



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'**.



*Théophile Nzokirantevye (Nyamaboko, Bujumbura province), a proud farmer, with his beans that produce 5-fold more yield after Théophile and his family created a PIP and implemented better agricultural practices on their farm.*

# How the PIP approach changes people

## The PIP approach takes people's (m/f) capacities and knowledge seriously...

People are key in the PIP approach: farmers are the actors of change, and as soon as they are empowered, action starts. This means people must believe in their own capacities, and that is exactly what happens when a PIP household creates a PIP, their Integrated Farm Plan, with a 'vision for the future' and an action plan. A PIP is developed and owned by each family, and essentially based on existing knowledge, capacities and local conditions.

## ...by telling a different 'story' to farmer families...

The PIP approach leaves the choice up to each family what to plan in their PIP. The project field staff merely

facilitates the process and gives technical advice when needed - but the **key-message of the PIP-story is "you are able to do it yourself"**, rather than the traditional development story "we know what is best for you". This propels an intrinsic motivation in each family to start investing in its own future, based on the aspirations and capabilities of each family member, without waiting for external support.

*"In the other projects, we were just told what we were going to do. What made us embrace the PIP approach is that we decided what to do, and the project staff followed."*

Male PIP participant, 65 years, Muyinga

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+.



## ...and by changing mindsets towards motivated action.

Changing mindsets is essential, because it turns people into actors of change. Farming households draw their PIP and realize that they are capable to reach that vision and start collaborating.

*"Thanks to PIP and the gained technical knowledge I became more respected by my husband and in the community. I am now considered within the household because my proposals are taken into account. Two neighboring ladies came to ask me how to deal with conflicts with their husbands. Now these women testify that their households are at peace thanks to my advice."*

Female PIP participant, 38 years, Mabayi, Cibitoke

Consequently, PIP participants continue carrying out their plans beyond the project, because ownership is key!

*"Even if the project ends today, we will still continue because the knowledge we have received from the project is sufficient for the implementation of our PIP. The PIP has developed us a lot - and we cannot stop."*

Male PIP participant, 40 years, Makamba

Many PIP participants, among whom also Calinie Ntahondereye (Bujumbura province), improved their housing conditions as a result of the drawing of their vision, realizing that they can actually do this themselves and do not need to wait for external assistance.



Calinie Ntahondereye shows her vision for the household.

In the PIP approach, actors of change at all levels are needed to support this inclusive and sustainable development process. All people involved will change mindsets, from staff members to decision-makers, civil society, donors, and beyond!

## Field staff perspectives

*"Initially, project participants are clearly used to receiving free services because of their experience with other projects. It takes a long time to change this mentality. Communication and the establishment of a climate of trust between the project staff and the beneficiary community are crucial."*

Juvénal Ntarima, Team Leader in Rumonge

*"This project could only succeed because the project staff members themselves became intrinsically motivated and convinced of the PIP approach. In fact, their attitude to work with the households and facilitate the creation of their PIP appeared crucial to build solid foundations for change."*

Micael Beun, Program Manager

Photos: @Oxfam/Lisa Murray

## 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](mailto:mbeun@ifdc.org) or Aad Kessler, Wageningen University and Research, PIP expert | [aad.kessler@wur.nl](mailto:aad.kessler@wur.nl)



The members of the Nzokirantevye family, Nyamaboko, Bujumbura, jointly created a vision for their future farm and now work together in realizing their PIP.



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# How the PIP approach changes farmer households

## Households visualize their desired future scenario based on needs and aspirations of all family members...

The farmer household has a central role in the PIP approach. When developing the PIP, the Integrated Farm Plan, all family members join. As everybody's aspirations and needs are taken into account, everyone feels part of the process of change.

PIP tools have been developed to promote collaboration, dialogue, and participation of all family members, and help to discuss about available resources, roles and goals within each household. This leads to realistic action plans, with families that feel able to improve their future together.

## The joint creation of an Integrated Farm Plan (PIP) by a household

- 1 Explaining the purpose and context of the PIP by the household head
- 2 Discussing and drawing the **current situation** of the farm together
- 3 Drawing the **family tree** to discuss and gain insight into (gender) relations at the household level
- 4 Creating an **inventory of the skills, assets and aspirations** of all household members
- 5 Drawing the **desired future situation** of the farm (the "dream PIP")
- 6 Developing the **action plan** including the role of each household member

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*"When I got home from the training, I invited my children and husband to develop our PIP. Initially my husband refused and I did it with the children only. One day, when we were analyzing our strengths, weaknesses and opportunities, my husband approached us and showed interest. Ever since, we do the activities together."*  
 Female PIP participant, 38 years, Rumonge

## ...which stimulates equity, togetherness and concrete joint action.

**Jointly acting** towards a common objective increases the feeling of **equity and togetherness** within the family and strengthens the foundation of the household. The creation of the PIP by all household members, including the analysis of intra-household relationships through drawing the family tree, enhances the bonds and organization of a family and motivates to undertake action. Households become more resilient, for example by reducing unnecessary expenses, diversifying income-generating activities, and by investing in a more structured way in farm- and housing improvements.

*"The training I received stimulated me to start helping my wife. When I worked with her in the field, not only did labor costs decrease, but I could also advice on the organization of our work and my wife appreciated my engagement."*  
 Male PIP participant, 50 years, Makamba

*Théophile and Calinie realized the importance of working together.*



*The common creation of their PIP increased equity and togetherness in the Nzokiranteveye family.*

*"There is peace in our household. We produce enough food and sometimes the children make their own suggestions what to eat! The school fees for 5 children and health care for all of us are paid. We live in a house with a renewed roof and a domestic drinking water installation to alleviate the work of my wife and children, paid with the income generated by our farming activities and the Village Savings and Loan Association."*

Male PIP participant, 39 years, Rugombo, Cibitoke

## Field staff perspectives

*"I was amazed by the strongly increased household cohesion as a result of the simple means of drawing a family tree, creating a joint vision and working towards that vision by sharing responsibilities."*

Juvénal Ntarima, Team Leader in Rumonge

*"The household level is central to motivate farmers and their families. Training and implicating both husband and wife from the start is crucial to avoid inequality, misunderstanding and frustration at household level."*

Micael Beun, Program Manager

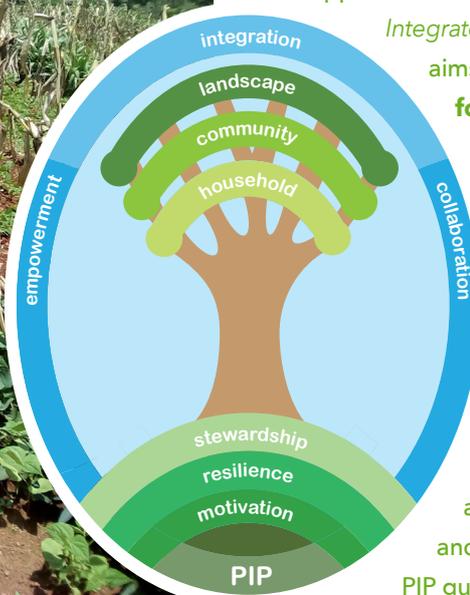
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On this farm in Gitega, land- and crop management practices are integrated for both erosion control and a sustainably increased production.

Photo: IFDC

# How the PIP approach changes farms

## Soil fertility improvement through better farm management and integration of cultivation practices...

Erosion rates in the highlands of Burundi are extremely high. The resulting loss of soil fertility and its effect on food security make better land stewardship through the integration of variety of land management practices a priority. To **improve their farm management**, PIP farmers are sensitized on the problem of soil erosion and learn about **integrated soil fertility practices**. Key techniques that reinforce each other when combined on the farm are compost pits, agroforestry (productive trees on the farm), contour trenches (slowly-forming terraces with vegetation on the bund), crop association and rotation, closing nutrient cycles by applying manure, and mulching.

*"I learned that the use of selected seeds, respecting seeding distance, and the use of organic manure mixed with mineral manure increases agricultural production and protects against erosion. Only after seeing the results in our trainer's field I understood and I realized that I should change my practices."*

Female PIP participant, 40 years old, Nyanza Lac, Makamba

## ... facilitated by farmer-to-farmer transfer of knowledge...

Gaining technical knowledge to implement and maintain conservation practices is crucial for sustainable

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land management: once a farmer experiences the benefits of improved practices, (s)he will never forget. The **farmer-to-farmer exchanges**, key in the PIP approach, capitalize on the practical tacit knowledge of farmers: willingness to learn and improve is crucial for sustainability!

*“During the harvest, I had good yields and the neighbors started to wonder what happened to me at home. Recently when I was harvesting B-season beans, a chief administrative officer approached me to ask what I did to get such good yields. I explained the whole process to him, and he invited me to give practical demonstrations to his workers. I came home very proud.”*

Male PIP participant, 61 years old, Mabayi, Cibitoke



Calinie Ntahondereye (Nyamaboko, Bujumbura province) decided to integrate livestock on her farm. PIP farmers invest significantly more in livestock than non-PIP farmers and use the livestock to close nutrient cycles on their farm by using the manure to fertilize soils.

Photo: ©Oxfam/Lisa Murray

## ...generate visible effects and short-term gains with the PIP approach.

The integration of basic improvements on the farm (for example better use of fertilizer, applying compost, improved seeds, row cropping instead of broadcasting) already generates a big change in production. For instance, income from cash crops for PIP farmers has

on average almost doubled. These **visible short-term gains** motivate farmers to continue innovations on their farms, learn from others, and invest in long-term soil improving measures.

## Field staff perspectives

*“The project had a very positive impact on the management of agricultural land. Farmers were trained in soil protection and conservation techniques and are still applying them and realize their importance. Consequently, agricultural production has significantly increased.”*

Juvénal Ntarima, Team Leader in Rumonge

*“In our project area, the production had improved so much that it became a challenge to sell all the output...”*

Belyse Rudaragi, Project Leader

A family's PIP drawing, with their current situation on the left and desired future farm on the right.

Photo: IFDC



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Community mobilization for the creation of anti-erosion contour lines in Muyinga.

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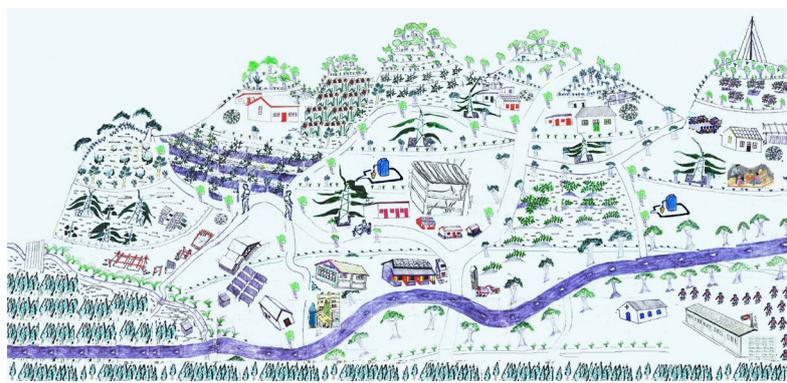
# How the PIP approach changes communities

## The PIP approach has a great potential to mobilize whole villages...

Creating integrated plans can be **easily scaled up to village level**, with the same PIP principles that are crucial at household level. Key in this process of scaling-up are the Farmer Innovators, who are the first generation to create and implement a PIP, and then become PIP trainers of the next generation of PIP farmers. Scaling-up PIP is thus achieved through farmer-to-farmer training, with ever more households becoming motivated stewards of their land. This wide-scale mobilization of motivated farmers is strengthened by the development of Village Visions by whole communities, with diverse collective activities for landscape restoration, better market access and organized village structures.

## ...where collaboration, social cohesion and trust grow...

Acting collectively and achieving visible change **stimulates the social cohesion** in PIP villages. Often the whole dynamic changes in these villages, with



A Village Vision developed by members of the Rwezamenyo community. In the 'Village Visions', inhabitants draw their desired future village scenario (including a road) and create a plan to jointly work towards it.

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more farmer-to-farmer exchanges, **more trust**, and **enhanced collaboration**. PIP villages do not wait for external support, they undertake action themselves!

*"At the village level, the PIP approach is the basis for collaboration between communities. For example, I as a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation PIP farmer, I visited 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> generation PIP households to ask for technical advice. They are happy to provide this advice, which was not the case before PIP. I also sometimes see other farmers who visit each other's fields to exchange experiences."*

Male PIP participant, 65 years old, Muyinga

Furthermore, the more formal collaboration structures are established that last beyond the project time frame (farmer cooperatives, Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA)), the more **autonomous households and communities** become and the better they can represent themselves vis-à-vis local authorities.

### ...and people genuinely participate in PIP activities and collective action.

Trust, collaboration and reciprocity have a positive effect on the motivation of people to **manage natural resources collectively** including concrete action to stop soil erosion. After having witnessed and reacted

*Inhabitants of Kirengane in Rugazi jointly protect their soil by planting fruit trees in their fields and by installing anti-erosion hedges on the contour lines.*



PAPAB developed visible "demonstration sites" in several PIP villages, where complete slopes are treated by PIP farmers with best land management practices, to show how integrated land stewardship can actually stop erosion and stimulate sustainable agriculture. Inhabitants of Wingoma, Muyinga province, have recently dug contour trenches for erosion control.

to tackle erosion on their own land, farmers realize the importance of collective action at a community- and landscape-level.

### Field staff perspectives

*"The transfer of knowledge from farmer to farmer appeared to be a natural, spontaneous and voluntary process and continued also without our presence."*

Gad Nsenyumva, Team Leader in Cibitoke

*"I was amazed by the massive participation in the implementation of village-level projects initiated by the community. The PAPAB project and the PIP approach clearly tapped into the potential and latent desire of village inhabitants to collaborate on a larger scale."*

Augustin Karenzo, Team Leader in Muyinga

*"I observed that the gained open-mindedness of household members allowed them to seek the means to finance their PIPs, by coming together to form collective groups, and to meet common needs for community development through the creation of Village Visions."*

Belyse Rudaragi, Project Leader

Photos: IFDC

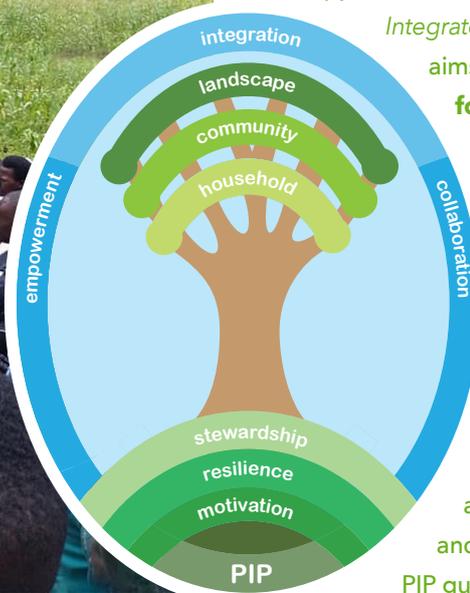
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Exchange of experiences between the members of the different steering committees of the Village Visions in Gahemba, Mwakiro commune, Muyinga province.

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# 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.

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*"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

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