

Kitchen Garden Established by a Farmer in Karagwe from the Skills Learnt During a Field Visit in Rwanda.



The established kitchen garden at the farmer's home



Mr. Kibombo working in his kitchen garden

Theodory Kibombo, a 59 aged man who is a father of 7 children – 6 sons and 1 daughter is a lead farmer living in Katembe village, Karagwe District, Kagera Region – Tanzania. He has been engaging in organic agriculture farming for several years mainly dealing in maize and beans production.

In August 2017, through the Beans Enterprises and Structured Trade in East Africa Community (BEST EAC) program funded by FoodTrade East and Southern Africa and implemented by Kilimo Trust which aims at increasing structured trade of beans in EAC by linking the Farmer Business Organizations (FBOs) to the markets, this farmer got an opportunity to visit his colleagues beneficiaries of the above mentioned project in Rwanda. Mr. Kibombo who owns 4 acres of land dedicated to beans and maize farming, learnt a number of new concepts from the members of the FBOs visited in Rwanda. These include: Cooperative organizational structure, management and leadership of FBOs in Rwanda, services offered by the cooperative to the members such as saving and credits, agro-inputs advances and subsidy programs supported by the government.

Mr. Kibombo learnt how to make compost manure from grass, water, ash, cow dung and urine but what interested and excited him most was how to establish a kitchen garden.

He then took an initiative to put into practice the lessons learnt. He prepared land and established the kitchen garden at his place on which he planted onions, carrots and other vegetables such as tomatoes and amaranths. The kitchen garden uses a small plot of land where the farmer can grow a variety of vegetables. In addition, the plot is near the home which gives an advantage of close monitoring.

The Kitchen garden has the following advantages to the farmer:

- ✓ Contributes to the family's improved nutrition especially for infants and children.
- ✓ Good quality of vegetables since they are consumed fresh from the garden.
- ✓ The vegetables can be produced throughout the year when the farmer is committed to irrigate the garden.
- ✓ The cost of production is low compared to buying vegetables from the market.

Mr. Kibombo is committed to share the skills with his neighbors in order to eradicate the problem of malnutrition which has been affecting the population in their vicinity.