

**Water, Land, Ecosystems and Trade in
Staples (WaLETS):** *using regional trade in
staples for equitable food and nutrition security and
ecosystem services in the EAC*

Proceedings of the Stakeholder Meetings

Hill View Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda

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Prepared by



regional solutions to local problems

Acronyms

GIS	Geographical Information System
MINEACOM	Ministry Of East African Commerce
RAB	Rwanda Agriculture Board
UR	University of Rwanda
WaLETS	Water, Land, Ecosystems and Trade in Staples
RGCC	Rwanda Grains and Cereals Company
EAX	Trading company on grains in Rwanda
SARURA	Trading company on grains in Rwanda, which means “Harvest”
IPAR	Institute of Policy Analysis in Rwanda

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1. Introduction

- 1) WaLETS is a two year project that started in January 2015 and is designed to deliver three key research outputs:
 - a. **Gaps in public policy and institutional frameworks, and public and private investment strategies and plans in the EAC with respect to:**
 - i) balancing attention between food and other ecosystem services (especially, water flow out of land used for production of staples, erosion prevention and enhancement of soil fertility, carbon sequestration);
 - ii) enhancing involvement of women and youth in policy development and equitable access to benefits in the production and trading in food staples;
 - iii) enhancing food and nutrition security through trade between major agro-ecosystems at regional scale rather than through national and/or community self-sufficiency.
 - b. **GIS database and maps on:**
 - i) agro-ecosystem suitability and extent of differences in resource endowment and use for production of staple foods and other ecosystem services; and
 - ii) the optimal trade-supporting infrastructure required to support regional trade in staple foods, across different agro-ecosystems.
 - c. **Scenario analysis results and recommendations with respect to:**
 - i) long-term benefits, risks and trade-offs; and
 - ii) a win-win value proposition for all stakeholders to “crowd-in” the right/correct strategies and investments of governments; development funders and the private sector - in support of more trade-based approach for sustainable intensification in the production of staples.
- 2) The purpose of the stakeholder workshop is to present the findings of WaLETS to the next users in order to solicit their views on the evidence generated by the project and establish how they can be used in order to increase knowledge, change attitudes and practices in relation to food trade, sustainable use of the ecosystem so as to increase benefits to different gender groups and youth as well as enhance food and nutrition security.
- 3) The workshop was held at Hill View Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda on 20th December 2016. The workshop was attended by 20 participants (List the participants is shown at the end of the report):

- 4) The objectives of the workshops were to:
 - a) Present the evidence generated from the project in the last 18 month:
 - Scenario models
 - GIS database and maps
 - Policy analysis
 - Gender analysis
 - b) Get the views of the participants on the evidence presented
 - c) Group discussions with next users on how the evidence can be used/ implemented
- 5) The workshop started at 9.00 and was closed at 16.00. This report provides the details of the discussions held.
- 6) The program for the workshop is shown below:

Timing	Activity	Facilitator
8.00 a.m. - 9.00 a.m.	Participants arrival	Nsabimana Jean de Dieu
9.00 a.m. - 9.05 a.m.	Welcome remarks	Dusengemungu Leonidas
9.05 a.m. - 9.25 a.m.	Opening Remarks	HoR/RAB
9.05 a.m. - 9.25 a.m.	Group photo	Nsabimana Jean de Dieu
9.30 a.m.- 10.30 a.m.	Presentation on WaLETS results: Policy Analysis findings	Dusengemungu Leonidas
10.30 a.m.- 11.00 a.m.	Tea Break	Nsabimana Jean de Dieu
11.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.	Discussions-	Dr Mugabo Josaphat
11.30 a.m. - 12.00 p.m.	Presentation on WaLETS results: GIS findings	Musana Bernard
12.00 p.m. - 12.30 p.m.	Discussions-	Dr Mugabo Josaphat
12.30 p.m. - 1.00 p.m.	Group discussion on how to take the WaLETS recommendations forward	Dr Mugabo Josaphat
1.00 p.m. - 2.00 p.m.	Lunch	Nsabimana Jean de Dieu
2.00 p.m.-3.00 p.m.	Group presentation	Dr Mugabo Josaphat
3.00 p.m.-3.30 p.m.	Key recommendations	Dusengemungu Leonidas and Musana Bernard
3.30 p.m.-4.00 p.m.	Closing remarks	HoR/RAB
4.00 p.m.	Departure	Nsabimana Jean de Dieu

2. Questions, Comments, Views from participants after presentation of evidence

All the comments, questions, views or remarks made by the participants are recorded in the format below.

	Organisation	Comment/ Question/ Views/ Remark	Response
1	UR	True factors for food insecurity, malnutrition and failure to ecosystem management are to be found. Agricultural Policies and trade are not the only factors for agricultural transformation	Yes, further research is recommended
2	RAB	How to include the ecosystem in the pricing. But we cannot forget in the pricing. Loss in nutrients is huge, how can we stop it.	Valuing ecosystems services is a good recommendation. We can mitigate soil losses. May be reducing the nutrients through the earmarked funds
3	Muhanga District/Cooperatives	The malnutrition status. There is laziness. The clustering of farmers have created a strange distortion, farmers don't want to go to another level. We need to be careful, subsidizing can disincentives farmers. The price can favor some technology up to certain level.	Gender disparities are to be reduced
4	RAB/Soil and Water Management	"Polluter pay system" can it be applied in Rwanda, like "mining".	Pollution needs Policy. Currently there is general policy, not environmental threshold
5		Policy regulating the pricing in the market?	The policy on commodity pricing is also needed. Pricing policy exist in some

			commodities.
6	Farmer cooperative	2015A we harvested a lot of maize, the drought of last years. This has a heavy weight on women. Uganda is supplying a lot of maize. Uganda bordering traders takes advantage of the fluctuation of prices in Rwanda due to poor storage strategy of farmers. They speculate and bring back the maize at high prices after only 2-3 months harvest	We need a policy orientation, on gender issues raised (cooperative, drought). Gender disparities are to be reduced. Postharvest policy- focus- gender - women
7	MINEACOM	Should we first work on trade or should we first have enough produce? Eg. Avocado case	WaLETS project was dealing with Food crops and therefore the quantity is not an issue- Trade remain the driver for crop production
8	RAB-	Regional trade is very difficult to be organised, even regulating internal trade has not been yet successful	True, we need intra trade countries.
9	RAB-water management	Suitability crops analysis show that moderate suitability is dominant for beans in Rwanda- low suitability is observed for maize and rice- What can be done?	Suitability changes with the input could use scenario therefore there is trade-off between more inputs or alternative use.
10	UR	Rwanda has difficult to go for suitable crops and abandon other crops- this is conflicting with the recent regulations on Hotels meals/to use local food instead of imported food - there is incompatibility.	Internal trade is still a problem- Intercropping is still viewed across the country. But there is a real gap in fact other countries even have crop intelligence with

			suitability per season every year.
11	RAB maize	Although some lands are not suitable- CIP should produce food at any costs- eg. maize- year - need of more inputs-	Food sovereignty is a crucial dimension- if the 3 crops are not suitable in Rwanda- what should we do?- Liming- to reduce acidity- why can't we go for a crop which is suitable in acidic soil.
12	RAB-Beans-	Crop suitability versus integration of technologies	In fact the climbing beans suitability maps support the comment.
13	Kilimo Trust	We should consider Regional trade- not between countries but between agroecologies	Trade between 2 agroecological zones is good concept-
14	RAB- administrative assistant	Crop suitability- are excellent results- for those who want to crop for businesses- it shows where to easily produce with less input use- and where to produce hardly with more inputs use	Egypt- has big part of desert and they get good harvest- we can overcome suitability of crops in Rwanda
15	RAB	Need to increase facts -alternatives	We can further validate with fertilizer trials- or seasonal analysis (EL Nino- Maize in Bugesera)
16	RAB	Production Constraints- Harvest 10 kg- Business is difficult-	Reduce the number of suppliers- to transform agri into business- ex. Belgium (0.5 kg at 5000

			Frw).
17	RAB	Setting prices on 8 priority crops	Not easy to be done, because you need to regulate the price after

2. Outcomes of Group Discussions

The participants were organised in the three following next user categories

Next User Category 1: Farmers Support Institutions (FSIs) & NGOs

What are the practical options for your programs to incorporate research findings on sustainable environment management as well as women and youth in terms of access and use of resources of land and water?

Views from the Next Users arising from the group discussion	Views from the plenary discussion after/when next users present their views
1. Train farmers promoters on good agri practices with focus on environmental conservation	Teach farmers during village, cell or sector meetings
2. Strengthen Twigire Muhinzi Extension Model by giving incentives to farmer promoters whose role is to teach farmers on good agri practices	Strengthen Twigire Muhinzi farmer groups at village level
3. Reinforce Land use consolidation and collective work in agriculture	Strengthen FFS groups
4. Awareness of cooperatives for which majority of membership is owned by women and Youth	Take cooperatives as the best channel to disseminate research findings

Next User Category 2: Government Departments

What does the government need to do to ensure that ecosystem resources used in food trade are incorporated in pricing/valuing of food commodities?

Views from the Next Users arising from the group discussion	Views from the plenary discussion after/when next users present their views
1. Put in place localised taxes-indirect taxes for agri commodities	Mapping production areas- set indicators and M&E mechanisms.
2. Organise farmers and agree on the cost of productions- get into the pricing	The cost of production should be localised and different according to districts (eg. Nyagatare-Huye-) 269 Frw (short grain rice)- 279 Frw for long grain rice
3. Work on fertilisers + other inputs recommendations- for environmental thresholds- in the policy-	Give indirect incentives schemes- through strategic reserves of the Government- prioritize productive areas
4. RGCC +SARURA +EAX get the harvest-guarantee for farmers is the voucher of harvested quantity put in store- credit access for farmers near the Micro-finances or Banks	The E- Grainary- would help to store and sell on Internet

Next User Category 3: NARS & IRO & Universities

1. What are the options for ensuring that ecosystem and gender issues are effectively mainstreamed in agriculture research?
2. How can the research evidence generated on sustainable intensification be effectively improved for use by farmers, private sector and policy makers?

Views from the Next Users arising from the group discussion	Views from the plenary discussion after/when next users present their views
1. Enforce the implementation of gender policies	Enhanced stakeholders ownership and proximity

in agriculture and land access	extension services
2. Government has to put in place real crop prices taking into account the whole chain of production from the farm to the end user including the cost of ecosystem services	Continuous participatory research with regular consultations between policy makers and researchers
3. Conducting research on real/local constraints	Regular consultations between key stakeholder

3. Any other matters arising

The Workshop was evaluated by participants. They highly appreciated the topic and how results were communicated (92.8%) They also found that the logistics were well organized (85.8%).

The level of understanding for the four key outputs was revealed by participants as follows:

Key outputs	Evaluation (%)
GAPS in Public Policies and legal Frameworks in the EAC - Agriculture, trade, environment, land, & water	71.4
Gaps in Gender	64.3
GIS Database and GIS Maps with biophysical, socio economic data	92.9
Scenario Models showing enhanced production and trade, better infrastructure and trade	71.4

From the results above, it can be observed that maps' results were better understood with 92.9% followed by Policy findings (71.4%). Otherwise, gender gaps (with 64.3%) are always subjected to further discussions for better understanding.

Finally, participants suggested what could be improved for the next similar workshop. It was proposed to invite more important stakeholders in such workshop (e.g policy makers, RGCC, EAX, SARURA and IPAR). It was also suggested to respect timing as planned and put in place translation facilities for farmers (Kinyarwanda speakers).

4. Participant list

	Name	Organisation	Telephone	Email Address
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