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Interim Technical Report

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BEAN FARMING FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PROJECT (B4WE)

Partnership Agreement for Project Implementation

.....PARTENAIRE.....

Technical Progress Report

Second Quarter (May - June 2025)

10/ 07 / 2025

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Acknowledgements

The Groupe d'Actions Socio-Agro-Pastorales (GASAP) would like to reiterate its thanks to CIAT-PABRA Sud-Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) for funding these agricultural activities aimed at multiplying bio-fortified seeds among farmers in the Kabare and Kalehe Territories during season B 2024-2025, through its Bean Culture for Women's Empowerment (B4WE) project.

He also thanks the Service National de Semence (SENASEM) Sud-Kivu for its open collaboration and technical support.

Our thanks also go to the staff members for their dedication to their work in a particularly difficult context for the country and the intervention zone. The same goes for our various local partners (local authorities and leaders, grassroots community members who participated in one way or another in the implementation of agricultural campaign activities, the security service, etc.).

Acronyms

CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture
B4WE	Beans for women's empowerment
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GASAP	Socio-Agro-Pastoral Action Group
Ha	Hectare
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
INERA	Institut National pour l'Etude et la Recherche Agronomiques
KG	Kilogramme
PICAGL	Integrated Agricultural Growth Project in the Great Lakes
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo

Summary table of the partnership/collaboration contract

Project title	Beans For Women Empowerment (B4WE)
Type of partnership contract	Fixed-term contract
Partnership/collaboration contract number	C25NBO142
Province and territories of contract implementation	In the Province of South Kivu, Territories of Kabare and Kalehe
Partnership contract period (start/end dates)	Start : 01/03/2025. End : 31 /07/2025
Reporting period	12/5/2025
Contact person/ B4WE (Surname and Forenames, Email)	Awotide Bola
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Report deadline	
Report submission date:	07/07/2025
Overall assessment of achievements for this reporting period (less than 100 words)	GASAP's bean seed multiplication activities for 250 women farmers in Kabare Territory and 250 in Kalehe Territory began in January 2025 at Bwengehera in Kabare Territory. With opening activities, first and second plowing, sowing took place in March and early April 2025. The 2 hectares of beans planted were harvested in June 2025.

1 . Summary

During the B2024-2025 season, the organization Groupe d'Actions SOCIO-Agro- Pastorales (GASAP), in partnership with CIAT, is carrying out this basic seed multiplication project with the aim of supporting 250 women in the Territory of Kabare and 250 others in the Territory of Kalehe by granting them small packages for bean cultivation with a view to their self- sufficiency.

To this end, GASAP has rented a field to sow 2 hectares of HM21-7 beans in the Bwengehera site, in Kabare territory, with a view to multiplying the Bio-fortified seeds to be made available to its beneficiaries after the training course it will be organizing for them in July 2025.

The various activities organized by the GASAP organization as part of this project began in January with the search for the field to be leased.

After contacting the local authorities and seed beneficiaries in the two territories of Kabare and Kalehe, the project was explained to them with a view to ensuring ownership, and mobilizing the workforce for the start-up of activities in the B crop season. At the end of January, work began on clearing the fields, monitoring activities, and carrying out the first and second plowing.

In mid-March, we sowed the first hectare, while the second was sown on 4/4/2025 due to the war troubles in the area and the non-availability of agricultural inputs within the planned timeframe.

Following the increase in rainfall and the appearance of weeds, we carried out the first weeding in March, followed by the second weeding in April for savings.

Harvesting took place in June. At present, we are sorting to prepare for the distribution of the small packages, which will be preceded by the capacity-building stage.

2. Introduction

With the aim of supplying improved bean seeds to farmers in Kabare Territory and Kalehe Territory selected by the B4WE project, the organization Groupe d'Actions Socio-Agro-Pastorales(GASAP) in partnership with the Centre International d'Agriculture Tropicale(CIAT) has set up agricultural activities at the Bwengehera site in Kabare Territory, Bugorhe groupement, Nyamakana village not far from the Kavumu commercial center in South Kivu Province.

Started in February, GASAP had 2 hectares sown for bean seed multiplication; variety HM21-7, category R1. Harvesting took place in June.

These seeds will be distributed in small packs of 0.5kgs to 500 farmers, including 250 in Kabare Territory (Bwengehera, Bushumba, Kashusha, Karhuliza, Miti) and 250 in Kalehe Territory (Nyamutwe, Kasheke) for the empowerment of women through the chefe project.

2.1. Partner presentation

The Groupe d'Actions Socio-Agro-Pastorales (GASAP), is a non-governmental organization based at 429, AV.P.E. Lumumba, Ibanda, Bukavu, in the Province of Sud-Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo.

It holds Legal Operating Authorization No Just.GS.112/S-KV/680/98 dated March 23, 1998, Provisional Operating Authorization No 01/741/CAB/GOUPRO-SK/2007 dated September 29, 2007 and Ministerial Order No 390/CAB/MIN/J&DH/2 011 dated August 15, 2011.

Its main areas of intervention are: socio-economic development through agro-pastoral production in its value chain (support for small-scale agricultural producers and agro-business); social cohesion and economic resilience of vulnerable households (all communities combined); entrepreneurial activities for young girls and boys.

Its scope of action is the Province of South Kivu, the city of Bukavu and surrounding areas, and the Territories of Uvira, Fizi, Mwenga, Kabare, Kalehe and Walungu.

2.2. Project description B4WE

Canadian cooperation in the Democratic Republic of Congo to contribute to women's empowerment through the promotion of bean cultivation. The project is being implemented in three regions in Congo - DRC (North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika) by producer organizations with the guidance and technical support of state structures (Ministry in charge of Agriculture, Ministry in charge of Gender, INERA, SENASEM, SNV, PRONANUT,) and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). It is a five-year initiative (2023 - 2027) whose implementation focuses on areas that directly influence the degree of empowerment of women in the bean value chain: agro-business, the seed system, gender equality, rights of access to production factors (land, capital) and nutrition.

The objectives of the B4WE project are to (1) Enhance the skills and negotiation of new business opportunities for bean enterprises run by women entrepreneurs; (2) Accelerate the adoption of climate-smart technologies by women bean producers; (3) Empower the voices of women and girls in bean marketing, leadership and decision-making; (4) Strengthen the capacity and responsiveness of the public sector to deliver gender-sensitive programs and policies; (5) Improve and enforce institutional arrangements around women's access rights to factors of production such as land, and (6) Raise awareness and educate to facilitate decision-making in the conduct of product development activities aimed at influencing nutritional behaviors and attitudes, ultimately adopting the cultivation of improved, iron-rich bean varieties as a more important part of the diet in eastern DRC.

2.3. Description of the contents of the partnership contract

Within the framework of the partnership contract between the Groupe d'Actions Socio-Agro-Pastorales (GASAP) and the Centre d'Agriculture Tropical (CIAT), the following elements are to be considered:

CIAT is making available to GASAP the sum of $10,860 to cultivate 2ha of HM21-7 bio-fortified bean seed, to be made available to 500 farmers, including 250 in Kabare and 250 in Kalehe.

All activities to be carried out in the field will be handled by GASAP:

- Field opening and maintenance up to harvesting

- Post-harvest work

- Capacity-building for producers:

- Distribution of seeds to farmers and monitoring of babies demos

3. Status of sub-activities

3.1. Sub-activity 1

Access to available first generation (foundation) seeds and quality seeds distributed to seed producers and farmers.

3.1.1. Description of how the sub-activity was carried out

As part of the process of gaining access to quality seeds for distribution to farmers, GASAP leased 2 hectares of arable land in the Bwengehera estate, in the Bugorhe groupement, Kabare territory. CIAT provided GASAP with 160 kg of HM21-7 bean seed to sow the 2 hectares.

At the end of the season, GASAP will have harvested more or less 1 tonne, as we are still in the drying and sorting period.

3.1.2. Actions carried out during the reporting period

Up to the reporting period, we had carried out the following activities:

Land opening work (clearing, first and second ploughing) followed by the sowing of two hectares of “green manure”.

3.2. Sub-activity 2

3.2.1. Capacity building for seed producers

This activity is scheduled to take place over the month of July, from July 10 to 20, 2025, i.e. 10 days for the two Territories.

3.2.2. Description of how the activity will be carried out

The activity will consist of training seed producers from the two Territories on recommended agricultural practices for bean cultivation, agribusiness, how to access agricultural credit, nutrition, gender and for vegetable.

3.2.3. Actions carried out during the reporting period

Farming households involved in bean seed distribution were identified and grouped into

3.3. Sub-activity 3

3.3.1. Distribution of small seed sachets to beneficiary households in the territories of Kabare and Kalehe Small sachets containing seeds will be distributed to the beneficiary household immediately after the training.

3.3.2. **Description of how the activity will be carried out**

The activity will consist of packing 0.5kg of bean seed in a bag envelope and distributing it through grassroots organizations and agricultural cooperatives to each identified farmer beneficiary. 250 beneficiaries will receive the seeds in the Territory of Kabare Among them were 10 men, 15 girls, and 225 women; in the territory of Kalehe, we have 7 men, 10 girls, and 233 women.

3.3.3. **Actions carried out during the reporting period**

After harvesting and sorting the beans, GASAP is preparing the small bags for distribution to farmers.

3.4. Level of implementation of sub-activities vs indicators

The level of implementation of activities in relation to indicators is shown in Table…

Tableau: Level of implementation of activities against indicators

Sub-activity	Indicator (as stated in the contract)	Target (Number)	Achievement (Number)	Achievement level (%)	Commentary
Sub-activity 1 Access to first-generation seeds	2 ha of seed production in the kabare and kalehe territories	2	2	100%	The harvest yielded 1,000 kg, of which 700 kg remained after sorting. The quantity to be distributed to beneficiaries is 250 kg, 25 kg has been sold so far, and 425 kg remains available for sale.
Sub-activity 2 Train seed producers and value chain actors According to their needs	250 beneficiaries trained in Kabare territory and 250 trained in Kalehe territory	500	0	0	Training scheduled for July 17-21, 2025, in Buzunga, Kalehe territory, and in Miti and Karhuliza, Kabare territory.
Sub-activity 3 Distribution of small seed sachets to beneficiary households in the territories of Kabare and Kalehe	250 small seed packets will be distributed to farming households in the Kabare territories and a further 250 in Kalehe.	500	0	0	The activity remains to be carried out after harvesting and before preparing the land for the next growing season.

4. Problems encountered and mitigation measures

Challenges / problem(s) encountered	Solutions / proposed actions	Consequences for implementation of the partnership agreement
Land acquisition	Release of funds at the right time.	Work carried out under pressure to avoid delays in relation to crop season B.
Delay in the granting of funds by the partner	Pre-financing of agricultural activities by GASAP	Reduction in bean cultivation area, 2ha instead of 4ha.
Theft of agricultural products from the field	Recruiting a janitor during the crop maturity period	Decrease in agricultural production
Presence of rodents in the field	Use of locally manufactured traps	Additional cost to the budget Cost

5. Lessons learned, Conclusions and Recommendations

- Educate the population about the benefits of bio-fortified crops for human health and socio-economic development.
- Training in weed management and rodent control.
- Crop disease management
- Management of weevils and other insects that can attack seeds before sowing.
- Advocacy with the partner to obtain the means to implement the project in accordance with the agricultural calendar.

Annexes

Annexe 1 : Photos

Figure 1. Harvesting beans in the Bwengehera/Kabare basic seed multiplication field

Figure 2. Beans threshing after harvest

Figure 3. Beans threshing

Figure 4. Beans sorting before distribution of small packages.

Annexes 2:Change story(s)

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