



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

Project Newsletter - Issue No 1 (July - Dec 2017)

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 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.

What farmers say about the project



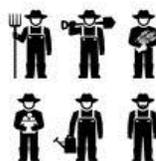
“It is good that our voices will be heard. It is a good opportunity for us to contribute in our District Development.” A farmer in

Background on the GPSA project to improve farmers’ participation in Imihigo

The Rwandan economy is driven by agriculture. Independent family farming and wage farming account for 72% of all employment in Rwanda. The increase in agriculture production accounted for about 45 percent of the reduction in poverty which has decreased by 14 percentage points over the last decade.

Since 2006, the performance contracts have been used by the district government authorities for setting local priorities, annual targets and defining activities to achieve them.

The engagement of citizens in the process of planning, monitoring and evaluation of the performance contracts in the agricultural sector is pertinent, but still not satisfactory. The findings of the RGB’s Governance Score Card 2016 revealed that the indicators on citizens satisfaction in their participation in preparation of District budget and plans in general, and more specifically the satisfaction in participation of performance contracts, are the worst performing with 7.4% and



Direct beneficiaries:

- 3285 in Kayonza and 2795 farmers in Nyanza
- Ministry of Agriculture and Animals Resources (MINAGRI)

Indirect beneficiaries:

256,000 individuals in Nyanza and 189,000 individuals in Kayonza whose livelihoods depend on agriculture. Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC) and Rwanda Governance Board (RGB), Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN) and the Rwanda Public Procurement Authority (RPPA)

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NYANZA DISTRICT

Estimated Population: 346.751

Population Density: 179 / km²

Surface Area: 1.954 km²

Number of Sectors: 12

Number of Cells: 50

Number of Villages: 421

People Employed in Agriculture: 88 %

Economic Situation: highly dependent on agriculture and livestock,

KAYONZA DISTRICT

Estimated Population: 323.388

Population Density: 482 / km²

Surface Area: 671 km²

Number of Sectors: 10

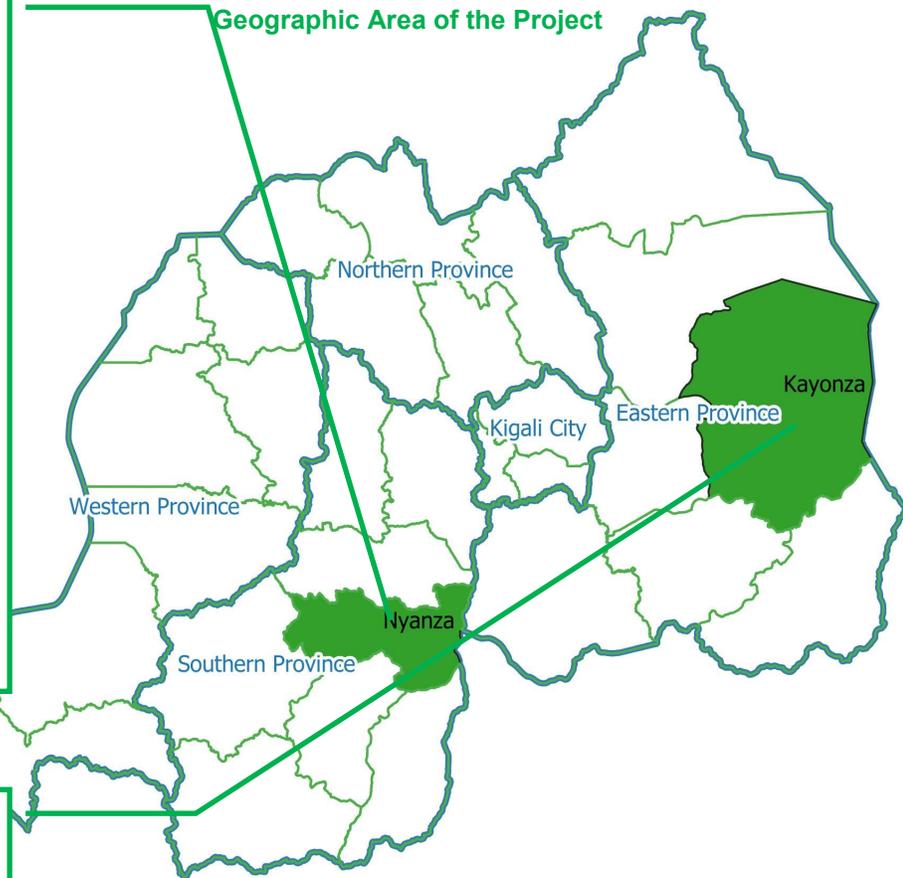
Number of Cells: 51

Number of Villages: 420

People Employed in Agriculture: 88 %

Economic Situation: Agriculture activities contributing to 91 % of the total income

Geographic Area of the Project



Key information related to Imihigo and agriculture

Agriculture is recognized as one out of four priority sectors for economic expansion and poverty reduction in EDPRS-2. Agriculture accounts for 39 % of the GDP, 80 % of employment and 90 % of the country's food needs. Per capita, only 0.13 ha of cultivated land is estimated. The top 3 commodities are: cassava, potatoes, banana.

Significance of District Imihigo:

Imihigo serve as means of planning to accelerate programs towards economic development and poverty reduction. Given the share of individuals dependent on agriculture, the engagement of citizens in the process of planning, monitoring and evaluation of Imihigo is particularly pertinent in this sector in order to address widespread poverty and food insecurity.



Farmers' priorities were collected to be included in Imihigo

The program has shown that there are many citizens who are not aware of the Imihigo content or how Imihigo are prepared rather they get involved on implementation phase.

In October 2017, in all sectors of both Districts Kayanza and Nyanza, farmer's needs were collected through Imbaraga association members, cooperatives and farmers. After listing their needs, a ranking session has been organized and a compiled report was presented to the District authorities. The top priorities in both Districts were about: a) getting seeds on time, b) availability of fertilizers and c) access to water conservation materials for the dry season, d) capacity building in improving agricultural efficiency to generate more income.

So far, the project has already made good progress to raise awareness via community meetings with regard to farmers' rights and roles in participating in activities development.

Listening to some voices from the field, first success stories could be determined. One farmer in Nyanza said: "This is a good program, we were used that they just communicate us what is in Imihigo at the time of implementation but now we will be participating from the start." Also GPSA Project Manager in Nyanza District Théodose Mbonigaba, of SDA-IRIBA, stressed that "When officials are organizing meetings in the agriculture sector, they now invite us and request that we come with farmers' representatives to hear their voices."

Further, the TI-Rw project coordinator, Mr Nzeyimana Elie Makeba said "At the start of the project, farmers felt not concerned on participating in Imihigo process , but after several sensitization pro-

Key activities implemented in the project (July - December 2017)

- National launching ceremony of the project and District launching event.
- Meetings at farmers' participation centers in order to develop the draft guide of the mechanism to collect farmers' inputs for Imihigo planning cycle
- Develop a guide of the mechanisms allowing farmers participation in Imihigo cycle process
- Identify 10 farmers' representatives by sector and CSO to participate in training, farmers need assessment
- Meeting with district staff and local implementers about the project targets, project approaches, project tools as well as the project progress at district level
- Deepening and scaling up of the cooperation between CSOs and government officials for insur-

PICTORIAL and TESTIMONIES FROM THE PROJECT



Interview with World Bank Country Manager after the launch of the project .



A group photo taken after the official launch of the project



Farmers during sensitization programs learning their role, rights and duties in Imihigo.



“So far we were only involved in the implementation of the agricultural Imihigo. During the planning of Imihigo, we were not consulted. With this project we will be participating and we have learnt that it is our duty and right to participate” a farmer in Nyanza.

THE CONTENT OF THE NEXT ISSUE

- The Social Accountability Media Initiative (SAMI) Workshop
- Peer-learning visit of the TI-Rw Project Team in Ghana
- Summary of collected farmers’ priorities
- Findings of the baseline study on farmers’ participation