

Burundi-Media

Media Training Workshop on Agricultural Development and Promotion of Wood- Based Sustainable Energy

Bujumbura, November22, 2010 -- IFDC Burundi and the Confederation of Agricultural Producer Associations for Development (CAPAD) conducted a media training workshop on agricultural development and promotion of wood-based sustainable energy from 16 to 19 November, 2010. The workshop was held at “Maison de la Presse” (Press House) in Bujumbura, Burundi.

The objective of the workshop was to contribute to journalists’ understanding of the concepts/technologies promoted by CATALIST/SEW as well as the management of producers’ organizations in Burundi. It is hoped that journalists will cover these topics in greater depth and contribute to the public’s understanding.

Seventeen journalists representing the oral and written press attended the workshop. They received information about technologies such as integrated soil fertility management, agricultural value chains, input market development, reforestation and agroforestry, modern carbonization methods, intermediate agricultural mechanization, etc.

The participants also had an opportunity to make field visit in Rukaramu, Mutimbuzi commune, Bujumbura province, where they watched a session of field tilling by a motor-cultivator recently introduced to help promote intermediate mechanization. In addition, they made another field visit at Gisozi, Mwaro province where they watched charcoal-burners (recently trained by IFDC) who were performing carbonization using modern techniques that are more efficient, effective and better for the environment.

The field visits provided the opportunity for the journalists to better understand these sustainable agriculture concepts. Interviews collected on the spot allowed them to prepare programs or write articles during the last day of the training.

As the workshop closed, participants expressed gratitude for the information they were provided during the training. In addition, relationships between radio stations and IFDC were established. The journalists called for a multi-actor discussion on the benefits of fertilizers and for additional opportunities to conduct field visits in order to gauge farmers’ progress.

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