



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

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'**.



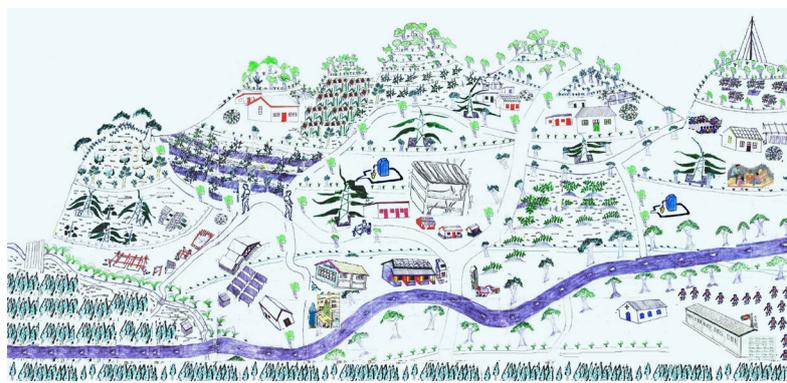
How the PIP approach changes communities

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.

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+.

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 3rd generation PIP farmer, I visited 1st and 2nd 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

More information

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