



Program of sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition

ERB was created in 2003 and has established many partnerships in the implementation of food security and nutrition projects. We focus on the five-year experience (2018-2023 (March)). Experiences and expertise cover value chain development, implementation approaches, resilience of vulnerable households, nutrition and treatment of malnutrition

Agricultural value chain development started in 2028. With financial and technical support from FAO, ERB has already supported 30 cooperatives and 340 pre-cooperatives with a total of 22,400 households in Bujumbura Rural, Bubanza and Karuzi provinces.

During the last four years, the experience in value chain development consists of :

- Profitability analysis study of promising value chains in the three provinces: rice, cassava, beans, maize, soya, fruit and vegetables, coffee, pork, poultry in 6 intervention communes (Bugenyuzi in Karuzi province, Gihanga and Rugazi in Bubanza province, Nyabiraba, Kabezi, Kanyosha and Mubimbi in Bujumbura Rural province)
- ERB has included the structuring of coffee and tea producers in its 2023-2028 strategic plan
- Capacity building for members of pre-cooperatives and cooperatives producers in 6 communes of 3 provinces : planning (business plan), and modern methods of production, agricultural processing, conservation of crops, and market research for their agricultural crops
- Building of four warehouses for conservation and marketing of selected seeds and outlets

A

EXPERIENCES IN VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

Agricultural value chain development started in 2028. With financial and technical support from FAO, GEF and European Union, ERB has already supported 61 cooperatives and 460 pre-cooperatives with a total of 22,400 households beneficiaries in Bujumbura Rural, Bubanza and Karuzi provinces

During the last four years, the experience in value chain development consists of :

- Profitability analysis study of promising value chains in the three provinces : rice, cassava, beans, maize, soya, fruit and vegetables, coffee, pork, poultry in 6 intervention communes (Bugenyuzi in Karuzi province, Gihanga and Rugazi in Bubanza province, Nyabiraba, Kabezi, Kanyosha and Mubimbi in Bujumbura Rural province)
- ERB has included the structuring of coffee and tea producers in its 2023-2028 strategic plan.
- Capacity building for members of 460 pre-cooperatives and 61 cooperatives producers in 6 communes of 3 provinces : planning (business plan), and modern methods of production, agricultural processing, conservation of crops, and market research for their agricultural crops
- Building of four warehouses for conservation and marketing of selected seeds and outlets

B

Experiences in the implementation of Resilience projects for vulnerable households

In partnership with FAO and the European Union, three major resilience projects have been implemented in the three provinces of Bubanza, Bujumbura, Cibitoke and Karuzi. The main achievements are as follows

- 11,200 vulnerable households benefiting from quality maize and bean seeds through 15 fairs
- 18,000 vulnerable households benefiting from 3,600 goats for goat breeding
- 3,000 vulnerable households benefited from 3,000 pigs with a chain of solidarity approach (handing over the first born to others)

- 60 Producer Organisations trained and supervised on the Champ Ecole Producteur -CEP approach, i.e. 1200 beneficiary households
- 240 Members of Producer Organisations benefited from 558 modern and traditional beehives for the development of income-generating activities from honey production
- 360 Members of Producer Organisations have developed the income generating activity of mushroom cultivation – Myciculture
- 15,000 households benefited from Kitchen Garden facilities to improve nutrition through vegetables harvested from the kitchen gardens.
- 9000 beneficiaries of fruit plants (avocado, japanese plum, mangoes)
- 12,000 member beneficiaries income from High Labour Intensity Work (HLIW)
- 222 Community Credit Savings Groups trained on the VSLA approach and supported in material terms, of which 182 are satellite groups, i.e. 5450 beneficiary members

C

Experiences in the implementation of nutrition and malnutrition treatment projects

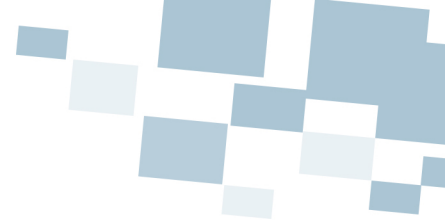
In total, at least 3000 malnourished children and their families benefited from nutrition and malnutrition treatment activities in Karuzi and Bubanza province in partnership with FAO. The main activities consisted of :

- 1 | Treatment of acute malnutrition in severely malnourished children aged 0-59 months, considered among the most vulnerable in the community
- 2 | Promotion of multi-sectoral infant and young child feeding practices for the prevention of malnutrition
- 3 | Capacity building of key actors at the community level (light parents, positive role models in their communities)

C

Experiences in implementing popular food security and nutrition approaches

Over the past five years, ERB has experimented with the implementation of different approaches to food security and nutrition. The adapted strategy has been to use complementary approaches to achieve results. These include the following approaches:



1.

The PIP approach

Integrated Farmer Plan: ERB has been experimenting with this approach since 2018. This approach is used to build the capacities of 300 innovative farmers on the tools of the approach, namely: SWOT analysis; the family sheet; the household photo tree and the action plan

2.

Agricultural Value Chain Approach

This approach has been used since 2016. It is used in capacity building of cooperatives and farmers' associations whose business plans are built from agricultural production activities to processing and marketing.

3.

The resilience fund approach and its three pillars

(technical, financial and social). It aims to strengthen the capacities of households through an integrated community-based approach based on three simultaneous and mutually reinforcing areas of intervention. The approach is a perfect nexus between humanitarian and development work. ERB has been piloting this approach since 2017 in the province of KARUZI and since then it has been used in other provinces such as Bujumbura Rural and Bubanza

4.

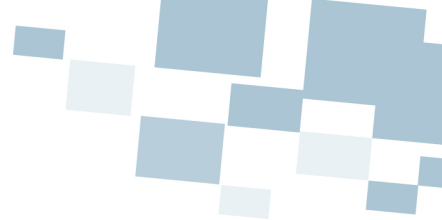
Farmer Field School Approach

The Farmer Field Schools promote behavioural change and strengthen the technical knowledge of farmers to increase their yields. ERB has been piloting this approach since 2017. It is being implemented in food security projects in Bujumbura, Bubanza, Cibitoke and Karuzi provinces.

5.

The seed/input fair approach

is particularly suitable in terms of participation, dignity and accountability to the affected people as it gives beneficiaries a free choice of agricultural inputs and puts them in direct contact with sellers for price negotiation. In addition, it encourages the local micro-economy by ensuring that private associations and producers of quality seeds and planting materials can sell their crops at remunerative prices. ERB has experimented with this approach through the organisation of 15 agricultural fairs in three provinces : KARUZI, BUJUMBURA RURAL and BUBANZA



6.

Kitchen
gardens,

which help to diversify the diet of households with limited land, water resources and proximity to the household. In some cases sharing production with neighbours has also helped to strengthen social cohesion within a hillside. ERB has been piloting this approach since 2017 and is currently using it in its nutrition projects.

7.

FARN

provides a community platform for promoting recommended practices for child growth and development. The 12-day participatory counselling sessions strengthen multi-sectoral linkages at the community level (food security, hygiene, savings and credit, etc.). This approach is complemented by the preventive action of the FANs, which target pregnant women and parents, mainly mothers of children aged 0-23 months, to facilitate behavioural change through multisectoral counselling on nutrition for pregnant and lactating women, infants and young children (ANJE) as well as on early childhood development (ECD) and home fortification.

8.

Home
fortification

with micronutrient powders (MNP) is a way to improve the quality of infant and young child feeding by supporting mothers in learning to cook with local foods and the appropriate use of micronutrient powders, while contributing to the prevention of anaemia and malnutrition.

9.

The cash
transfer

ensures access to adequate food during the lean season and protection of seeds during the agricultural season. In the medium and long term, it ensures food and nutrition security for beneficiary households through the creation of productive assets and the diversification of livelihoods. Cash transfers also allow for the rehabilitation of socio-economic infrastructures that serve to increase agricultural production and thus contribute to food and nutritional security in a sustainable manner.

Financial Partners

