

An innovative partnership Churches and farming associations join together

This project brings together 30 farming organizations and eight churches with a common goal: better food security for the people of Kirundo province. The goal is to increase production of crops and vegetables so that families not only have enough to eat, but can also sell part of the crop to boost their income.

The role of churches

A major problem in the region is the lack of land available for cultivation. However, churches often have large plots of under-utilized land. Through the partnership established by FH, this land is now being cultivated. Harvests are shared among all: part goes to the poorest members of the church, part goes to the farmers, and the rest is sold on the market.

Livestock Development

350 goats and 38 cows have been provided. Today, all association members have goats, and 30 calves have already been born. As a result, there is manure for fertilizing the fields. The ten liters of milk that a cow provides on average each day is distributed equitably among families.

Fight against soil erosion

The local population has been trained to guard against soil erosion, one of the biggest challenges in this hilly country. People actively participate in the long process of growing plants and trees along the terrain contours and terrace slopes to stabilize the soil.



An abundance of vegetables

Since the beginning of the project, the amount of vegetables produced has doubled. With the revenues from selling vegetables, association members have been able to provide collateral guarantees for loans, and they have a bank account with a positive balance. In continuing the project, beekeeping and fish farming activities will be developed.

Support the families of small farmers such as Cyprien:

CHF 50.-
CHF 100.-
CHF 350.-

Provides a family with eight chickens.
Provides a family with four pigs.
Provides ten people with three days of agricultural vocational training.

FH Switzerland is committed to the fight against poverty locally through personal and community development throughout the world. FH Switzerland is part of the international network of Food for the Hungry (FH).



Rue Dr-Alfred-Vincent 8
1201 Geneva - Switzerland
Tel. /fax : +41 (0)22 755 35 75
fh-switzerland.org
CCP 23-560722-6



FH Switzerland is a member of the Geneva Federation for Cooperation and is certified by the Code of honor of the Swiss Evangelic Alliance (AES).



Burundi: farming associations and churches combine against hunger

An innovative partnership for better production.
"I show my neighbors how to grow vegetables."



fhAgriculture
SUBSTAINABLE IMPACT





Kirundo Province

Kirundo province in northern Burundi is a region of the country where food insecurity is currently most severe.

Causes include a large population, soil that has lost its fertility due to erosion and droughts, and the lack of farm animals to provide manure to be used as fertilizer.

Added to this is a population weakened by local conflicts.

FH Switzerland has been active in this province since 2007.

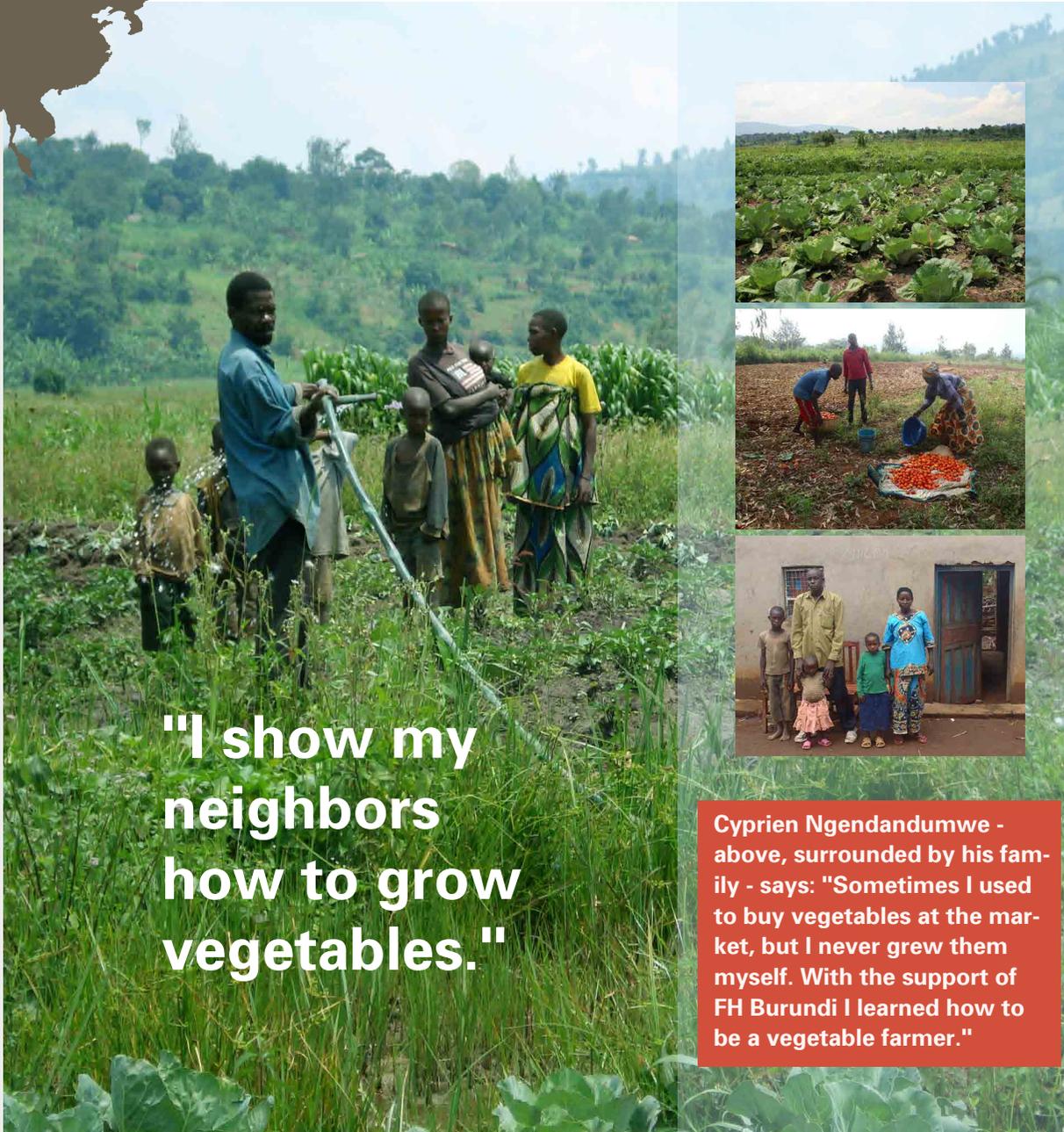
In 2011, a holistic agricultural development project was initiated, bringing together churches and farming associations in order to increase agricultural and livestock production within the community.

Jeannine Habarugira, field officer:



"This project strengthens social cohesion. It brings together farmers, church members and leaders of different faiths. All these partners have agreed to come together to improve the daily lives of families. The project's holistic dimension is reflected in the fact that all aspects of life are considered."

Read the interview at fh-switzerland.org



"I show my neighbors how to grow vegetables."



Cyprien Ngendandumwe - above, surrounded by his family - says: "Sometimes I used to buy vegetables at the market, but I never grew them myself. With the support of FH Burundi I learned how to be a vegetable farmer."

Just like Cyprien, **more than 800 small farmers have learned to grow vegetables alongside their traditional crops: cassava, maize, potatoes, beans, bananas and sweet potatoes.** Parts of local marshes have been converted into farm land to allow for growing carrots, eggplants, cabbages, onions, peppers and tomatoes. High quality vegetable seeds were provided to farmers so they could get started in this new activity. Families have been able both to diversify their farm production and improve their diet.

Cyprien continues: "We use manure from the cow and goats as a natural fertilizer. With the new pedal water pumps it takes us much less time than before to irrigate our fields. **After 3 years of harvests, now I can provide my own seeds and fertilizers.** We learned to plant crops in rows, and we know the ideal separation to maintain between plants. The challenges we face currently are related to a lack of storage sheds."

"Our family eats some of the crops we grow. My children are very fond of vegetables, and I'm sure it helps to keep them healthy. **I sell the rest of our production at the market. The money earned allows me to buy clothes for my children and get things that I do not produce myself, like oil or salt.**"

"It is a heart-felt joy to pass along my knowledge to others who have not had the opportunity to have direct support from FH Burundi. **I began to show my neighbors how to grow vegetables.** Several of them have already gotten started themselves!"

Cyprien is married and has three children. He belongs to one of 30 agricultural associations supported by FH. His association consists of twenty families living in the Rugarama hill region of Kirundo province.

