



Empowering farmers through social accountability tools to improve performance contracts the agricultural sector

Project Newsletter - Issue No 2

About the project

Project title: “Empowering farmers at district level through social accountability tools to improve performance contracts “Imihigo” in Rwandan agriculture”.

Objective: To increase farmers’ participation in the planning, monitoring and evaluation of the district performance contracts at the district levels in Kayonza and Nyanza and ultimately contribute to improving the effectiveness of public agriculture projects in the targeted districts.

Project duration: 5 years since 2017

Project Partners: Transparency International Rwanda (TI-Rw), in partnership with Imbaraga association and SDA Iriba.

Funded by: World Bank, through Global Partnership on Social Accountability .

Main activities from January - June 2018

More information about these activities are provided in this newsletter

1. First feedback from local governments on farmers priorities provided to farmers .
2. Social Accountability Media Initiative (SAMI) workshop.
3. Peer learning visit of TI Rwanda in Ghana.
4. GPSA project Baseline Study .



“This project has helped to put farmers in groups and to collect their priorities which were submitted to the District for their inclusion in Imihigo. The process raised awareness among farmers on their role in participation in government programs. The top priority was to address issues related to the irrigation and we have already provided 11 water pumps to facilitate irrigation.”

Kanuma Aphrodis, Agronomist of Kabale sector , Kayonza District.

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First feedback from local governments on farmers priorities provided to farmers (Jan and still ongoing)

What did we achieve with this activity so far?

- Farmers collected needs **were integrated** in the 7-years District Development Strategy and Annual Action Plan as well as in Imihigo in both Districts.
- Based on farmers needs submitted to the District of Nyanza stating that farmers are not involved in seeds selection and multiplication, the District office of Rwanda Agriculture Board has started to **involve farmers in testing seeds** in Nyanza.
- Among the top priorities in Kayonza, was the lack of motor pumps for facilitating irrigation, especially for the most dry sectors: Kabale, Mwili, Ndego. After presenting this need to Kayonza District authorities, they decided to buy motor pumps for the whole district and to sell them to the farmers at low cost. So far **83 pumps** were distributed. For Ndego and Kabale, farmers **paid only 25%**, whereas farmers in other sectors paid 50% of the total price.



“We are so happy with what we are harvesting now, thanks to our participation in the local government planning. We have been provided with water pumps after we, the farmers, submitted the related needs to our local authorities. The government has contributed 75% and we only contributed 25%.

Today we can harvest 200 kg of maize, before it was 50 kg. For red peppers it is the same, we were harvesting around 50 kg per ha, but now it is 200 kg. We even started to cultivate tomatoes, which was hard before”

Karemera Jean Pierre who received a water pump in Kabale sector.

Key findings of the GPSA Project baseline study

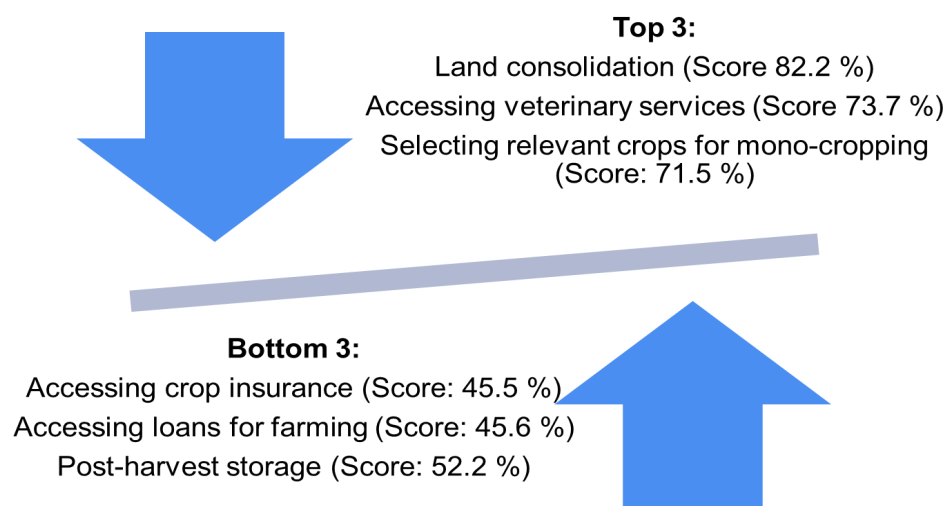
Survey details

- TI-Rw conducted a farm household survey in Feb 2018
- 666 farmers participate in the baseline study
- The survey took place in all sectors of Nyanza and Kayonza
- 44 % of the respondents were female farmers

With regard to priorities formulated by farmers (quantity) and submitted to the farmers forum and eventually considered in the district Imihigo, the report showed that:

- NO priorities formulated by farmers (quantity) and submitted to the farmers forum/cooperatives.
- NO priorities submitted by cooperatives/forums to the district authorities.
- NO farmers' priorities submitted to district/sector authorities and included in District/sector imihigo.

Satisfaction on specific topics that are included in Imihigo



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Local authorities should avail Imihigo document in Kinyarwanda version and post their summaries at cell and sector offices as well as on the district website.

Farmers ownership of agricultural imihigos has to be strengthened: efforts should be doubled to ensure that farmers' awareness of accountability and complain mechanisms is optimally raised by relevant stakeholders

Peer learning visit of the TI Rwanda the project team in Ghana



As part of the capacity building, a delegation composed of six persons visited “Send Ghana” for a 5-days study visit from 25th February to 1st March. The team was composed of 3 staff members from TI-Rw and 3 representatives from the two implementing CSO partners Imbaraga Association and SDA Iriba.

The 5-days study visit was organized in Ghana in order to learn from Send Ghana’s experience, who are GPSA grantees since more than three years, implementing a project called ‘Making the Budget Work for Ghana’.

Apart from Send Ghana, the team visited the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana),

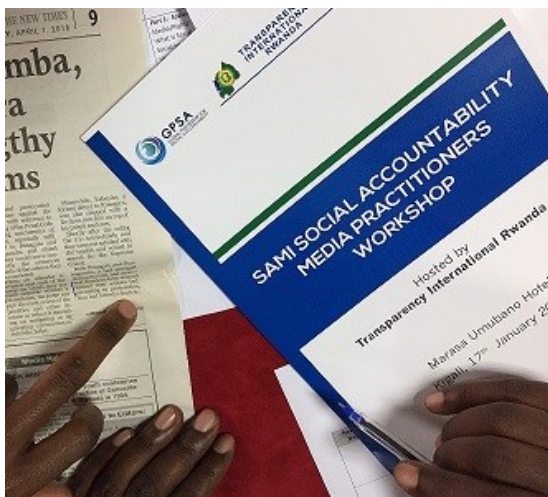
Ministry of Local Government, the Social Accountability unit and Ghana Integrity Initiative (Chapter of TI).

The members of the Rwandan delegation were honored to attend a two day “Social Accountability Multi-Stakeholder Forum”. The following topics were discussed: Institutionalizing Social Accountability in Local Governance, Open Governance Partnership, Closing feedback loop, ICT and Media: Enablers for enhancing social accountability and Improving fiscal transparency for local development.

The Rwanda project team returned home with a package of lessons learned in which some are being implemented such as media network, coalition of civil society organizations working on social accountability and citizen participation.

Key lessons learnt

- The existence of unit in charge of social accountability at the level of the Ministry of Local Government in Ghana.
- The existence of strong and inclusive participatory monitoring and evaluation system (monitoring committees, social accountability committees, data collection teams, quarterly meeting with the recipient to discuss progress...).
- The existence of a media network for social accountability;
- Coalition of all civil society organizations working on social accountability and citizen participation.



SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY WORKSHOP

In the framework of GPSA funded project, TI-Rwanda in partnership and sponsorship of Aga Khan University Graduate School of Media and Communications (SAMI) through Social Accountability Media Initiative organized Social Accountability workshop for media practitioners and TI-Rwanda staff from 15th to 19th January 2018.



According to Thomas Lanser, the Director of SAMI, "the purpose of the workshop was to offer working journalists and editors background and practical advice on covering Social Accountability issues and stories and as key partner in media and to enhance advocacy communications skills to promote social accountability in Rwanda .



On 19th January 2018, a roundtable discussion on media and social accountability was organized. The discussion engaged government officials, media practitioners and civil society representatives. . The roundtable aimed at enhancing mutual understanding on how better communicate and perhaps cooperate to advance social accountability messages.



The discussions turned around how government, Civil society and media should work together and make sure the "citizen" they work for is well informed and participate. The participants recommended that such exchange platform should be organized very often with the aim of joining efforts to promote social accountability in Rwanda .

