



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'**.



*Théophile Nzokirantevye (Nyamaboko, Bujumbura province), a proud farmer, with his beans that produce 5-fold more yield after Théophile and his family created a PIP and implemented better agricultural practices on their farm.*

# How the PIP approach changes people

## The PIP approach takes people's (m/f) capacities and knowledge seriously...

People are key in the PIP approach: farmers are the actors of change, and as soon as they are empowered, action starts. This means people must believe in their own capacities, and that is exactly what happens when a PIP household creates a PIP, their Integrated Farm Plan, with a 'vision for the future' and an action plan. A PIP is developed and owned by each family, and essentially based on existing knowledge, capacities and local conditions.

## ...by telling a different 'story' to farmer families...

The PIP approach leaves the choice up to each family what to plan in their PIP. The project field staff merely

facilitates the process and gives technical advice when needed - but the **key-message of the PIP-story is "you are able to do it yourself"**, rather than the traditional development story "we know what is best for you". This propels an intrinsic motivation in each family to start investing in its own future, based on the aspirations and capabilities of each family member, without waiting for external support.

*"In the other projects, we were just told what we were going to do. What made us embrace the PIP approach is that we decided what to do, and the project staff followed."*

Male PIP participant, 65 years, Muyinga

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+.



## ...and by changing mindsets towards motivated action.

Changing mindsets is essential, because it turns people into actors of change. Farming households draw their PIP and realize that they are capable to reach that vision and start collaborating.

*"Thanks to PIP and the gained technical knowledge I became more respected by my husband and in the community. I am now considered within the household because my proposals are taken into account. Two neighboring ladies came to ask me how to deal with conflicts with their husbands. Now these women testify that their households are at peace thanks to my advice."*

Female PIP participant, 38 years, Mabayi, Cibitoke

Consequently, PIP participants continue carrying out their plans beyond the project, because ownership is key!

*"Even if the project ends today, we will still continue because the knowledge we have received from the project is sufficient for the implementation of our PIP. The PIP has developed us a lot - and we cannot stop."*

Male PIP participant, 40 years, Makamba

Many PIP participants, among whom also Calinie Ntahondereye (Bujumbura province), improved their housing conditions as a result of the drawing of their vision, realizing that they can actually do this themselves and do not need to wait for external assistance.



Calinie Ntahondereye shows her vision for the household.

In the PIP approach, actors of change at all levels are needed to support this inclusive and sustainable development process. All people involved will change mindsets, from staff members to decision-makers, civil society, donors, and beyond!

## Field staff perspectives

*"Initially, project participants are clearly used to receiving free services because of their experience with other projects. It takes a long time to change this mentality. Communication and the establishment of a climate of trust between the project staff and the beneficiary community are crucial."*

Juvénal Ntarima, Team Leader in Rumonge

*"This project could only succeed because the project staff members themselves became intrinsically motivated and convinced of the PIP approach. In fact, their attitude to work with the households and facilitate the creation of their PIP appeared crucial to build solid foundations for change."*

Micael Beun, Program Manager

Photos: @Oxfam/Lisa Murray

## 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](mailto:mbeun@ifdc.org) or Aad Kessler, Wageningen University and Research, PIP expert | [aad.kessler@wur.nl](mailto:aad.kessler@wur.nl)