



Scaling tree planting through community based groups

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Tree seedlings production, distribution and planting



Through partnership with 63 farmer cooperatives/groups

- Over 9,500,000 tree seedlings, including:
- Multi purpose trees 6,000,000 & Grafted and un-grafted fruit trees species 3,500,000.

This approach has direct and long-term benefits including:

- Ownership and sustainability
- improved farmers' knowledge of tree seedling production
- Job creation (2,691 earned season incomes from nursey management work (1373 Female/1318 Male) including 598 youth (330 female/ 268Male)

Establishment of 3 Rural Resource Centers



- **Kayonza, Gatsibo and Nyagatare districts.**
 - Knowledge centre
 - Source of quality planting materials
 - Business opportunities



Extension through community lead farmers

- 512 Lead farmers lead farmers, (256 female and 256 male) including 154 youth (77female/77male)
- Trained and facilitated to do scaling of regreening practices across their communities



Capacity building activities



Overall , 512 Lead farmers, Over 1,250 Partner cooperative members, and Project staff received capacity building:

- Agroforestry practices (tree planting & management)
- Tree nursery establishment and management
- FMNR
- Data collection
- Orchard management
- Tree disease and pests management and control
- Pasture management Tree grafting
- Data collection
- Beekeeping
- Biomass incorporation
- FMNR
- Gender and disability mainstreaming
- Tree seeds sourcing and handling
- Orchard management
- Business entrepreneurship (nurseries as a business)

Challenges and opportunities observed



CHALLENGES:

- Termites attacking trees/seedlings
- High failure by mangos (diseases)
- Low adoption of certain tree species (diversity)
- Limited number of certain tree seedlings (highly demanded species)
- Low number of indigenous species
- Low availability of indigenous tree species seeds
- Poor attitude towards indigenous tree species
- High expectations from local government

OPPORTUNITIES :

- Support from local leadership
- Building on existing systems
- Partnering with ICRAF (Importance of research)
- Leveraging on other projects and WVR programs
- The Forest Landscape Restoration for Improved Livelihoods in Rwanda project- Funded by the Australian Government through its Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

Key lessons and messages

- Sites led by Lead farmers who are opinion leaders (village, health, farmer promoters) shown better adoption (tree survival + diversity)
- Knowledge about tree species affect its adoption by farmers (Farmers tend to stick to only those species they are familiar with)
- Land tenure (ownership) impacts adoption of greening practices
- Seedling availability into farmers proximity improves farmers participation into tree planting
- Early preparation and production of seedlings may increase tree seedlings survival
- Farmer to farmer exchange visits are important tools for mindset change
- More awareness on trees on farm is still needed
- Working with local communities in seedling production increase ownership and participation into tree planting by community members
- Persistent diseases and pests without effective treatment solutions is discouraging farmers to adopt mango growing



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