.18

Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019/20.

Overall farmer's perception on Kayonza district imihigo 2019/20 evaluation was rated to a score of 2.18 which is equivalent to 43.9%.

Referring to the results of this study, large majority of farmers confirmed that they agree with planned 3000ha of Rice in Kayonza was achieved at 68.2%. Farmers in Kayonza districts did not agree with the target of selected seeds 60000 Kg with a score rate of (1.45) which is equivalent to 29%.

The overall satisfaction on citizen participation in agriculture and livestock imihigo evaluation was not good and this corroborate with testimonies from FGDS from Kayonza and Nyanza.

CSOs work together with the district in imihigo planning through JADF. The CSOs share their action plans with JADF and through the planning meeting organized by JADF, each and every CSOs share their area of intervention as well as planned activities which will be integrated into imihigo or District Action plan. In Nyanza District 54 CSOs have been identified as active partners in planning and implementation of Imihigo in Nyanza District. Among all non-government partners only 9 intervene in Agriculture sector. In Kayonza, 50 non-government partners participate in imihigo planning and among which 8 CSOs focus on Agriculture and livestock in Kayonza district.

The role of CSOs in imihigo evaluation in Nyanza District is too little compared to Kayonza district. “Civil society is like our second eye; they so much help us in implementation but they do not participate in evaluation. There is need of establishing mechanisms that can involve CSO in monitoring and evaluation” of Imihigo process. said the director of planning during the focus group discussion in Nyanza. Similarly, the director of planning in Kayonza added that they organize joint imihigo with CSOs and from 2019/2020 fiscal year, the district has initiated the evaluation of CSOs working in Kayonza and rank them. Open day or accountability day is one of the mechanisms in place that helps District and CSOs to evaluate what they do and provide feedback to citizens.

Table 19: Farmers’ perceptions on NYANZA District Imihigo 2019/20 Evaluation (n = 150)

<i>NYANZA District Imihigo 2019/20: Farmers' response on the evaluation</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Mean score</i>
Ha 3581 of maize	67.1%	26.3%	0.0%	2.6%	3.9%	1.5
Ha 1040 of rice	27.6%	10.5%	6.6%	2.6%	52.6%	3.42
Ha 6600 of cassava	60.5%	22.4%	3.9%	1.3%	11.8%	1.82
Ha 28000 of beans	67.1%	14.5%	1.3%	2.6%	14.5%	1.83
350MT of fully washed coffee parchment produced at CWS	22.4%	13.2%	6.6%	5.3%	52.6%	3.53
Ha 450 soybeans	47.4%	15.8%	9.2%	2.6%	25.0%	2.42
Ha 710 of vegetables	68.4%	15.8%	3.9%	2.6%	9.2%	1.68
Timely Distribution of improved seeds 82250 kg of maize	78.9%	13.2%	0.0%	1.3%	6.6%	1.43
Timely Distribution of fertilizers to maize farmers 260000 kgs	71.1%	19.7%	3.9%	2.6%	2.6%	1.46

100 Ha irrigated using small scale technology	28.9%	13.2%	13.2%	30.3%	14.5%	2.88
38 ha of radical terraces	32.9%	25.0%	13.2%	11.8%	17.1%	2.55
150 ha of progressive terraces constructed	34.2%	26.3%	7.9%	11.8%	19.7%	2.57
500 ha of agroforestry trees planted	52.6%	32.9%	5.3%	2.6%	6.6%	1.78
205 ha of forestry trees planted	32.9%	34.2%	13.2%	2.6%	17.1%	2.37
16336 fruit trees planted Ha	64.5%	22.4%	2.6%	3.9%	6.6%	1.66
100 of households having planted at least 3 new fruit trees	67.1%	22.4%	3.9%	2.6%	3.9%	1.54
12 harvest drying facilities constructed	38.2%	28.9%	14.5%	11.8%	6.6%	2.2
1 post-harvest storage facility constructed	42.1%	26.3%	15.8%	10.5%	5.3%	2.11
100 households with Compost	60.5%	22.4%	15.8%	0.0%	1.3%	1.59
5099 inseminated cows	46.1%	31.6%	9.2%	0.0%	13.2%	2.03
1774 Born calves registered	46.1%	26.3%	6.6%	0.0%	21.1%	2.24
Vaccination 15000 cows for LDS15000 cows for BQ2030 cows	55.3%	27.6%	1.3%	0.0%	15.8%	1.93
Overall average	50.5%	22.3%	7.2%	5.1%	14.9%	2.12

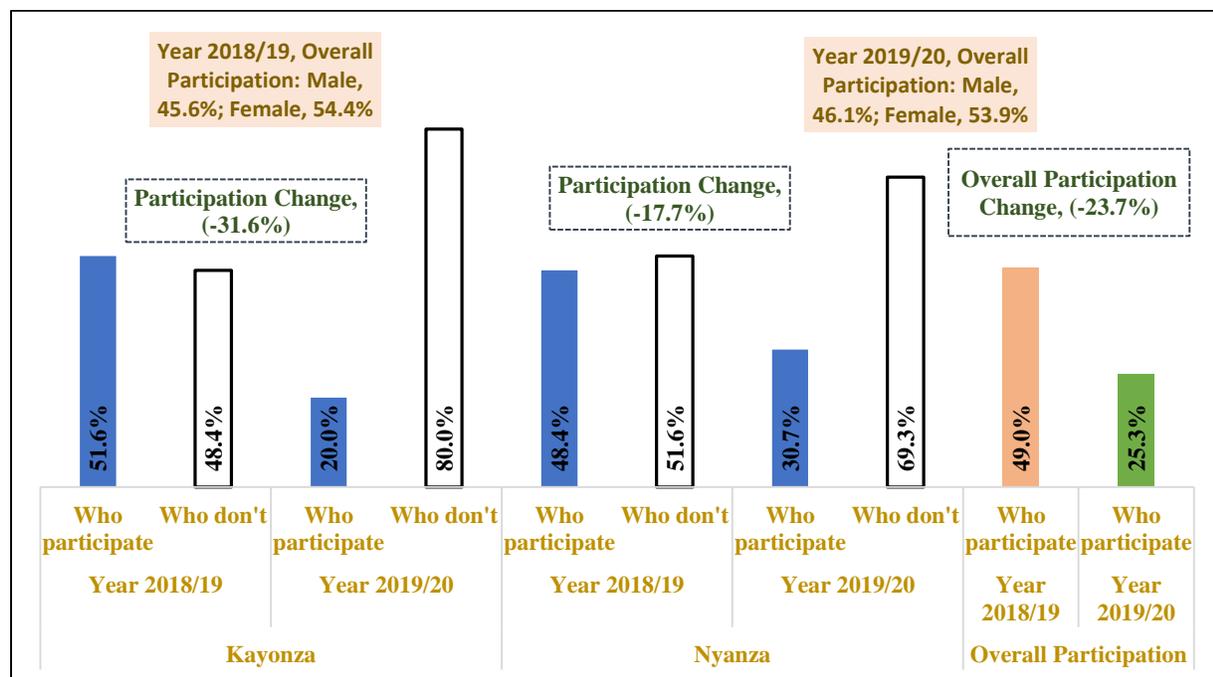
Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019/20.

The survey revealed that Nyanza district imihigo 2019/20 evaluation was rated to a score rate of 2.12 which is equivalent to 42.4%. In Nyanza district farmers agreed that 350MT of fully washed coffee parchment produced at CWS was achieved at 70.6%. In addition, in Nyanza district farmers perception on the target of Timely Distribution of improved seeds 82250 kg of maize was rated to a score of 1.43 which is equivalent 28.6%.

Figure 12: Farmers' Participation in the evaluation of Imihigo (n=596 for 2018/19, n = 300 for 2019/20)

This sub section presents the level of farmers' participation in evaluation of Imihigo for respondents in both districts Nyanza and Kayonza. From figure 12 the results of the survey show that overall, 49% of farmers participated in the evaluation of Imihigo for the year 2018/19 while 25.3% of farmers participated in the evaluation of Imihigo for the year 2019/20. The overall participation change was (-23.7%). For districts participation in Imihigo evaluation, the results show that in Kayonza district the participation change was (-31.6%) while in Nyanza district the participation change was (-17.7%).

Although Farmers and CSOs intervening in agriculture confirmed that farmers are informed about what to implement instead of being consulted during imihigo planning, the district staff opposed them by saying that the citizen and farmers in particular participate in Imihigo planning even though there is still a gap in participating in evaluation. "Basically, at the district level we make our internal assessment through internal evaluation, where by the district team together with other stakeholders organize a joint field visit to different sites to assess imihigo implementation progress as well as the achievement. Moreover, we should plan on how to include farmers in that activity while evaluating agricultural imihigo". Said the Kayonza District Staff during F.G discussion



Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2018/19 & 2019/20.

The low level of farmers participation in evaluation could result from the fact that the ranking of district is done independently in respect to achievements made against the planned targets. Before 2013/2014 fiscal year, the responsibility of monitoring and evaluating imihigo at the district level was mainly for the Community Development Committee and the District Executive Committee, together with the Governor of the respective Province. Currently, (the scoring at the District level

is done following Imihigo categories and clusters at 90% and the remaining 10% is the weight score allocated to the Citizen's Report Card (CRC) produced by the Rwanda Governance Board (RGB) to measure the levels of satisfaction of citizens in governance and service delivery. To improve citizen participation in imihigo evaluation at the district level there is a need to sensitize them on how imihigo is evaluated and how to provide the real data from the ground.

Table 20: Channels through Which Farmers Participate in the Evaluation (n = 300)

Table 20 presents channels through which farmers participated in Imihigo evaluation for the year 2019/20. In this regard, overall, 58.5% of farmers confirmed community forum as communication channels and it is mostly reported by farmers. However, 7.4% of farmers confirmed toll free line as communication channel for participation in imihigo evaluation while 5.9% of farmers confirmed that media is communication channel in which they participate in Imihigo evaluation.

Regarding mechanism in place and communication channel for participation in Imihigo evaluation, 87% of farmers confirmed that village council is the mechanism place in which community forum allow participation in Imihigo evaluation. Regardless of mechanism in place, community forums are reported by the highest proportion of farmers as communication channel for participation in imihigo evaluation. Therefore TI Rwanda, RAB and MINAGRI was confirmed as mechanism in place with 31%, 47.7% and 49.7% respectively through community forums.

Mechanisms in place	Communication channels					
	Community forums	Community works	Day of accountability	Media	Others	Toll free line
Farmers' Cooperative	60.7%	1.7%	4.0%	0.3%	31.7%	1.7%
Village Council	87.0%	7.0%	2.0%	0.3%	1.3%	2.3%
Cell Council	83.7%	8.7%	4.0%	0.0%	2.0%	1.7%
Sector Council	72.7%	10.7%	6.7%	0.0%	8.3%	1.7%
District Council	60.0%	7.3%	14.0%	0.7%	13.3%	4.7%
PSF	51.7%	2.3%	9.0%	9.7%	22.3%	5.0%
RCA	41.0%	1.0%	7.0%	11.0%	33.0%	7.0%
TI Rwanda	31.0%	0.7%	5.0%	8.0%	25.7%	29.7%
RAB	47.7%	2.3%	8.7%	12.7%	17.7%	11.0%
Minagri	49.7%	0.7%	8.0%	16.3%	16.0%	9.3%
Overall average	58.5%	4.2%	6.8%	5.9%	17.1%	7.4%

Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019.

4.4.2 Overall Farmers' Satisfaction On Their Participation In The Evaluation

Overall, 62.2% of farmers rated their satisfaction about their participation in the evaluation of agriculture and livestock projects planned and implemented in performance contracts of fiscal year 2019-2020. This rate is greater than that for fiscal 2018-2019 which was rated at 49.02%. 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)¹⁷ rated citizens participation in the evaluation of different programs at low level at rate of 33%. About the participation in evaluation of single project, farmers only rate their satisfaction above 60.0% for six over 12 projects.

Table 21 shows that the activity with high satisfaction of farmers in their participation in the evaluation of agriculture and livestock activities is “the increase of irrigation machines and small scales technology which was overall rated to 3.95 equivalent to 79%. However, the activity with the overall lowest satisfaction was “timely distribution of agriculture inputs which was rated at 1.86 equivalent to 37.2%

Table 21: Distribution of Farmers' satisfaction on their Participation in the evaluation (n = 300)

<i>Farmers' satisfaction on their Participation in the evaluation</i>	<i>Very satisfied</i>	<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Some how satisfied</i>	<i>Not satisfied</i>	<i>Not satisfied at all</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Mean score</i>
The increase of the production of selected crops	19.7 %	67.0%	10.3 %	2.3%	0.7%	0.0%	1.97
The increase of the quantity of agriculture inputs	20.0 %	68.7%	9.7%	1.3%	0.3%	0.0%	1.93
To Protect the soil from erosion	15.3 %	54.0%	16.3 %	10.0 %	3.0%	1.3%	2.35
To timely distribute agricultural inputs	32.7 %	54.7%	8.3%	3.0%	0.7%	0.7%	1.86
To construct post-harvest storages facilities	15.7 %	31.7%	11.3 %	32.0 %	8.7%	0.7%	2.88
To construct drying facilities	16.7 %	37.3%	15.3 %	22.7 %	7.3%	0.7%	2.69

¹⁷ Institute of Research and Dialogue for Peace (IRDP) (2010). Citizen Participation and Democracy in Rwanda

To increase land consolidated for banana plantation	14.0 %	21.3%	19.3 %	21.3 %	9.7%	14.3 %	3.34
To ensure that 100% of households have compost	17.3 %	54.0%	23.3 %	3.0%	0.7%	1.7%	2.21
To construct radical Terraces	11.7 %	32.0%	19.7 %	19.7 %	4.3%	12.7 %	3.11
To construct progressive Terraces	13.3 %	32.7%	20.0 %	17.7 %	6.0%	10.3 %	3.01
To plant agroforestry trees	17.0 %	53.0%	24.0 %	3.7%	1.7%	0.7%	2.22
To plant fruit trees	17.0 %	58.0%	22.0 %	2.0%	0.3%	0.7%	2.13
To increase the number of irrigated hectares at marshlands and hillside	11.0 %	22.7%	20.0 %	26.3 %	8.7%	11.3 %	3.33
To increase irrigation machines and small-scale technology	11.0 %	11.7%	9.3%	24.7 %	25.7%	17.7 %	3.95
To heavily control plant	13.0 %	63.3%	18.0 %	5.3%	0.3%	0.0%	2.17
To increase the number of inseminated cows through improved insemination	13.0 %	53.0%	26.7 %	3.7%	0.3%	3.3%	2.35
To increase basic infrastructures to improve livestock activities	13.7 %	53.0%	24.7 %	5.3%	1.7%	1.7%	2.33
To increase the disease control for livestock	14.3 %	66.0%	16.7 %	1.3%	1.0%	0.7%	2.11
Overall average	15.9 %	46.3 %	17.5 %	11.4 %	4.5%	4.4%	2.55
Overall Satisfaction							62.2%

Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019.

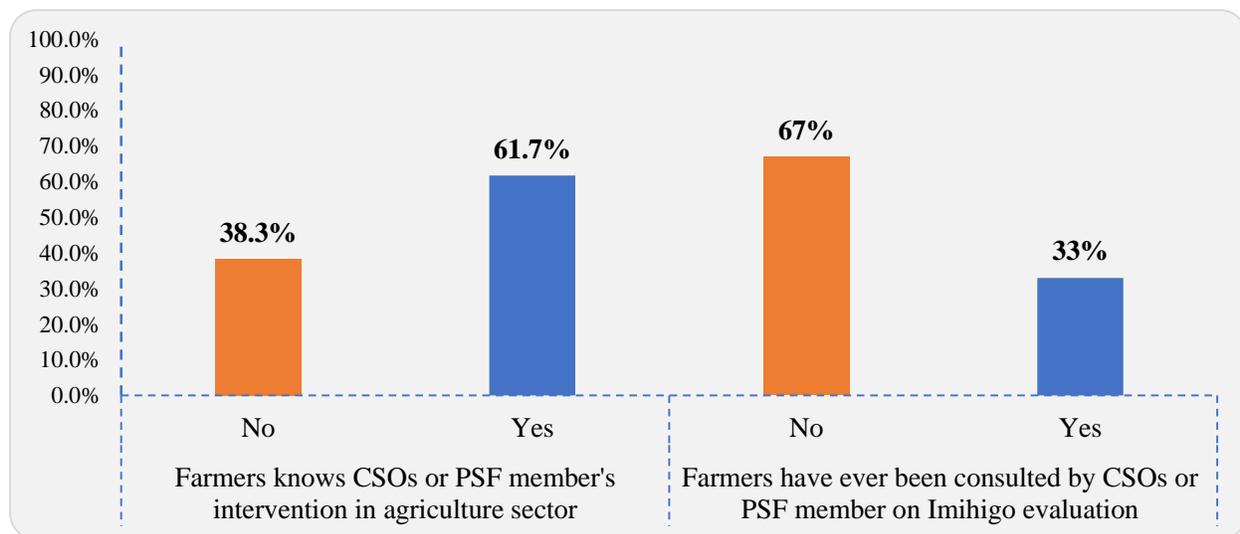
4.5 The role of CSOs and PSF in Imihigo Process

To better understand the effectiveness of CSOs in enhancing citizen participation in governance and development through imihigo, farmers were asked whether they know CSOs intervening in agriculture and whether they are consulted by CSOs in Imihigo cycle and the respondent's responses are presented in the figure 13 below

Figure 13: Farmers in consultation with CSOs and PSF members (n = 300)

The Figure 11 presents the percentage of farmers by consultation with CSOs and PSF members. In this regard 61.7% confirmed that they know CSOs and PSF who intervene in agriculture sector while 33% of farmers confirmed that they have ever been consulted by CSO's or PSF member on Imihigo planning.

CSOs work together with the district in imihigo planning through JADF. The CSOs share their action plans with JADF and through the planning meeting organized by JADF, each and every CSOs share their area of intervention as well as planned activities which will be integrated into imihigo or District Action plan. In Nyanza District 54 CSOs have been identified as active partners in planning and implementation of Imihigo in Nyanza District. Among all non-government partners only 9 intervene in Agriculture sector. In Kayonza, 50 non-government partners participate in imihigo planning and among which 8 CSOs focus on Agriculture and livestock in Kayonza district

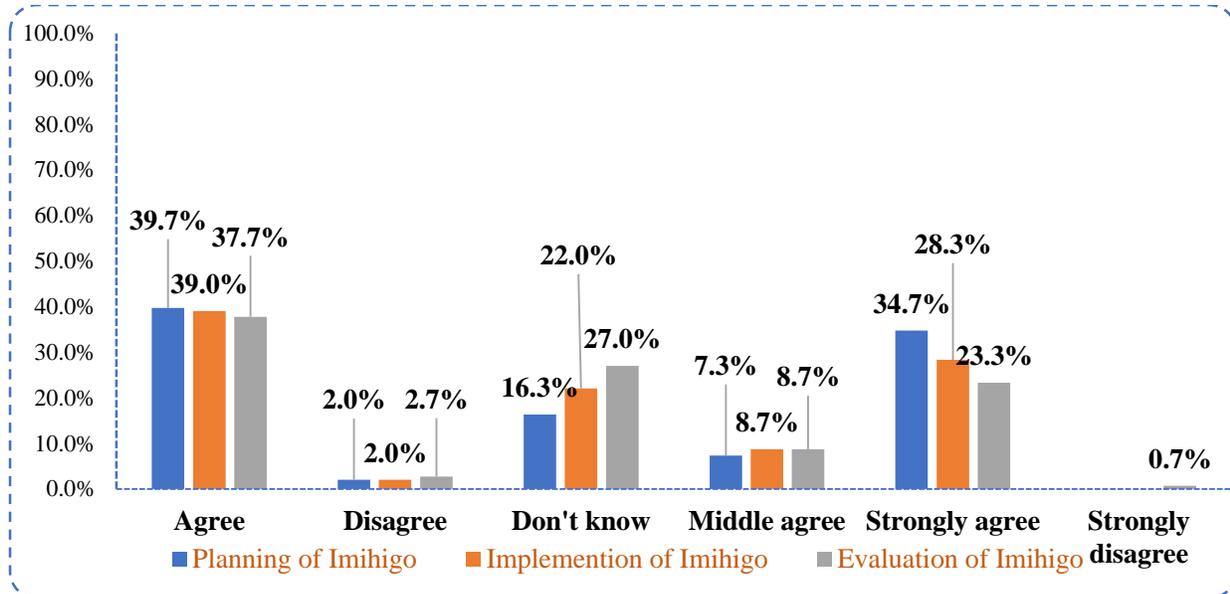


Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019/20.

Figure 14: Farmers' perception on the role CSOs in Imihigo process (n= 300)

Figure 14 presents the farmer's perception on the role of CSOs in Imihigo process in Kayonza and Nyanza districts. In this regard 39.7% of farmers agree on the role of CSOs imihigo process in the stage of planning imihigo while 34.7% of farmers strongly agree on planning imihigo. Regarding

the implementation of imihigo, 39% of farmers agree on the role of the government and CSOs in the implementation of imihigo while 28.3% of farmers strongly agree the implementation of Imihigo. For the stage of Imihigo evaluation, 37.7% agree on the role of the government and CSOs in the evaluation of Imihigo, while 23.3% of farmers strongly agree on the evaluation of Imihigo.



Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019/20.

The findings revealed that majority of respondents agreed that the role of CSOs in the planning stage of imihigo is at 74.4% and in implementation stage at 67.3% whereas in the evaluation stage is 61%. The role of CSOs in promoting good governance has also been pointed out by the study of Never Again by showing the range of state established and CSOs led mechanisms or channels through which CSOs are meant to interact with citizens and decision-makers. Some of those mechanisms are inteko z'abatwari, Umuganda, the Joint Action Development Forum (JADF), parliament, National Umushyikirano Council, sector working group forums, and ad hoc consultations; researches, school and community spaces and clubs, training and workshops/seminars, media outlets, umbrella organizations etc.

4.6 How Farmers Report Their Complaints

This sub-section presents the percentage of farmers by mechanism for which farmers reported. The institutions through which farmers mostly reported their complaint was cooperative whereby 37.3% of farmers confirmed having reported complaints in cooperatives. However local government entities are also confirmed by non-negligible proportion as venue of complaints. Therefore 29%, 26.7% and 22% of farmers confirmed sector, cell and village respectively as institution in which they report their complaints. All data are presented in the table 22 below

Table 22: Institution to Which Farmers Reported their Complaints (n = 300)

Mechanisms for which farmers reported complaints	No response	Don't know	No	Yes
Village	27.0%	6.7%	44.3%	22.0%
Cell	25.7%	7.7%	40.0%	26.7%
Sector	21.0%	7.3%	42.7%	29.0%
District	27.3%	7.7%	54.0%	11.0%
RAB	30.3%	8.7%	54.3%	6.7%
PSF	31.3%	10.7%	54.3%	3.7%
RCA	33.0%	9.3%	52.0%	5.7%
Cooperative	20.3%	8.0%	34.3%	37.3%
Union of Cooperatives	30.3%	8.3%	50.7%	10.7%

Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019/20.

4.6.1 Farmers' satisfaction on the feedback from mechanisms for which farmers reported complaints

Table 23 below shows the farmer's satisfaction on the feedback from mechanisms for which farmers reported complaints.

Table 23: Farmers' satisfaction on the feedback from mechanisms for which farmers reported complaints (n = 300)

Farmers' satisfaction on the feedback from the above mechanisms	No response	Not satisfied	Not satisfied at all	Satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied
Village	63.7%	1.0%	0.7%	15.7%	7.7%	11.3%
Cell	64.7%	0.7%	0.7%	16.0%	4.0%	14.0%
Sector	63.0%	1.0%	0.7%	15.0%	7.0%	13.3%
District	77.3%	0.0%	0.7%	11.7%	5.0%	5.3%
RAB	84.0%	0.3%	0.0%	8.7%	5.0%	2.0%

PSF		85.7%	0.3%	0.0%	6.0%	6.7%	1.3%
RCA		84.3%	0.0%	0.0%	7.0%	6.0%	2.7%
Cooperative		57.7%	0.7%	0.3%	17.3%	10.0%	14.0%
Union of Cooperatives		80.3%	0.7%	0.0%	9.0%	5.7%	4.3%

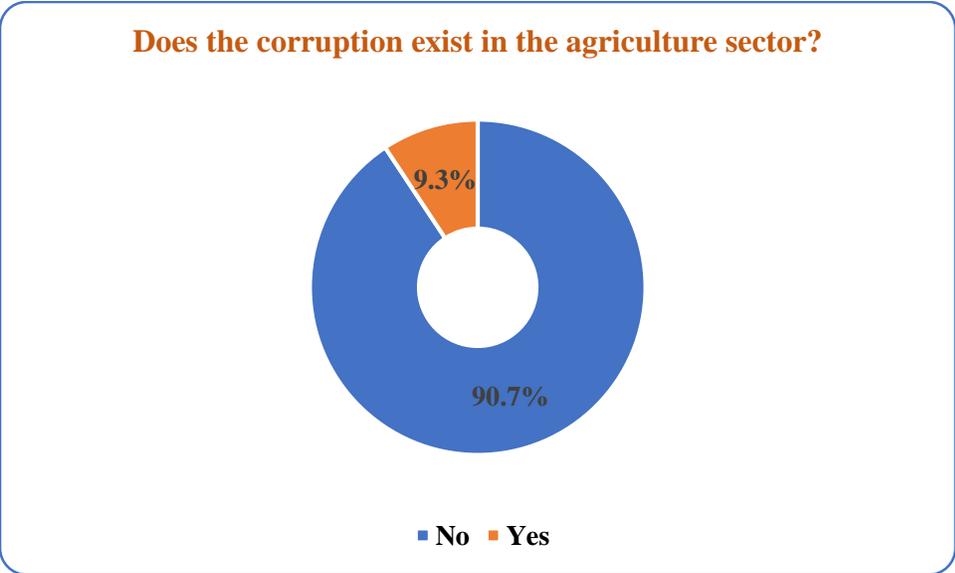
Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019/20.

In this regard respondents in this survey confirmed that majority of them did not get response for their complaints. The highest proportion of farmers who did not get feedback are those who oriented their complaints to PSF (85.7%) followed by those who oriented their complaints to RCA (84.3%). Regarding those who were satisfied with feedback on their complaints 17.3% of farmers were satisfied and 14% of farmers were very satisfied on how cooperative provided feedback on their complaints. This is followed by those who were satisfied with feedback from their complaints which were oriented to the cell level (16% were satisfied and 14% were very satisfied).

4.6.2 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. Responses from the respondents are as follows in the figure 15 below

Figure 15: Farmers reported on the existence of corruption in Agriculture and livestock services/programs (n = 300)



Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019/20

The survey revealed that the majority of the respondents at 90.3% haven't perceived corruption in agriculture and livestock services or programs whereas 9.3% opposed them by confirming their perception on corruption in Agriculture and livestock services/ programs. Furthermore, the study wanted to know the level of corruption perception per Agricultural services and the data are detailed in the table 24 below

Table 24: Corruption Perception Per Services

<i>Corruption breakthrough</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Very low</i>	<i>Middle</i>	<i>No corruption</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Distribution of improved seeds	0.3%	2.0%	3.0%	2.3%	89.7%	2.7%
Distribution of fertilizers	0.3%	0.7%	3.3%	1.7%	92.3%	1.7%
Seeds and fertilizers price regulation	0.3%	0.7%	5.0%	1.7%	88.7%	3.7%
Agronomists' services	0.3%	1.3%	6.0%	1.3%	88.3%	2.7%
Veterinaries services	0.0%	2.0%	8.0%	2.3%	85.7%	2.0%
Selection of irrigation machines beneficiaries	0.7%	1.0%	3.3%	0.0%	82.3%	12.7%
Land consolidation program	0.3%	1.3%	4.7%	0.0%	90.0%	3.7%
Crop Intensification program	0.7%	1.7%	4.0%	1.3%	89.3%	3.0%
Selection and approval of farming projects beneficiaries	0.7%	2.3%	3.7%	0.7%	89.3%	3.3%
Procurement process of post-harvest and milk collection points	0.3%	2.7%	4.3%	1.0%	78.0%	13.7%
Credits facilities for farming projects	1.0%	2.0%	4.0%	2.7%	80.3%	10.0%
Hidden costs	0.3%	1.3%	7.3%	1.7%	85.0%	4.3%
Conflict of interest	0.3%	2.3%	6.7%	1.3%	81.7%	7.7%
Overall average	0.42%	1.64%	4.87%	1.38%	86.20%	5.48%

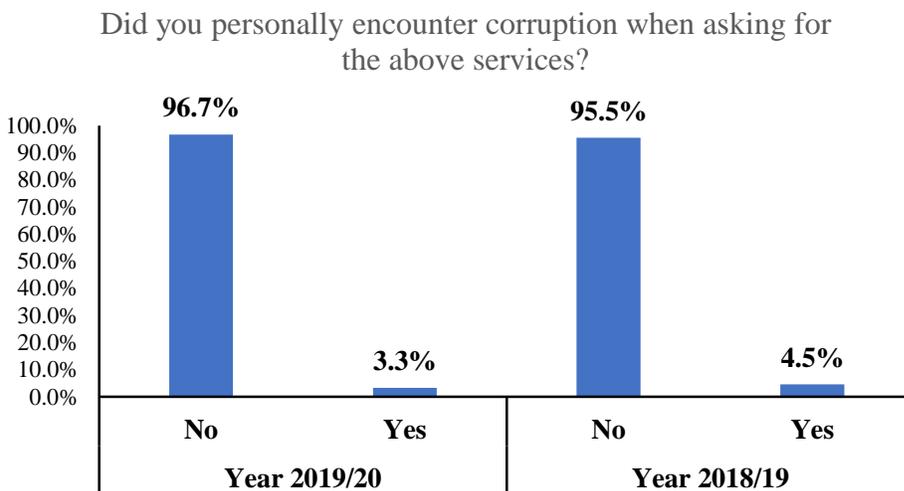
Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019/20.

Overall, 9.7% of farmers have perceived corruption practices in process of Credits facilities for farming projects followed by Procurement process of post-harvest and milk collection points construction (9.3%), while the corruption perception for the rest of farming services and programs is between 4-6 percent. Although the same indicators such as Processing Credits for farming projects remain with high corruption perception percentage in the last two years (2018/19 & 2019/20) as shown by the Farmers assessment study for 2018/19 and 2019/2020 by Transparency International Rwanda, there is a slight decrease in % for 2019/2020 for the above-mentioned indicators of 3% and 0.3 % respectively and for others services the corruption remains the same as for 2018/19 study at between 4-6%. This decrease is also confirmed by TI-Rw study on Agriculture Governance: Stakeholders Vow Partnership (2019) that pointed out that veterinarian and agronomic services appeared to be corruption free” and that the “cases of corruption reported accounted for less than 1%”.

4.6.3 Level of Corruption Encountered When Asking Services

This sub section presents the level of corruption encountered when asking services responses are shown in the figure 16 below.

Figure 16: Personal Experience of Corruption Encountered when looking for farming services (n = 596 for 2018/19, n = 300 for 2019/20)



Source: Primary data, Farmers’ Assessment, 2018/19-2019/20.

Based on the findings, the personal experience in corruption when asking service has raised from 3.3% in 2018/19 to 4.5% in 2019/20. Therefore 3.3% of farmers confirmed ever personally encounter corruption when asking service for the year 2018/19 while 4.5% of farmers confirmed ever personally encounter corruption when asking agriculture service for the year 2019/20.

Furthermore, the study scrutinized the corruption encountered by institution and the respondents rate the institutions as follows in the table 25 below

Table 25: Institutions with corruption as reported by farmers (n = 300)

Institutions	Year 2017/19		Year 2019/20		
	No	Yes	No response	No	Yes
Village	70.4%	29.6%	96.7%	3.3%	0.0%
Cell	59.3%	40.7%	96.7%	2.7%	0.7%
Sector	85.2%	14.8%	96.7%	2.0%	1.3%
District	92.6%	7.4%	96.7%	3.3%	0.0%
RAB	96.3%	3.7%	96.7%	3.3%	0.0%
Dealers of inputs	100.0%	0.0%	96.7%	2.3%	1.0%
Manager of SACCO or Bank	96.3%	3.7%	96.7%	2.7%	0.7%
Site engineers for modern markets and milk collection centers	0.0%	11.0%	96.7%	3.0%	0.3%

Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019/20.

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 for the fiscal year 2018-2019. However, for the fiscal years 2019-2020 the corruption encountered in local government institutions has decreased substantially, for example at cell level the corruption has decreased from 40.7% to 0.7% while at sector level the corruption has decreased from 14.8% to 1.3% for the two consecutive fiscal years. This decrease is in line with Rwanda Bribery Index¹⁹ that discloses that corruption is considered to be low in Rwanda and that efforts of the government of Rwanda to fight against corruption are considered effective. Rwanda Bribery Index 19 (https://tirwanda.org/IMG/pdf/rbi_2019_final.pdf)

4.6.4 Corruption incidences and Its Payment

Farmers were whether they were demanded or decided to give bribe, whether bribe was paid or report and findings are presented in the table 26 below

Table 26: Distribution of how corruption incidences and Its Payment were happened

Question	No response	Demanded	No	Yes
Were you demanded to give or did you personally decide to offer?	96.7%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Was corruption eventually paid?	96.7%	0.0%	1.0%	2.3%
If you encountered corruption did you report it?	96.7%	0.0%	2.7%	0.7%

Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019/20.

The findings show that majority of respondents did not reveal their views to question regarding bribe. 96.7% did not want to say anything about whether they were demanded or decided to give bribe, whether bribe was paid or report.

The findings revealed that 3.3% of respondents were demanded to give bribe whereas no one confirmed to decide to give bribe. Asked whether they paid bribe, 2.3% of respondents testified the payment of bribe while 1% of respondents did not pay the bribe. Only 0.7% of respondents reported. The small number of respondents who reported bribe is an indicator that CSOs and government should sensitize citizen on the right of getting good services and report any incidence of corruption and injustice in order to strengthen the culture of accountability

4.6.5 Type of corruption

The Table 27 shows the type of bribes paid when the respondents were seeking services on agriculture and livestock in Kayonza and Nyanza districts.

Table 27: Table 27: Type of corruption (n = 300)

Type of bribe	No response	No	Yes
Bribe in cash	96.7%	0.0%	3.3%
Bribe in kind	98.0%	2.0%	0.0%
Favoritism	98.0%	2.0%	0.0%

Gender based sexual corruption	98.0%	2.0%	0.0%
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Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019/20.

The results of the survey show that 3.3% confirmed having paid bribe in cash. However, no one among respondents who have experienced bribe in kind, favoritism and gender based sexual corruption. It came out clearly that most of farmers rated cash as the form of bribe among others during the fiscal year of 2019-2020 and that significant number of respondents of those who personally experienced corruption did not report it. This calls for joint effort for all concerned people (Government, Services providers, CSOs and Citizens) to not tolerate whoever ask or give bribe/ Corruption while seeking or giving services in Agriculture services.

4.6.6 Reporting of Corruption

Farmers are likely to decide not report grievances encountered when seeking for agriculture and livestock services. The survey unveils that among farmers who experienced corruption grievances, 0.7% turned to local government for help while 0.7 farmer reported it to RIB and 0.3% to the ombudsman. (Table 28). 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, 0.7% 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 1.3% of farmers didn't report simply because the reporting would change nothing (Table 28)

Table 28: Institutions from which farmers reported corruption cases (n = 300)

<i>Institution</i>	<i>No response</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>
Local government	98.3%	1.0%	0.7%
RIB	98.3%	1.0%	0.7%
RNP	98.3%	1.7%	0.0%
Ombudsman	98.3%	1.3%	0.3%
TI Rwanda	98.3%	1.7%	0.0%

Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019/20.

Table 29: Distribution of Main Reasons why Farmers Don't Report Corruption Grievances (n = 596 for 2018/19, n = 300 for 2019/20)

Reasons of no reporting	Year 2018/19			Year 2019/20		
	No response	No	Yes	No response	No	Yes
Fear of reprisal from authorities	11.1%	48.2%	40.7%	99.3%	0.0%	0.7%
Fear of losing one's status of beneficiary	11.1%	85.2%	3.7%	99.7%	0.3%	0.0%
Reporting would change nothing	11.1%	51.9%	37.0%	98.3%	0.3%	1.3%
Ignorance of relevant authority to report to	11.1%	85.2%	4.0%	99.7%	0.3%	0.0%
Ignorance of one's rights and procedures	11.1%	81.5%	7.4%	99.7%	0.0%	0.3%
It is the common practice	11.1%	74.1%	14.8%	99.3%	0.3%	0.3%

Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2018/19-2019/20.

4.6.7 Proposed Suggestions for Improvement Reported by Farmers

Table 30 presents suggestions reported by farmers for improvement of agriculture and livestock service for the fiscal year 2018/19 and 2019/20. There program that were not suggested for the fiscal year 2018/19 like to improve smart nkunganire program but was suggested for improvement at 84.3% for the fiscal years 2019-2020. It similar to the program "to improve twigire Muhinzi program" which was not suggested for improvement for the fiscal years 2018/19 but was suggested at 86.7% for improvement for the fiscal year 2019/2020.

Table 30: Proposed suggestions as reported by farmers (n = 596 for 2018/19, n = 300 for 2019/20)

Suggestions of farmers	Year 2018/19			Year 2019/20	
	Yes	No	No Response (NR)	Yes	No
To enhance farmers 'participation in imihigo planning	99.3%	0.5%	0.2%	99%	1%
To enhance farmers 'participation in imihigo implementation	98.7%	1.0%	0.3%	99.3%	0.7%
To enhance farmers 'participation in imihigo evaluation	98.5%	1.0%	0.5%	99%	1%
To consult farmers during the price regulation process for inputs and for produce	98.7%	0.7%	0.7%	97.7%	2.3%
To distribute agricultural inputs on time	93.0%	6.9%	0.2%	96.3%	3.7%
To test seeds, semen and fertilizers before the approval for large use in order be sure for the level of their productivity and quality	95.1%	4.5%	0.3%	88%	12%
To provide regular livestock's vaccines and drugs	92.3%	7.2%	0.5%	91%	9%
To improve smart nkunganire program	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	84.3%	15.7%
To improve Twigire Muhinzi program	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	86.7%	13.3%
The government institutions in charge of agriculture and animal resources should closely assist farmers to get market of their produce at reasonable price	98.5%	1.3%	0.2%	98.3%	1.7%
The financial sector should reduce the cost of loans for farming projects	98.2%	0.5%	1.3%	98.7%	1.3%

Source: Primary data, Farmers' Assessment, 2019/20.

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 2019-2020. 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 300 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 'active participation in the planning of performance contracts related to farming projects in the course of fiscal year 2018-2019 stands at 59.6% while in the fiscal year 2019-2020 farmer's participation in the planning of performance contract related to farming projects stand at 58%.

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 for the fiscal year 2018/19 while this rate increased to 63.07% for the fiscal year 2019/2020.

Concerning satisfaction of participants in the evaluation of planning related projects, 49% of respondents were satisfied with their participation in the imihigo evaluation of agriculture and livestock project for the fiscal year 2019/2020, while the rate decreased to 25.3% for the fiscal year 2019/2020.

Concerning the channels, of communication, farmers acknowledged that they mostly express their views through village council (87%) is the mechanism place in which community forum allow participation in Imihigo evaluation.

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 2019-2020.

The level of perceived corruption was rated at 9.7% of farmers who have perceived corruption practices in process of Credits facilities for farming projects followed by Procurement process of post-harvest and milk collection points construction (9.3%), while the corruption perception for the rest of farming services and programs is between 4-6 percent.

The level of experienced corruption by farmers when seeking farming services during the fiscal year 2018-2019 proves to be at 4.5%. This level of corruption has decreased at 3.3% for the fiscal year 2019-2020.

Based on the results of this survey, strategic recommendations are addressed in order to improve citizen participation in imihigo planning related to agriculture and livestock activities in Kayonza and Nyanza districts:

- Districts authorities in collaboration with farmers' cooperative leaders should strengthen the involvement of farmers in the cycle of performance contracts "Imihigo" planning namely in preparation, planning, implementation and evaluation.
- Districts authorities in collaboration with stakeholders engaged in fighting corruption should conduct awareness campaign among farmers and stimulate them to report any form of corruption available in agriculture and livestock services.
- There is need for the district to take into consideration of farmers priorities during preparation and planning of agriculture and livestock service such as construction of progressive terrace in order to increase productivity and production.
- RAB and MINAGRI should strengthen accessibility of inputs and equipment as well as other services requested by farmers on time in order to avoid delay vis a vis the period of agriculture season.
- The District and cooperative farmers should create a framework of involving farmers in price regulation for produce and inputs.
- The ministry of commerce should organize discussion with farmers at district level on their favorable prices though they sometimes request much that manufacturers cannot give them. For instance, in setting the price of rice, they consider all parameters including the competition with other rice from Tanzania, Pakistan and elsewhere

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