TWIGIRE MUHINZI NATIONAL EXTENSION SYSTEM

Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB)
November, 2015
Twigire Muhinzi extension model is a true ‘home-grown solution’ to ensure that all farmers in Rwanda have access to advisory services.

The model is based on two farmer to farmer extension approaches: Farmer Promoter approach and the Farmer Field School approach.

Efficient, decentralized, integrated, farmer-oriented extension system that provides accountable services to farmers.

Through improved efficiency in the management and delivery of extension services at district level.

Specific goals:
- Maintain national food security
- Improve Productivity
- Increase Income
- Improve livelihoods
How?

- Technology development and dissemination are demand driven
- Extension agents are well trained and facilitated to carry out their duty
- Create ideal conditions for technology transfer & exchange of information between producers, farmer organizations and different partners
- Improve access of smallholders to agricultural technologies & knowledge
Principles which guide Twigire muhinzi

Promotion of **farmer-driven extension** and research through farmer – to- farmer approaches of Farmer promoters & FFS Facilitators

**Farmer empowerment** through promoting organization of farmers into Twigire farmer groups at village level.

**Demand driven extension** & advisory services through formation of agricultural committees with farmers' representation at all implementation levels.

**Pluralistic approach** for broaden extension services delivery where various actors such as the private sector (NGOS, input suppliers) and FBOs also provide advisory services.

**Strengthened decentralized** extension services management and delivery.

**Development of ICT** to enhance provision of advisory services (FPs & FFS Facs are facilitated with extension packages through plus a toll free number-4675- helpdesk for farmers

**An effective monitoring and evaluation system**- A coordinator assigned to each district- Regular reporting; Feedback provided. Studies /surveys undertaken at end of each season.
Components

4 KEY COMPONENTS

1. Farmers’ Institutions development
   - Establish farmer-based organization to empower collective action
     - Twigire groups, FFS groups, FP cooperatives, FFS Fac Cooperatives

2. Capacity development of critical mass of frontline extension agents
   - 14,837 Farmer promoters & 2,500 FFS Facilitators (later 3,800)

3. Dissemination of appropriate technical packages
   - Demonstrations: Show the potential - Seeing is believing
   - FFS experimental plot: Understand your crop - Empower decision making skills
   - Community Mobilization Campaigns: Good practices into action
   - Classical & Modern extension tools: Printed materials, Training videos, 2 ways SMS and dedicated website for frontline extension agents

4. Stakeholder collaboration
   - Development partners and private sector
   - Foster synergies and build on specific strengths
**Twigire Muhinzi**

- **Twigire Muhinzi is the new national decentralized Extension system**
- **Reaching all Rwandan farmers**
- **Implemented by MINALOC and MINAGRI**

- **DEMO plots** supervised by Farmer Promoters
- **FFS plots** supervised by FFS facilitators

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**FFS Facilitators facilitate new FFS groups, formed with members from several Twigire groups**

**FFS facilitators train Farmers Promoters in the establishment of DEMO plot, based on FFS best practices**

**FFS plot**

All farmers, organized in Twigire Farmers groups, learn good agronomic practices in the DEMO plot.

**DEMO plot - Twigire groups**

**FFS plot - FFS group**

**FFS group members get a deep understanding of crop production through observation & analysis in the FFS plot**
Village

Farmer Promoter

Demo Plot

Village Agricultural Committee

FFS Facilitator

Twigire Group (15-20)
Twigire Group (15-20)
Twigire Group (15-20)
Twigire Group (15-20)
Twigire Group (15-20)

3-5 members per groups join the FFS group

FFS Group
FFS plot