



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL RWANDA



GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

# Empowering Farmers at the District Level through Social Accountability Tools to Improve Performance Contracts “Imihigo” in Rwandan Agricultural Sector

## Project Newsletter—Issue N° 4 (January to June 2019)

**Objective of the Project:** To increase farmers’ participation in the planning, monitoring and evaluation of the district performance contract 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.

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## What farmers say about the project



### Pierre Byukusenge, farmer/Kayonza

“We have seen dramatic changes since this project started. In the past, it was really difficult for farmers to know the aspirations of the “Imihigo” of the district. In the whole village assembly, no single citizen was able to clearly explain our districts performance contracts “Imihigo”. But today, preparation of Imihigo starts from bottom at village level and farmers are now able to propose their priority needs which the districts puts into consideration.”



### Donatha Zaninka, farmer/Kayonza

“Through this project, we spoke out that there was a delay in availing selected seeds and fertilizers to farmers. We are now thankful that the challenge has been addressed. In this season, we believe we will increase our production because we got them on time and planted at the right time.”



### Elie Nyiridandi, farmer/Nyanza

“We had so many problems that we could not report to the district before working with Transparency International Rwanda’s project. However, the situation has changed because this project enabled us to take part in the preparation of the performance contracts, “Imihigo.”

## Kayonza Peer Learning Visit: Farmers Proved That Their Participation in Imihigo Is Bearing Fruits



*The visit brought together farmers, district officials and representatives from MINAGRI, World Bank, TI-RW and others*

**“Our participation in Imihigo made our voices heard, for example we have now managed to multiply seven types of animal feeding grasses which led to the increase of our production and growth of the market,”** said members of cooperatives during the peer-learning visit held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at Rwinkwavu Marshland in Kayonza District.

The visit brought together representatives from the World Bank, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), Rwanda Governance Board (RGB), TI-Rw, Imbaraga Association, S.D.A Iriba,

PAX Press journalists, farmers and others.

The marshland of 1,300 ha, is used by farmers grouped in Indatwa Cooperative who mainly cultivate rice on about 700ha, and other crops.

Around 200 members of cooperatives present in the visit commended the project for enabling them to take part in Imihigo and that their opinions and suggestions are now noted and taken into consideration in the whole process: planning, implementation and evaluation phases.

They said their identified priority

needs are discussed from grassroots to the district level, through engaging consultation. Moreover, as the way to enable farmers own decisions, the district carry out feedback meetings to explain to farmers why some proposed interventions were retained to make part of district imihigo and why others were not retained.

They also expressed their gratitude to the district for helping them in eradication of different crop diseases, marshland development and organization of water usage by resolving the issues related to irrigation and availing fertilizers to farmers.

The event was funded by Social Accountability Media Initiative in line with GPSA project.

During the same event, the farmers renewed their commitment in working together with local leaders and look for sustainable solutions as well as continue working together in the improvement in ‘Imihigo’.

On the other hand, Kayonza farmers asked for advocacy on how to access raised loans from SACCO so that they can invest more in agriculture and livestock.

Moreover, due to a high cost of irrigation pumps, they asked for government subsidy that can make them be available at Rwf60,000 instead of actual Rwf120,000. They also added that they would like to learn on how to conserve stock feeding grasses to be used in sunny period.



*TI-RW Executive Director, Apollinaire Mupiganyi addressing farmers grouped in Indatwa Cooperative*

## Challenges that farmers face

- Lack facilities for transportation of milk to collection centers
- Delay of rice seeds
- No collection center for banana production
- Delay in paying rice farmers
- Low price for milk
- Water management issues in Rwinkavu Marshland: It is managed by Pro Water but some rice farmers said they do not get enough water



*Farmers testified that they have managed to multiply seven types of animal feeding grasses*

# Media Engagement for Citizen Participation—Workshop



*The participants included journalists and media practitioners who pledged to take the lead, through collaborating with other CSOs, in enhancing citizens participation*

In collaboration with the Aga Khan Graduate School of Media and Communications, PAX Press and Africa Check, TI-RW organized a Media Engagement for Citizen Participation Workshop and Round Table Forum held in Kigali on March 1, 2019.

The participants discussed fact-checking and fake news in media, today's impact of social media and how to harness media and CSOs collaboration to leverage citizen participation in the whole decision making process.

In his opening remarks, Apollinaire Mupiganyi, the TI-RW Executive Director, compared the workshop as peer learning and urged the participants to work together and make sure that all loopholes are addressed.

Citizen participation is generally defined as a process which provides private individuals an opportunity to influence public decisions.



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## Signing MoU with RAB



*The representatives from TI-RW and RAB during the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding*

Under this project, on April 10, 2019, Transparency International Rwanda signed a memorandum of Understanding with Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB). This MoU will ease the achievement of the objective of the project as RAB is part of the key government institutions in agriculture sector. RAB has the general mission of developing agriculture and animal resources through research, agricultural and animal resources extension in order to increase agricultural and animal productivity.

## Nyanza District Partners in Agriculture Brought on Board in a Forum Dialogue



TI-RW and S.D.A.-IRIBA organized a district agriculture dialogue meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup> 2019 with the purpose to discuss the big picture

of farmers' priority needs in Nyanza and collectively join efforts to respond to them.

The dialogue brought together Nyanza District Officials, key Nyanza District partners in agriculture, key investors in agriculture yield processing and farmers' representatives from all 10 Nyanza sectors.

## PICTORIAL



Transparency International Rwanda Chairperson, Ingabire Marie Immaculée and Director General of Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB), Karangwa Patrick signing the Memorandum of Understanding on April 10, 2019.

### Kayonza Peer Learning Visit



Farmers renewed their commitment in working together with local leaders to improve performance contracts



From R-L: Representative of the World Bank Project from the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) Mr. Luben; Monitoring and Evaluation specialist, Dr. Estienne from RGB; Director of Planning in MINAGRI, Dr. Octave Semwaga; GIZ Development Advisor, Mrs. Frederike Kluemper and Mr. Jean Baptiste Karegeya from PAX Press