Contribution of Agriculture programme to improve working and living conditions of families in Rwanda

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Issues

• Around 85% of the Rwandan population still lives in rural areas and many of the poor and extreme poor belong to this demographic group. Rwanda’s poverty profile (EICV 2013/2014).

• Of the female headed households living in poverty, compared to the national average of 44.9%.

• Ensuring sustainable growth and poverty reduction nationwide continues to be a key challenge, with the main target of reducing poverty from 44.9% to 30% by 2018, which requires the country to also look at ways of increasing agricultural productivity.

Description

• In 2007, Imbuto Foundation introduced the Support to family initiative (SUFI) programme as a new intervention targeting most vulnerable people especially widows and child-headed households for improving their living conditions.

• This programme was implemented by Imbuto Foundation through psychosocial support and income generating activities.

• In partnership with UN WOMEN, in 2011 SUFI became an IMALI programme and has been implementing horticulture interventions in Green Houses.

• IMALI programme trained cooperative members on growing tomatoes in greenhouses, finance literacy, cooperative management, marketing skills and opportunities.

• More than 1 million RWF received per cooperative as start-up fund.

• More than 8 million RWF for greenhouses agricultural activities per cooperative.

Data collection:

• Data was collected through cooperatives in monitoring routine.

Data Analysis:

• Descriptive analysis have been generated using SPSS version 25 and Microsoft Excel.

Lessons Learned

• 3,410 farmers: 2,890 women (81%) and 520 men (19%) from 37 cooperatives directly benefited from agriculture interventions.

• 508 farmers from 18 cooperatives in Kirehe, Ngoma and Nyaruguru trained in agriculture techniques, entrepreneurship and leadership.

• Income generated by 37 cooperatives.

  • Cooperatives benefiting from our programme connected to markets
  • 92,929 kgs of tomatoes, maize, beans, soja, vegetables, fruits harvested from 18 cooperatives
  • Rwf 22,114,310 (US$ 22,405) generated from selling maize, beans, soja, vegetables, tomatoes, fruits.

• A booklet summarizing women’s land rights and most effective productive use of land resources was published and 4,550 copies distributed in 30 districts.

• 287 booklets on agriculture techniques and growing crops (cabbage, carrot, green beans, and onions) distributed to 18 cooperatives.

Next Steps

• For sustainability purpose, the IMALI project should continue to support rural women and youth economic empowerment with the main objective of improving the livelihood of these groups.

• This would be achieved by increasing beneficiaries’ income through value addition of their farming production.

• This serves as a contribution to poverty reduction including improving beneficiary’s nutrition and increasing employment among youth in Rwanda.

• Key words: Agriculture, cooperatives, Income generating activity.

• For more information: www.imbutofoundation.org