

BURUNDI: Support for Sustainable Food Production and Enhancement of Food Security and Climate Resilience in Burundi's Highlands

NDABIRORE Salvator
FAO



Project summary

- Population growth of 3% / year (12M in 2020 → 22M in 25 years)
- Area of 27,834 km²; More than 230 inhabitants/km².
- Rural population > 90% and depends on agriculture and livestock, contributing > 50% to GDP; Average farm size: 0.50 ha/household (2010) compared to 2.2 ha in 1990, domestic energy - 96% of wood and biomass products
- Demographic pressure leads to the degradation of natural resources (soil, water, vegetation) and the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- **Consequences:** decline in agricultural production and loss of biodiversity, food deficits, food insecurity, chronic malnutrition, land disputes





LAND: sustainable solutions for land restoration and drought resilience

- Increase in areas on SLM/INRM : 80,000 ha
- Integrated watershed management
- Combination of agronomic, plant and physical practices for SLM
- Stabilization of river banks with bamboo
- A multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary framework in place and capacity strengthened for coordinated natural resource management



LAND: sustainable solutions for land restoration and drought resilience

- Restoration of degraded landscapes by planting fast-growing and multipurpose forest and agroforestry species
- Dissemination of improved stoves to limit pressure on wood
- Improvement of the forestry and agroforestry genetic base
- Vegetated anti-erosion devices for water and soil conservation
- Collection and recovery of rainwater
- Agro-sylvo-zootechnical integration
- Documentation of sustainable land management technologies and approaches with WOCAT

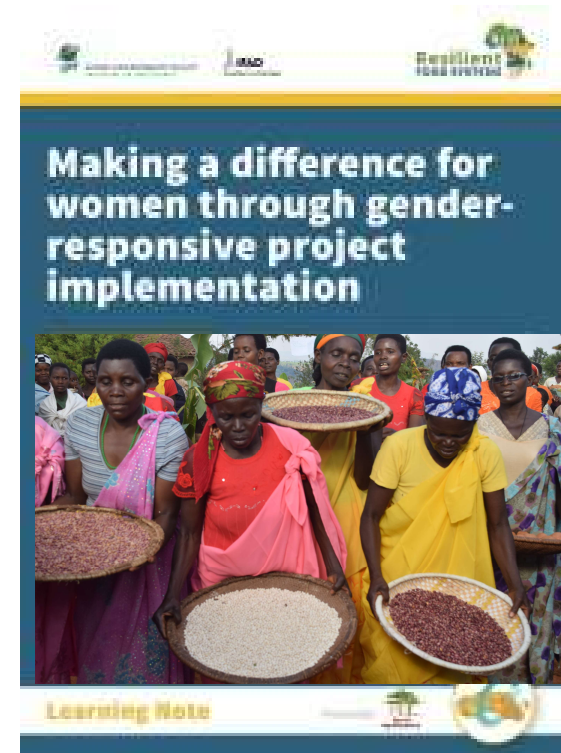
LIFE: improving livelihoods of rural people

- Increase in improved and resilient production systems
- Promotion of sustainable food value chains: wheat, potato, pineapple, corn
- Climate resilience mechanism: hillside irrigation and hydro-agricultural micro-dam
- Establishment of units for the conservation and processing of agricultural products
- Resilience funds: savings, credit and social cohesion



LIFE: gender equality and youth empowerment

- A woman is the pillar of the household and her participation in the implementation of the project was taken into account
- Out of 3,300 members of 106 CEP, 70% are women
- 6 environmental clubs in secondary schools are supervised by the project to encourage young people to become environmentally aware at an early age



LEGACY: challenges faced and how they were addressed

- Demographic pressure on the land
- Strong dependence of the population on wood as a source of domestic energy
- Climatic hazards (floods, drought, climatic diseases)
- Lack of agricultural inputs on the local market (mineral fertilizers)
- Weak capacity of grassroots management structures



LEGACY: lessons learned and tips for other initiatives

- Participatory and inclusive approach in sustainable land management (bottom-up): key to success
- Involvement and commitments of administrative authorities at all levels: key to ownership and sustainability of project interventions
- Adopting sustainable value chains: community livelihoods
- Resilience Fund with its 3 pillars: Protection of NR, Social cohesion and Savings and Credit: guarantee of sustainability and peaceful coexistence of peoples



From scarcity to prosperity

As a result of sustainable land management practices, land productivity and agricultural production have increased.



Thanks to income from the sale of products sold and dividends from IGAs developed in POs,

Collective and individual efforts to restock livestock have been observed at the level of POs and within PO members (purchase of pigs, goats, rabbits and cows).

Plots of land have been purchased and have allowed POs to increase their land holdings.



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