

Burundi - Agricultural Intensification

Award ceremony for the best farmers supervised by the CATALIST project

On Friday, September 9, 2011, an award ceremony was held in Mwumba commune, Ngozi province, Burundi, by the CATALIST project in conjunction with partner organizations UCODE, CAPAD, CARITAS-BURUNDI and COPED. Awards were presented to the best farmers from various provinces where CATALIST and partner organizations operate (Bujumbura, Cibitoke, Makamba, Muramvya, Kayanza, Ngozi and Kirundo).



Ceremony participants

The ceremony was attended by the Senior Advisor to the Governor of Ngozi Province; the Head of Gatsinda Zone; Mr. Zacharie Nzohabonayo, CATALIST National Agronomist representing IFDC Burundi; and the award recipients.

Government representatives commended CATALIST's efforts in the struggle to end hunger and poverty. They were particularly grateful to CATALIST for introducing improved agricultural practices that allow farmers to shift from subsistence to market-oriented agriculture.

Through songs, sketches and dances, farmers supervised by partner organizations celebrated agricultural practices taught by CATALIST such as integrated soil fertility management (ISFM), which has exponentially increased farmers' production.

A farmer told the National Radio and Television of Burundi that before being supervised by CATALIST, he would sow more than 120 kilograms (kg) of beans and harvest about 200 kg. With ISFM, the same farmer now sows just 4 kg and harvests about 200 kg.

Farmers are also grateful for the introduction of the Inventory Credit System, commonly known as "*warrantage*," which allows farmers to store their production in warehouses managed by partner organizations and funded by CATALIST. The inventory credit system allows farmers to store their produce after harvest (when market prices are generally at their lowest). Farmers can wait until the supply has decreased in order to sell their crops at higher prices.

The ceremony concluded with the distribution of farmers' awards. Award winners received a certificate, fertilizer (DAP), wheelbarrows, spades, hoes and sprayers.



Mr. Rwasa, one of the award winners, speaking about ISFM

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