

Revitalizing the coffee sector in Burundi

Vision

Double coffee farmers income by building more productive and resilient climate-smart coffee systems, increase farmer and private sector ownership and outreach, and increase coffee export revenues >50% through effective partnership with public sector.

Constraints

- Current yields (<500kg/ha/yr) far below attainable yields (>1500 kg/ha/yr)
- Low soil fertility is aggravated by poor plant nutrient management
- Climate change will impact coffee severely – smart shade systems are required
- High pest and disease pressure – pesticide subsidies amount to 3 billion FBU
- Farmers loose interest in coffee and poor intercropping practices often ↓↓ coffee yields
- Poor coffee extension services and insufficient involvement of private sector

Opportunities

- Coffee sector was liberalized – gain access to specialty markets/certification
- Sound intercropping coffee can ↑↑ profitability and resilience for smallholders
- Intensifying for increased productivity requires investment and ownership
- Intercropped systems can increase resilience when well managed – importance of shade in the scope of climate change and to improve coffee quality → premium price.

Exploit existing technologies and knowledge

- Intercropping with beans, soybeans in young coffee gardens (ISABU)
- Intercropping with vegetables like tomatoes in young coffee gardens (ISABU)
- Intercropping coffee with banana in mature coffee garden (ISABU – IITA)
- Intercropping coffee with shade trees (Regional and global research)
- Improved high yielding (resistant) coffee varieties (Region)
- Tools for nutrient deficiency mapping for eco-efficient fertilizer use (IITA – ISABU)

Activities

- Develop site specific fertilizer recommendations
- Research on sound intercropping practices (e.g. first beans/vegetable then banana and shade trees) and rejuvenation/stumping
- Fertilizer demonstration/validation in sound intercrop setup + good coffee management
- Sustain coffee/banana trials of ISABU and organize training schools around those trials
- Trainings on good management through exchange visits and novel communication tools
- Training farmers in integrated pest management for major pest and diseases
- Replanting old trees with new varieties → nurseries

Partnership approach

- Setup coffee platform bringing together research/extension/farmers/private sector → ISABU, IITA, INTERCAFE, CNAC, private sector and other partners
- Combined joint on-farm demonstration/validation/monitoring approach
- Link with regional research and extension efforts on coffee systems

Start with platform initiation workshop to discuss CN and mobilize support