

[AGRICULTURAL RAINWATER HARVESTING INTERVENTIONS IN RWANDA \(8/1/2007 \)](#)**Background**

In response to the policy, vision, and mission of the Government of Rwanda to improve food security and transform Agriculture from subsistence to a productive high value - market oriented farming, an MoU was signed on the 5th of April 2007 between the Rwandese Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources and the World Agroforestry Centre with the following objectives;

To provide advisory services to the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources in Rwanda on developing an integrated master plan for implementing appropriate Rainwater harvesting and related interventions; To assist MINAGRI in establishing at least 3 Best Practices Scaling up sites on Rainwater harvesting and related water use and saving technologies such as drip irrigation, conservation agriculture and Agroforestry and In collaboration with MINAGRI, to assist chosen districts to initiate training of key stakeholders in rainwater harvesting and setting demonstration sites. The selected districts have already received funds by the Government of Rwanda to start up rainwater harvesting activities. So far the following have been achieved



Community mobilization, awareness creation /CIG formation:

During the period PRA methodology was used to mobilize 1200 community members who were sensitized on rainwater harvesting. Twenty six common interest groups (CIGs) have so far been formed for ease of training in food security and market focused production. Training Needs Assessment will be carried out to establish appropriate technologies and enterprises which will form the basis for the CIGs.

Study Tour to Kenya

Planning and itinerary for a tour to Kenya and Uganda have been developed; sites targeted to be visited in Kenya have been identified and criteria for the selection of participants for the tour finalised. In the meantime farmers and CIGs are being trained and equipped with skills and knowledge before taking them for a learning trip to Uganda and Kenya. This way, they will be able to identify technologies that are useful and relevant for the Rwanda conditions.

Training Support to Selected Districts and Scaling up Sites

A Training Needs Assessment has been planned to give the project team a tool for planning and implementing courses to support the capacity building process needed for implementing the Agricultural Rainwater Harvesting Interventions (ARHI) in Rwanda as per the action plan of May 2007 and the MoU between ICRAF and MINAGRI Rwanda.

The challenge of TNA is to identify desired knowledge needed for the uptake and up scaling of the required interventions and identification of the persons that will be trained and later involved in the planning and management process during and after the project. The work on the specifications to be developed is geared towards assisting the project in developing further the planning process and identifying the staff and stakeholders to be involved.

Identification of Best Practices Scaling Up Sites and Designs of RWH Interventions

Nine sites have identified in Eastern and Southern Provinces. In Eastern Province, there are two sites in Bugesera District one each in Kibungo and Kanzenze Sectors. In Southern Province, there are seven sites, one each in three sectors of Nyanza and four sites in Ruhango sector.

Compilation of GIS data for the selected sites are ongoing. A rapid mapping using Garmin XL12 and G60 were done to establish the span of the expected project sites. Regional GIS maps capturing the hydro-physical features have already been produced by ICRAF Nairobi. ICRAF is now in the process of producing locale-specific site maps that delineate the hydrological and hydro-geological regimes, including land capability and suitability maps.

Establishing Appropriate RWH demo-sites

Thirty four (34) runoff ponds with a capacity of 120 m³ (120,000 litres) of water have been laid out and constructed. The ponds are on 1000 m³ farm plots. The ponds designed by ICRAF are standardized and trapezoidally shaped (See above photos). In the design, road runoff is conveyed via mitre drains into a level silt trench which also acts as a spillway. They shall be covered with 0.8 mm plastic lining material specially made to fit the trapezoidal shapes. Procurement process for the plastic lining materials are on-going.

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