

LVEMP II

RWANDA

News

Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project (Phase II)

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LVEMP II activities ex- tended to 2 more Districts

The extension of activities to Nyanza and Ruhango Districts is part of efforts to protect the upstream areas of Nyabarongo River

EDITORIAL



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the 6th edition of LVEMP II Rwanda Newsletter.

This yet another issue of our quarterly newsletter which seeks to inform you about what we are doing for the protection of the Lake Victoria Basin environment

in Rwanda.

Through our work, we target degraded hotspots in the Basin and focus on priority areas for the benefit of communities, the country and the region in general. This is why, after assessment of the environment status and need to protect it and after consultations, we are now extending our activities to two more Districts located in the upstream areas of Nyabarongo River. It is quite important to recall that Nyabarongo is an important water course and catchment in the Lake Victoria Basin, being the main tributary of Akagera river which flows directly into Lake victoria.

It is after consultations with our stakeholders, decision makers, communities and policy makers that we are proudly starting protection activities in the Districts of Nyanza and Ruhango, both located in the Southern Province. Through this newsletter, we discuss the rationale for the extension and what we expect from the investment.

We also visited the communities in these Districts to listen to their expectations and their views on the intervention's necessity.

Besides investing in environment protection, LVEMP II Rwanda is also working to improve the livelihoods of communities in targeted areas. Through Community Driven development Subprojects (CDDs) we support communities to transform their lives. This newsletter introduces two of the CDDs we have supported.

Of course, we also tackle other topics related to the project activities and all are presented in an easy, friendly and simplified manner for your convenience.

Thank you and enjoy the read.

Annette Sylvie MUHAYIMANA
LVEMP II Project Coordinator

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LVEMP II extends activities to Nyanza and Ruhango Districts

The extension of activities to the two Districts is part of efforts to protect Nyabarongo watershed, right from the river's upstream parts



The Lake Victoria environmental Management Project Phase Two (LVEMP II) has extended its environment protection activities to two more Districts with the aim of protecting the upstream areas of the watershed of Nyabarongo.

The addition of Nyanza and Ruhango Districts, both located in the Southern Province, brings the number of LVEMP II implementing Districts to fifteen. The Project has been focusing on the following Districts located in the Lake Victoria Basin in Rwanda: Gasabo, Kicukiro, Gakenke, Rulindo, Huye, Muhanga, Nyamagabe, Kamonyi, Rwamagana, Ngoma, Karongi, Bugesera, Ngororero, Huye and Nyanza..

The extension of activities to Nyanza and Ruhango Districts is part of efforts to protect the priority area around Nyabarongo, a river of great importance for Rwanda and the region.

The aim of the extension is to rehabilitate Nyabarongo upstream Catchment against the devastating effects of erosion resulting from various economic activities.

Protecting the upstream areas of Nyabarongo will significantly improve the environment and ecosystem around the river and contribute to limiting the effects of erosion within the catchment, observed Mrs. Annette Sylvie Muhayimana, the LVEMP II Project Coordinator.

“We have been working to protect Nyabarongo River, its tributaries and upstream areas but Nyanza and Ruhango missed on the list.

These two Districts sit in a strategic area and protecting them allows us to stop the river's pollution right from upstream”, Muhayimana says. The interventions will also benefit local communities and contribute to improving their livelihoods, she added.

“Apart from improving the state of environment, these interventions will also contribute to increasing agriculture productivity and thus uplifting the welfare of communities,” Mrs Muhayimana noted.

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LVEMP II extends activities to Nyanza and Ruhango Districts

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In Nyanza District, LVEMP II will support the establishment of progressive terraces on 882 hectares in Cyabakamyi Sector, and planting fruits and agro forestry trees on the terraced area.

In addition, local community will be trained and educated on policy and environmental laws, project design, cooperative regulation, saving and credit management.

The project will be implemented for a period of 30 months, effective from February 2016, and its total budget is 561, 270, 530Rwf.

In Ruhango District, the project will establish 705 hectares of progressive terraces stabilized by reeds, agroforestry and fruit trees and

“The aim of the extension is to rehabilitate Nyabarongo upstream Catchment against the devastating effects of erosion resulting from various economic activities.

protect 10 hectares of riverbanks around Mwogo river.

The project will be executed over a period of 30 months (from February 2016) and will cost 463,143,425Rwf).

These interventions will be synergistic and will adopt a participatory approach to involve communities and gain their support and ownership. It is expected that they will strongly reduce the amount of sediments carried by erosion and sustainably protect the water ecosystem and its supports.

About Nyabarongo catchment

Nyabarongo River and its watershed is the major and important source of water and livelihoods to the local population. It is characteristically hilly with steep slope and highly prone to erosion during the rainy season. This topographic characteristic coupled with continuous cultivation of land, destruction of shore of streams, uncontrollable exploitation of forests, depletion of the forest cover, mining and minimal application of conservation measures by the users, have resulted in heavy soil erosion and noticeable siltation of the Nyabarongo river and its tributaries. It is therefore imperative that protective measures be applied in these areas to reverse the destructive trends of the past decades.

Protecting this important water course will result in improved environment and livelihoods within the targeted areas and through the basin.

Nyabarongo River forms the main tributary of Akagera, which flows into Lake Victoria.

BUDGET: Nyabarongo Upstream Catchment Rehabilitation Projects in Nyanza & Ruhango Districts

District	Activities	Total Budget (Rwf)
NYANZA	-Progressive terraces on 882 hectares stabilised by reeds, fruits and agroforestry trees	561, 270, 530
RUHANGO	-Progressive terraces (705 ha) stabilised by reeds, agroforestry and fruit trees; -Riverbanks protection (10 ha)	463,143,425
TOTAL		1,024,413,955

What Nyanza, Ruhango residents say of the extension

MUKAREMERA ESTHER,

Farmer, Gitega Village, Cyabakamyi sector, Nyanza District

I am so happy and optimistic for these interventions. They are really long overdue. I expect that the LVEMP II interventions will, first help to improve the state of environment in this area and , second, contribute to our welfare. I believe that by investing in erosion control, for instance, will protect our crops against erosion and that will result in increased productivity.



MUKASANGWA SIPHORU,

CFarmer, Cyabakamyi Sector, Nyanza District



As farmers , we stand to benefit from the environment protection activities that will be carried out under this project. For instance, establishing progressive terraces and adoption of agro-forestry trees will help to increase our agriculture productivity as we will have protected our soils against erosion. The trees will also be a source of income, fodder, firewood and timber, among others.

NZABAHIZI AIMABLE,

Resident, Kabagali sector, Ruhango District

As a young man, my role in this project will be first to sensitise members of the community and show them that whatever will be done in their plots will benefit them first. Then, they will benefit from employment that will be generated from these activities. Like that, I shall be contributing to rallying community support for the project, which support is vital for the success and sustainability of activities that will be done.



What Nyanza, Ruhango residents say of the extension

DANIEL HABYARIMANA,
Farmer. Kabagali Sector, Ruhango District



We see a lot of opportunities in this project. First, there is the creation of job for us as its implementation will require a significant workforce. Then we shall gain from the environmental and economic benefits associated with it. In addition, the support to income promoting activities will also help improve the livelihoods of citizens and help reduce poverty.

My role in the implementation of this project will be to mobilise other members of my community to support this cause and also encourage them to get actively involved in both the implementation and maintenance of the activities. After all we are the first to benefit from it because the land which is being protected belongs to us and the production we shall get will be ours.

EVARISTE MUSABYIMANA
Farmer. Kabagali Sector, Ruhango District



The protection of Mwogo riverbanks will guarantee that our crops shall no more be destroyed by floods while the establishment of hillsides progressive terraces and introduction of agro-forestry practices shall stop erosion and ensure increased productivity.

Our role as members of the community is to support the implementation of these activities and help in disseminating message about benefits of environment protection to our neighbours so that they also support it and adopt the same practices.

More Community Driven Development Sub-projects launched

The Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project Phase Two (LVEMP II) launches new Community-Driven Development Subprojects (CDDs) to improve the livelihoods of communities through income generating and environmental friendly projects.

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.

In November 2015, LVEMP II launched two CDDs in the Districts of Rulindo and Gakenke, Northern Province.

In this excerpts we introduce to you the two subprojects.

○ **Rulindo: Improved potato seeds multiplication subproject**

This subproject will directly benefit 40 individuals, of whom 15 are women, grouped under “Koperative Dushyirehamwe Rurenge (KODUHARU). It has a total budget is Rwf 13, 311, 845, of which Rwf 1,298,000 were raised by its members.

It was launched on Friday November 13, 2015 in Mbogo Sector of Rulindo District in a ceremony that was attended by the LVEMP II project Co-ordinator Mrs Annette Sylvie Muhayimana and Rulindo District Vice Mayor for Economic Affairs Mr. Prosper Mulindwa.

Rulindo District Vice Mayor for Economic Affairs Prosper Mulindwa thanked LVEMP II for investing in livelihoods improvement and observed that the District will do everything to ensure that the investment benefits local communities.

“We will work with these individuals to ensure that the expected production is achieved so as to maximize profits from this investment,” Mulindwa said.

While addressing members of KODUHARU Co-operative, Muhayimana observed: “We hope that this is a strong foundation for you to build from and improve your lives. Work hard, maximise benefits and make this project successful.”

Ildephonse Ugirimpuhwe, one of the members of KODUHARU cooperative, said: “We are very excited and hopeful today. With this sub-project, we believe into better lives. This is the beginning of a new journey towards life improvement.”



More Community Driven Development Sub-projects launched

○ **Gakenke: Modern pineapple farming**



Another subproject launched in November 2015 focuses on modern pineapple farming for commercial purposes. The Subproject is implemented by members of Koperative Twitezimbere Mataba (KOTWIMA) which is based in Mataba Sector, Gakenke District. The Cooperative is composed of 30 members who include 14 women.

KOTWIMA is engaged in modern pineapple farming, combining both best farming methods with environmental-friendly practices to increase productivity while at the same time protecting the environment. It grows pineapples on two

hectares.

The total budget for the CDD is 9,687,130 Rwf of which members raised 1,010,500 Rwf while LVEMP II provided the rest.

While speaking at the event, Gakenke District Vice Mayor for Economic Affairs Odette Uwitonze called upon the CDD beneficiaries to make efforts to ensure that the support they have got from the LVEMP II project helps them to improve their livelihoods.

She encouraged them to work hard and adopt best farming and

environmental-friendly practices in order to maximize profits from the investment.

Beneficiaries commended the LVEMP II support and noted that it will help them to uplift their welfare. They pledged to do their best to make the sub-project beneficial and ensure a positive transformation within their lives and their communities.

"This subproject will help us meet our needs and of course lead us to much more improved livelihoods," said Venant Nizeyimana, KOTWIMA representative.

CDD Beneficiaries speak out

Adrien NTABANGANYIMANA,
Representative, KODUHARU



After LVEMP II established terraces here, we looked at how we could make use of them and make profit out of that investment.

We then decided to implement this subproject of improved potato seeds multiplication because potatoes are adapted to our climate and soil. Now that we have quality seeds and have improved our farming methods, we believe that we will get enough production. That means enough returns on this investment which will result in welfare transformation.

We are investing all our efforts and resources in this project and undoubtedly we will reap fruits from it. If all goes well, we hope to produce at least 25 tons of potatoes per each hectare.

Jean Nepomscene SIMBIKANGWA, KOTWIMA

Income that will be generated from this project will give us the capacity to meet our needs including paying school fees for our children and subscribing to the community health insurance scheme. Savings that we will make out of the project income will also allow us to make other investment for further life improvement.

Ildephonse UGIRIMBUHWE, KODUHARU

This project comes with a lot of opportunities. We believe that it will usher our lives in a new era of growth and transformation because we are using quality potato seeds which, undoubtedly, will give us increased yields. This is a project that promises to be successful and which will result in livelihoods improvement.



Annonciata URAYENEZA, KODUHARU

This project will uplift our welfare and lift us out of poverty because, unlike in the past when our production capacity was very constrained, today we have many reasons to believe that our production will considerably increase. In the past, we practiced traditional agriculture which limited our production. Today, we have adopted modern farming methods which grants us the possibility to produce more.

This means that, if all goes well, we shall have enough produce for home consumption and a surplus to sell on market.

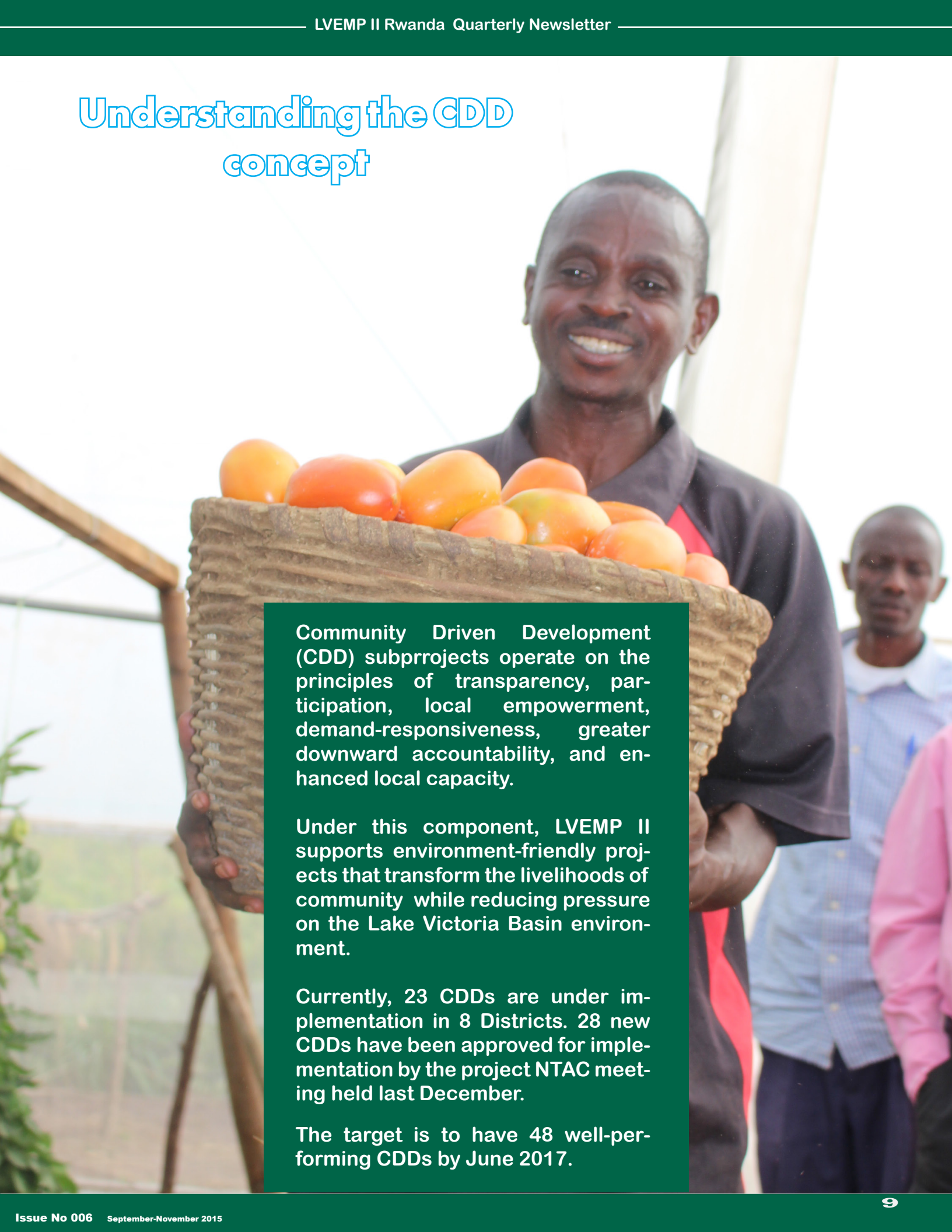
That will allow us to meet our needs and give us the capacity to educate our children, timely pay remittances to the community health insurance scheme and afford medical services, among others.



Venantie NYIRANSANZIMANA, KOTWIMA

This subproject will help us to improve our living conditions. Income from it will help us to meet our needs and invest in more income generating activities. If we have chosen to grow pineapples on a large scale it is because we know they give higher yields and there is enough demand. I believe this is a project that will transform our lives.

Understanding the CDD concept



Community Driven Development (CDD) subprojects operate on the principles of transparency, participation, local empowerment, demand-responsiveness, greater downward accountability, and enhanced local capacity.

Under this component, LVEMP II supports environment-friendly projects that transform the livelihoods of community while reducing pressure on the Lake Victoria Basin environment.

Currently, 23 CDDs are under implementation in 8 Districts. 28 new CDDs have been approved for implementation by the project NTAC meeting held last December.

The target is to have 48 well-performing CDDs by June 2017.

LVEMP II holds 3-day training on watershed management



Some of the participants during the training

The Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project Phase Two (LVEMP II) is seeking to improve the involvement of its stakeholders, including local leaders, in watershed management in order to reduce environmental stresses in the Lake Victoria basin in Rwanda

LVEMP II, a 5 year project implemented by Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA), works to improve the management of the environment of the Lake Victoria Basin for the benefits of communities who depend on it.

From 20th to 22nd January,

LVEMP II conducted a three-day training on watershed management which was attended by sector agronomists Districts Environment Officers and technicians from the Districts of Nyamagabe, Huye, Muhanga, Karongi, Rulindo, Ngoma, Nyanza, Ruhango, Kamonyi and Gakenke Districts where the Project executes watershed Management in the purpose of contributing to the rehabilitation and protection of Lake Victoria Basin.

The training sought to help participants implement, monitor and evaluate watershed management projects through community natural resources manage-

ment. It was also an opportunity to share experiences, empower participants to change their behaviours and make decisions in a collaborative way.

While opening the training, the LVEMP II Coordinator Mrs Annette Sylvie MUHAYIMANA noted that the training was organised with the aim to equip participants with skills needed to manage watersheds in an environmental-friendly way. In addition, the training will serve as an opportunity to discuss ways and strategies of ensuring the sustainability of LVEMP II activities.

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LVEMP II holds 3-day training on watershed management

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The training adopted a participatory approach and involved both theoretical and practical sessions

"We want to encourage more citizens and local leaders' participation in the implementation of the project," Muhayimana said.

"Protecting the Lake Victoria Basin will result in better environment, increased agriculture yields and improved livelihoods. We cannot achieve that except with massive support and participation from all our stakeholders, including residents," she added.

She also noted that the trainees will transfer the acquired skills to other members of the community.

Diane Ingabire, one of the participants, noted that the training was an opportunity for her to

share with other actors in the environment sector.

"we have learnt a lot and I believe the skills we have acquired will help us to improve our work," Ingabire said.

The training, organised by LVEMP II/REMA, was facilitated by experienced trainers from LWH/MINAGRI and the University of Rwanda. Apart from the theoretical sessions, participants were also taken for a tour of physical activities for further understanding of the topics discussed. The trainees toured radical terraces and irrigation schemes in Rwabucuma, Nyanza District and Rugendabali, Muhanga District.

“ The LVEMP II Project is implemented in partnership with a number of stakeholders and partners. This training is part of efforts to strengthen our partnership with our stakeholders and partners at local level, it is also a platform to discuss and agree on strategies to take in order to ensure that the project delivers properly and timely and guarantee the sustainability of its activities.

In addition, this training is also an opportunity to learn from others, acquire new skills and technologies, exchange practices and learn from others experience to improve on what we are doing.

Annette Sylvie MUHAYIMANA
LVEMP II Coordinator

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What they said...



This training has been very productive. First it was an opportunity to go deeper into details about the activities of LVEMP II Project and learn which approaches they have adopted in environment protection. Then, this training was also an opportunity to learn of what is done in other parts of the country as long as watershed management is concerned. Third, the theoretical and practical sessions allowed us to better understand why different approaches might be applied in different places may be because their type of soils or altitudes differ. That is an eye-opener and it will help us in our daily duties.

From here we go with one commitment: sharing the skills we have acquired with others and playing our role in ensuring the success of the project.

Jean Chrysostome BIKORIMANA

Agronomist, Cyabakamyi Sector/Nyanza District & Trainee



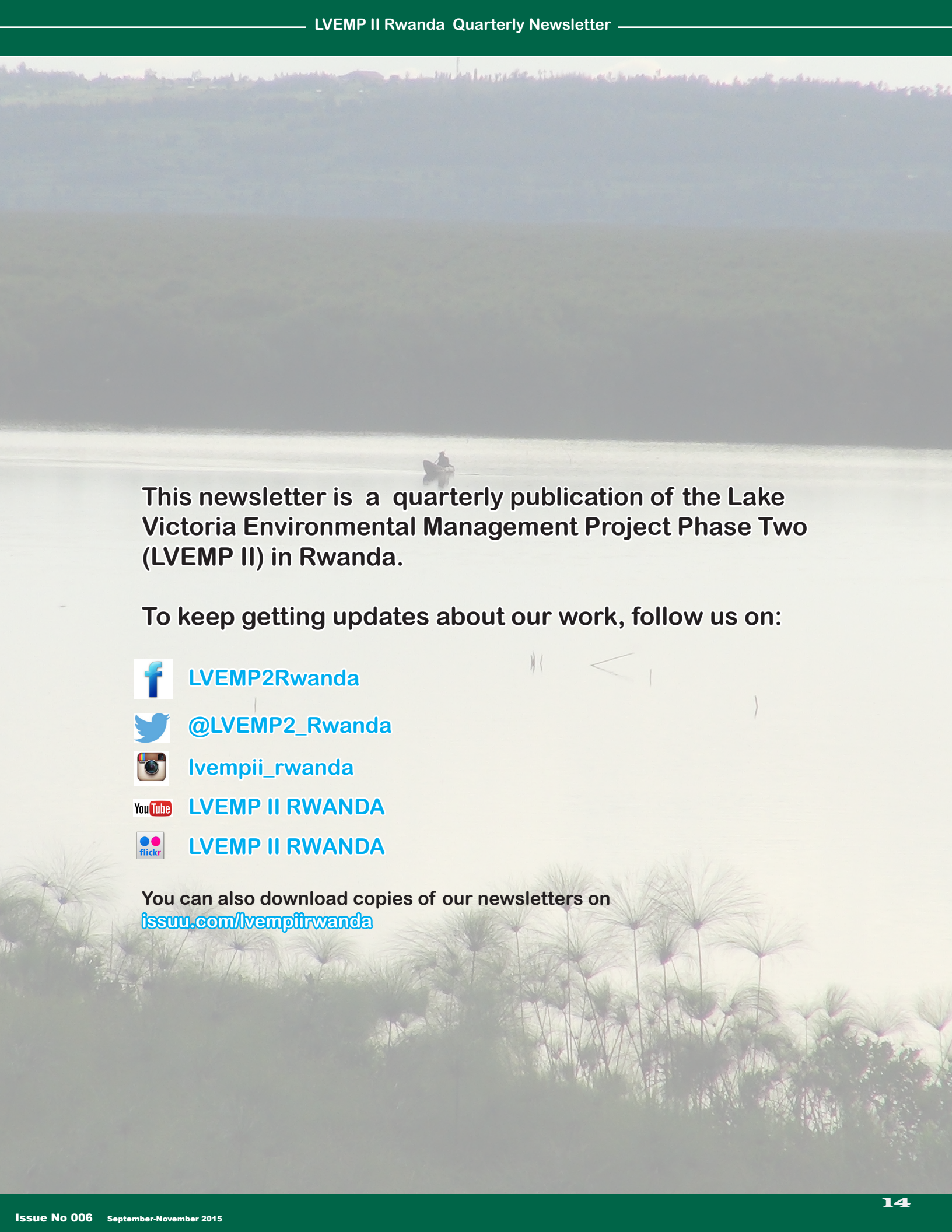
What I think is critical at this stage is how the participants will use the skills they have acquired. That is where the focus should be: ensuring that what they have gained is put into practice for the benefit of the communities they serve. It is important that the trainees start implementing what they learnt and if they encounter any difficulty, we will be ready to offer help.

Prof. Jean NDUWAMUNGU

Lecturer/University of Rwanda & Trainer

LVEMP II Result Indicators (As of January 2016)

Indicator	Target	Progress
Number of hectares under sustainable land management practices in the targeted sub-catchments	5000 Ha	3307 ha (324.1Ha of riverbanks, 144 ha of buffer zones protected, 270 Ha of radical terraces and 2468.9 ha of progressive terraces, 100 Ha of water hyacinth removed from Lake Rweru) 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. 28 new CDDs have been approved for implementation by the project NTAC meeting held last December



This newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project Phase Two (LVEMP II) in Rwanda.

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