



INITIATIVE ON
West and Central African
Food Systems Transformation



Transforming Agrifood Systems in West and Central Africa (TAFS-WCA)

Report of the workshop to strengthen the organizations of the
Gender-based Agricultural Innovation Platforms
(Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo)



August 2024



Summary

On August 19, 2024, at the Hotel Petit Paris in Goma, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, a workshop was held that brought together participants from agricultural sectors including rice, cassava, potatoes, beans and corn. The event was attended by 49 participants from agricultural organizations, including 25 women and 24 young people. The objective of the workshop was to strengthen the actors of organizations of gender-based agricultural innovation platforms. During the workshop, the participants carried out a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) to highlight the main elements that influence the value chains and identify the key areas for improvement and growth of each sector.

For all stakeholders, the factors that positively influence Agricultural Value Chains (AVCs) are national political-institutional mechanisms, the availability of land and producers, and the presence of a local market. Negative factors include: high seed prices, lack of training in good agricultural practices, poor access roads to production sites, climate change impacts, flooding of the local market with products from neighboring countries and insufficient local processing units.

Participants were also able to identify constraints related to agricultural entrepreneurship. For young people, lack of land, lack of parental confidence and funding structures towards young people, young people's lack of interest in agricultural trades are the main obstacles to their involvement in the agricultural sector. For women, barriers are: lack of support from spouses, the grabbing of productive resources by men, low self-esteem, illiteracy, lack of entrepreneurship training, lack of access to credit and land.

Participants gained a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities in their respective sectors. In the end, they called for much more support and strengthening in areas such as corporate governance and agricultural entrepreneurship.

Preface

This work is part of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) TAFS-WCA research initiative to transform agri-food systems in West and Central Africa. This initiative is the result of a collaboration between nine centers, including six of CGIAR, such as the Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice), the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (Alliance Bioversity-CIAT), the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the International Potato Center (CIP) and the World Fish Center (WorldFish), as well as three international centers, including the West and African Fish Council for Agricultural Research (CORAF), the World Vegetable Center (World Center) WorldVeg) and the International Center for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE). The initiative works in partnership with national actors in various countries.

This report presents the methodology and results of the activities carried out with stakeholders in the agricultural sector in Goma. It was prepared under the leadership of Yeo Pétanhangui Arnaud (Gender Specialist, AfricaRice, Côte d'Ivoire), Mushiya Jeannine (Agronomist and Gender, INERA, Democratic Republic of Congo), Lufuluabo Mwabila Moïse (Socio-economist, INERA, Democratic Republic of Congo) and Yergo Wilfried (Research Assistant, AfricaRice, Côte d'Ivoire).

We express our appreciation to all donors, including the governments of Belgium and the Netherlands, for their financial support through the CGIAR Trust Fund. We also express our gratitude to the National Institute for Agricultural Studies and Research (INERA) and the Provincial Ministry of Agriculture of North Kivu for facilitating this capacity building workshop on agricultural entrepreneurship. Finally, we would like to extend our warmest thanks to the leaders of organizations, sectoral innovation platforms, youth and women who made this work possible.

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Quotation

Arouna, A., Mushiya, J., Yeo, P.A., Lufuluabo, M.M., & Yergo, W., (2024), Report of the Capacity Building Workshop on Gender-Based Agricultural Entrepreneurship (Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo), CGIAR/AfricaRice, 18 p.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Context

Improving food security is a major challenge facing Africa. In sub-Saharan Africa, in particular, nearly two thirds of the population (63.2%) do not benefit from a healthy and balanced diet (FAO, 2022). Nutritional levels in this region remain low due to less inclusive and climate resilient agricultural systems.

Yet, agriculture is central to African economies (Climate Action Observatory, 2022). This sector continues to absorb more than half of the labor force and will continue to do so (NEPAD, 2013). Women and youth account for 52% and 40% of agricultural value chains, respectively (Bomjiwe and Kaaria, 2015). However, they are much more vulnerable to poverty because they have less access to resources and productive capacities. These challenges represent challenges that must be overcome to improve agricultural productivity and food security in Africa. In these circumstances, it is important that efforts are made to reduce gender inequality in Africa's agricultural sector.

The Agri-Food Systems Transformation in West and Central Africa (TAFS-WCA) initiative was launched by CGIAR in 2022, a consortium of 15 international research centers, to provide a sustainable response to food security challenges by improving the living conditions of actors in agricultural value chains. Through its Workpackage 4, this initiative aims to improve the livelihoods of women and youth through research and implementation of gender-sensitive activities. Since 2022, the Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice) has been working with different national agricultural research systems to implement these activities.

Among the countries involved is Rwanda in Central Africa. It was in this context that a workshop to strengthen the actors of Goma gender-based agricultural innovation platforms took place on August 19, 2024, at the Hotel Petit Paris in Goma, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

This report presents the outcome of the workshop, with a full list of participants attached.

1.2. Challenges of gender-based agricultural innovation platforms

Women and young people in Africa's agricultural value chains face challenges both in terms of productivity and in improving their incomes. This trend can be reversed by providing technical support to ensure the inclusive development of Africa's agricultural sector. Agricultural Innovation Platforms (AIPs) are best positioned to address these gender-related challenges. These are mechanisms that allow members to work together across value chains, from producers to processors to traders, to identify barriers to innovation and move beyond

individual solutions to collective solutions. The aim of the IAPs is therefore to find solutions to common problems or to achieve a common objective. They are also very beneficial in creating an environment conducive to dialog, understanding partners' needs and sharing experiences, skills and ideas. These are frameworks where local and scientific knowledge is tested and disseminated in local ecosystems.

Under the TAFS-WCA, AfricaRice has for years focused on creating or strengthening gender-based IPAs for the benefit of women and youth in agricultural value chains. The approach consists of organizing capacity-building workshops with several farmers' organizations. Activities under this framework include: (a) Discussing the challenges faced by women and youth in the agricultural sector, (b) Identifying and promoting existing and new business opportunities and relationships in the agricultural sector for women and youth; (c) Intensifying innovations in rice and/or other crops along value chains; (d) Developing a work plan for stakeholders in agricultural organizations or agricultural innovation platforms. In Rwanda, specifically in Butaré, the idea is to bring together leaders of agricultural organizations representing at least 500 members. They should include at least 40% women and 40% young people.

1.3. Objectives of the reinforcement workshop

The overall objective of the workshop is to strengthen an agricultural innovation platform for women and youth. The specific objectives are as follows: (a) Organize a workshop with 49 actors, mostly 25 women and 24 young people from different agricultural value chains or organizations; (b) Make a participatory diagnosis of the problems and opportunities faced by women and young people in agricultural value chains; (c) Map and promote existing and new business opportunities and relationships between actors in agricultural links, especially women and young people; (d) Scale up rice and/or other crop innovations along agricultural value chains.

2. Methodology

This workshop is aimed at those directly involved in the value chain of the food supply chain, in particular rice. They belong to different agricultural organizations or platforms of producers, seed companies, input vendors and agricultural product processors (incubators/mills) in order to have a broad spectrum of impact. The training workshop began with a welcome address from the Chief of Staff of the Provincial Minister of Agriculture of North Kivu/DRC. He explained the purpose of the session and encouraged participants, while thanking the AfricaRice partner structure.

The work was later led by Mr. Yergo, an agricultural economist at AfricaRice. He began by presenting the TAFS-WCA initiative and the agricultural innovation platform approach.

Following this presentation, he led discussions on the diagnosis of agricultural value chains with the participation of the entire INERA team. Facilitating the discussions focused on several points: The Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats in Agricultural Value Chains; The Challenges, Challenges and Opportunities in Youth and Women Entrepreneurship; The Goma Multi-Sectoral Innovation Platform Entry Points and Vision; Identifying and Promoting Existing Opportunities; Mapping the Innovation Platform's Players; Collecting Training Needs of Agricultural Innovation Platform Players; Governance in Agricultural Fields.

The workshop ended with a presentation by Dr. Innocent on some agricultural innovations in the rice sector. The event was attended by 49 participants from agricultural organizations, including 25 women and 24 young people.

3. Conduct of activities

The workshop to strengthen the actors of the agricultural innovation platforms was structured around 8 main activities.

3.1. Analysis of Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats in Agricultural Value Chains

This session took place in the form of an open exchange with stakeholders from agricultural organizations. Its initial task was to identify the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats of the value chain links in their agricultural sector. The results of the exchanges are recorded in the Table 1.

Table 1: Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats in the agricultural sector

Value Chain Functions	Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Forté production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural areas available; • Sufficient landscaped and irrigated areas; • Existence of agricultural cooperatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High cost of seeds and other inputs; • Low mechanization of agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market related to demand and production of quality seed; • Offers available for support, assistance, training and agricultural advice; • State subsidies to farmers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects of climate change (drought, irregular rain cycles, etc.); • Presence of diseases (e.g. kirabiranya).
Collection/Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong production. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient infrastructure for collection, drying and storage of production; • Inadequate provision of rural access roads; • Inadequate and outdated means of transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High demand for transport of agricultural products; • Professionalization of the sector of collection and distribution of agricultural products. 	
Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of productions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faible structuration des mécanismes de commercialisation ; • Poor structuring of marketing mechanisms; • Low contract offers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existence of a local and regional market. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay in price setting; • Competition from imported products.
Transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low presence of agricultural processing equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-skilled labor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local development of an economy processing of agricultural products. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasion and competition from foreign companies.

In each link of agricultural value chains, unmet needs and requirements have been identified. The results of the group work presented at the plenary meeting are set out in Table 2.

Table 2: Needs and requirements of actors in agricultural value chains

Domain	Needs	Requirements
Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to agricultural land, equipment, quality seed and others inputs; • Irrigated areas ; • Support and Strengthening agricultural technical capacity of producers; • Setting up storage infrastructure; • Development of an economic market around local agricultural production. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop partnerships between land owners and women/young farmers; • Improve the partnership between farmers and suppliers of services, inputs and other materials; • Need to capital; • Creation of a savings and credit Cooperative; • Capacity-building in quality seed and agricultural production; • Organization of actors in cooperatives or AIPs.
Collection/Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of rural access roads; • Development of service delivery agencies for the collection, transport and distribution of agricultural products. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to capital.
Transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knowledge and technology transfer; • Grant to set up processing unit; • Product quality certification ; 1. Development of partnerships with producers and universities, laboratories, etc. -Collaboration with the media. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to capital; • Skilled industrialists and capacity building in agricultural entrepreneurship.
Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the internal and regional market 	

3.2. Identifying issues and challenges for women and youth in agricultural entrepreneurship

For this session, participants identified the issues and challenges of women and youth in agricultural entrepreneurship. The results were presented in plenary and are grouped in the following Table 3.

Table 3: Problems and challenges in women and youth agricultural entrepreneurship

Social categories	Problèmes	Défis
Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restriction of access to land for women. • Agricultural yield problem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting collective production systems such as agricultural cooperatives. • Access to agricultural inputs and equipment; • Strengthening farmers' capacities for good agricultural practices and innovations.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's difficulties in accessing bank credit (high interest rates; lack of mortgage; etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating access to agricultural credit.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender inequalities in agricultural value chains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion and financial empowerment of women across agricultural value chains.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen dialog around social conflicts.
Youth people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people's lack of interest in agricultural value chains. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate young people's access to agricultural land, inputs and equipment's ; • Facilitate young people's access to investment capital. • Supporting and mentoring young people in agricultural sectors; • Raise awareness among young people about the opportunities offered by agriculture; • Capacity building in agricultural entrepreneurship.

For sustainable support for women and youth in agricultural entrepreneurship, RDC has many mechanisms structured around a national agricultural policy and a national agricultural research system. A framework for grants to the peasant world and financial support services for rural people also exists. The state and international institutions that fund several programs in RDC are particularly sensitive to the issues and challenges facing women and youth in the agricultural and rural sectors.

3.3. Entry point and vision for agricultural organizations

Supporting women and youth entrepreneurship to improve the performance of agri-food value chains is crucial. Africa's agricultural economy is in dire need of them, as their participation should harness their energy and innovation capacity to increase agricultural productivity, reduce rural poverty, and improve household food security.

However, one of the key players in this activity is increasingly turning away from eastern DRC, focusing on more lucrative mining, which is recognized as the domain of the country's aggressors, creating a climate of insecurity. It should also be noted that certain determinants, such as access to and lack of production resources, lack of basic equipment and infrastructure, lack of market organization for the disposal of harvested products and lack of profit at the end of the chain noted by the main actors, namely women and young people, add to the list. What solutions should be considered to remedy these ills that plague the rural world? In light of the above, we propose the following:

- Promote the involvement of women and youth in all parts of value chains;
- Organize women and young people into competitive innovation organizations or platforms;
- Facilitating access to productive resources in agricultural value chains for women and youth;
- Facilitate the diffusion and adoption of improved technologies and services for the production of quality products.

Likewise, through an approach that fosters agricultural entrepreneurship, we can hope to improve the economic empowerment of women and youth in the agricultural sector and improve food and nutrition security in the DRC.

3.4. Participatory review of the mapping of major players in agricultural value chains

This activity consisted in mapping the actors involved in agricultural value chains in the province of Butaré. The results of this identification were then presented in plenary session by the various farmer organizations represented (Tables 4,5,6,7,8).

Table 4: Mapping of major players in agricultural value chains in Rutsuru (Goma)

Agricultural Value Chain Links	Types of actors	
	Direct actors	Indirect actors
Seed production	Ets BARAKA – Biruma, MUNYAMBABAZI ENTH Business – Bunyangula, USD – Kavira, CEDERU – Kibututu, AFEDEBU, ABRIFAM; Ets Job- Kahunga, COOAPEKI- Kiwanja, FAS – NK, APAMA, PREMILOG, OSWALD	AGRITERA ; CAPSA ; COOSENKI ; FOPAK.
Agricultural production	UVDI, ARDI, UJASODI, AAC, PASPACO, AMMDI, COOAEPATU, ADGIB, COOCENKI, AIBD,ADPP – DH, IPAP, AJECEDEKI, COOPAKIRU, CEFA IN ACTION, AFEGARU ; SHIKA JEMBE, PAFECODI, COOPADES ; SERDI, COOAPP, MECCDI, APTRAVEN, AMKA, ASMADI, AVPS, ASSONACO, COAB, COAP, COPAB	INERA
Supply of inputs	Ets BARAKA, ENTH, WORD VISION ; MANIRIHO/MABUNGO ; EMERI MUGERE	
Transformation	MFORANZI NYOBUHUNGIRO ; KABAGAMBA – Nyamilima ; ENTH – Business, Ets BARAKA, COAB ; COOAPEKI, COCAB, AGARU, COOPAYAD, COOAPSADI, COADEBU – Burayi	Virunga – Energie ; Association of the Monglo-gusto at Nyahanga
Marketing	LOFEPACO, Ets BARAKA ; PASPACO, ADEVEVI, UPROVEPA ; COCAB, COCEAT-Binza ; AVB/Kabaya ; UVDI	
Collection/Distribution	ACCO-Bus, COOPTAM, COTAM ; ACCO- MOTO ; ASNAMOC ; Association of the Chukudeurs	

Table 5: Mapping of major players in agricultural value chains in Nyiragongo (Goma)

Agricultural Value Chain Links	Types of actors	
	Direct actors	Indirect actors
Seed production	COAGRI, COOPABU, COAPVKI, Ets BARAKA, ADECOB, PADA, PPA – Kibumba, COAPKI	SENASEM, IPAPEL, FAO, AGRITERA
Agricultural production	ADECOB, PPA KIBUMBA, COOJEPABU, COADEMU, AFEC, BUUMA, APADENYI, EHAP, CODEN, PADA, AEPBKI, COADEKI, COCEDEBU, AADTCRP	FOPAC –NK ; ADED, Virunga Foundation, SYDIP
Transformation	KEZA agriculture, Ets BARAKA, SHAHERU, APETAMACO	
Marketing	AVEPO, AFEBIN, BUUMA, UDASEMINYA, AFEC, Ets BARAKA, COAPVPKI, COADEMU, CADEKI, COCEDEBU	PASA-NK, SYDIP, FOPAC, Virunga SARL
Supply of inputs	AKIPHA, Ets BIKALA, PREMILOG, AGROVER, Mson SHALOM, Mson MIDEMA, AMV, AKIPHAR, APROMACO, MUNGU KWA WOTE, KIVU Star, ABSS, Ets BARAKA	FAO, PASA-NK, ADED, LOFEPACO, SYDIP
Collection/Distribution	ACCO, COTAM, APRODEBU	
Research	INERA, AFEC, ADICO, C. S. Les MASUDIS	INERA, AGRITERA

Table 6: Mapping of major players in agricultural value chains in Lubero (Goma)

Agricultural Value Chain Links	Types d'acteurs	
	Acteurs directs	Acteurs indirects
Seed production	LAPHOVE ; VODEM ; SOPSE ; COOAMA ; COMSAK ; FAA ; UCNDK ; Ets PAMASA ; AFROMA ; Ets BALIBAMBENE ; CODEI sarl ; Ets KALINDULA ; Ets TSUTSANGA FARM ; SYDIP ; ICPEP	INERA, SENASEM, AGRITERA
Agricultural production	SYDIPc ; COAKI ; APEDI ; LOFEPACO ; COOPADI ; JURE ; COOCENKI ; CADP	
Transformation and Marketing	SAET – sarl ; AFROMA ; TSUTSANGA FARM	

Table 7 : Mapping of major players in agricultural value chains in Masisi (Goma)

Agricultural Value Chain Links	Types d'acteurs	
	Acteurs directs	Acteurs indirects
Seed production	COAPAKA, APPRONA, DPF, HCD, MCAAP - TUDITEGEMEE	
Agricultural production	SOPADEP, GEASE, ADCN, CAD PKI, ADEFEMA, MUMAMA, ACUEMA, PPD1, MCP, COPDI, COOPADESKA, UADEKI, COPADE, FECEA, CAPPMA, AMCKI, UMADER, CAP – TUDJENGE, COPAEMA, AAEDE, AMADERA, ARAEKI, AJVDI, AVUDI, IJDP, SODI, CU UFGDI.	FOPAC, CACQJ, INERA, SNVA, D.R., IPA, AFCOD,
Transformation	CSAS, COORKA, AJDKA, AMAK/SANGANO	VIFEDE
Marketing	COPRAKA, COOPAM – SH, COOPKA, COOPADESKA, UOPDI, UOPPMA, COOPERATIVE OLAME	ADEVEN, ATVPA/APPROVEPA
Collection/Distribution	COATRAMAD, COTAM, COOPTAM, ACCO	

Table 8: Mapping of major players in agricultural value chains in Beni (Goma)

Agricultural Value Chain Links	Types of actors	
	Directs actors	Indirect actors
Seed production	COOMUSERIZ, FAEVU, OHAV, PREMILOG, Ets MUKAS	
Agricultural production	PEASANT WOMEN'S DYNAMICS, FADIPS, CEODV, CHILDREN VOICE, GRAUF Congo, COOP OMUYISA, RADI, COAGES, SPH, CAP, EADU, APED, JEMBE MUKONONI, OJCD, APAU, LUCHAV, COOPADE, COOARIZ, MMFK, ADEP, PRODEKI, CEMDL, SODEC, AAPAV, MAVUNO	
Transformation	MAVUNO, GREEN HOUSE, SPH, LOFEPACO	
Marketing	COOMUSERIZ, COARIZ, BRASIMBA, MAVUNO, LOFEPACO, GREEN HOUSE	

3.5. Commitment of agricultural sector stakeholders

The strong diversity of organizations in North Kivu is a reality. It is linked to the numerous economic opportunities offered by agricultural value chains. However, this demonstrates the need for these actors to interact more in order to jointly face the challenges facing them. Several actors have therefore made a commitment to strengthen or develop relationships with other actors in this direction.

Table 9 : Plan d'engagement des acteurs des faitières agricoles

Partners	Types of commitments
MMFK (producer) -INERA (Research Center)	Partnership
MMFK-Other structures	Contact
MMFK & CADP (Producers) - COOP-CA Lubero (Transformation)	Partnership
MMFK & UVDI (production)	Exchange of experience
UDVI, AVD, UCOEPATU & GPA (Production de riz)	Identify rice producers and initiate cooperation
AJAC, MEDIAS, FOPAC, NK & autres OP	Support for organizations' online presence and content creation
SODEI (Producers) - CAAP-T (seed companies)	Partnership for the supply of seeds
SOPADEF (Seed Producer) & COAPAKA	Sign contracts for the purchase of pre-basic seeds from COAPAKA
	Collective sale of potato and rice seeds
	Support and advice
SOPADEF, SODEI, WOND, AVD/WALIKALE, UVDI, COOAEPATU (Rice Producers) - INERA (Research Center)	Contact new suppliers for new varieties
SOPADEF & ICEPEP (Producers)/ INERA/NDHIRA (Research Center)	Adaptation of new Dutch potato varieties
LIAC, SOPADEF, PISCE, CACOJ, NK (Producers) & INERA (Research Center)	Development of Research and Innovations in CVAs for Entrepreneurship
CADPKI & PPDII / SBL & ADGIB	Mentoring young entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector
WEC-CONGO, PISCE & COPPI (Maize producer)	Collaboration in the maize sector
CAAP-TUJTITEGEMEE, CADP, COOP-CA, AVD & ICEPEP	Sharing experiences and capacity building
CAAP-T & SODEI	Seed Production Partnership
CAAP-T & INERA	Partnership
JURE & ICEPEP (Producers)	Exchange of experience and market research
UVDI, COOAEPATU, COOAPKI & AAC (Producers)	Contractualization of land rental and development of existing land
AAC, UAEDKI, ADPP-DH, CADPKI & COOAPTU (Producers)	Identify and manage wetlands
	Contracting with seed companies
COOAPATU, UVDI, ADPP-DH, COOAPEKI, LUCHAV, GCUFE & COOENKI	Identify and rent available warehouses for product storage
ADCN, AAC, UAEDKI, ADPP-DH, SIDIP, COOAPEKI, LUCHAV, AVD & GPA	Establishment of rice, maize, soybean, cocoa, and oil palm crops
UVDI, COOAPATU, AAC, CADPKI & COOAPEKI (Rice producer)	Setting up rice huskers
	Training on rice parboiling
ARDI & UVDI ETS BARAKA	Partnership between rice producers, processors and seed companies
WOND, GPA, UDW & AVD (Rice producers)	Dynamization of the consultation framework in the rice sector
SENASEM, INERA & ITAPEL	Broadening and strengthening the partnership between state actors

3.6. Identification of the training needs of the actors of the agricultural innovation platforms

The operational success and the achievement of the envisaged objectives of the Agricultural Innovation Platforms depend on the capacity of the actors involved to fully engage in the implementation of the activities, as well as to effectively fulfill their functions and obligations. It is therefore important to conduct an early assessment of the capacity-building needs they necessarily need. The capacity building needs discussed during the sessions are as follows :

- Training on the functioning of agricultural value chains ;
- Training on agricultural product quality;
- Training in agricultural marketing ;
- Training on the conservation of agricultural products;

- Organization of study visits to communities that are advanced in the production and marketing of agricultural products;
- Training in the administrative management of agricultural organizations.

3.7. Governance of agricultural organizations

Agricultural development strategies are based on strong organizations, representative of agricultural and rural populations and effectively involved in local rural development projects. These organizations bring together multiple social actors and involve public and local structures in their relations. Their accountable and effective governance facilitates the transition to sustainable food and agricultural systems.

Transparent, accountable, and inclusive governance mechanisms for agricultural organizations are needed to create an enabling environment that helps actors transform their systems based on resilient and sustainable notions and practices. During the workshop, some constraints to the smooth functioning of agricultural organizations in North Kivu were identified. It is apparent that: (i) Agricultural organizations suffer from a lack of support and material and financial resources; (ii) Leaders do not always have an inclusive governance approach (women, young people, etc.), transparent and focused on the interests of the collective, which promotes a disengagement of members; (iii) Members have conflicting and power relations. In order to improve the performance of the organizations and in view of the constraints identified above, the participants made a number of proposals, namely:

- Strengthen partnerships with state and private structures that specialize in supporting agricultural value chains;
- Train members of agricultural organizations in the governance of professional organizations;
- Formalize and enforce the statutes and texts governing the proper functioning of organizations and their application.

3.8. Scaling up rice innovations along the value chain

The standards in all segments of the Rice value chain in particular were presented to the participants by Dr. Innocent in order to present the available opportunities. Details were given on the modern equipment/tools to be used for soil preparation, planting, weeding, fertilizer application, harvesting, threshing, drying, winnowing and sorting. Differences in quality between imported and locally produced Rice were also explained to the participants.

Conclusion

Strengthening organizations as agricultural innovation platforms based on women and youth, was effective through this training workshop in North Kivu province of the DRC. Among the participants, 51% were women and 49% were young people. They generally welcomed the opportunity to participate in this activity, which allowed them to have a common understanding of the challenges and opportunities available to them as members of agricultural organizations. The workshop ended with the closing remarks by the Chief of Staff of the Provincial Minister of Agriculture of North Kivu Mr. Mukossa after thanking the Gender/AfricaRice/DRC Focal Point, Ms. Jenny Mushiya to all the auditors for their presence and participation.

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Annex

Annex 1: List of participants in the workshop on strengthening gender-based agricultural innovation platforms, organized in Goma by AfricaRice (19 August, 2024)

Commented [PY1]: Ajouter les listes signées

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Annex 2 : Some highlights of the PIA strengthening workshop

Commented [PY2]: Ajouter quelques photos



Figure 1: Opening of the workshop



Figure 2: Presentation of the challenges of the workshop



Figure 3: Facilitation of exchanges



Figure 4: Recreation time during training



Figure 5: Working group during the workshop



Figure 6: Closing of the training workshop