

Alliance



Interim Technical Report





**BEAN CULTIVATION PROJECT FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT
(CHEFE)**

Partnership Agreement for Project Implementation

.....PARTNER.....

**Technical Progress Report
Second Quarter (May–July 2025)**

August 19, 2025

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Acknowledgments

The Socio-Agro-Pastoral Action Group (GASAP) reiterates its thanks to CIAT-PABRA South Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) for funding these agricultural activities carried out with the aim of multiplying biofortified seeds for the benefit of farmers in the Kabare and Kalehe territories during the 2024-2025 B season through its bean cultivation project for women's empowerment (CHEFE).

These seeds were distributed in the first half of July, accompanied by a series of training sessions on recommended agronomic practices for bean cultivation, improving bean marketing, nutrition with beans, and gender.

GASAP would also like to thank the National Seed Service (SENASA) in South Kivu for its open collaboration and technical support.

We would also like to extend our thanks to the members of the GASAP staff for their dedication to their work in the particularly difficult context that the country and the intervention zone are currently experiencing. The same goes for its various local partners (local authorities and leaders, grassroots community members who participated in one way or another in the implementation of agricultural campaign activities, security services, etc.).

Acronyms

CIAT: International Center for Tropical Agriculture
CHEFE: Bean cultivation 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: National Institute for Agricultural Research and Studies
KG: Kilogram
PICAGL: Integrated Agricultural Growth Project in the Great Lakes Region
DRC: Democratic Republic of Congo

Summary table of the partnership/collaboration agreement

Project title	Beans For Women Empowerment (B4WE)
Type of partnership agreement	Fixed-term contract
Partnership/collaboration agreement number	C25NBO142
Province and territories where the agreement will be implemented	In South Kivu Province, Kabare and Kalehe Territories
Partnership agreement period (start/end dates)	Start: March 1, 2025. End : 31/07/2025
Reporting period	19 /08/2025
Contact person/B4WE (first and last name, email)	Awotide Bola
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Report submission deadline	
Report submission date	19/08/2025
Overall assessment of achievements for this reporting period (less than 100 words)	Activities related to bean seed multiplication for the benefit of 250 women farmers in the Kabare Territory and 250 in the Kalehe Territory by GASAP began in January 2025 in Bwengehera in the Kabare Territory. Following the initial activities, including the first and second plowing, sowing took place in March and early April 2025. The two hectares of beans planted were harvested in June 2025. After the seeds were certified by SENASEM, GASAP organized training for the beneficiaries before providing them with small 0.5 kg packages of HM21-7 beans to be sown during the 2025-2026 season and set up the demos babies.

1. Summary

During the 2024-2025 season, Groupe d'Actions Socio-Agro-Pastorales (GASAP) organization, in partnership with CIAT-PABRA, is carrying out this basic seed multiplication project with the aim of supporting 250 women in the Kabare Territory and 250 others in the Kalehe Territory by providing them with small packets and will follow up on the distribution of agricultural tools for bean cultivation with a view to empowering them.

Before distributing the small 0.5kg packets to each beneficiary, training sessions were organized for them in their respective communities, covering various topics to prepare them not only on how to increase bean, vegetable production and marketing, but also on nutritional value and gender issues.

2. Introduction

Farmers from the Kabare and Kalehe territories selected by the Chefe project, the organization Groupe d'Actions Socio-Agro-Pastorales (GASAP) in partnership with the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) has established agricultural activities at the Bwengehera site in the Kabare Territory, South Kivu Province.

Starting in February, GASAP had 2 hectares planted for the multiplication of bean seeds of the HM21-7 variety, category R1. The harvest took place in June.

These seeds were distributed in small 0.5 kg packets to 500 farmers, including 250 from Kabare Territory (Bwengehera, Bushumba, Kashusha, Karhuliza, Miti) and 250 from the Kalehe Territory (Nyamutwe, Kasheke) for the empowerment of women through the Chefe project after training organized for them in the areas of bean farming techniques, agribusiness, nutrition, and gender.

2.1. Presentation of the partner

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

It has been granted 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 Decree No. 390/CAB/MIN/J&DH/2011 dated August 15, 2011.

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

Its area of operation is South Kivu Province, the city of Bukavu and its surroundings, and the territories of Uvira, Fizi, Mwenga, Kabare, Kalehe, and Walungu.

2. 2. Description of the CHEFE project

Canadian cooperation in the Democratic Republic of Congo to contribute to the empowerment of women through the promotion of bean cultivation. The project is being implemented in three provinces of the DRC (North Kivu, South Kivu, and Tanganyika) by producer organizations with guidance and technical support from government agencies (Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Gender, INERA, SENASEM, SNV, PRONANUT, etc.) 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 women's empowerment in the bean value chain: agribusiness, seed systems, gender equality, access rights to production factors (land, capital), and nutrition.

The objectives of the B4WE project are (1) To improve the skills and negotiation of new business opportunities for bean-related businesses run by women entrepreneurs; (2) To accelerate the adoption of climate-smart technologies by women bean producers; (3) Empower women and girls' voices in bean marketing, leadership, and decision-making; (4) Strengthen the capacity and responsiveness of the public sector to deliver gender-responsive programs and policies; (5) Improve and enforce institutional arrangements around women's access rights to production factors 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 leading to the adoption of improved, iron-rich bean varieties as a more significant part of the diet in eastern DRC.

2.3. Description of the content of the partnership agreement

Under the partnership agreement between Groupe d'Actions Socio-Agro-Pastorales (GASAP) and the Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), the following elements are to be taken into account:

CIAT is providing GASAP with a sum of \$10,860 to cultivate 2 hectares with a view to multiplying fortified organic bean seeds of the HM21-7 variety to be made available to 500 farmers, including 250 in Kabare (10 mens, 15 girls et 225 womens) and 250 in Kalehe (7mens, 10 girls and 233 womens).

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

- Land clearing and maintenance until harvest
- Post-harvest work
- Capacity building for producers:
- Distribution of seeds to farmers and monitoring of demos babies.

3. Status of implementation of sub-activities

3.1. Sub-activity 1

Access to available first-generation (basic) seeds and quality seeds

3.1.1. Description of the sub-activity

As part of the process of accessing quality seeds for distribution to farmers, GASAP leased 2 hectares of arable land in the Bwengehera estate, in the Bugorhe group, Kabare territory. CIAT provided GASAP with 160 kg of HM21-7 bean seeds to plant on the 2 hectares.

This included 700 kg of seeds obtained after sorting.

3.1.2. Actions carried out during the reporting period

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

Land clearing (clearing, first and second plowing) followed by sowing two hectares of beans, harvesting, sorting, training of beneficiaries and distribution of small packets.

3.2. Under activity 2

3.2.1. Strengthening seed producer capacities

The activity was carried out from July 17 to 21 in the territories of Kalehe and Kabare. In the Kalehe territory, the training took place in Buzunga in the Mbinga group, while in the Kabare territory, the training took place in Miti and Karhuliza. Various topics were covered during the training of the beneficiaries, including bean cultivation techniques and vegetable, agribusiness, nutrition, and gender.

3.2.2. Description of how the activity was conducted

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

500 beneficiaries of the small packages attended the various training sessions in the two territories.

3.2.3. Actions carried out during the reporting period

The farming households selected by GASAP as part of the Chefe project have been trained and now have the capacity to carry out agricultural activities effectively in the

3.3. Sub-activity 3

3.3.1. Distribution of small seed packets to beneficiary households in the Kabare and Kalehe territories

The small packets containing seeds were distributed to beneficiary households immediately after the training.

The activity consisted of packaging 0.5 kg of bean seeds in a bag and distributing them through grassroots organizations and agricultural cooperatives to each identified beneficiary farmer. The latter are grouped into various cooperatives and farmers' organizations. These include ADENYA (Association for Endogenous Development of NYAMUTWE) for the Kalehe axis; OPDR (Umuja ninguvu, Tujenge kwetu, and Kashusha rhuje mberere) for the Miti, Cibinda, and Kashusha axis in Kabare territory.

3.3.3. Actions carried out during the reporting period

Distribution of small packages to members of farmers' organizations and agricultural cooperatives.

The level of implementation of activities in relation to indicators is presented in Table...

Table: **Level of implementation of activities in relation to indicators.**

Sub-activity	Indicator (as specified in the contract)	Target (Number)	Achievement (Number)	Level of achievement (%)	Comment
Sub-activity 1 Access to first-generation seeds	2 ha of seed production established in the territories of Kabare and Kalehe	2	2	100%	
Sub-activity 2 Train seed producers and value chain actors according to their needs	250 beneficiaries trained in the Kabare territories and 250 trained in the Kalehe Territory	500	500	100%	Training conducted in the hall of the Protestant church in Buzunga in the territory of Kalehe on July 17, 2025, and from July 18 to 21, 2025, in Miti Centre and Karhuliza in the territory of Kabare.
Sub-activity 3 Distribution of small seed	250 small packets of seeds was distributing to farming households in the Kabare territories	500	500	100%	The distribution of small packets took place

packets to beneficiary households in the Kabare and Kalehe territories	and another 250 in Kalehe.				after the training sessions.
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4. Problems encountered and mitigation measures

Challenges/problems encountered	Proposed solutions/actions	Impact on the implementation of the partnership agreement
Acquisition of farmland	Release of financial resources at the appropriate time.	Work carried out under pressure to avoid delays in relation to the growing season B.
Delays in the disbursement of funds by the partner	Pre-financing of agricultural activities by GASAP.	Reduction in the bean growing area, 2 ha instead of 4 ha.
Theft of agricultural products from the field	Recruit a guard during the crop ripening period.	Decrease in agricultural production
Presence of rodents in the field	Use of locally made traps.	Additional cost to the budget

5. Lessons learned, conclusions, and recommendations

- Educating the population about the benefits of fortified organic crops for human health and socio-economic development.
- Education on weed management in crops 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.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Photos



Figure 1. Training of partners on farming techniques, agribusiness, nutrition, gender, etc. in Buzunga Kalehe.



Figure 2. Family photo after training in Kalehe.



Figure 3. Training organized in Miti



Figure 4. Family photo after training at Miti.



Figure 5. The training organized in Karhuliza, Kabare territory



Appendix 2: Stories of change

[Delete these instructions in red and brackets before submitting the report. One or more stories/testimonials of success related to the successful conduct of the activity and the implementation of the partnership agreement.]