

Rural Resource Centres as extension support for diversified food systems

Authors: Sammy Carsan, Athanase Mukurulinda, Kiros Hadgu, Charles Galabuzi, Ann Kuria, Agnes Gachuri, Catherine Muthuri and Ramni jamnadass

Introduction

- Rural Resource Centres (RRC) are novel extension nodes to deliver tree-based technologies
- Emerged from participatory domestication work in Cameroun
- Geared to support improved seed/seedlings exchange & delivery
- Peer learning opportunities & local collaboration are forged
- Farmer priorities refinement when groups or cooperative take ownership
- Projects support: node for scaling germplasm & material supply preparedness & demonstrations
- Trees for Food Security Project (TFSP) project established RRCs in Rwanda, Ethiopia & Uganda to support quality germplasm access



Karago RRC, Rwanda

Rural Resource Centre Impact Pathways



Methods

- 5 RRCs established from 2017: 2 RRCs in Ethiopia (Bako & Batu) and Rwanda (Karama & Karagu) & one in Uganda (Mbale)
- Hosting: government land with ease of access
- Local group or cooperative used to create ownership involving women, youth and men
- RRC serve as material production for trials & AF practices demo hubs
- Simple performance checklist used for monitoring

Outcomes

- Helped consolidate seedling production minimizing impacts of poor infrastructure on material delivery.
- Collaborators: farmers & their groups, district agric. offices & administration
- Key services: nursery mgt, fruit & veg farming, AF demos, nutrition awareness, Women & Youth empowerment, quality seedlings supply
- Fruit seedlings such as mango, tamarillo, avocado and timber species e.g. grevillea are priority by farmers in Rwanda & Ethiopia
- Local beneficiaries: farmers, schools, govt inst
- In Ethiopia & Rwanda attracted government interest to create youth employment
- RRCs unique space in food systems: fruit production roles away from free forestry seedling supply

RRC Supported Tree Seedling Production								
Phase I production					Phase II production			
Country	Facility	Fruit	Multipurpose	Total	Fruit	Multipurpose	Sub-total	Total
Ethiopia	RRC	35,600	230,000	256,600	108,560	1,035,355	1,143,914	1,143,914
Rwanda	RRC	26,800	802,500	829,300	53,468	257,399	310,867	970,341
	Co-op nurseries	-	-	-	87,206	572,268	659,474	
Uganda	RRC	11,438	328,562	340,000	3,050	216,500	219,550	532,100
	Farmer groups	-	-	-	12,700	299,850	312,550	

Constraints

- Hosting arrangements, land acquisitions
- Local ownership by cooperatives
- Initial financing support
- Free seedlings supply by government nurseries