

LESSONS LEARNED AND LONG-TERM CHALLENGES



Finance and Financial Incentives

- Access to starting capital and building entrepreneurial skills key to encouraging adoption of agroforestry
- Aggregating producers into groups provides support, connections, and an avenue for training
- Rural households will take up agroforestry if benefits and infrastructure of value chains are clear
- To promote tree-based value chains, tree nurseries should be managed to generate income and become sustainable



Tree Diversity and Quality

- Must shift from centralized distribution of fast-growing exotic species seeds (especially Eucalyptus) to diversified, high-value, locally-appropriate native species
- Farmers should be encouraged to practice FMNR
- Mixed quality of seeds distributed for producing fruit and other agroforestry products limits agroforestry adoption and success
- Challenges of responding to pests and disease across tree species requiring research and training



Adoption Bottlenecks

- Agricultural dependence on rainwater discourages irrigating or watering trees in dry season, limiting tree survival rate
- Small farm sizes, fear of trees negatively affecting crops
- Limited access to quality germplasm, especially due to free seedling distribution
- Value chains for most agroforestry products insufficient



Environmental Factors

- Constraints to successful tree growth included droughts, pests/diseases, inappropriate seeds for local realities, and COVID-19 restrictions
- The advisory and research capacity of ICRAF provided improved, resilient tree varieties
- Improved nursery production led to higher survival rates



Sector Neglect

- Previous lack of recognition or emphasis of agroforestry in national policy and development projects
- Lack of alignment between forestry, agriculture, and environmental policies and laws leads to gray area of tree product usage for farmers
- Gap in policy to promote planting trees on-farm and FMNR in rangelands
- To integrate agroforestry more broadly, World Vision Rwanda livelihoods projects should incorporate evergreen agriculture into their plans and implementation



Local Ownership

- Training materials should be translated into Kinyarwanda
- Local collectives and businesses producing seedlings enhances value chains; a major challenge to their growth is that seedlings are being given out for free
- Bottom-up decision making best for long-term sustainability



KEY OUTCOME CHALLENGES