AGROBIOTEC and clean planting material micro propagation for improved banana production in Burundi

by
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AGRO & BIO – TECHNOLOGIES

AGROBIOTEC

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1. Mission

1. AGROBIOTEC registered in 1998
2. The culture laboratory established in July 1999
3. AGROBIOTEC Mission : Contribution to the Burundian agriculture rehabilitation and poverty alleviation through clean planting material and other agri-inputs

2. Objectives and area of activities

1. Objectives:
    1. Improve quality and quantity of banana, Irish potato, cassava, sweet potato and trees clean planting material;
    2. Ease farmers' access to other agri-inputs (fertilizers, pesticides, tools, …);
    3. Expertise in agriculture projects (studies and implementation)
2. Area of activities:
    1. Banana , Pine apple, Taro
    2. Cassava and sweet potato in the coming years

3. Strategies

1. Pathways for quality
2. The clean material production network
3. Collaboration and partnership;
4. A demand driven production

3.1. Pathways towards clean material

- Mother plants from Belgium indexed against the known viruses issued with phytosanitary certificate.
- ===>> disease-free TC planting materials for multiplication

3.2. The Clean material production network

- The laboratory
- The nurseries
- The mother gardens

3.2.1. The TC laboratory

The TC laboratory in Kinindo – Bujumbura New lab infrastructures with increased capacity are being built)

3.2.2. The nurseries network

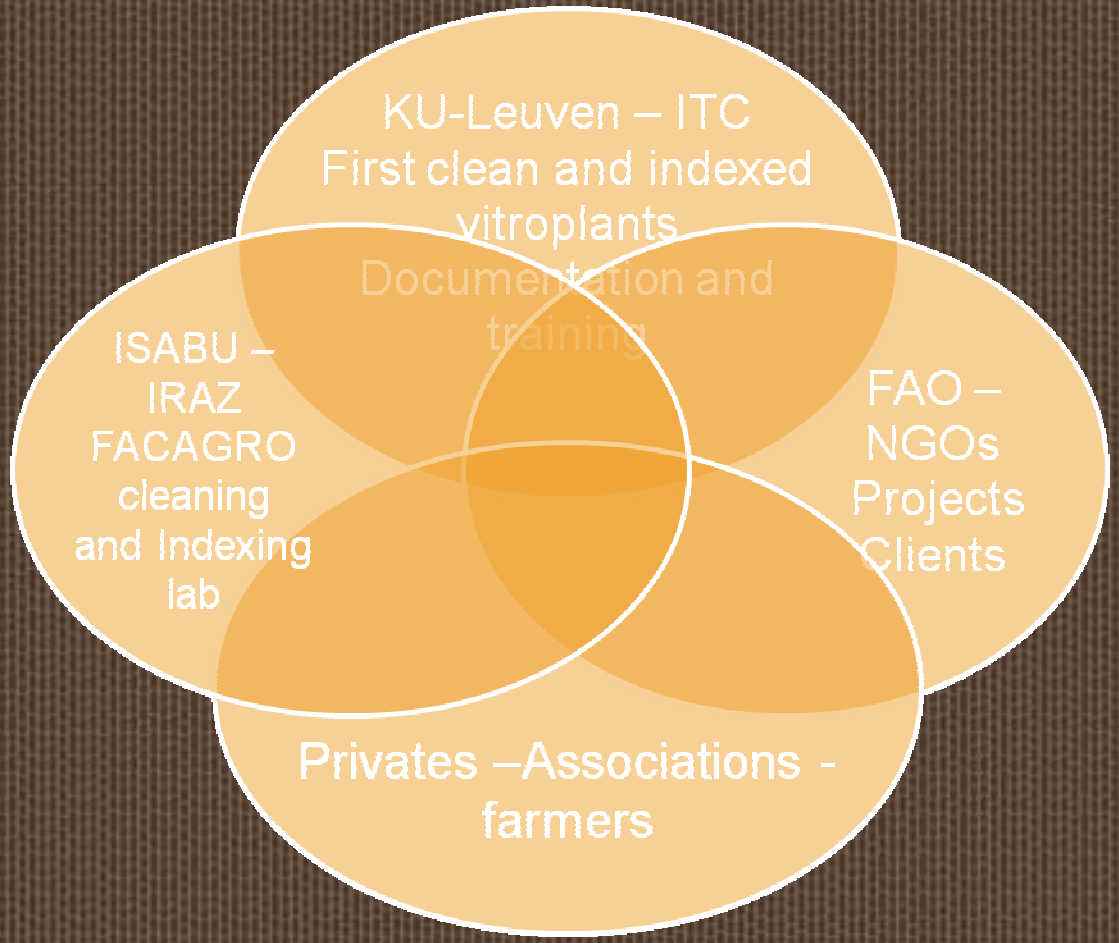
6 Nurseries (2 in Bujumbura, Ngozi, Gitega, Kayanza and Kirundo) in 5 districts of Burundi

3.2.3. Mother gardens/farmers' associations

The first mother garden tested in Kirundo to be extended in other districts with farmers' associations

A mother garden : link to farmers

3.3. Partnership



+ Bioversity, IITA and ASARECA

3.4. A demand driven production

- AAA-EA local cooking bananas
- AAA-EA local brewing bananas
- AAA Cavendish bananas
- Diseases resistant and high productives new varieties (FHIA, NSH-IITA)
- Kamaramasenge ethnic banana (export)
- Plantain

4. Achievements and annual production

Year	Production
1999-2000	80,000
2000-2001	150,000
2001-2002	250,000
2002-2003	250,000
2003-2004	250,000
2004-2005	200,000
2005-2006	350,000
2006-2007	150,000
2007-2008	300,000
2008-2009	350,000

5. Constraints

- Inadequate lab Infrastructures;
- Little access to credit and too high rent interest rate;
- Unqualified personnel and too high mobility towards other sectors and countries when trained;
- Non formal links between research, extension services and the private sector;
- Chemicals and basic equipment not available on local market;
- Lack of qualified technicians for equipment maintenance.

5. Constraints (cont)

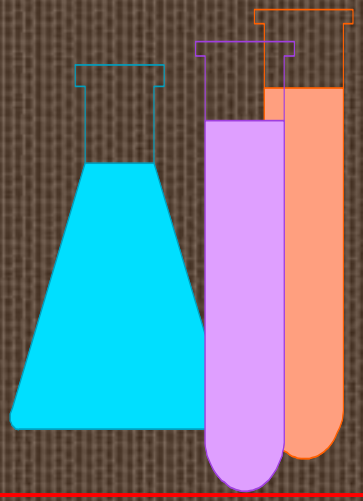
- statistics on the vitro-plants demand by the farmers and other clients unavailable;
  - => difficult to plan the production
- Too poor farmers and little access to micro-credit and to agri-inputs;
- Burundian investment policy not favourable for the private sector;
- Risk of competition between public and private labs.

6. Outline perspectives

- We are investing in a new modern laboratory, new nurseries and mother gardens (functional by the end of 2009) ;
- Capacity building for increased productivity;
- A sustained sensitization of policy makers to promote private investment in the agriculture the sector;
- A formal partnership between the private sector, agriculture research and extension services;
- A diversification program to embrace other cultures like potato, taro, sweet potato, cassava, pineapple…
- A better access of farmers to micro-credit for agri-inputs ;
- **=> Diversified production increased from 400,000 plantlets to more than 2,500,000/year (bananas, irish potato, taro, pin apple and other crops).**

7. Conclusion : RT & BD through PPP

- Research generating Technology and
- Business leading to Development
- Through effective Public and Private Partnership
- ==> **Are the keys to our success**



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