



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2023



BUGESERA: NSENGIMANA FROM GIZ VISITED
PROJECT FIELD WORKS 'SOLAR POWERED
IRRIGATION AND IMPROVED COOKING STOVES
FOR COMMUNITIES' PHOTO: G.NKOMEJE -PAGE 8

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Impact of the Climate Smart Agriculture on the production through FFS groups



Climate Smart Agriculture is “Agriculture that sustainably increases productivity, resilience (to climate change), reduces/removes greenhouse gases (mitigation), and enhances achievement of national food security and development goals”, FAO, 2010.

This agriculture approach is being widely regarded as a long term solution to the climate change problem as it solves the main problems which lead to the problem.

Different institutions governmental and non-governmental are conducting initiatives to teach farmers to start using the approach by implementing a combination of different best agriculture practices in their farms.

Among the Climate Smart Agriculture practices implemented by the farmers are Minimum Tillage, Agroforestry, Erosion Control-Water retention ditches (structures), Mulching, Irrigation, Intercropping, Fertilizers application with right amount at right time. The fertilizers must be used in a such a way that organic manure is in large amount and proportion than inorganic fertilizer.

In Rwanda, in the Southern Province through the Forest Landscape Restoration project in the Amayaga Region-

-under the component of Community Capacity Building in the Areas of Livelihoods and Agroforestry implemented by APEFA in a financial Agreement with Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA), CSA in being implemented as “Farmer Skills in Climate Smart Agriculture Enhancement” output.

Farmers formed 40 Farmers Field School groups across 20 sectors of the project intervention districts (Kamonyi, Ruhango, Nyanza and Gisagara), and during 6 months they tested the approach.

In a field evaluation tour conducted by REMA, authorities of the four districts and APEFA, farmers testified that were very excited and praised the new technics of growing crops without disturbing the soil, crops were mulched, the reduction the of work they were doing in agriculture and the fact that they expected to produce more than what they used to harvest.

The beneficiaries highlighted the importance of practicing the Climate Smart Agriculture in their daily agricultural practices.

Damascene Gashagaza, a member of the Abakundamurimo FFS Group, said that they are optimistic to have more production due to the use of Climate Smart Agriculture.

"We used to farm normally, planting corn as usual, but after receiving training from the Project of Green Amayaga, on Climate Smart agriculture, we saw a change because, it reduces work and the amount of use money, we can't forget the fertilizer even the plant grows faster. Normally, at Ares 55, the production used to be 1.5 tons, but we hope that our production will be 3 tons."

He added: *"We are going to mobilise our neighbors and show them the benefits of using Climate Smart Agriculture, because it is productive."*

On the Other hand, Emmanuel Ngiruwonsanga, a member of Abaharanira Impinduka, also confirms:

"Climate Smart Agriculture reduces the money we used to spend on farming, prevents erosion, doesn't harm our plants because they grow well compared the conventional agriculture. It reduces the energy we used, that is the productivity we calculate in money, where we used to farm in up to eight days, now we use no more than, we used to harvest 1,800 T, last time but now we expect 3 tons."



Emmanuel Ngiruwonsanga, a member of Abaharanira Impinduka | Photo: G. NKOMEJE



Members of Abaharanira Impinduka FFS Group | Photo: G. NKOMEJE

Eight hundred (800) farmers are being facilitated to use Climate Smart Agriculture in their daily agricultural practices as a way of mitigating adverse climate change impacts, soil protection and agriculture production increase.

It is expected that these farmers will spread the skills acquired to their fellow farmers to change the climate damaging agriculture to a more sustainable and conserving one, climate smart agriculture, CSA.

The farmers are recommended to copy the CSA practices in their farms, to plant agroforestry trees, make and maintain trenches for water retention, to make sure all records are taken trying how they can find the way to conserve water for irrigation for water management.

Besides, the authority and stakeholders are recommended to sensitive other farmers to adopt the CSA since it will help fix the problem of soil erosion, enrichment of the soil, increase production while sustaining the climate through reduction of Green House Gases emitted into atmosphere.

OTHER PHOTOS |G.NKOMEJE



Maize plantation planted by ABAKUNDAMURIMO FFS GROUP| Ruhango District



Members of Abakundamurimo FFS Group



Cassava plantation planted by Abaharanira Impinduka FFS Group| Ruhango District



Abaharanira Impinduka FFS Group| Ruhango District



Duharanira Impinduka FFS Group| Ruhango District



ABUNZUBUMWE FFS Group has a plantation of Maize at the area of 10 Ares | Kamonyi District



Interaction between the field Staffs and members of Duharanira Impinduka FFS Group| RUHANGO District



Field staffs from APEFA, REMA and District authorities



Olive MUKANDAIHIRO, Rwanda Environment Management Authority's staff



Diane TUYISENGE, APEFA'S Livelihood Expert



Maize plantation at harvest stage

BUGESERA: TRAINING OF BENEFICIARIES ON CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE ; CREDIT AND SAVING SCHEME



The 3-Day training attended by 26 beneficiaries | Photo: G. NKOMEJE

From 23rd to 27th February 2023, at Ngeruka Sector, Action pour la Protection de l'Environnement et la Promotion des Filières Agricoles (APEFA), conducted a training on Climate Smart Agriculture, Credit and saving scheme for beneficiaries of the project called "Solar powered irrigation and improved cooking stoves for communities in the Bugesera District".

The first two-days training of 26 beneficiaries, were trained by Dr Chantal MUTIMAWURUGO, Researcher and Lecturer of the University of Rwanda, was officially opened by Executive Secretary of Ngeruka Sector, Patrick Rwsa together with, APEFA's Executive Director, Oscar Nzabonimpa and Mr Philbert Nsengimana from GIZ, who represented IKI.

Executive Secretary of Ngeruka Sector, Patrick Rwsa encouraged the trainees to learn from the training since it will help them to practise their farming in improved way and change their bad history of damaging the environment.

He added: *"This opportunity of getting enough information must be the start of practicing Agriculture generating income but also protecting environment by reducing the emissions of GHG to contribute to national target of 38% of GHG reduction by 2030."*

Executive Director of APEFA, Oscar NZABONIMPA urged the farmers who participated in this training to be an example among the remaining community and that they should know what they have been trained is aiming to develop them by doing the exemplary agriculture.

Mr Philbert NSENGIMANA from GIZ, who represented IKI as the funder of the Project under implementation in this intervention area, he explained that the Climate Change is a critical issue that worries the whole world, and every person should participate in finding solutions together from the farmer to the policy maker wherever you are.

These training focused on the key concepts and approaches associated with climate action in the agricultural sectors, especially Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), and was structured around the 9-modules of CSA implementation approach, credit and saving scheme from building evidence base to the implementation and dissemination of locally suitable practices and context-specific technologies, while addressing barriers at different levels.

The modules carried out in the training related to the climate smart agriculture include Climate science and climate change, Climate Smart Agriculture concept and pillars, Agricultural production and climate change, Climate Smart Agriculture Solutions and Practices and Gender Balance in Climate Smart agriculture adoption.

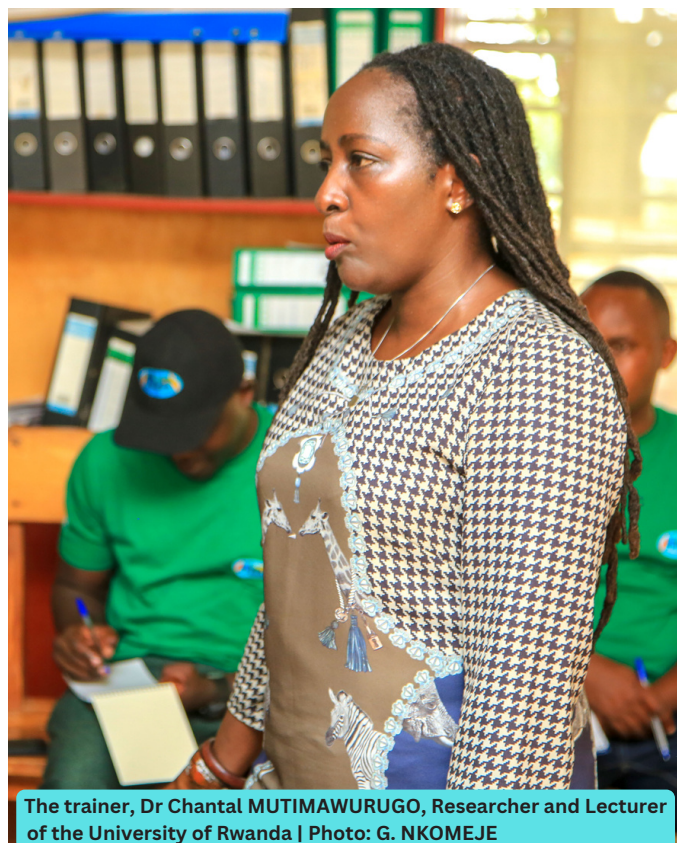


*Executive Secretary of Ngeruka Sector,
Patrick RWASAJ Photo: G. NKOMEJE*

The subject also emphasizes on working with groups of producers to develop markets and sources of supply. The cooperative business structure, already shown to be successful in agriculture and small business support.

The participants were encouraged to open accounts in 'UMURENGE Saccos', individually or through the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) so that they will be ready to access the financial support for their farming activities and getting quality inputs.

The trainees also were recommended to keep the farm records, to be able to track down whether he/she is earning profits or losing. At the closing, the trainees received the guide on the solar powered irrigation operation and maintenance for its sustainability.



*The trainer, Dr Chantal MUTIMAWURUGO, Researcher and Lecturer
of the University of Rwanda | Photo: G. NKOMEJE*

BUGESERA: TRAINING OF DISTRICT, SECTOR AND CELL STAFFS ON CLIMATE SMART IRRIGATION



APEFA'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OSCAR NZABONIMPA WITH THE PARTICIPANTS AFTER THE TRAINING | Photo: G. NKOMEJE

APEFA conducted the training of District, Sector & Cell Staff on a Smart Irrigation system, under the implementation of the Project called 'Solar powered irrigation and improved cooking stoves for communities in the Bugesera District', whereby the participants understand their role in implementation, challenges, and sustainability of the project.

A one day-event was attended by 13 participants including agronomists from District and Sector, Executive Secretaries of 2 sectors, Social and Economic Development Officers of 2 cells in Bugesera District and APEFA Staff, led by Executive Director, Oscar Nzabonimpa took place at La palisse Hotel, on 21st February 2023.

In his remarks, Executive Director, Oscar NZABONIMPA asked the participants to make sure if the activities of the project under implementation especially for Solar powered irrigation in Ngeruka Sector will bring the benefit to the beneficiaries.

"We need that the solar powered irrigation installed in the site help the community and be able to satisfy the market locally and whole Bugesera District in terms of vegetables and fruits, because they will be able to grow them all season of year."

He also asked the participants to contribute in establishing a sustainable way of taking care of the work done and help the beneficiaries (4 cooperatives) to own the project and move forward to the high living standard.

Oscar NZABONIMPA appreciated the good cooperation between APEFA and Bugesera District, especially the administrative staff of the Ngeruka and Mareba Sector, He also encouraged the participants to understand well the status of the project, the current challenges occurred what to do in order to make sure that the project will achieve its goals.

Theophile GATOYA, Bugesera District Agronomist acknowledged the activities that have been achieved in collaboration with APEFA, through the support in SSIT program that was previously the task of District and Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Board. He mentioned that the initiated discussion will be further helpful for the long-term sustainable development of Bugesera Community.

The Executive Secretary of Ngeruka Sector, Patrick RWASA, who represented the Mayor of Bugesera District, thanked APEFA for the useful training and unlimited cooperation.

BUGESERA: NSENGIMANA FROM GIZ VISITED PROJECT FIELD WORKS 'SOLAR POWERED IRRIGATION AND IMPROVED COOKING STOVES FOR COMMUNITIES'



Senior technical advisor/GIZ, Mr Philbert Nsengimana from GIZ, who represented IKI testing the irrigation system

APEFA has secured a budget from international climate Initiative (IKI) through GIZ to implement the project called “Solar-powered irrigation and improved cooking stoves for communities in the Bugesera District”.

Bugesera District is one of the droughts prone regions of the country which tends to become cyclical and persistent with annual average precipitation varying from 400-600mm which is far less than the recorded country rainfalls averaged to 1200mm annually and the use of non-improved agriculture practices and lack of improved irrigation system have already limited capabilities of the farmers to adopt the climate change mitigation and adaptation mechanisms.

The project under implementation has the objective of supporting vulnerable communities in Bugesera District by introducing solar-powered, small-scale irrigation schemes for small-scale farmers and energy saving cooking systems, which are critical in building resilience to increased climate variability and GHG emission reduction.

The project work with three (3) agricultural cooperatives with 300 members in Ngeruka Sector for powered irrigation system where this irrigation is now installed and serving in 10ha of the total land of beneficiaries, furthermore 2000 households will be equipped with improved cooking stoves in Ngeruka and Mareba sectors, and lastly capacity building in climate smart agriculture techniques will be provided to the selected farmers.

In this regard, APEFA Executive Director, Oscar NZABONIMPA, Senior technical advisor/GIZ, Mr Philbert Nsengimana from GIZ, who represented IKI as the funder of the Project called 'Solar powered irrigation & improved cooking stoves for communities in Bugesera District', visited the field works of different components of the project in the intervention area in Ngeruka and Mareba Sectors.

A-One Day event took place on 23rd February 2023, led by Protais HABANABAKIZE, Project Coordinator and Gilbert UMUNYURWA the Irrigation engineer for technical information related to solar powered irrigation system installed.

PHOTOS: Senior technical advisor/GIZ, Mr Philbert Nsengimana together with Executive Director of APEFA, Oscar Nzabonimpa and other APEFA Staff members visited diffent activities of the project



Dam sheet water pond



Hydrant



Site working on the improved cooking stoves



Suction chamber



Solar Power station

**Action pour la Protection de
l'Environnement et la Promotion des
Filières Agricoles
« APEFA »**



**TOGETHER SAY NO TO
ENVIRONMENT DESTRUCTION
ENVIRONMENT FIRST**

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