

# Men's rural-to-urban migration in Burundi: effects on women's voice and agency in banana farming systems

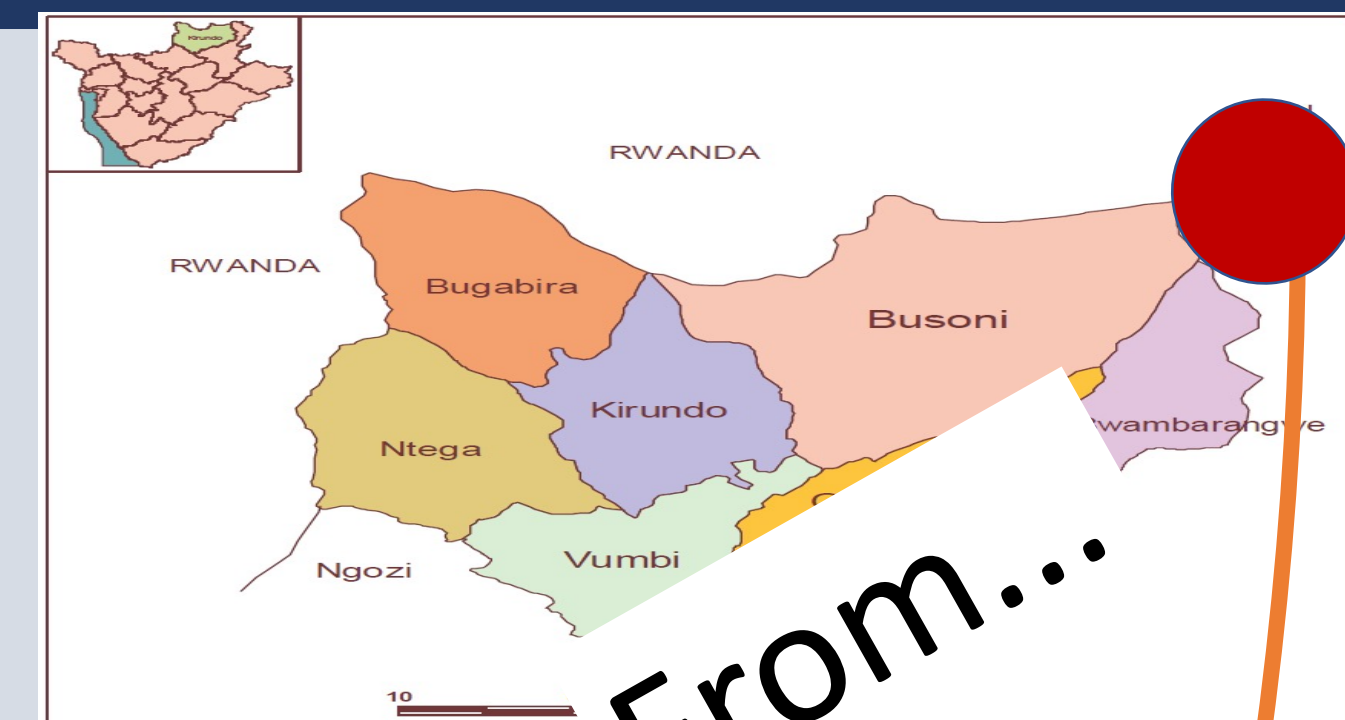
Iradukunda Francois<sup>1&2</sup>, Holvoet Nathalie<sup>2</sup>, and Rietveld Anne<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, <sup>2</sup>University of Antwerp

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## Background

- Men's rural-to-urban migration is rapidly increasing in Burundi.
- In **Kirundo province**, threatened by recurrent droughts and land pressure, this is most prevalent.
- 33 % of male** heads of households in Kirundo were reported to out-migrate
- In the region, **banana** is important crop for income and food (**62% of Agri production**) and is known as 'men's crop'

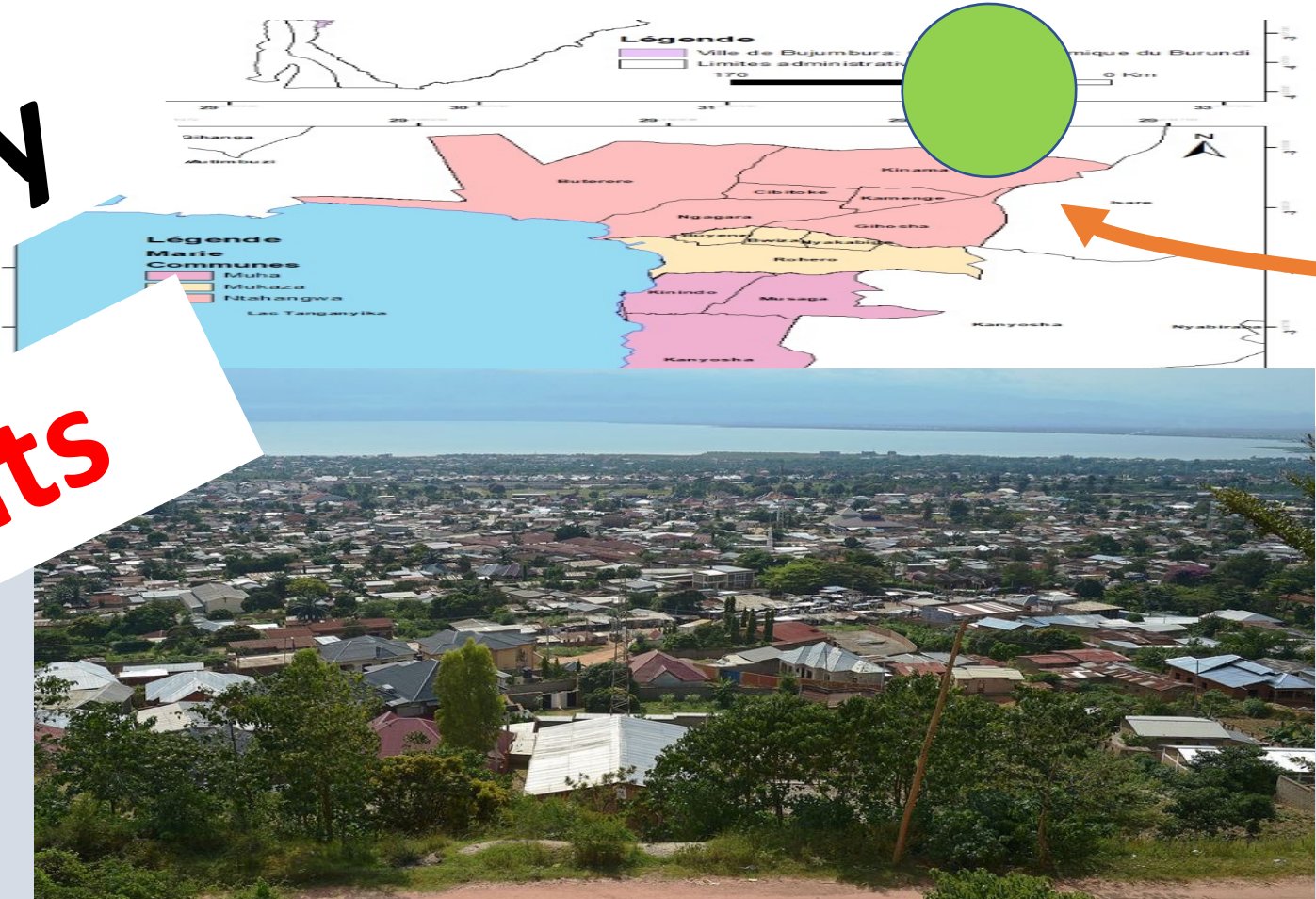


**Kirundo province**

To....

**Wives of Migrants**

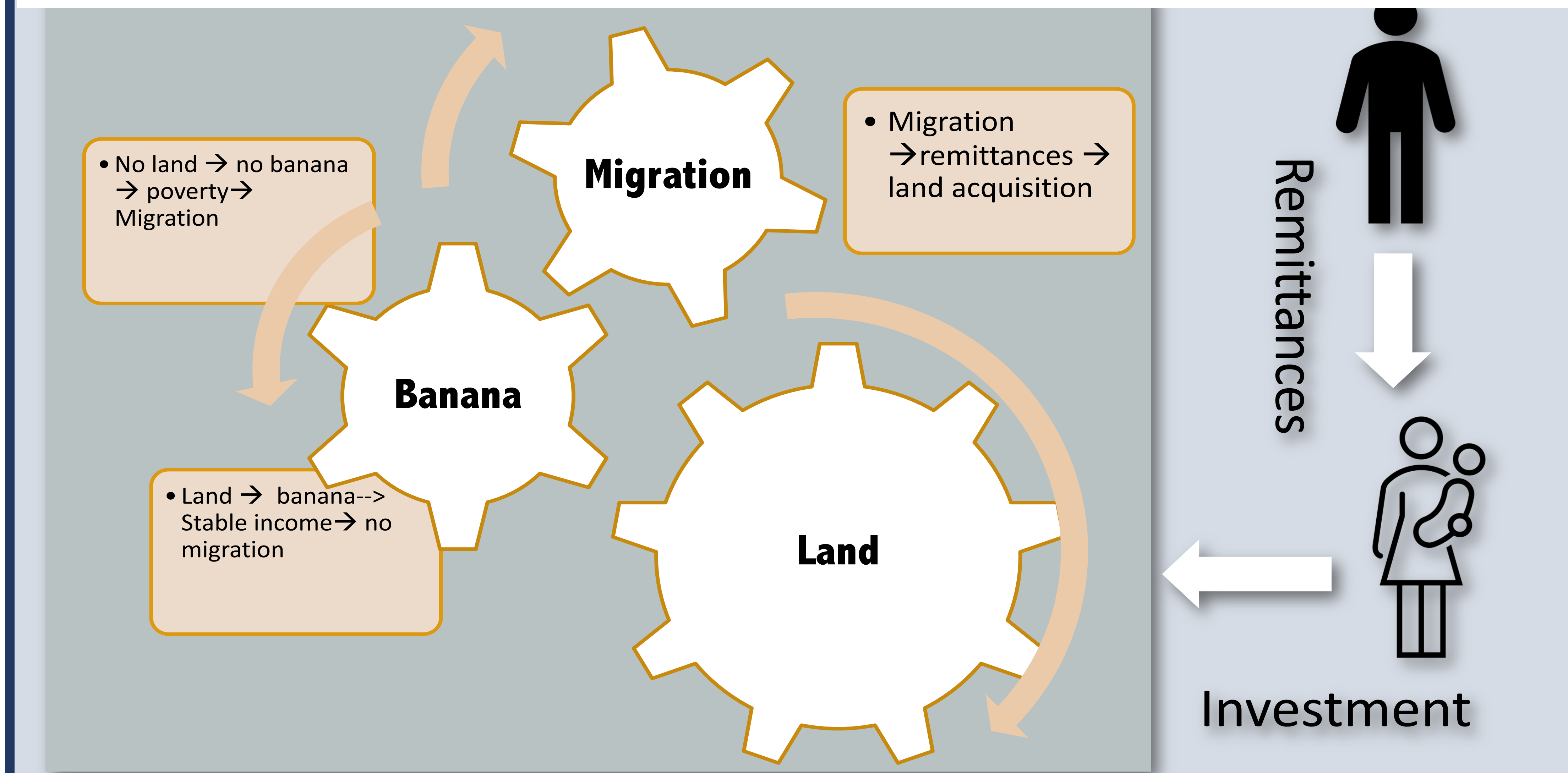
**Bujumbura city**  
**Male migrants**



Little is known about how it affects women's decision-making and management of the men's crop' (banana)

## Main results

- Land issue & poverty are key determinants of migration
- Land, banana, and migration are interrelated and left-behind women play a key role in land and banana acquisition using remittances



- Women experience power and freedom to decide over banana-related activities and finances when husbands are away.
- Men accept having lost the power of decision on the banana to the profit of their wives,
- However, they still claim the headship over the household and still giving some orders even when they are not at home.

## Methodology

### 3 research questions

1. Migration's push and pull factors ?

2. Effects on agriculture & banana farming system?

3. Perceived control & decision-making by the migrants and the left-behind wives on banana ?

### Data collection instruments

Community profile (CP)

Semi-structured interviews

Ladder of power and freedom (LPF) (Petesch & Bullock, 2018)

### Participants

Key informants (2M&2W)

Migrants, wives of migrants & returned (16 M & 19W)

Bujumbura migrants & wives of migrants (9 M & 11 W)

## Research & policy recommendations

- Further research involving mixed methods and intersectionality
- Policies which protect those involved in informal employment to improve the life of migrants and that of those left-behind