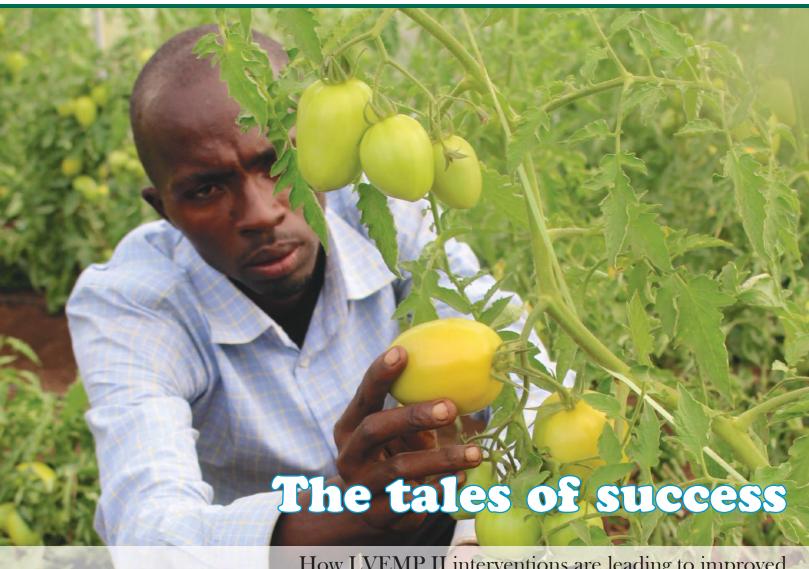


News TEIMIP II

Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project (Phase II)

Quarterly Online Newsletter Issue No 005 June-August 2015



How LVEMP II interventions are leading to improved livelihoods within communities in targeted areas



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the 5th edition of LVEMPII Rwanda Newsletter.

Since the implementation of LVEMP II activities started in Rwanda, we have focused on improving environment management practices, encouraging sustainable land use and invested our efforts and resources in the protection and rehabilitation of the Lake Victoria Basin.

These environment protection efforts are supported by initiatives to improve the living conditions of communities in targeted areas, with the aim of contributing to the transformation of their livelihoods. Through the implementation of the Project activities, hundreds of jobs are created for local communities-giving many, mostly the poorest among the communities, a chance to earn money and improve their life. This has made a significant difference into the life of communities.

Besides, the watershed management interventions which include the promotion of agro-forestry and the creation of radical and progressive terraces has not only boosted food production in the project intervention areas but also contributed to stopping erosion erosion. That has had as a result, the increase of agriculture production, which allowed communities to transform their lives.

In addition, the support to income generating activities through Community Driven Development Subprojects, or CDDs, has helped our beneficiries to improve their livelihoods.

Through this issue of our online Newsletter, we go into communities to meet some of those whose lives were transformed by our interventions. We give them space to tell their tales: they are tales of success and growth.

Today these people are optimistic that their lives will continue to improve: they have jobs and their food production is constantly increasing. Their lives are also changing.

By combining environment protection interventions with activities meant for socio-economic transformation, LVEMP II is leaving indelible marks within the communities where we operate.

We express our sincere gratitude to all those who are supporting our work, including our donors, government leaders, local authorities, communities, partners and all stakeholders. Your support ensures that we deliver.

Together, let's continue to join our efforts to ensure a proper management of environment and natural resources. Together, we stand for Lake Victoria Basin environment.

Thank you and enjoy the read.

Emmanuella MUREKATETE

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DEM/A

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LVEMP II interventions improve lives, benefit communities

In this serie of stories, we bring you short narratives of a cross section of LVEMP II beneficiaries talking about how the Project interventions have benefited them and stimulated a positive change within their lives

FOR MOST OF HIS LIFE, 53-yearold Bonaventure Bagirigomwa has lived as a subsistence farmer. The resident of Abiyunze village in Jarama Sector, Ngoma District of the Eastern Province, survived on the little yields he harvested from his plantation.

Bagirigomwa's productivity was majorly constrained by significant degradation of the local environment, which mainly came as a result of devastating soil erosion.

"Erosion was a serious threat to our activities as it used to erode topsoil and that had severe implications on our production capacity, which eventually affected our lives," Bagirigomwa says.

But Bagirigomwa is now a happy and stable farmer as the past seasons has seen a significant increase of his crop production.

That came mainly as a result of extensive efforts by the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project Phase Two (LVEMP II) which worked to protect some of the degraded areas in Jarama Sector of Ngoma District.

Under the interventions that started back in 2013, radical terraces were created on hills overlooking Rweru Wetland and trees planted within the terraced land and the wetland buffer zone to stop erosion.

In total, 151 hectares of radical terraces have been created, valorised and stabilised with reeds and check-dams. Over agro-forestry 634.588 trees were also planted. Demarcation lines separating people's plots from Rweru-Akagera Wetland Complex were created on a distance of 35.3 kilometres and the demarcated buffer zone was planted with trees to protect the wetland.

The impact was almost immediate.

"Before I hardly produced 3 sacks of maize (approximately 300 Kgs), but last

farming season I harvested 1.5 tons of maize, which marks a big increase from the harvest I used to get before the LVEMP II interventions," Bagirigomwa notes with a smile.

"That was possible because the radical terraces allowed the productive and fertile topsoil to remain instead of being washed away by erosion. In addition, the terraces also ensured that the fertilisers we apply on our plots while farming remain and nourish the soil which leads to



BAGIRIGOMWA BONAVENTURE, 53, ABI-YUNZE VILLAGE JARAMA SECTOR, NGOMA DISTRICT

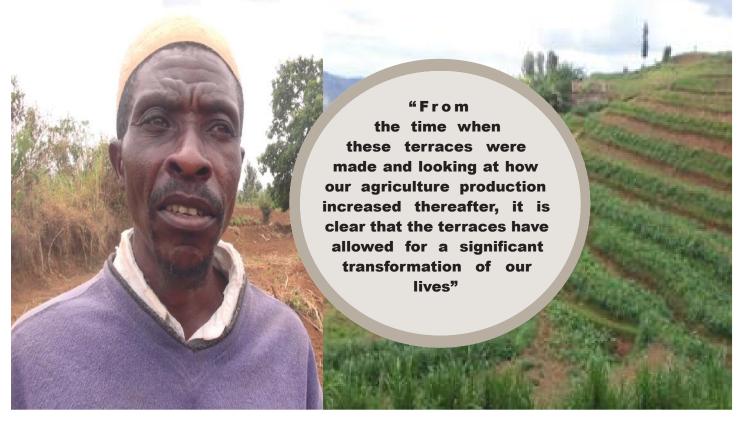
increased yields," he notes.

The significant increase in agriculture production has allowed Bagirigomwa to improve his livelihood and meet the needs of his family.

" I was able to renovate my house, buy a brand new bicycle and cater for the basic needs of my family, including affording quality and enough food for my children. In brief, it has helped me a lot," he says, as he looks forward to more achievements.

"My life has changed"

MUTABARUKA RADJAB, KIBIMBA CELL, NGOMA DISRICT



From the time when these terraces were made and looking at how our agriculture production increased thereafter, it is clear that the terraces have allowed for a significant transformation of our lives. Second, the LVEMP II Project has allowed us to own and run accounts in the local sector-based savings and credit cooperatives (SACCOs) which helped us to save money and access funds to implement other income generating activities while at the same time benefiting the SACCOs.

The increase of our yields allowed me to meet the basic needs of my family, including the ability to support the education of my children, among them there is one who recently completed his secondary school education and another one who is still at college level. If it had not been for LVEMP II, I wouldn't have been able to afford the school fees.

In addition, I have also been able to buy a cow,

a plot of land and have now the capacity to feed and clothe my children. Today, I have enough food for home consumption and the excess to sell to meet other family needs. That was made possible by the interventions of LVEMP II. In the past, erosion was affecting our production but today it has stopped thanks to the radical terraces that were established on hillsides.

"I have been able to buy a cow, a plot of land and have now the capacity to feed and clothe my children. Today, I have enough food for home consumption and the excess to sell to meet other family needs"



Shingiro: increased productivity, improved life



tivities, his 1.5 hectare plot is part of the over 151 hectares of land overlooking Rweru wetland that were

JEAN BAPTISTE SHINGIRO (pictured above) is a 41 year old farmer who resides in Dufatanye Village, Jarama Sector of Ngoma District.

For his entire life, Shingiro has been living on agriculture though his life has been often complicated by low production capacity. Indeed, he practiced subsistence agriculture-often mixing crops-which considerably reduced his ability to produce more.

When LVEMP II started the implementation of activities to rehabilitate Rweru-Akagera Wetland Complex in Ngoma Districtin 2013, Shingiro was amongst the first beneficiaries. Apart from being employed in the implementation of the LVEMP II ac-

That stopped erosion in the steep slopes and ensured a significant increase of yields. Shingiro is amongst those who saw their production increasing.

terraced as part of the LVEMP II in-

terventions.

"In the past I barely harvested two sacks of sorghum, weighing nearly 50 Kilograms each," Shingiro says. "But today my production has significantly increased. For instance last season, I harvested about 24 sacks of maize, that's nearly 1.2 tons".

That increase, Shingiro says, was a result of the terraces coupled with the best practices that farmers ad-

opted after the terraces were established.

"Apart from being able to meet the basic needs of my family, the increase in production has also allowed me to buy a small plot of land to extend my farming activities. I have also bought a cow which is supplementing my agriculture income," Shingiro says.

But his investment doesn't end there.

"By working on the implementation of the activities, I got money to solve some of the problems that faced my family. But then in the process, I asked myself how I can use the opportunity to further improve," he says. "So I decided to invest in rearing meat chicken."

Currently, Shingiro has 88 meat chicken and intends to grow the number to at least 200 chicken in the coming weeks.

"This is an investment that I believe will further raise my living conditions," Shingiro notes as he smilingly looks at his chicken, in the backvard of his family house.

Tumukunde: The road to wealth

ROSINE TUMUKUNDE is very young: her youthful face attests to her 21 years of age. But for a young girl of her age, who was compelled to drop from school some few years ago due to poverty, what she has achieved speaks of her determination to better her life.

About 5 years ago, mukunde, a resident of Simbi Sector, Huye District, dropped out of school. She was then in her second year at a local secondary school. But she decided to take her fate into her hands and work to improve her life.

So when in early 2014 she got an opportunity to work on implementation activities for the rehabilitation and protection of Mwogo River in Huye District. Tumukunde knew she was getting a golden opportunity to transform her life.

Every time a payment was made on her account, which she opened in a local savings and credit cooperative (SAC-CO), she would keep part of it in savings. As the money accumulated,

Tumukunde invested in

small livestock. In the beginning, she acquired two pigs, three chicken and a turkey. She also bought a small plot of land.

As days went on, her animals multiplied and she kept buying in new ones. Today her assets include a small plot of land, a cow, a pig, two turkeys, 6 chicken and two goats.

"Looking at what I have achieved in such a short period, gives me hope and confidence of attaining even much more," Tumukunde says with her constant smile. "At my age, I have achieved a lot, and I am proud of the journey I have gone. I am also thankful to LVEMP II project for giving me such an opportunity."

With the accumulated wealth, Tumukunde is contemplating going back to schoolnow that she has the capacity to cater for herself.

"I am thinking about going back to school soon," she notes, with her endless smile which has become her signature.

Tumukunde has a piece of advice for other young men and women of her age: "Work hard and use your money wisely. Above all, always ensure that you save part of what you earn for further investments."

"LVEMP II inspired me into modern agriculture"

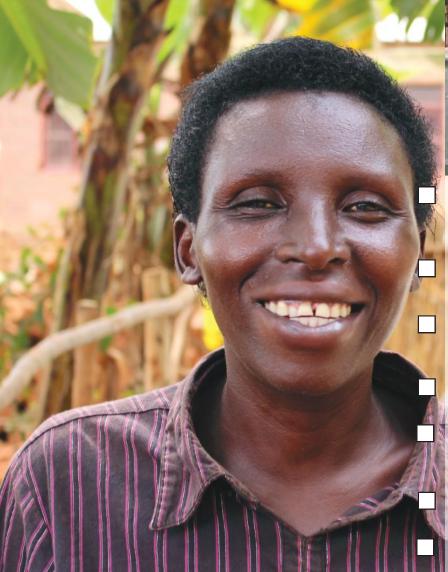


MATTHIAS SINZAHERA is a banana farmer who lives in Ihanika Cell, Jarama Sector in Ngoma District. For years, he practiced traditional farming which gave him very limited yields and constrained his ability to improve the living conditions of his family. It is after attending a training organised by LVEMP II on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in 2013 that he decided to shift from traditional to modern banana farming. Today, as he awaits the first production, Sinzahera hopes into a brighter future. In this excerpts, he narrates his story from a traditional to modern banana farmer.

Read his full testimony on the next page



Leonille Musabyemariya switches to green, dean energy thanks to LVEMP II





Both Musabyemariya and her husband have worked as team leaders on the implementation of LVEMP II activities since 2013

Leonille, a resident of Jarama Sector in Ngoma District, has been saving money since she got the job

She invested part of the money in the construction of a biogas unit at her home. Biogas is produced by fermenting cow dung

She uses biogas to prepare food

She says she is proud that she has been able to install a system that limits air and environment pollution

Musabyemariya is also renovating her house

She thanks LVEMP II for giving her an opportunity to improve her livelihoods



"When LVEMP II started the implementation of its activities, I was employed as a team leader. From the beginning, I saved part of the money I earned and later I used that money to invest in other activities. One of the biggest achievements that I have made remains the construction of a biogas plant which is helping me to generate energy to cook food.

That has allowed for improvement in hygiene at home and of course it has allowed me to stop using firewood, which has negative implications on the environment. Besides, my health has also improved as I am no longer inhaling dangerous smokes resulting from burning firewood while cooking.

Apart from earning money from the works, me and my family also benefited as owner of land where LVEMP II established terraces in the hills overlooking Rweru Marshland. That has led to increased production and thus positively impacting my life and that of my family. Today, a lot has changed thanks to the project."

What leaders say of LVEMP II Interventions



Prosper MULINDWA

Vice Mayor/Economic Affairs Rulindo District





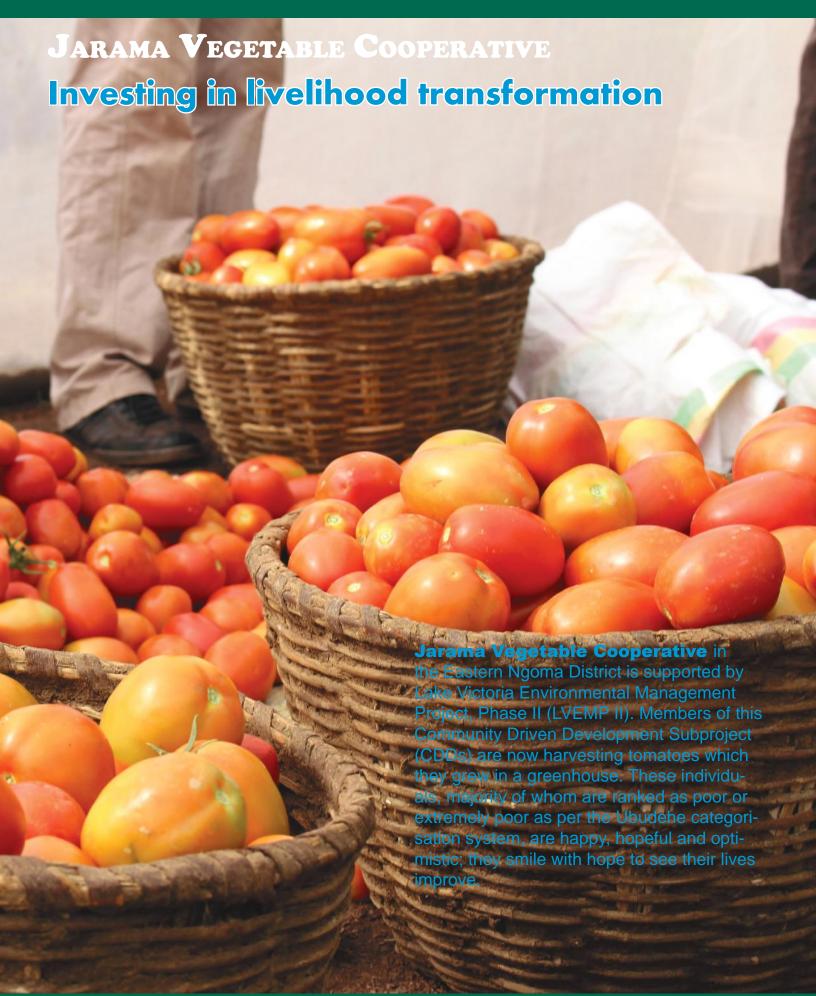
In this excerpt, Mr Prosper Mulindwa, the Vice Mayor in charge of Economic Affairs in Rulindo District in Northern Rwanda reflects on the impact that LVEMP II Project is making among communities in targeted areas, particularly in his District.

As residents were well aware of the project's objectives and interventions and were encouraged to actively participate in their implementation well from the beginning, LVEMP II made a significant impact in our district, particularly in Mbogo Sector where it intervenes. The interventions contributed to limiting the effects of erosion within the area and allowed an increase in food production. We are very happy for the benefits that our residents got from the project.

The success that came with the Project was possible because LVEMP II uses an integrated approach which combines both terracing, agro-forestry, capacity building for communities, financial literacy programmes, promotion of the saving culture and efforts to help communities improve their living conditions.

After observing the progress, we started asking ourselves how we can make use of the investment for more achievements. The District then invested in the construction of feeder roads to help residents to easily access markets to sell their for their produce. We have also availed other infrastructures including water and electricity.

It is thanks to the progress and achievements registered in Mbogo Sector that we, in partnership with LVEMP II, decided to extend the same activities in Shyorongi Sector where we are establishing hillside progressive terraces and protecting the banks of Nyabarongo River.*





THE LIFE OF MARGUERITTE MU-SANIWABO (pictured below) has for years been plagued by poverty-her sole source of income was through traditional farming which gave her little yields.

As she lacked skills and support to improve her productivity, and eventually transform her life, Musaniwabo almost resigned to fate: for her it seemed extremely difficult to move out of such a delicate situation.

But when she was selected to be part of a formal group of beneficiaries, identified among other members of her community due to her levels of poverty, to be supported by LVEMP II Musaniwabo knew an opportunity for her to grow had materialised.

So, together with about 30 other individuals in Jarama sector, they started a Vegetable-growing cooperative with the aim of uplifting their living conditions. LVE-MP II provided them with funds and equipped them with needed skills to start the investment.

Today, the cooperative-named Jarama Vegetable Cooperative, or JAVECO in acronym,

is growing tomatoes in a 312 square metres green house. LVEMP II also supported the farmers to install a system to irrigate the

within crops green house and vegetaother bles they grow on an adjacent plot-includonions, ing green pepper and others. The investment cost over Rwf million.

t h e cooperative started growing tomatoes in the greenhouse. Three months down the road, the cooperative has started harvesting tomatoes.

Mid

About 580 kilograms were harvested on the first three occasions-which left the members with confidence and hope to produce more. The cooperative expects to continue harvesting for at least another five months.

Musaniwabo, one of them, talks with confidence and much energy which exhibits her conviction that her life shall keep improving.

"This is a sign that this investment will lead to improvements within our lives," Musaniwabo notes.

"Returns from this investment will allow us to meet the basic needs of our families and invest in more activities for further growth and development," she adds.

Alexis Karangwa, the representative of the cooperative, agrees and notes that indeed the income generating activity is an opportunity to diversify their source of income and improve their life.

"We chose modern agriculture because most of us were already involved in agriculture though we practiced it in a traditional way," Karangwa says.

"If I consider the long way we have gone, mainly thanks to the constant and consistent advice and support from LVEMP II, my conclusion is that our lives are headed for a better place," he adds.

JARAMA VEGETABLE COOPERATIVE Investing in livelihood transformation









Greenhouse farming, which is well advanced in the developed and developing economies especially in Asia and Europe, produces higher volumes on a small piece of land unlike conventional farming which requires a large piece of land without necessarily giving higher produce. And in a country like Rwanda with little arable land and the highest population density in Africa, making the best use of the soils is crucial for improving food security and creating jobs. Climatic unpredictability, lack of technology and modernization and season dependency make small-scale farming tough but with little profit. Hence, greenhouse farming represents an alternative way to generate a larger and more stable income.

Greenhouse farming also means that crops are grown under controlled conditions, which leads to improved productivity. It also limits the risks of the crops being destroyed by insects or pests and thus limits the use of pesticides-which makes the method environmental friendly, according to Ernest Nsengimana, an agronomist who technically supports JAVECO cooperative in their investment.

Click here http://bit.ly/10dkZb6 for more photos on Jarama Vegetable Cooperative

ENGINEERING SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHANGE

High expectation as Jarama fish cooperative gets floating cages

Initiative is part of LVEMP II efforts to improve the livelihoods of communities in targeted areas

Jarama Fish Cooperative is a cooperative comprising of 42 members, among them 25 women. Together they are working to improve their living conditions.

The cooperative members are vulnerable individuals who rely mainly on subsistence agriculture to support their lives. In the past, these individuals used to grow crops on plots adjacent Rweru marshland-a zone that, under the current environment law, is protected from any activity. So, in 2013 as LVEMP II started the implementation of activities meant to protect the Rweru-Akagera Wetland Complex, the residents were asked comply with the Environmental law and stop farming within the wetland's buffer zone.

But LVEMP II offered them an alternative source of income, to help them improve their livelihoods. The residents were asked to come up with an idea of an income generating activity. They chose modern fish farming. LVEMP II helped the residents to form a cooperative and provided funds to implement the floating cage fish farming project which total cost equals to 23 265 200 Rwandan Francs. LVEMP II will provide 91% of the total cost (21 175 200 Rwf) while the remaining 9% is the contribution of the cooperative members.

So far, the floating cages have been installed in Lake Sake in Ngoma District, not far from the beneficiaries' residences. Fingerlings were also recently brought in. As the beneficiaries wait for the first production, they reflect on the potentiality of the project to transform their lives.

Go to the next page for the testimony



Cages fish farming gives JAFCO members hope for improved life

Pascal Ndagijimina is JAFCO's president. In this excerpt, he speaks of his hope and expectations from the project.

"We believe that our lives are going to improve now thanks to this project. One of the issues we are facing in this area is the low fish production despite the many lakes available. With this project of fish farming in floating cages we hope to tap into this field to contribute towards increasing

fish production to meet the growing market demand for fish while at the same time earning money to improve our living conditions.

This fish farming project has a potential to transform our living conditions. A study visit to a similarproject in Karongi District, organised by LVEMP II, showed us that floating cages fish farming is a high productive project if well implemented. Undoubtedly, this project will stimulate a pos-

itive change not only within our lives but also within the lives of other members of our community.

I thank the LVEMP II for supporting us design and implement this project. We believe this is the beginning of a new era in our lives. We hope that they will keep supporting us to achieve even more."





Cage fish farming: The potential

Joseph Tompson Manirarora, is a veterinary working with Jarama Fish Cooperative on the aquaculture project. He will be providing technical support and assistance to the cooperative to ensure that every single step in the implementation of the subproject is done properly. This will ensure that the fish farming activities becomes a success, benefits JAFCO members and leads to an improvement within their lives.

In this excerpts, he considers the potential of the project to stimulate a positive change within the lives of members of JAFCO Cooperative.

Cage farming (known locally as Kareremba) is a new technique that was introduced to help fish farmers increase productivity and thus an opportunity to improve their welfare.

Cage farming helps fish farmers to control and monitor conditions within the cages and feed fishes properly. In an event of a disease, it is easy to detect it and act before it is too late. As a result, the cage fish farming is highly productive.

For instance, one cage filled up with 2000 young tilapia fishes can easily produce up to 800 Kilograms of mature tilapia fishes within six months.

The result would have been different had the fishes been dropped in a lake under uncontrolled conditions where they might be even eaten by other aquatic animals. But with floating cages, fishes are put under controlled conditions and sheltered from potential predators and threats. This is a highly productive technique.





Cage fish farming involves cages of varying sizes which are floated on a water body, whether a lake, dam, pond or river. The cages contain and protect fish until they can be harvested.

With the technique, fish are stocked in cages, artificially fed and harvested when they mature. Farmers harvest the mature fish every six months

Fishes are rich in calcium and

phosphorus, and a great source of minerals such as iron, zinc, iodine, magnesium and potassium. Cages fish farming is part of Rwanda's strategy to improve the production of fishes both for local and international markets.

Studies carried out in Rwanda have indicated that this technology is highly productive and has the potential to transform the fisheries sector from subsistence to commercial fish farming.

Cage farming is currently being practiced on a number of lakes including Lake Kivu, Burera and Muhazi, among others. The introduction of the technology on Lake Sake is yet another contribution to Rwanda's efforts to increase fish production and the level of per capita fish consumption which remains low.

For more photos on the cage fish farming sub-project, click here: http://bit.ly/1P2xZBF

Main events

Mid-Term Review of LVEMP II Project

From June 1-12, 2015, the World Bank conducted a Mid-Term Review of the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project Phase II (LVEMP II) activities in Rwanda. The Review team, led by the Task Team Leader Mr Stephen Ling, met with various stakeholders of the project and visited several sites to assess physical activities. The review also drew on the findings of an external assessment that was conducted during the last week of May 2015 by Brent Simpson (FAO landscape management specialist) and a national consultant.

The objective of the Mid-Term Review was to conduct a joint stock-taking in consultation with project stakeholders of progress under the project to date, to review plans for completion of the project, and to assess the need for any changes in project design or implementation arrangements.

The Mid-term review was a success. It found that the general design and component structure of LVEMP II remains relevant with Rwanda, as well as within the wider context of the regional LVEMP program.



Mr Stephen Ling led the World Bank mission to conduct the Midterm review of LVEMP II

Vice Mayors for Economic Affairs join National Policy Steering Committee



Mrs MUKARUBIBIBI, PS/MINIRENA chairs the 7th NPSC Meeting

On July 16th, 2015 the 7th National Policy Steering Committee (NPSC) Meeting of Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project (LVEMP II) was held in Kigali.

The Meeting was chaired by Hon.the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources Mrs Fatina MUKARUBIBI.

For the first time, the meeting was attended by Vice Mayors for Economic Affairs from all implementing Districts after they were made members of the NPSC.

In her remarks, Hon. MUKARUBIBI, who is the chairperson of LVEMP II Steering Committee, welcomed the Vice Mayors in charge of economic affairs who were included as members of the committee and noted that their participation will increase ownership of the activities and ensure its activities are well implemented and monitored.

She reminded the participants that the role of the Project Steering Committee is to provide policy guidance for proper and successful implementation of the project activities, to monitor the implementation and provide advices to the project coordination team to address challenges as they come and to ensure that what is written in the project documents is translated into physical activities.

She congratulated the project for the activities so far done and urged the coordination team, NPSC Members and all stakeholders to intensify their efforts to ensure that the project delivers expected results.

Speaking at the meeting, the Director General of REMA, Dr Rose MUKANKOMEJE noted that after the Mid-Term Review the Project has entered a critical phase of implementation of activities which requires more efforts and support from everyone to ensure that all planned activities are implemented in the remaining timeframe.

The meeting provided recommendations and advices on ways of speeding the implementation of LVEMP II activities.

LVEMP II Result Indicators (As of August 2015)

Indicator	Target	Progress	
Number of hectares under sustainable land management practices in the targeted subcatchments	5000 Ha	2432 ha (203 Ha of riverbanks, 271 ha of radical terraces and 1958.6 ha of progressive terraces) are under sustainable land management	
Direct Project Beneficiaries	4000 beneficiaries	The number of direct project beneficiaries is estimated at 5533 , exceeding the original target of 4,000.	
Target industries in the LVB adopting Cleaner Production Technologies	8	The target for 8 industries to adopt cleaner production techniques has already been exceeded. Currently, 25 Industries have adopted resource efficiency and cleaner production practices. Activities are ongoing	
Number of hectares of degraded wetlands restored and/or rehabilitated by communities in targeted subcatchments	200 ha	The target of 200 ha for wetland restoration has been exceeded. 144 ha have so far been achieved from Rweru Lake buffer zone completed. (In addition, Water Hyacinth removal completed on 100 ha)	
Percent of community natural resource management subprojects whose implementation is rated satisfactory or better in the targeted subcatchments	60 per cent	8 Community Driven Development Subprojects (CDDs) are currently under implementation while another 15 are in initial phase of implementation. The target is to have 48 CDDs	

Community Driven Development Subprojects (CDDs)

Under Community Driven Development Sub-projects (CDDs), LVEMP II funds income generating project with the aim of uplifting the livelihoods of the most vulnerable individuals in targeted areas.

DISTRICT	CDD SUB-PROJECT	ALLOCATED BUDGET (RWF)	No of Members
	Potatoes seed multiplication	12,254,121	40
RULINDO	Improved pig livestock production	15,095,745	42
GAKENKE	Improved Pig livestock production	15,661,182	35
	Improved Pig production	15,863,142	24
	Pineapple farming production	8,676,630	30
	Beekeeping production	7,188,450	35
	Beekeeping production	6,451,500	28
MUHANGA	Improved Pig livestock production	15,742,680	47
KARONGI	Improved Pig livestock production	15,573,972	33
	Improved Goat livestock production	13,656,066	35
HUYE	Vegetable production under green house	16,455,711	50
	Improved Pig livestock production	15,658,390	50
	Vegetable production under green house	17,328,831	50
	Improved Pig livestock production	15,650,230	50
NYAMAGABE	Improved Goat livestock production	12,804,060	30
NGOMA	Vegetables Production	19,180,700	45
	Fish Production in floating cages	21,175,200	42
	Improved Goats Livestock Production	15,908,162	30
	Goat livestock Production	15,940,662	45
BUGESERA	Kintambwe Vegetable cooperative (KIVECO Vegetable production	19,375,700	45
	Rweru Vegetable Cooperative(RVCO) Vegetable production	19,300,400	42
	Batima Goats livestock cooperative(BGLCO) Goat livestock production	16,225,670	45
	Nkanga Cassava cooperative (NCCO) Organic cassava production	7,300,740	40