



## IPFG annual Project report



Financial year 2022

Janvier NGABO

January, 2023

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

IPFG is a Rwandan non-governmental organization created in 2002 and legally registered by the ministerial Order N° 17/11 of 31 January 2006 which was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Rwanda O.G N° 10 bis of 15 May 2006.



*IPFG aspires to a democratic society where both women and men are aware of their problems, complement one another and actively participate in the actions of the entire development*



*To promote and reinforce complementarity between man and woman as well as their participation in the actions which aim to achieve social and economic development based on fairness.*

It is based in southern province, Nyamagabe District, Gasaka Sector and operates in 3 Districts namely Nyamagabe, Nyaruguru and Nyamasheke. Its priorities over 5 years include improving the livelihoods of the target beneficiaries; promoting gender, fighting against GBV and conflict resolution in the families; promoting citizens' participation at local level and strengthening its institutional capacity. IPFG has been supporting poor and vulnerable people where it has been contributing to SDG: 1(no poverty); 2 (No hunger); 5 (gender equality); 13 (climate action); and 15 (life on land) and NST1 in Sustainably exploit natural resources and protect the environment and Promotion of new models of irrigation scheme management.

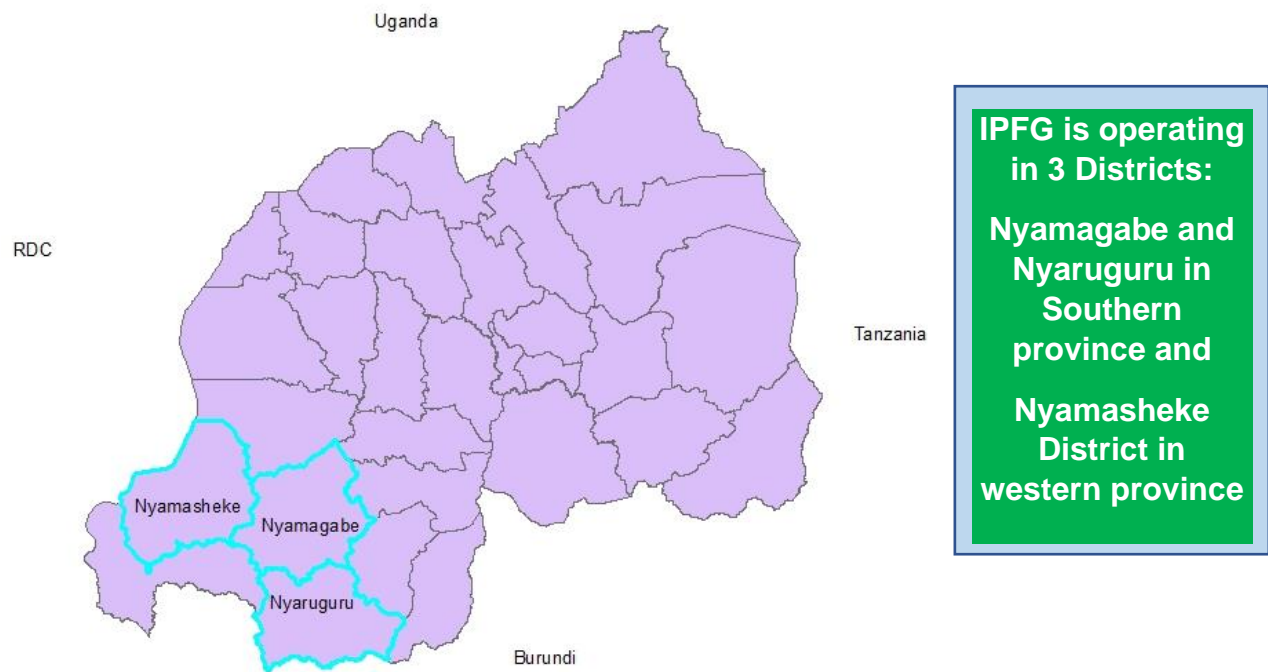
Concerning networking, IPFG is one of founder members of IPC, "Initiative pour la Participation Citoyenne" a network of 5 local NGOs<sup>1</sup> strengthening citizens' participation through imihigo cycle. It is also a member of RCCDN, Rwanda Climate Change and Development Network, that strengthens the implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and other amendments with regard to climate change to which Rwanda is signatory. In addition to that, it is a member of CCOAIB<sup>2</sup>.

IPFG has a strong governance structure general assembly; board of Directors; control committee; procurement committee, conflict resolution committee and technical team.

### 1.1. Geographical focus

<sup>1</sup> 5NGOs founder members of IPC: IPFG; SDA IRIBA; UNICOOPAGI; CDPJ Gikongoro and EAR Kigeme Diocese

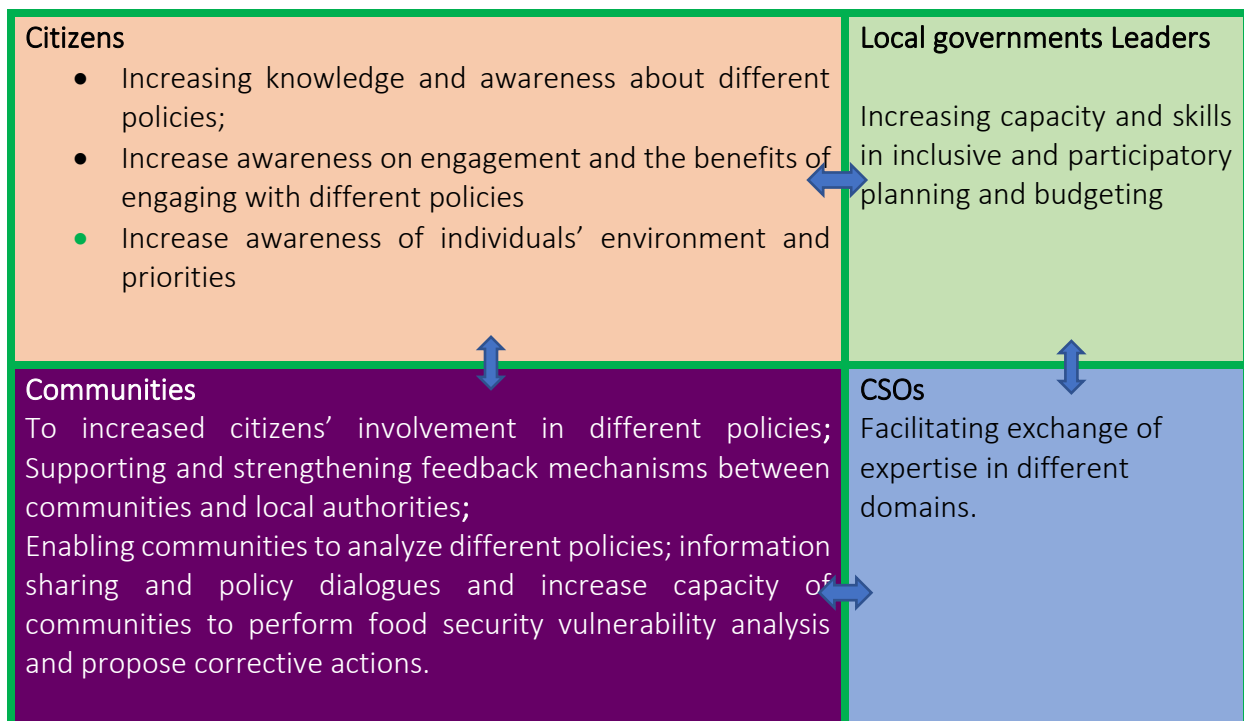
<sup>2</sup> CCOAIB: Conseil de concertation des organizations d'appui aux initiatives de base.



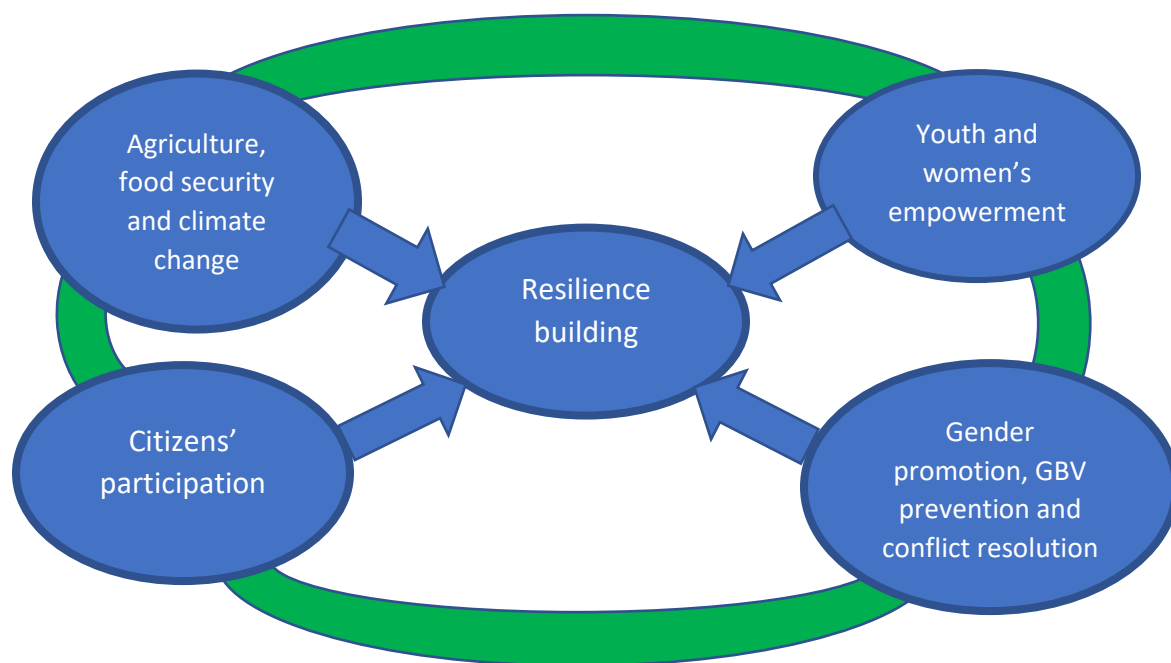
## 1.2. Our theory of change

Our theory of change focuses on (1) Individuals as they need to be supported to have the resources, skills, knowledge and confidence to live a life of dignity and secure their basic rights; (2) Communities as they need to be mobilized and (3) leaders and (4) influencers need to be engaged to build sustainable and resilient communities





### 1.3. Key interventions to build resilience of the targeted population





## 2. Annual realization



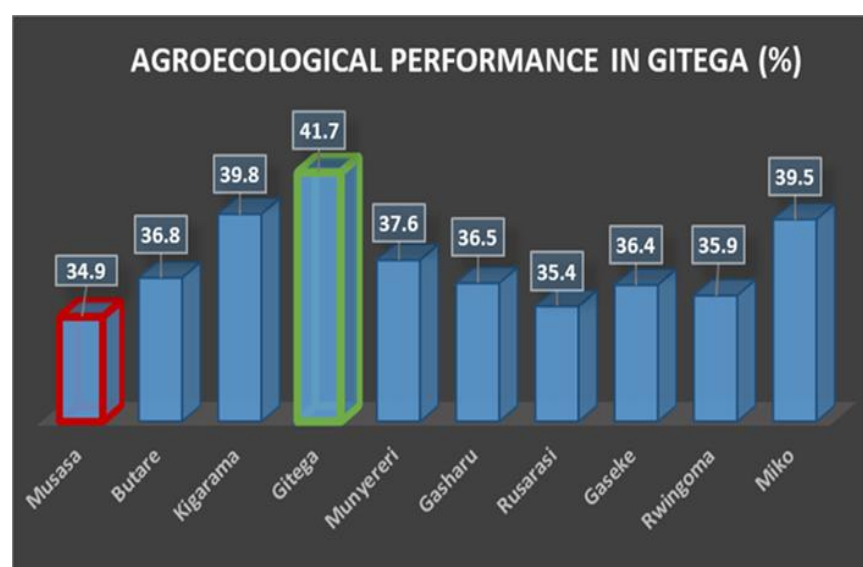
## 2. 1. IRISH AID-TROCAIRE FUNDED PROJECT

For the continuous support, since February 2017, IPFG is implementing a project titled: *“Improving resilient livelihoods for rural population especially women living in Nyamagabe district, Cyanika sector”* financed by Trócaire and Irish Aid. The project is being implemented in Cyanika sector, Gitega cell, in 8 villages namely, Musasa, Butare, Gitega, Kigarama, Munyereri, Gaseke, Rusarasi, and Gasharu. The project has provided additional support to Kiyumba cell for reparation of water tanks, and provision of small livestock to vulnerable families. In addition, the project provided support to construction of water tanks to families with houses constructed with the support of RDF COP, for their protection and for vegetable gardening. The project is ending in the December 2022.

In this financial year 2022, IPFG reached 142 HHs (90FHHs and 52 MHHs) and those include 64 HHs (48 FHHs and 16MHHs) newly identified HHs. The project was implemented through different interventions, that were aiming at increasing resilience of families living in poverty towards climate shocks. The project encompasses activities regarding natural resources management, community engagement on climate change adaptation and landscape restoration, rain water harvesting for vegetable gardening, <sup>3</sup>VSLAs, small livestock provision, strengthening income generating activities, and stakeholders’ engagement on climate change adaptation and mitigation at district level. the following points describe some realization per implemented activity.

### ❖ *Community education on agroecological principles and practices*

A baseline on survey on the application of agroecological practices and agroecological 10 elements in Gitega cell, in all villages of the cell was done to inform so far, how communities are adopting agroecological practices and identification of gaps, to fill in the following periods. The study was done in the cell of Gitega, in 8 implementing villages namely Musasa, Butare, Kigarama, Gitega, Munyereri, Gaseke, Gasharu and Rusarasi; and 2 non implementing village including Miko and Rwingoma. The results were plotted in the following diagrams.

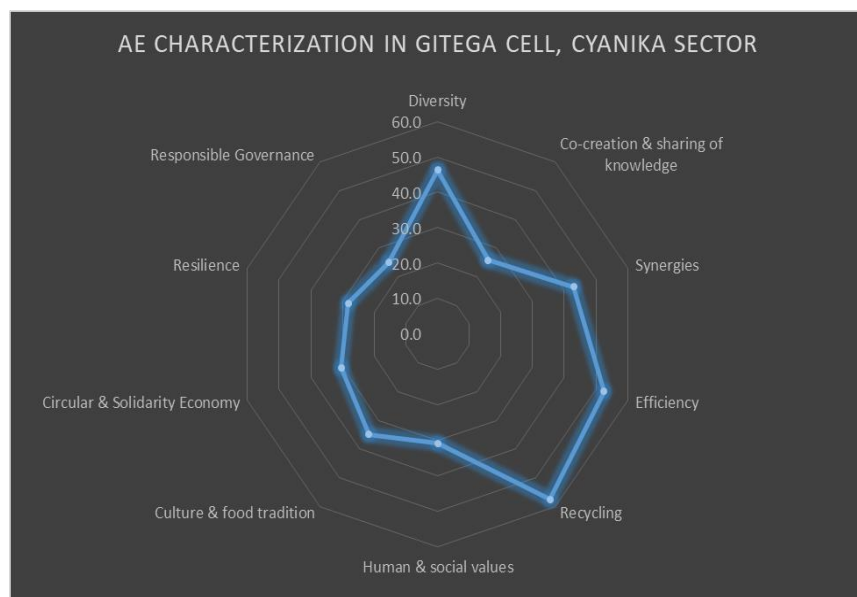


**Diagram 1.** the village of Gitega (with 41.7%), shows some interesting steps towards AE, with interesting results in *Co-creation & sharing of knowledge, and Synergies*; while the village of Musasa showed the weakness comparing to other villages. From the findings, their AE systems are not *resilient* and *efficiently* enough comparing to other villages’ systems.

<sup>3</sup> VSLAs: Village Saving and Loans Associations



The average not of the cell in transition of agroecology was 37.7 which classify the cell of Gitega as unfavorable in Agroecology.



**Diagram 2.** Gitega communities are favorable in “recycling” (with 57.5%) as they are using more green manure, and homemade seeds. They précised that some inputs (fertilizers and pesticides) that need money are not well welcomed by communities. At the other hand, Gitega communities need much emphasis in the “responsible governance” category (with 25%), for improvement.

### ❖ Vegetable production is supporting much poor and vulnerable HHs in obtaining basic household needs

Community members of Gitega cell are coming familiar with growing vegetables, where around the totality of Gitega and Kiyumba communities’ members (including project beneficiaries) are growing vegetables (finding from the joint monitoring visit done in November, 2022).



*Photo: Most of Project participants, including Ayirwanda Emmanuel in Kigarama village, are harvesting vegetables not only for home consumption but also for markets*

❖ Orange fleshed sweet potatoes contributed to reduction of shortage of foods in the area.



Photo: Epiphanie from Gaseke village is happy with her potato production

To date, Project participants were helped to get orange fleshed sweet potato seeds where 30HHs (13FHHs and 17MHHs) were provided with 3,886 Kgs of seeds. The average yield 13.4T/Ha with 13.6T/Ha for MHHs and 13.2T/Ha for FHHs.

OFSPs seeds were found good, nutritious and helpful by communities, but their multiplication and harvest need intensive care comparing to other seeds that are in communities. While communities are caring those seeds as the ones they have, the production is not increasing as wished.

❖ Provision of rain water harvesting technologies to targeted communities and training in their maintenance.



Photo: Emmanuel BASHIRE in Rusarasi village is enjoying fetching on his water tank

\* In this financial year (2022), 92 HHs (55FHHs & 37MHHs) were provided with 92 plastic tanks, in Gitega cell.

\* As a reminder, from 2017 to date, 573 water tanks were constructed to 569HHs with 268FHHs and 301 MHHs and 4 tanks constructed to Kigarama Primary school.

### ❖ House rehabilitation for water tanks installation



2 beneficiaries (1FHHs and 1MHH) located in Gasharu village were helped to re-construct their houses. The activity was done jointly with the community and Cyanika sector authorities where Cyanika sector contributed to: Provision of trees, plot search and levelling, sand and stones and iron sheet for roofing. The community contributed to manpower through community works, and therefore IPFG's contribution was focused on elevation and finishing activities (including elevation, levelling inward and outward with mud, cementing inwards and outward of houses, paving, provision of 3 doors and 4 windows for one house, painting doors and windows and installation of water tanks on houses).

To date, 11 beneficiaries HHs ((8FHHs&6MHHs) were helped to construct their houses before water tanks installation.

### ❖ Strengthening income generating activities



- \* In 10 VSLAs initiated and supported, (5 in Gitega, and other 5 are in Kiyumba)
- \* Total members in above VSLAs are: 257 (173Female &84Males).
- \* All 10 VSLAs initiated are digitalized
- \* All 10 VSLAs received a capital injection to increase the capital for loans
- \* 4 VSLAs within 10 are working with MFIs





\* In this financial year, 72HHs (47 FHHs and 25MHHs) were provided with pigs and 73HHs (37FHHs and 36MHHs) were provided with goats.

To date for:

\*Pigs: 217HHs were provided directly with 217pigs, but by pass-on system they are now 401HHs with 401

\* Goats: 66 HHs were provided with 66 goats

\* Rabbits: 340HHs were provided with 680 rabbits, but now additional 21 HHs are now provided with 42 by pass-on system introduced



To date:

\*19 women in Gitega cell well directly supported to initiate off farm income generating activities

\* Additional 87 (59F and 28M) initiated off farm income generating activities from savings and loans from VSLAs

\* 2 water tanks technicians cooperatives were established and empowered

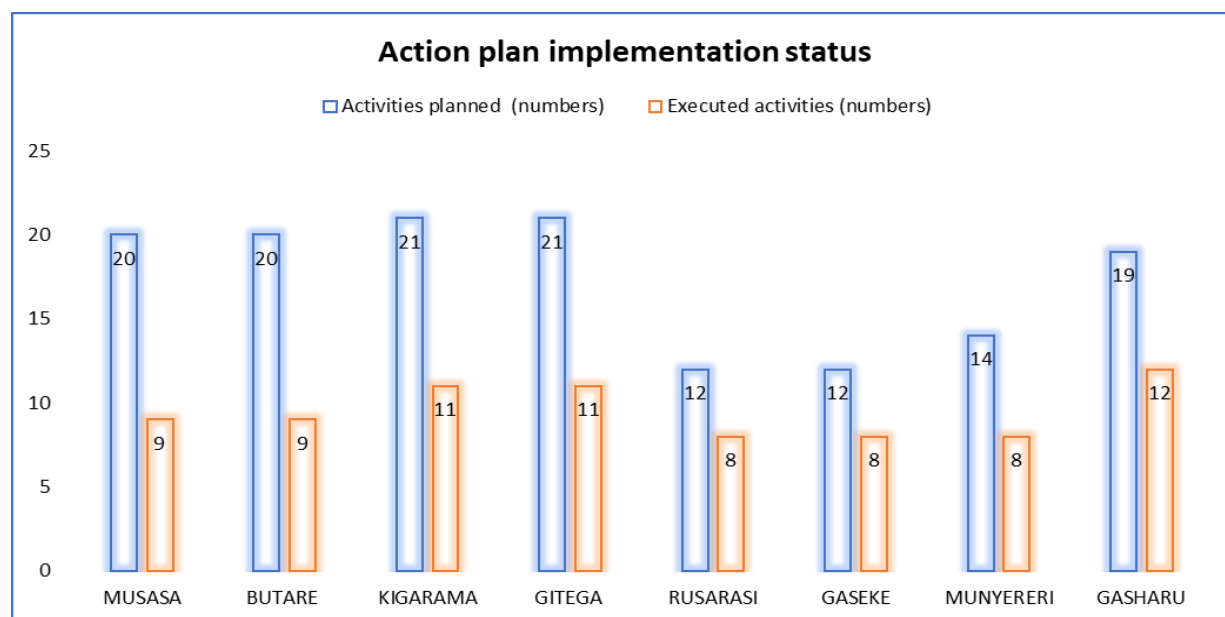


\* The 3 volunteers who are at the same time VSLAs' mentors were facilitated to become MTN agents, to favor the flow of money in VSLAs when they are doing saving and loans activities in a digital way

\* A capital of 100,000 Rwf was provided to each of volunteers, to enable them starting the MTN agent work and facilitate digitalized VSLAs

### ❖ *Community engagement in climate change adaptation and landscape restoration planning and practices*

Up to date targeted communities are implementing actions which many of them are in their capacities like and few of them are done jointly with different stakeholders. Activities done in the implementation of the action plan are mainly community sensitization; anti-erosive digging and rehabilitation in their fields; rehabilitating water channels, rehabilitation of bridges and roads. The following table is illustrating the achievement regarding the implementation of action plan (either climate change adaptation and holistic landscape restoration action plans:



The average execution of the village climate change adaptation plans so far is 54.7%

### ❖ *Promotion of the use of fuel-efficient cooking stoves to protect the environment*

#### Fixed cooking stoves



\*In this financial year 2022, IPFG has done together with Gitega community the construction of 55 saving cooking stove to 55 HHs (with 28FHHs and 27MHHs) and the activity is ended.

\*549 Fixed cooking stoves were constructed to 549 HHs. Fixed cooking stoves were constructed and fixed in kitchens.



Photo: local technicians including women are constructing cooking stoves in trainings

- \* 40 local technicians (20F and 20M) within beneficiaries were trained in construction and maintenance of the above saving cooking stoves
- \* The above technicians gained income in their home from the construction of those cooking stoves in their region, from both the project and the communities.
- \* The above technicians are involved in the maintenance of those cooking stove in their communities

#### ❖ IPFG capacity building meeting room kits

To strengthen the capacity of the organization, especially in its construction and staff meeting room materials provision, a good round table was purchased and 11 comfortable chairs to use in this round table.



Photo: IPFG meeting room kits made with round table and comfortable chairs



### Cafeteria construction



*Photos1 &2: two sides views of the IPFG cafeteria building with a water tank*

To build the capacity of the organization, and building the way forwards towards sustainability of the organization, a cafeteria was constructed. Its is a building to hold cafeteria activities with a water tank for its protection. The building is under construction and the almost activities were ended, and it remains with some finishing activities in kitchen construction. Hoping that the to the end of the month of February, it will be functioning.



## 2.2. CRA Project

On behalf of the project *“Rwandan CSOs engage in Climate Resilient agriculture and sustainable energy initiatives (CRA project)”*, financed by CCOAIB by the fund of the European Union (EC), IPFG is helping communities of Gasaka and Cyanika sectors, Nzega and Nyanza cells respectively, to be resilient in climate change adaptation and mitigation, and identification of their role in helping the country fighting against climate change effects. The project started in March 2022, and supposed to end in October 2023. This project is implemented through various activities and the following details concern implementation period of the financial year 2022.

### ❖ Training agroecological model farmers in agroecological planning



12 Model farmers in agroecology were selected amongst farmers in Nyanza and Nzega cell. Selected farmers were educated on

- \* Agroecological principles and 10 AE elements

- \* Farm design

- \* Farm redesign guided by AE principles and elements

From the trainings, farmers started the implementation of AE in their farms as planned during the redesigning of their farms. Until now, farmers are implementing the agroecological practices, to be evaluated. Moreover, each AE model farmer must have at least 4 farmers she/he educated and/or inspired to use agroecological practices for production improvement and soil resource management.



### ❖ Installation of agroforestry and fruit tree nurseries at community level

The project implementing cells have each an established nursery, with agroforestry and fruit trees. This is done, basically for knowledge transmission (how to establish nurseries and how profitable it is), and for trees production. From nurseries established, youth and single mothers project participants were educated in their establishment and used the place in the study of tree grafting activity.

From the nurseries established, 40,900 trees were grown including agroforestry (grevillea, Leucena) and fruit trees (Tree tomato, passion fruits and guava). Those trees, a small portion was planted in awareness campaigns, and other distributed to 1231 HHs.



*Photos 1. Trees are being distributed to communities in Nzega; 2. Road to tree planting site in Nyanza cell; 3. Different stakeholders are planting to protect soil; 4. At HH level, Verene in Kibingo village Nyanza cell is planting passion fruit and grevillea seedlings for nutrition and soil protection purposes.*

### ❖ Distribution of banana suckers to communities

To help communities growing drought tolerant crops, 550 suckers were distributed to 128 HHs were helped to get banana suckers as one crop that resist to drought and have been identified by community members to help them resist to climate change effects caused by the heavy sun. Those suckers were planted by AE model farmers and other farmers which needed them. The number of suckers to a given HH was depending on its need, and remember that the need assessment to suckers was conducted by IPFG Volunteers in the area, before the purchase and distribution.





*Photo: Nzega community members are receiving banana suckers to plant in their field*

#### ❖ community education on climate change adaptation planning and practices



Communities of Nzega and Nyanza were educated on climate change adaptation planning and practices. the education was done through environment committee members (10 in each cell, with 5F and 5M) who were receiving sessions and were sensitized through public meetings for inputs and validation. Sessions provided were resumed in the following points:

1. Education on climate change adaptation and mitigation
  2. Mapping cell resources and effects of climate change of those mapped resources
  3. Vulnerability assessment
  4. Prioritization of actions
  5. Elaboration of cell climate change adaptation plans including its budgeting
- all cells have their action plans and started implementing them

❖ Training youth and single mothers on green technology practices for income generating activities



Photo: youth are learning how to graft avocadoes in Nyanza cell



Photo: 1 group member of youth is grafting an avocado in Kadoma village Nzege cell

40 youth and single mothers (20 in each cell, with 10 male and 10 females) were supported to learn some opportunities they can find in climate change adaptation and mitigation. To learn this, 3 sessions were provided, and the activity is still ongoing:

*1<sup>st</sup> session:* To learn climate change adaptation and mitigation, and some opportunities related

*2<sup>nd</sup> session:* learn how to develop an agroforestry tree nursery

*3<sup>rd</sup> session:* Learning how to graft avocado trees, and grafting activity to communities

In addition, 2900 avocadoes were grafted in fields by those youth and single mothers in both cells. Until now it's remarked that the % of success is increasing comparing to those planted from nurseries. The success % will be communicated after the grafting of all avocadoes and examining their germination rate.



## ❖ Conducting awareness campaign sessions on climate change adaptation and NDCs implementation at sector level

Awareness campaigns were conducted in communities of Nzega and Gasaka cells. It was in the occasion of planting agroforestry trees and fruit trees. Those campaigns were started by community works that were aiming at planting trees on a site that was decided by environment committees and communities to be rehabilitated. The following session was designed to discuss about the role of planting trees in the development of the communities, in soil protection and more importantly in climate change adaptation and mitigation.



Photo: the sector land manager is discussing with communities about the role of planting agroforestry trees

During discussions, some questions were asked to community members, to evaluate the knowledge they have in climate change adaptation and mitigation. Those who answered questions correctly were awarded with some tools that may help them in their agricultural activities, especially in soil management and erosion control. Those tools include hand hoes, picks, watering canes and spades.



Photo: Community members who answered well questions asked concerning climate change and awarded, with local leaders from the district to the cell, IPFG, DUTERIMBERE and RAB officials

### ❖ EC, CCOAIB, and DUTERIMBERE monitoring conducted

EC, CCOAIB and DUTERIMBERE officials visited the IPFG implementing sites, to see how CRA project activities are helping communities in climate change adaptation and mitigation. The delegation visited 2 sites (including Nzega and Nyanza sites), where they visited:

- ✓ AE model farmers with their activities aiming at designing and redesigning AE farms
- ✓ Nyanza agroforestry nursery
- ✓ Youth and single mothers in Nzega and see how they are studying grafting of avocados.

The visit was fruitful and generated some insights that are in revision to be included hopefully in the projects. Those include, provision of support to youth that are being educated, and provision of support in the implementing of cell climate change adaptation plans.



Photo: cell environment committee members are showing how they analyzed their cell and how they elaborated climate change adaptation plans



Photo: cell environment committee members and visitors (EC, CCOAIB, DUTERIMBERE, local leaders and IPFG staff) are seeing how Nyanza community managed to establish an agroforestry nursery



### 2.3. IKI founded project

With financial support from Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action on the basis of a decision by the German Bundestag, and IKI (International Climate Initiative), IPFG is implementing the project entitled "Improving adaptation capacities for vulnerable households in Nyamagabe District ", IPFG is helping communities in Nyamagabe district, Gasaka and Kibilizi sectors be resilient to climate change effects. The project started in October 2022. However, due to the short delay of pre financing, activities started in December 2022. Activities done, are resumed as follow. The project is implemented in Remera cell (Muriro and Gitwa villages) in Gasaka cell, and in Bugarama cell (Kabarera and Kamina villages) in Kibilizi sector.

#### ❖ Discussing with implementing sectors' leaders about the project and their role in the implementation

IPFG discussed with Kibilizi and Gasaka sectors' ES and Agronomists about the project. This was first made aware of project activities to leaders and to request them to favor starting activities that include beneficiaries' selection and facilitate environment committee election at implementing village level and other project activities. The meeting was well conducted and sector leaders promised total collaboration to help communities be resilient to climate change effects.

#### ❖ Project participants identification

After meeting with sector leaders, the activity of selection of project participants started. The activity was done in two phases, the 1<sup>st</sup> was the preselection done with IPFG officer, village and cell authorities. The aim was to select 300 HHs in both cells, based on the following criteria:

- ✓ Vulnerable women Headed households
- ✓ Households with people with disability
- ✓ Households with people with HIV/AIDS
- ✓ Households in 1<sup>st</sup> , 2<sup>nd</sup> ubudehe categories and 3<sup>rd</sup> poor categories households
- ✓ Child headed households

the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase was to agree to selected project participants in village public meetings. This was done and the number of 300 HHs were selected and agreed with community members. This was the occasion of electing village environment committees, made with 10 people/village (with 5 females and 5 males).

#### ❖ Education of village environment committees on climate change adaptation planning and natural resources management

The elected village environment committees were trained in two sessions:

the 1<sup>st</sup> session was concerning natural resources management, where village committee members identify their natural resources and see how they can manage the identified resources. The 2<sup>nd</sup> session was regarding climate change adaptation and mitigation, where committees tried to understand climate and climate change terms and reality in their villages. It was the occasion to identify roughly their causes, and their effects, especially in their regions.





Photo: Kamina village environment committee are discussing on climate change effects in their village.

### 3. CHANGE IN CONTEXT

The project initiated different changes that can be categorized in social-economic, political and environment protection changes.

#### 3.1. Social-economic changes

- ✓ Saving and loan groups are contributing to getting health insurance to house hold members where 100% of saving and loan group members are ending every year with health insurance
- ✓ The number of livestock distributed increased as community members first beneficiaries were providing livestock to their neighbours through “pass-on system”, and this increased the mutual confidence and respect between community members
- ✓ Gitega and Kiyumba cells are considered as first stock of vegetables in the region of Cyanika and Gasaka, as précised by the sector executive secretary of Cyanika sector, due to the promotion of vegetable production
- ✓ The share value/week in accompanied VSLAs increased from 100 Rwf to the average of 400Rwf and a person may have 1 to 5 shares per week. In addition, 4 VSLAs are working with MFIs to bust income generating activities within VSLAs’ members
- ✓ From the assessment done jointly with beneficiaries’ representatives, staff and BoD members (November, 2022), 100% of beneficiaries appreciate the contribution of VSLAs in improving the economy of communities,
- ✓ The average number of food groups consumed by household increased from 3.6 to 4.1 (Irish Aid Endline survey,2022)
- ✓ 100% of beneficiaries are appreciating the contribution of roof rain water harvesting and saving cooking stoves on the reduction of unpaid home care works that were done especially by women and children
- ✓ Roof rain water harvesting techniques at HH level increased the cleanliness in household members and their neighbours (from the joint monitoring visit conducted by Beneficiaries representative, BoD members and staff, November 2022)
- ✓ Non-direct beneficiaries précised that they gained a lot on project deliverables, including agroforestry and fruit trees to plant, water to use from their neighbours with water tanks, vegetable seeds and harvests, and more importantly the cooperative initiated by the project are providing to them various products like seeds, construction materials nearby and at the affordable price (Joint monitoring visit, November 2022)
- ✓ The willing of community members to contribute to project deliverables was highly appreciated
- ✓ The implementing communities are providing highly experienced technicians in water tanks construction to other organizations and different contractors

#### 3.2. Political change

- ✓ Cyanika sector authority initiated quarterly planning sessions with sector stakeholders, from the experience of the planning sessions that were organized by IPFG and sector authorities before the implementing year;

- ✓ District and sector authorities increased collaboration with stakeholders (i.e. IPFG) to support vulnerable people getting safe houses to live in, or rehabilitate the damaged ones;
- ✓ The existing collaboration between IPFG with sectors and district authorities eased the support to most affected people by covid-19 pandemic and in its prevention;
- ✓ The strong collaboration with Cyanika sector authorities eased the husbandry of livestock through ensuring their security, providing Penicillin injection for pigs, and providing insurance to purchased pigs.
- ✓ The strong collaboration with Cyanika sector authorities eased agroforestry nursery activities by providing plot for installation, accompaniment, and the planting activities;

### 3.3. Environment protection and climate change adaptation

- ✓ 100% of beneficiaries agreed on the fact that soil and water management practices introduced by the project reduced the erosion at a considerable rate in Gitega cell, Cyanika sector (from the joint monitoring visit conducted by Beneficiaries representative, BoD members and staff, November 2022);
- ✓ Agroforestry and fruit trees planted in Cyanika sector increased the soil protection and improved the nutrition of community members
- ✓ Energy saving cooking stoves distributed to HHs are saving up to 60% of firewood though contribute to the protection of the environment
- ✓ Climate change adaptation and landscape restoration action plans have responded to some community priorities that were not done in previous years (ex. rehabilitation of springs, water line provision, rehabilitation of quarries, etc.)
- ✓ Roof rain water harvested are favouring the growing and production of vegetables even in dry periods

## 4. CHALLENGES

The implementation of the project encountered some limitations that came either from the nature of the project or external factors. Those challenges include:

- ▶ The covid-19 pandemic which caused the disturbed the implementation of some activities, especially from the year 2020 until now;
- ▶ The climate change brought sometimes effects that are beyond community control, and affected the agricultural production;
- ▶ Rain water harvesting technologies that did not cope with the nature of implementing areas and/or nature of introduced technology, and this provoked some unwished damages
- ▶ Mixed approaches used by different stakeholders that were competing with the community approach that was used by IPFG

## 5. LESSON LEARNT

From this period (year 2022), there are some lessons taken all along its implementation. some are the following:

- ✓ The contribution of community members in projects' activities increase ownership of project activities and sustainability of actions
- ✓ Local government is an incomparable contributor to the success of the projects if involved in the whole process of the project;
- ✓ Community members have knowledge on different topics sometimes we want to introduce in the community, better to listen to them and consider and involve them in the knowledge diffusion
- ✓ Local technicians are powerful to the success of construction, care and maintenance of project infrastructures;
- ✓ The consideration of the holistic development is key, to boost the development of families in rural areas;
- ✓ Considering interventions seeking to adaptation and mitigation, to be geo-focussed bring tangible results and ease the monitoring and gathering results of project interventions;
- ✓ Economic development goes together with social development and environment protection for sustainable development of communities; strengthening one without considering another, it is very hard to march towards sustainable development

Prepared on the 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2023

Janvier NGABO

Program manager



## Appendices

### 1. Our team



**Thérèse UWIZEYE**

President of Board of Directors

### Senior management team



**Faustin KANANI**  
Coordinator



**Janvier NGABO**  
Program manager



**Rafiki Josiane**  
DAF

### Technicians



**Theogene NTIRUSHWA**  
Field officer

## Secretariat



**Aime Emmanuel NSENGIYUMVA DUSHIME**  
Secretary Cashier

## Support staff



**Christine MUTUYIMANA**  
Cleaner



**Casien NSANZUMUHIRE**  
Night watch



**Noël NDAHIMANA**  
Night watch