



Exchange of experiences between the members of the different steering committees of the Village Visions in Gahemba, Mwakiro commune, Muyinga province.

The core strategy of the PAPAB project is the PIP approach: *Plan Intégré du Paysan* in French, or *Integrated Farm Planning*. The PIP approach aims at building a **foundation for sustainable change** within people, households, farms, communities, and institutions. Key principles of the approach are **'motivation - stewardship - resilience'**: motivated farmer families who take ownership of their development and become stewards of more resilient farms. Sustainability of this change across households, communities and landscapes is warranted by the PIP guiding principles: **'empowerment - integration - collaboration'**.



How the PIP approach changes institutions

The PIP approach is equally needed for staff of implementing organizations and authorities...

The PIP approach works bottom-up and hence deliberately moves away from traditional top-down interventions and incentive-based approaches. The challenge to empower and mobilize farmers to undertake action can

only be tackled once development organizations and government **agencies develop the same motivation and ownership of the PIP approach**. Local organizations and authorities are therefore closely involved in all activities, because the sense of stewardship that households experience at farm-level is equally crucial to establish throughout institutional levels.

Key PIP guiding principles

- **Empowerment:** to believe in one's own ability to change one's reality, see the opportunities to improve, and have intrinsic motivation to undertake action
- **Integration:** to be aware of the importance of (farm) resilience, and develop an attainable future farm vision with integrated activities
- **Collaboration:** to exchange knowledge and learn from others to improve and carry out actions together to achieve wide-scale sustainable impact.



As a result of community efforts organized at village level, anti-erosion contour lines were established in Muyinga. Scaling-up land management practices to a landscape level is crucial to combat erosion. Institutions play a pivotal role in facilitating and coordinating this.

The PAPAB project ('Project to Support Agricultural Productivity in Burundi') aims to increase food production and income in Burundi by promoting more resilient farming systems and sustainable agriculture, supported by targeted fertilizer subsidies. It was funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands from 2015-2020 and led by IFDC. Lead implementing partners included Wageningen Environmental Research, Oxfam Novib, ZOA, Adisco, OAP, and Réseau Burundi 2000+.



"The 'Village Visions' that many PIP communities created, appeared to be a very good basis for the Communal Plans for Community Development [PCDC], the national Burundian program to finance local initiatives. The PIP approach should be included in the creation of PCDC's all over Burundi."

Augustin Karenzo, Team Leader in Muyinga



During a visit of several directors of the Provincial Offices of the Burundian Ministry of Agriculture, a PIP farmer in Muyinga was interviewed to understand more about the impact of the project on his household, farm, and environment.

... who need to become engaged and provide the enabling conditions for sustainable change.

To escape from the vicious cycle of land degradation and poverty that Burundi is in, actors of change at **higher institutional levels need to become engaged**. Scaling-up the PIP approach can only be achieved when an **enabling environment is in place at institutions** that have the same vision towards a more sustainable future and that feel the same sense of urgency to act. Only a wide-scale, profound mindset change will generate the desired sustained change on people, households, communities, and landscapes.

"PIP proved to be beneficial not only to farmers but to whole households and communities that dared to create and embrace their vision of the future. To scale the success to the highest level, the government and local policymakers should also take ownership of the PIP approach!"

Seth Iwanyituse, Team Leader in Bubunza

A PIP farmer from Rugazi shares his experience with the PIP approach with the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Environment at the 2018 Edition of the Agricultural Fair.



"Actors from a wide range of administrative structures should be involved in the implementation activities of the PIP approach from the very beginning, so that they experience benefits of creating a PIP and advocate for the integration of the PIP approach into policies."

Belyse Rudaragi, Project Leader

Recommendations

- NGO's and donor institutions should employ and support bottom-up, inclusive and participatory approaches such as the PIP-approach. It is crucial to build a foundation for sustainable change in each community, with projects that have a vision and contribute to local development process.
- Efforts, investment and strategies should be better aligned and coordinated at institutional level, with inclusive bottom-up approaches rooted in local ownership being crucial.
- The Burundian government should adopt and support the PIP principles and lessons learned within its existing policies and strategies, because urgent coordinated action is required to reverse the vicious circle of poverty, food insecurity and land degradation in Burundi.

Photos: IFDC

More information

If you would like to know more about the PIP approach and the PAPAB project in Burundi, please contact Micael Beun, IFDC, PAPAB coordinator | mbeun@ifdc.org or Aad Kessler, Wageningen University and Research, PIP expert | aad.kessler@wur.nl