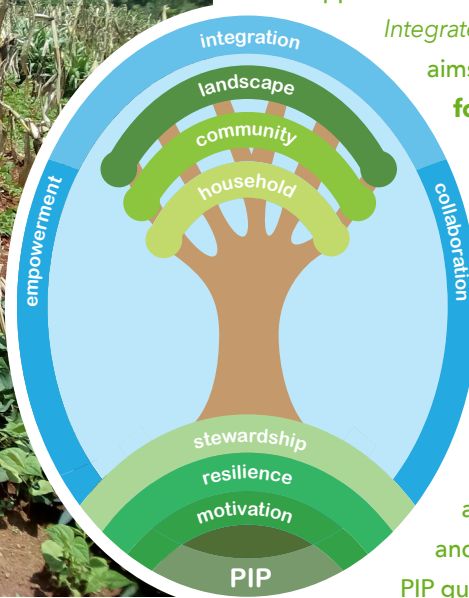




The core strategy of the PAPAB project is the PIP approach: *Plan Intégré du Paysan* in French, or *Integrated Farm Planning*. The PIP approach aims at building a **foundation for sustainable change** within people, households, farms, communities, and institutions. Key principles of the approach are **'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'**.



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

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+.

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



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