



ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN IN RWANDA: GALS



Report submitted to: IFAD

By: SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE FOR FOOD SECURITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT “SAFE”

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

RWEE: Rural women economic empowerment

JP: Joint Program

GALS: Gender Action Learning System

IFAD: International Fund for Agriculture Development

SAFE: Sustainable Agriculture for Food Security and Economic Development

DDP: District Development Plan

BDF: Business Development Fund

EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment project

NRM: Natural Resource Management

PASP: Post harvest and Agribusiness support Project

CVCA: Climate Vulnerability, Capacity Analysis

CRiSTAL: Climate Risk Screening Tool Adaptation and Livelihood

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SAFE has received financial support from IFAD to implement Gender Action Learning System (GALS) and Climate Change Initiative, in the context of the Joint Programme “Accelerating progress towards economic empowerment of rural women in Rwanda” (JP RWEE) in Kirehe district of the Eastern Province. The project is contributing to the district development plans especially on the following identified key priority areas:

- Understanding of climate vulnerability and Assessment of Natural resources management and climate adaptation capacity of Kirehe Districts’ inhabitants
- Gender equality by introducing and supporting “GALS” at scale for community and household development
- Women economic empowerment through training and supporting champions on improving the mind-set on income generating.

In the period from June to December 2018, SAFE has engaged 60 champions (30 from the cohort of 2017 and 30 from the cohort of 2018) in climate resilience and adaptation, using 2 tools of assessment of strong hazards which affect them in their agricultural production followed by training in Natural Resources management and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

GALS Methodology has been introduced to the community households in Kirehe District (TUGARUKEMUNZIRA Group, ABATICUMUGAMI Group and KUBINYA Cooperative) where 30 champions (28 women and 2 men) were trained in six tools of GALS that have been adapted to the context of climate change.

Post training testimonies from GALS Champions revealed that the GALS Methodology has helped them to address gender issues with regard to resilience of climate change issues, and to overcome some problems in their households. With progressive roll out of champions to teach their spouses, relatives, group’s mate, neighbor and community members, champions have reached a good stage where all beneficiaries can testify of the positive achievement from GALS. It has brought to them a mindset change in their socio-economic and climate change mitigation and adaptation in their activities. This year, GALS Roll out has reached 236 beneficiaries households through 30 champions.

II. PROGRAMME GOAL/PURPOSE

The goal of this project is to economically empower rural women in context of climate resilience by improving natural resource management, their food and nutritional security, increasing their access to and control over productive resources, income and strengthening rural producer organizations.

For the period from June to December 2018, SAFE had set out plan – in agreement with IFAD – to implement the activities and deliverables outlined

Table 1: Activities and deliverables

| Activity | Corresponding Deliverable |
|--|---|
| Contract signature | (Deliverable 1) |
| Submit the action plan for the introduction of the different tools | |
| Contract for hiring GALS trainer(/s) (To be endorsed by IFAD) | Deliverable 2) |
| Identification and selection of GALS champions -men and women | Deliverable 2) |
| Introduction of GALS and training on tools (Vision, Gender balance trees, social empowerment map, diamond dream and multilane highway | Report including trainings, peer-sharing, roll out process(Deliverable 4) |
| Knowledge product about the use of enhanced GALS for climate change by men and women | Three case studies (Deliverable 5) |
| Practice of tools and exchange visits between champions across different districts, involving other JP RWEE partners (WFP, UN Women and FAO) and making sure champions understand tools and able to train their neighbours | Final overall report including the exchange visit (Deliverable 6) Updated GALS manual for climate resilience (Deliverable 7) |

Source: SAFE

III. PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Identification and selection of GALS Champions

In the implementation of the Rural Women Economic Empowerment “RWEE” Programme, SAFE has selected 30 champions from threegrups involved in the maize and horticultural value chains: TUGARUKEMUNZIRA, ABATICUMUGAMBI and KUBINYA. This has been done through consultative meeting between SAFE, IFAD, the District and later with the representatives of the groups. The target was to identify 30 persons (10 champions from each of the 3 groups) to be trained on GALS who would also train other households in order to reach a minimum number of 300 households in the nearby community.

On 20th July 2018, the consultant, KABANYANA Jeanine, has conducted a selection of champions to implement Gender Action Learning System(GALS) methodology in context of climate change from Kirehe District. Nyamugali and Gatore Sectors.

During this selection the 30 (28 women an 2 men) have neen called each group members to the process at their daily meeting palce, where those from Gatore in Tugarukemunzira group met at the market, Kubinya groups member met at the house constructed for them by KWAMP. to attend the proecess. Among the members , with the consultant, SAFE GALS facilitator UYISENGA Josiane , Eastern Cluster officer Didier Dushime and IFAD focal Project coordinator have selected 30 champions to implement GALS methodology approach in their Livelihood in context of climate change.

The selection of the champions was based on the following criteria : women who carry babies, youth, illiterate persons, person with disability, person with small land, person in front of climate change impact, HIV Persons, poor and persons from family in conflict. Those persons have been selected sbecause GALS is a household and inclusive methodology where all vulnerables and commonly excluded persons in the community must be involved for equal developmement and human right.

This selection has been done in their groups and cooperative snd participative methode has been done after iteration of all participants. The following list details the selected champons bu is not showing eache selected champions criteria.

Table 1 Champions have been selected

| No | Name | Sector | Cooperative | Sex |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1 | <i>UZAMUKUNDA Jeannette</i> | Gatore | Tugarukemunzira | F |
| 2 | MUTUYIMANA Clementine | Nyamugali | Abaticumugambi | F |
| 3 | NYIRAREKERAHO M.Louise | Gatore | Tugarukemunzira | F |
| 4 | Nyiragatarama Faith | Nyamugali | Kubinya | F |
| 5 | NYIRAKARIRE Annonciathe | Nyamugali | Kubinya | F |
| 6 | MASIGANE Francine | Gatore | Tugarukemunzira | F |
| 7 | NYABYENDA Seraphine | Nyamugali | Abaticumugambi | F |
| 8 | MUKANGAMIJE Claudine | Gatore | Tugarukemunzira | F |
| 9 | NIKUZE Anisie | Nyamugali | Kubinya | F |
| 10 | HAGENIMANA Placidie | Nyamugali | Abaticumugambi | F |
| 11 | NYIRARUVUGIRO Siphora | Nyamugali | Kubinya | F |
| 12 | BAPFAKURERA Clementine | Gatore | Tugarukemunzira | F |
| 13 | NDIKUMWAMI John | Nyamugali | Abaticumugambi | F |
| 14 | UWAMAHOHO Christine | Gatore | Tugarukemunzira | F |
| 15 | NYIRARUKUNGA Esther | Gatore | Tugarukemunzira | F |
| 16 | MUKANDUTIYE Emerence | Nyamugali | Abaticumugambi | F |
| 17 | MANIRIHO Innocent | Nyamugali | Abaticumugambi | M |
| 18 | NIRERE Francine | Nyamugali | Abaticumugambi | F |
| 19 | NIRERE Christine | Gatore | Tugarukemunzira | F |
| 20 | MUHAWENIMANA Claudine | Nyamugali | Kubinya | F |
| 21 | ISHIMWE Gloria | Gatore | Tugarukemunzira | F |
| 22 | UWAMAHOHO Constantine | Gatore | Tugarukemunzira | F |
| 23 | MWAMBARANGWE Margueritte | Nyamugali | Kubinya | F |
| 24 | KANGABO Groliose | Nyamugali | Kubinya | F |
| 25 | MUKANKUSI Elianne | Nyamugali | Kubinya | F |
| 26 | AKIMANIZANYE Russie | Nyamugali | Kubinya | F |
| 27 | MUKAMUGISHA Petronille | Nyamugali | Kubinya | F |
| 28 | MUKANDUTIYE Emmerence | Nyamugali | Abaticumugambi | F |
| 29 | NYIRABUGENIMANA Liberatte | Nyamugali | Abaticumugambi | F |
| 30 | NDIKUMWAMI John | Nyamugali | Abaticumugambi | M |

Source: SAFE

Current existing issue in the family and in cooperative and groups:

- Lack of communication between spouse in the family conflict
- Drunkenness of women and men
- Limiting women to participate in meeting as they think that they are going is for adultery
- Misunderstanding and ignorance of gender concept in the household
- Women have no access to man agriculture and animal resources even land.
- Lack of decision making
- Poor knowledge about agriculture technology practice to increase production
- Poor responsibilities of women and men to provide children needs such as paying school fees, health insurance community, food and clothes

3.2 Staff Training

It was crucial for SAFE programme staff to get refreshed on GALS methodology to deepen their knowledge and skills especially on the newly integrated aspects of climate resilience in the traditional GALS Tools for better dissemination of acquired skills to those 30 champions and effectively perform monitoring of the peer sharing phase. This training was organized by DUHAMIC-ADRI and it was held at DUHAMIC-ADRI Office, Kicukiro. In this training, theoretical skills were delivered through facilitated group discussions. The staff have deepened their skills, approach and the tools used in GALS. This training was an opportunity to grasp gender issues, environmental issues in Kirehe districts and to learn how to mainstream the methodology at household level and natural resources management for achieving Climate resilience. This has been done through the key tools that will help those vulnerable people to pull themselves out of social vulnerabilities. Those tools are Vision, Gender balance, trees, Social empowerment map, Diamond dream and multilane highway. The important matter was how to integrate gender and climate change approaches in SAFE programming, and now it has been obvious that any development project needs to include gender approach to reach the targets and GALS is most efficient system to do so.



Photo 1: staff training on GALS Methodology. Photo credit by SAFE and taken 23/8//2018

3.3. Training of GALS Champions in GALS Approach, main tools and climate adaptation aspects

The training in GALS methodology for the previously selected 30 champions (28 women and 2 men) took place at Kirehe District for 5 days: 12th, 13th, 14th, 17th and 18th December 2018. Champions learnt basics of gender equality, the use of GALS Tools to transform their lives and integration of climate change issues in their application. Post training evaluations revealed that there are signs of immediate effect of these training such women and children were given right on family land, family with conflict took time for apologize each other, reduction alcohol for the champions living with HIV, having good relationship with their family, through the training all champions bought small livestock(goat and chicken) one to two depending on saving and target of the family, planting trees and making anti-erosion in the land, making and use of wood stove for climate resilience, 5 women engaged in planting tree these resulting from the use of GALS in everyday livelihoods.

The following six (6) tools were covered during the training:

- Diamond dream;
- Vision road journey;
- Gender balance tree;
- Climate change action tree

- Social empowerment map;
- Multiline highway.

Tool 1: Diamond dream



Photo 2: Diamond dream tool of Gloria Ishimwe taken 12/9/2018. Photo credit, SAFE

This tool helped champions, to conduct their behavior evaluation about what they like and what they displease. Group of women has filled a small paper by writing what they like and dislike to men; and group of men wrote on the paper what they like and dislike to women; finally, they had a plenary session and shared what they like and dislike. The purpose was to encourage the change between men and women, through sharing of what they like and dislike one to another.

Outcomes from the Diamond dream tool

As Outcome, Champions have appreciated the tool and highlighted how the diamond dream is much contributing to assess gender issues at household level to be maintained and bad behavior to abandon. It means, what he/she likes more and dislikes at home and lead to behavior change, reduce violence, increase self-control, respect each other, resolve conflicts and often build the family harmony.

Tool 2: Vision road journey

This tool has helped champions, to elaborate their vision in terms of economy, and climate change, for a period of six months.

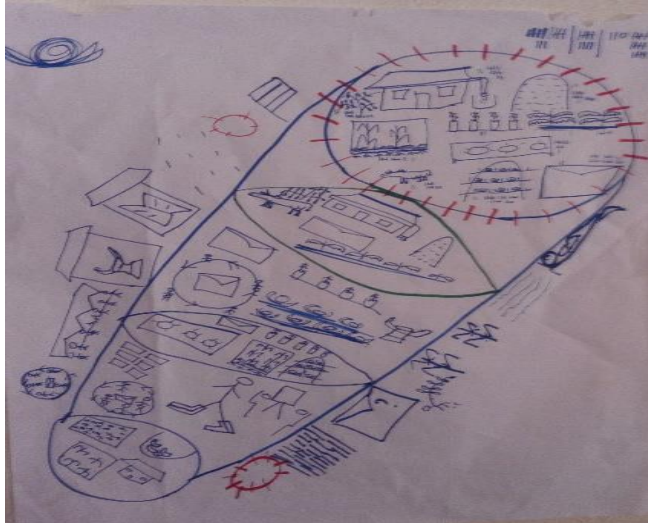


Photo 3: Vision Road tool of Constantine Uwamaliya taken 13/9/2018. Photo credit, SAFE

Outcomes from the Vision tools

During this training, the champions have committed to plant the tree around their houses, making kitchen garden, rain water retention using at home and for domestic work or for watering kitchen gardens, making compost, preparation of tree nurseries; mulching, making trace as anti- erosive in land for agriculture field, buying the small animal for getting manure, increasing savings in banks, and building cooking.

Relevance of the vision tool

This photo have explained how that women have learnt that this vision enables her, how she have planned about climate change mitigation and adaptation. The tool was filled by champions during the training.

Tool 3: Gender Balance tree

This tool helped champions to elaborate in roots the income generating activities and no income generating activities for men, and women, and committed to share activities among both.

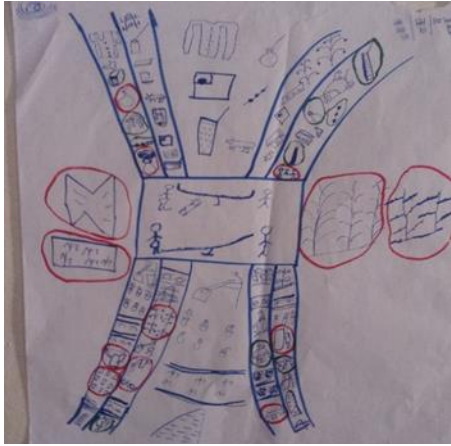


Photo 4: Vision Road tool of Esther Nyirarukundo taken 14/9/2018. Photo credit, SAFE

Activities realized in their own land such as: mulching, making wood stoves, cultivate, houses construction, kitchen gardens, and raise animals.

Outcome of gender balance tree

As fruits from roots, men committed to help women in trees planting, in watering of crops, in bricks making, and women committed to help men in construction, and reparation of houses? Collecting water, constructing water tanks, and buying animals.

Some champions after training , they shared that they have improvement in their household life as decisions are taken together as family for development, Women rights respected/ access to productive resources and assets, Joint expenditure for climate change resilient, Improved labor sharing including climate change adaptation activities,

Tool 4 – Climate challenge action tree

The champions have identified low revenues from the production as a main problem that they are facing. The causes related to low production revenues identified by champions are: high cost of production and low prices during selling. These issues are caused by poor roads infrastructure that cause farmers delays to reach the market for transportation either for their inputs or to sell their products. This delay may in turn cause a spoilage of products and therefore lower prices or farmers are obliged to retake them home.

Thus, the champions talk about the solutions, to the causes of low production, those solutions are:, field well protected by anti-erosive for that they have to work together men and women, using of great quantity of manure for that they have to buy domestic animal, plant good seeds well selected for that they have to save money for buying selected seeds, and cultivate at time, for that they have to maintain the crops in the field.



Photo 5: Climate challenge action tree of Innocent Maniriho taken 18/9/2018. Photo credit, SAFE

For attaining those solutions, they proposed an action of working together with local institutions working on family promotion and agriculture at sector level. In other branch, champions consider solution of working hard for getting good production, protecting roads for production transportation, and saving money for buying of good seeds.

Outcomes from the Climate Challenge Tree tool

As outcome, the champions recognized with gratitude that the main agriculture challenge problem faced by the participants has been identified clearly by the tool and discover the impact from the problems and by mitigation and adaptation of the activities necessary to cover the problem which is helpful to us as farmers.

Tool 5 - Social Empowerment Map

The objective of this tool is to show how GALS and climate change were disseminated in the community. Using tool they show all person, institutions, and organization in

contact that they will teach GALS with climate resilience based on the relationship they have with them.

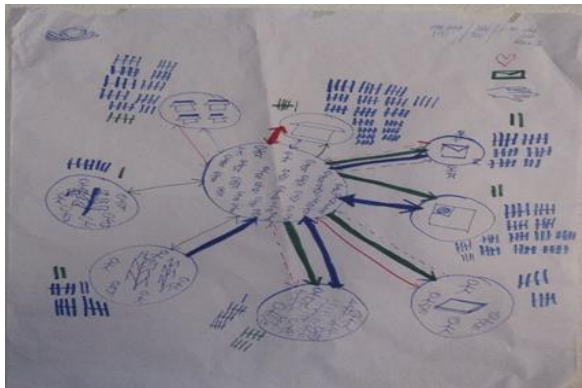


Photo 6: Climate challenge action tree of Clementine Mutuyimana's taken on 10/9/2018. Photo credit, SAFE

Teaching process of social empowerment map tool

This tool elaborated by champions shows all persons that support climate change adaptation and mitigation in their community are important. Therefore all champions have shown the circle drawn in central part of the paper and around they put in smaller circle all person. Most of them, are cooperatives working in environment, and agriculture area. Among of persons or institution identified by champions are: families, neighbors, cooperatives members of banana value chains, cooperatives members of maize value chains, cooperatives members of forests, they are fighting against forests shatter, cooperatives members fighting against bed in grasses, cooperatives members of health community insurance, informal credit and saving group.

Outcomes from the Social Empowerment Map tool

As outcome, the champions believed that the elaborated tool, demonstrate all people that support climate change adaptation and mitigation in their localities. Most of them are working in environment protection cooperatives and agriculture area where they can found or give information and advices. Among of persons or institution identified by champions are: families, neighbors, cooperatives members of banana value chains, cooperatives members of maize value chains, cooperatives members of forests who are fighting against forests shatter, cooperatives members fighting against bed in grasses,

cooperatives members of health community insurance, informal credit and saving groups, in order to disseminate the methodology in the community.

Relevance of the social empowerment tool: GALS dissemination in community will be enable them to empower the relationship and also to learn from the community. In total, they will teach persons from the categories mentioned above.

Tool 6 - Multiline highway

This tool combines above three tools: Vision journey, Gender balance tree and relationship map. During training, together with champions, a multiline highway tool was built.

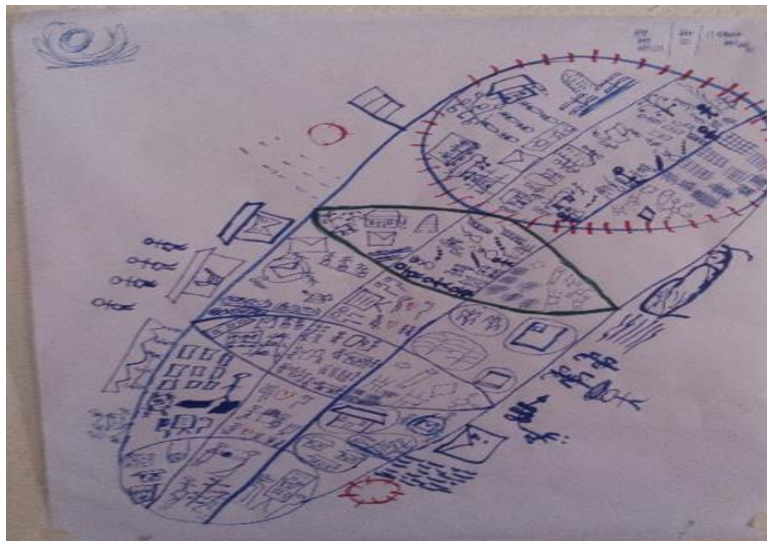


Photo 7: Multiline highway tool of Anisie Nikuze taken 19/9/2018, Photo credit, SAFE

This tool has a 6 months' implementation period, and the champions were shown very well how they have achieved their target in 6 months in terms of economy based on agriculture, climate change mitigation & adaptation as well as gender promotion and GALS dissemination in their community, elements from vision road journey tool was placed upside of the tool, elements from gender balance tree was positioned on central side, Elements from the social empowerment map placed at the down side.

This tool used for review, after six months of implementation of GALS in community. In Participatory Gender review, the champions have shown very well how they achieved

their targets in 6 months in term of climate change, gender promotion, and GALS dissemination in their community.

Outcomes from the Multiline Highway tool

As outcome of this tool, champions admitted the tool because it is useful for review, after six months of implementation of GALS in the community. In this case, the champions will be facilitated by the tool to show very well how they achieved their targets in regular basis quarterly and annually. The achievements are documented in line with climate resilience, gender promotion and GALS dissemination in the community and vision road journey.

Relevance of the tool

Multilane highway very important for champions because is combined strong tools which are Vision journey, Gender balance tree and social map. In follow up we have seen that champions appreciated this tools where were give them good orientation in mitigating and adapting climate resilience. And they are still in process to achieve those commitment as champion's vision journey planned for six months for best achievement.

3.4 Practice of the Tools and Peer Sharing with community members

3.4.1 Practice of the Tools by champions

After the change catalyst training have been rolled out in fuctional of household,groups and communities. Champions went back home, took time and teach GALS methodology tools (Vision journey, gender balance tree and challenge action trees are mostly used in dissemination)in household depending household situation. After that they continue to roll out their neighbour groups and communities. SAFE have been observed that there are changes in household and women empowered in decision making and men accept to work together with their wife in agriculture activities to change household behaviour.

3.4.2 Peer training by champions

For the champions, dissemination of the knowledge acquired during GALS methodology training, a post-training action plan was jointly developed with champions and trainers with a key assignment of disseminating GALS Methodology to at least 10 beneficiaries as per the commitment made during both selection and training phases.

Most of the champions took advantage of saving group activities to teach their peer members about GALS Methodology and relevant tools to plan and implement their livelihoods strategies. As described in the §3.2 (roll out process) and § 6 (Participatory Gender Review), the 30 champions were able to reach 236 (vs targeted 300) new community members with GALS tools. The difference of 64 missed target was due to the following challenges faced by champions in rolling out the peer training to community:

- Timing of roll out coincided with the preparation of Agricultural Season 2019A making it difficult for champions to get sufficient time to teach the community members,
- Some households were in deep family conflicts that discouraged champions to go further
- Some illiterate GALS champions exhibited low confidence to teach GALS methodology quickly to literate counterparts.
- For the future to avoid these challenge SAFE implement the project following Agriculture season to prevent the absence of time for dissemination of the lesson learned

3.4.3 Timetable of champions in Kirehe district

After the trainings, champions have selected the day which is easier for them to meet and review the tools. They had set a timetable to help them in monitoring as they will be regularly meeting to revise the tools and take time to be committed and to take initiative on how to train new beneficiaries.

Table 2. Timetable of GALS Champions in Kirehe

| Groups/Cooperative name | Sector | Meeting day | Venue place |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Tugarukemunzira | Gatore | Every Wednesday | Gatore Market |
| Abaticumugambi | Nyamugali | Every Wednesday | Group Garden |
| Kubinya | Nyamugali | Every Monday and Thursday | Cooperative Hall |

Source: SAFE

It is very important to meet every week in the first two months for reviewing and digesting well the tools and fill them in their notebooks for regular follow up and evaluation in PGR (Participatory Gender Review) for each step

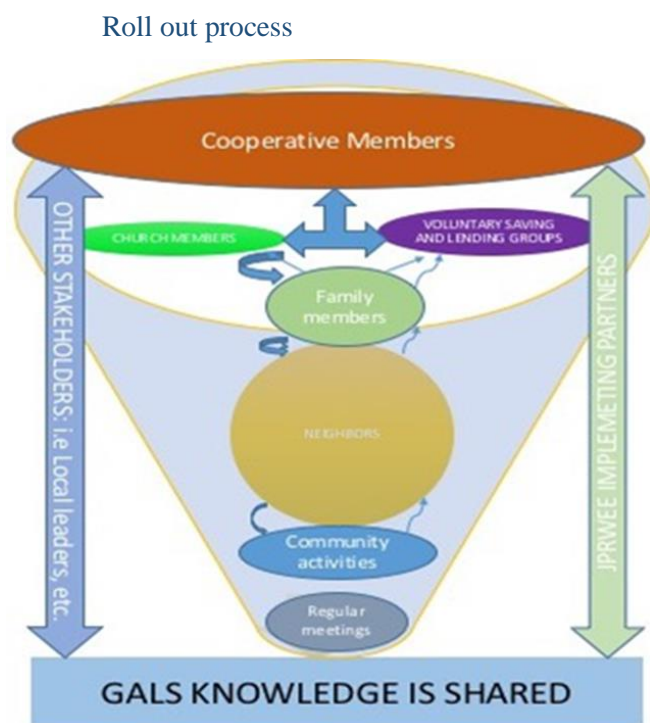


Figure 1. GALS Roll out Process Map

To ensure sustainable and long-lasting impact, GALS rollout plan was put in place. This activity of Knowledge sharing is an exchange among people, friends, families, communities and organizations on GALS methodology and accomplishments putted into action. Actually, SAFE targets 300 beneficiaries before December 2018. To reach there, trained champions are the key channel of knowledge sharing among their peers with whom they meet in the: cooperative activities, voluntary saving and lending groups, churches, family, common community activities and regular meeting at the community and cooperative level. During the rollout process, champions are regular assisted by the SAFE staff (mentoring every time their weekly meet for knowledge sharing). For this time, each champion has committed to train at least 10 people on five GALS basic tools and Diamond dream.

The following are activities achieved so far in this rollout process:

Each champion has at least taught three persons in this one month after training focusing on three tools which are Vision Journey, Gender balance tree, and challenge action tree with diamond dream. There are some special cases, where most of champions have achieved different planned activities during training: Building wood stove used in

cooking for reducing quantity of firewood currently used, installation of water harvesting tanks using affordable and local sheeting, Improving banana plants by fertilizing well and putting in place anti erosion systems, Improving kitchen gardens, making compost for manure conservation, increasing their savings, mulching the land, preparing nursery for trees and legumes, making anti-erosion halls in the land , rearing small livestock animals such as goats (for the purpose of producing manure to use for fertilizing their land).

3. 4.4 Ensuring Sustainability of 2016/2017 and 2018 beneficiaries

To ensure that beneficiaries of SAFE’s support in previous phases of 2016 (40 champions), 2017 (30champions) and 2018 (30 champions) are better equipped to sustain their interventions, SAFE provided technical support in sustainable livelihoods through advice about environmental friendly agronomic practices such as agroforestry, water retention, erosion control which can help them to increase their productivity, as well as precision of technical knowledge in income generation. SAFE encouraged them to diversifytheir income source by doing small agriculture business,rearing small livestock , and reduce petty businesses. The field officers organised business opportunity inspiration session for their further consideration.

The champions adviced on generation of business idea to improve and expand their small business according to the income, this way of generating another business idea helped them to attain sustainable development in their formal group or cooperative.



Photo 8:Group discussion about saving groups. Taken on 17/11/2018. Photo credit, SAFE



Photo 9: Technical support about nursery and water retention, Taken on 7/11/2018. Photo credit, SAFE

3.5 Lesson learned

- The champions need advice according to the value chain they are working on
- The advice given the champions changed their family for sustainable livelihood and development.

3.6 Assessment of challenges and opportunities with regard to climate and environment

To better understand the climate change related challenges and opportunities in Kirehe, SAFE conducted a two-day assessment of challenges and opportunities with regard to climate change and environment from 3rd to 4th September 2018. In this, SAFE used a combination of Climate Vulnerability, Capacity Analysis (CVCA) and Climate Adaptation Plan using the Climate Risk Screening Tool Adaptation and Livelihoods (CRiSTAL) tools actually used by CARE International and other different organisations for assesment. SAFE adapted this tool in climate change, and conducted the assesment to know awareness of beneficiaries of GALS on climate change issues in their livelihood. The examples used were importants in GALS methodology by setting the strategies and challenges related to climate change which may have occurred during implementation of activities planned and the assessment has been conducted with key informants especially district staff. The activity took place in a two – days participatory workshop of 60 champions (30 champions of the 2017 cohort and 30 of the 2018 cohort from Kirehe district) to assess the Climate change risks and impact in Kirehe in General and in the champions’ communities in particular. The Champions shared ideas in groups

for noting strong hazards that they affect them in their activities from climate change. The assessment revealed that in Kirehe District, key climate hazards are i) prolonged drought, ii) heavy rains and iii) strong winds whose effects are reducing farmers' agricultural productivity. At the end of this training, all of them were satisfied about getting more information how they can increase their productivity by mitigating and adapting climate change effects.

The trainees knew that for adapting to prolonged draught, they have to practice irrigation for agriculture production, conservation of animal feed for livestock production (lack of experience for conservation), mulching the cultivated land for land dryness prevention as holding water in land; for adoption and mitigation of heavy rain, they said together that they will improve their anti-soil erosion, planting on terraces, holding water by using plastic sheet, and teaching their neighbors to adopts those strategies as most of them they had met and discouraged by trying to make anti- soil erodin but if their neighbour refuse to adopt, all water will mote to their land and distroy their plants, plnting and also about strong wind, they cause of strong wind in their regons, all of them awared for the improtence of tree in rain production and wind protection, they plannes to make trees nurseries and planting trees arrounnd their houses and in the land.



Photo 10: Participants from Nyamugali and Kirehe sectors in session of climate screening. Taken on 5/9/2018, photo credit, SAFE.

3.6.1 Challenges about climate change and environment management in Kirehe

- Lower Agricultural output and Insufficient processing units for agricultural transformation
- Insufficient forest cover and soil erosion control,
- Lack of Landfills and solid waste treatment
- Insufficient rubbish pits in the rural community
- Women that have social issues related to power in their households claim they do not get opportunities on information related to climate change because they are excluded from trainings, workshops and meetings.

3.6.2 Opportunities

Concerning the opportunities, the assessment revealed that Kirehe district is endowed with the climate favorable for Agriculture production in the sense that Kirehe has climatic Intervals of 4 seasons per year making it possible to make 2 annual harvests on the same pieces of land although the sector is strongly dependent on the seasonal climatic changes, primarily with regard to rain.

The tropical land relief is more widespread in the District. It is composed of different types of soil components that combine at a lenient level, all these factors are good opportunities that can be exploited to improve both land and labour productivity. Water resource has also many opportunities as give long term water security to project and communities, underpinned services offering by expert knowledge in engineering science, flood study and mapping, flood risk assesment and mitigation planing, water evasdluation, risk management , stakeholder consultation and integration of technical solution, Surface water master planning.

To conclude, the combination of the two (2) tools used by SAFE for assessing climate hasards helped local stackeholders to:

- Understand the implications of climate change for their livelihoods.
- CRiSTAL helped champions to identify livelihood resources most important to climate adaptation and uses these as a basis for designing adaptation strategies.

- Participants worked in groups to brainstorm on ideas and discussing about the problems that they met.
- This assessment helped the champions acquire information about both the climate hazards that occur in their region and their effects (low agriculture productivity), and the resources they have to conserve water, rocks, land, forests, soil, rocks, and animals.

3.7 Review of Climate Change related policies and regulations

3.7.1 Regulation about Environment and Natural Resources management

For a better climate and environment management on Kirehe, SAFE has engaged the Kirehe District authorities in reviewing the policies and regulation about climate and environment management. Combining the desk review and key informants' interviews, the exercise confirmed the strong challenges about climate change and revealed existing policy and regulatory framework that is consisting of i) NRM related regulations, ii) gender and family, iii) environmental and disaster management, and iv) social protection for vulnerable group and to know the strategies of District to resolve those challenges.

3.7.2 Regulation about Gender and family promotion

Measures are undertaken to strengthen women and men's capacity in cooperative management and farming techniques, develop long-term financing schemes and targeted investment promotion for large scale investors, Supporting and promoting Private Sector, Business Groups.

To pool resources and invest in large and profitable projects, Ensure social equity and integration in all transport infrastructure and service provisions, put in place measures to collect and use sex, Disaggregated data in urbanization and housing sector. Gender is widely acknowledged that consideration related to gender issue and women's participations influence the success and sustainability in implementation of all projects. In Rwanda women are major's contributors to the economy especially in agriculture, both enough their enumerative work on the farm and though the unpaid work they traditionally render at home and in the community. Yet in some instance they are excluded from access to resources, essential services and decision making.

3.7.3 Regulation about Environment, Climate change and disaster management

Rehabilitation and management of the existing forest resources will be given a lot of emphasis and Measures for reducing soil erosion and restoration of the damaged areas will be undertaken by people of Kirehe District.

In the District Development Strategy, there are measures to reinforce the soil protection and reduction of local climate change. Environment conservation and Regulatory standards will continue to be promoted in the process of building a clean environment in mined sites. Special attention is put on providing buffer zones in wetlands, to ensure sustainable mining and to eradicate plastics and other pollutants.

The collaboration with KIREHE District in reviewing regulation and policies about better climate and environment management has been helped SAFE to know the guidelines of Kirehe District to resolve some challenges about climate change in District and for vulnerable people especially in figuring out the best way to engage and support champions in understanding and exploiting climate resilience related supporting framework.

3.8 Training of beneficiaries in Natural Resources Management (NRM)

The training conducted after assesment focussed on the hasards that affect polpulation of Kirehe district such as drought, heavy storms and heavy rains that negatively affect agricultural production increasing beneficiaries' vulnerability.

SAFE prepared Natural resources management training, using the REMA's Guideline on Climate Smart Agriculture, to provide the champions knowledge about the sources of the hasards occurred in the region. The training covered the six sustainable NRM solutions to the climate change:

- water harvesting
- Mulching and water retention
- Agroforestry,
- Planting selected seed
- Nursery preparation

As part of post-training action plans, trained champions have set the goals to follow as solutions for climate mitigation to become environmental friendly.

3.8.1 Practical exercise on water harvesting and mulching for water management in agriculture

During the trainings, champions have discussed different ways to protect the environment and how they can adapt to climate change. Some of the ways discussed focussed on the water retention and mulching for water harvest the activity for which they have conducted a practical exercise. Alongside this, they discussed on different agroforestry trees/shrubs species known for different agricultural purposes such Nitrogen fixation, erosion control, fodder, soil structure and texture improvement through humus delivery and making the soil more porous with their deep rooting system which include the Tephrosia Vogellii (Umuruku) tree, Leucaena tree, Luzerne tree, Grevillea robusta, Calliandra Tree and Neem tree.



Photo 11: Technical advice on field mulching. Photo credit by SAFE and taken on 12/10/2018



Photo12: Some of environment protecting tree varieties: Grevillea robusta, Calleandra and Neem. Photo credit by SAFE, taken on 12/10/2018

3.8.2 Support beneficiaries to produce, disseminate and plant agro-forestry tree

The beneficiaries were supported through the field visit where 60 champions (30 of 2017 and 30 of 2108) by explaining to the champions preparation and production of nursery for getting trees/shrubs to plant themselves and disseminate to their neighbors in cheaply. Champions were so pleased to attend this field visit where they got more experience regarding the preparation of nursery of trees/shrubs.



Photo13: Explanation about tree nursery preparation Photo credit by SAFE, taken on 17/11/2018

3.9 Linking beneficiaries to IFAD Funded Projects with regard to climate and environment management

SAFE linked beneficiaries to IFAD funded projects and shared experience about GALS methodology and climate change resilience for environmental management. COAIGA cooperative beneficiaries, supported by IFAD PASP project (Post-harvest and Agribusiness support Project) in maize value chain, were linked with SAFE supported

beneficiaries to exchange ideas and best practices in climate and environmental management. The linkage has increased willingness in both parties to participate in activities that protect environment as a result of increased understanding of practical examples of how farmers are the most benefiting from the environment. Now IFAD-PASP project beneficiaries are adopting climate change issues to sustain their agriculture products.

During this exchange, beneficiaries of SAFE shared the best practices of adapting to climate change, specifically on hazards that are occurring in their region.



Photo 14: Link between MINAGRI /PASP and RWEI/SAFE Beneficiaries. Photo credit by SAFE, taken on 26/11/2018



Photo 15: A champion explaining to others about climate resilience. Photo credit by SAFE, taken on 5/12/2018

NIKUZE Anizie, champion, inspiring other champions to the activities to adapt for climate change resilience while protecting and managing environment, as she already implemented as planned in her vision journey.

3.9.1 Assist beneficiaries to put in place household water harvesting systems

Water harvesting is the collection of runoff for productive purposes. Instead of runoff being left to cause erosion, it is harvested and utilised in the semi-arid, drought-prone areas where it is already practised, water harvesting is a directly productive form of the soil and water conservation. Both yield and reliability of production can be significantly improved with this method.

Water harvesting can be considered as rudimentary form of irrigation. The difference is that with WH the farmer has no control over timing. Runoff can only be harvested when it rains.

For assisting beneficiaries to put in place household water harvesting system, SAFE gave champions knowledge about importance of collecting rain water around the house through the GALS methodology training and encouraged them to plan for construction, but as they are vulnerable most of them said that, water harvesting system is good for climate change mitigation but they need a long time to plan for it.



Photo 16: Water harvesting system. Photo credit by SAFE, taken on 21/12/2018



Photo 17: Leonille Uwamaliya watering her Kitchen garden. Photo credit by SAFE, taken on 21/11/2018

Ten champions planned to build the rain water harvesting but 7 champions tried to buy big bucket collection about 18 litres of water and three are preparing materials to use in construction such as making breaks for construction of these sheep water harvesting which helped them to collect water for watering the kitchen garden, and trees planted around household during the dry season. The limitation of this water harvesting technique is that the water collected is usually used for agricultural and livestock purposes and cannot be used for household needs such as cooking and drinking.

3.9.2 Linking beneficiaries to the service providers of biogas

In the advantages of people's lives, the country and the whole world, the best way is to reduce the use of firewood and shift to the use of biogas which presents many other importance such as reduction of time spent by local people (especially women) and use it in other productive activities to the family, prevention of health problems and avoidance of biodiversity losses, and promotion of clean environment.

In the promotion of small-scale biogas, SAFE organized field visits with champions to learn basics of biogas especially benefits and installation of low cost biodigesters from a biogas service provider. During the learning visit, all champions were given details on installation of biogas from waste of livestock, human and plants residues for energy production for cooking, production of good manure while protecting environment.

The expert in biogas installation inspired the champions on the production and use of biogas in cooking.



Photo 18: Explanation about biogas installation. Photo credit by SAFE, taken on 8/11/2018

3.10 Participatory gender review workshop

The participatory Gender Review Workshop took place on 18th and 19th of December 2018 at Kirehe District. In this activity, the GALS champions have expressed one by one the changes of GALS in their families and the activities put into action for mitigating and adapting to the climate change. It was a good way for sharing the outcomes of GALS to the present audience, how they will share the methodology to other households, families, neighbors, and different groups. Champions said they were at 90 % according to the activities planned, and said about Climate change resilience they plan to make improved cook stoves, planting trees and the use of water retention on their house was about 100%.



Photo 19: Champions explaining their achievements using GALS. Photo credit by SAFE, taken on 19/12/2018

Champions were presenting the way of starting agriculture activities for good production by following climate change mitigation activities.

The following table shows GALs Methodology dissemination:

Table 3: GALs Methodology Dissemination

| No | Name | Sector | Cooperative | Number of beneficiaries | | |
|----|----------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------|
| | | | | Female trainee | Male trainees | Total |
| 1 | UZAMUKUNDA Jeannette | Gatore | Tugarukemunzira | 8 | 4 | 12 |
| 2 | MUTUYIMANA Clementine | Nyamugali | Abaticumugambi | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| 3 | NYIRAREKERAHO M.Louise | Gatore | Tugarukemunzira | 7 | 3 | 10 |
| 4 | Nyiragatarama Faith | Nyamugali | Kubinya | 10 | 5 | 15 |
| 5 | NYIRAKARIRE Annonciathe | Nyamugali | Kubinya | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| 6 | MASIGANE Francine | Gatore | Tugarukemunzira | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| 7 | NYABYENDA Seraphine | Nyamugali | Abaticumugambi | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| 8 | MUKANGAMIJE Claudine | Gatore | Tugarukemunzira | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 9 | NIKUZE Anisie | Nyamugali | Kubinya | 20 | 10 | 30 |
| 10 | HAGENIMANA Placidie | Nyamugali | Abaticumugambi | 7 | 3 | 10 |
| 11 | NYIRARUVUGIRO Siphora | Nyamugali | Kubinya | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| 12 | BAPFAKURERA Clementine | Gatore | Tugarukemunzira | 23 | 7 | 30 |
| 13 | NDIKUMWAMI John | Nyamugali | Abaticumugambi | 8 | 10 | 18 |

| | | | | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----|----|-----|
| 14 | UWAMAHO Christine | Gatore | Tugarukemunzira | 3 | 10 | 7 |
| 15 | NYIRARUKUNGA Esther | Gatore | Tugarukemunzira | 10 | 3 | 13 |
| 16 | MUKANDUTIYE Emerence | Nyamugali | Abaticumugambi | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 17 | MANIRIHO Innocent | Nyamugali | Abaticumugambi | 7 | 3 | 10 |
| 18 | NIRERE Francine | Nyamugali | Abaticumugambi | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 19 | NIRERE Christine | Gatore | Tugarukemunzira | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| 20 | MUHAWENIMANA Claudine | Nyamugali | Kubinya | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| 21 | ISHIMWE Gloria | Gatore | Tugarukemunzira | 10 | 4 | 14 |
| 22 | UWAMAHO Constantine | Gatore | Tugarukemunzira | 18 | 5 | 23 |
| Total | | | | 179 | 90 | 269 |

Source: SAFE

In this part, there are champion's disseminated GALS methodology to the persons above ten as it was in the responsibilities of each champions, the cause of high and low number of community gained knowledge from the champions was caused sickness, food insecurity due to climate change impacts and other champions who participated in more groups for different purpose such for saving groups, HIV groups, environmental justice and the talent of teaching is considered during the implementation, as the illiteracy champions are unconfident disseminate the knowledge slowly that those who have been finished at least six years of primary and secondary school.



Photo 20: A champion shared to BDF participants about GALS methodology. Photo credit by SAFE, taken on 6/12/2018

NIKUZE Anisie, member of KUBINYA cooperative which are in value chain of legume production and processing catch up/ SAFE beneficiaries. She attended the training of Business Development Fund (BDF) for empowering rural women for small business plan organised by the person in charge of training in BDF in KIREHE District Mr MUTABAZI James, after training she asked a short time to share the knowledge from GALS methodology, how to empower women in decision making for changing household lives.as it helped the participants which were mostly the women , the trainer told SAFE that the champions shared the tools by explaining and linking to the content and objective of the training, and the participant appreciated that lesson, and planned time to meet and study, but their wishes in an opportunity of learning through where ANISIE trained as she gave them a summary. In this regards the number of community trained for GALS methodology excided to this champions as example and other youth champions.

The activity has been organized in December/2018, after six months' period of learning GALS methodology and climate change. This exercise of Participatory Gender Review (PGR) aimed to evaluate achievements, and change made by champions in their households, after learning and follow up activities of GALS methodology. In lens of gender, this evaluation considers international treaty: the Convention on Elimination all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), through GALS tools: achievements journey, challenges and solutions related to climate change, and multiline highway.

Considering the members of evaluation, they were 30 persons including: 28 women equal to 93% of representation, and 2 men equal to 7% of representation, thus their age range was between 19 and 68 years old.

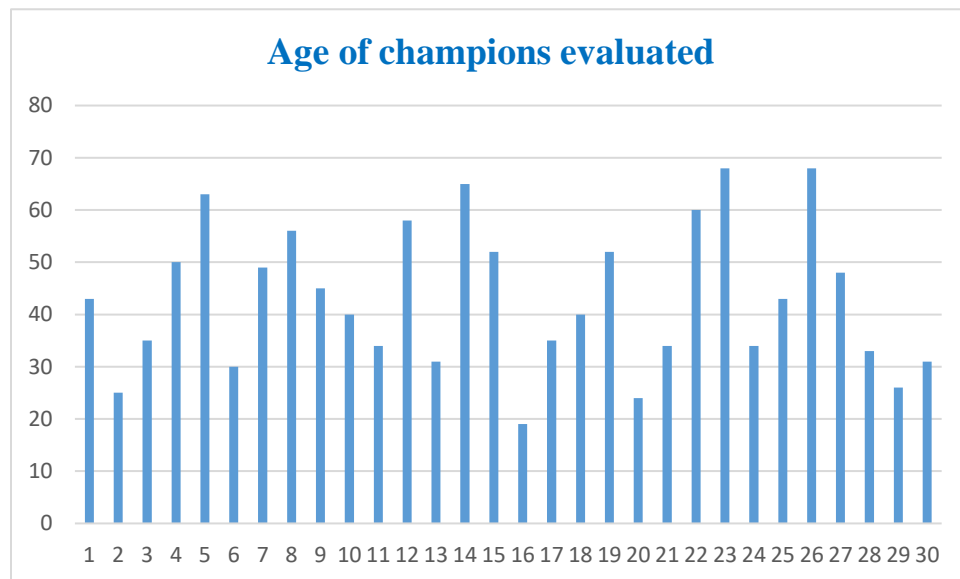


Table 4: Age of champions evaluated in PGR

3.10.1 Methods used for collecting information illustrating achievements of GALS champions:
 For this exercise, we used interview, for getting information. It has been done during two days; for the first day, interview was conducted to 15 persons; and the same for second day, other 15 persons interviewed. The type of interview was individual, thus the purpose of this type of interview was to give space to interviewee, for their expression in freely condition; for that if she/he has secrete information, she/he can share it without any concern, that their colleagues can follow her/his expression of information.

3.10.2 Achievements of champions
 The table below give overview of achievements made by champions learnt GALS, and climate change, from September 2018, to December 2018. Participants of review are members of Cooperatives: KUBINYA, TUGARUKEMUNZIRA and ABATICUMUGAMBI.

Table illustrating achievements made by champions in term of livelihood; climate change adaptation and mitigation; and gender promotion in households:

Table 5: Achievement made by champions in term of livelihood

| Indicators of livelihood | Planned | Achieved | Percentage |
|---|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Number of champions who respect agriculture season for enhancing their agriculture production and gain money. | 30 | 8 | 27% |
| Number of champions who are saving money in banks or in SACCOs (10 were already banking with SACCOs) | 20 | 15 | 75% |
| Number of champions who bought small animals as well as: hen, rabbits, and goats. | 15 | 12 | 80% |
| Number of champions who have income generating activities: making of beer, selling of sugarcane, and small commerce. | 10 | 6 | 60% |
| Number of champions who have kitchen gardens. | 20 | 17 | 85% |
| Number of champions who have commons plan, and complementarity with their spouses | 30 | 26 | 87% |
| Number of champions who have reduced their individual unnecessary expenses. | 5 | 2 | 40% |
| Number of champions who have enhanced their agriculture production. | 10 | 6 | 60% |
| Indicators of climate change adaptation and mitigation | Planned | Achieved | Percentage |
| Number of champions who planted and protected trees. | 25 | 23 | 92% |
| Number of champions who did mulching and anti-erosion activities in their land. | 10 | 8 | 80% |
| Number of champions who have, saving wood stoves in their households. | 25 | 19 | 76% |
| Number of champions who made bricks for constructing water tanks. | 10 | 4 | 40% |
| Number of champions who bought buckets for harvesting water from roofs. | 10 | 7 | 70% |
| Number of champions who made manure/ compost for using it in their land, instead of using chemicals. | 10 | 6 | 60% |
| Number of champions with children who protect trees planted. | 5 | 2 | 40% |
| Indicators of gender promotion | Planned | Achieved | Percentage |
| Number of trainees, trained by champions after GALS training. | 300 | 232 | 77% |
| Number of champions who had exchange with family members, who are in good relationship with community, who are fighting conflict, and who have confidence in community; through using GALS tools ¹ . | 30 | 30 | 100% |

¹ At the beginning of engaging their spouses, it's very difficult. To solve this, in the family with deep conflicts, the husband should also be involved in the training to help the reconciliation process because many times women fear to initiate the process.

| | | | |
|--|---|---|-----|
| Number of champions and their spouses who reduced drunkenness and saved money, used in bars. | 8 | 5 | 62% |
|--|---|---|-----|

Source: SAFE

3.10.3 Comments from champions on their achievements

- Champions explained that, small livestock bought are 27: hen, rabbits, and goats; and are helping in getting manure; thus, champions are waiting for further production in future;
- Most of the planted trees are Grevilleas, and fruits tree; the total number is 214. Champions make themselves trees nurseries, this is good initiative, and good commitment for mitigation of climate change issue;
- GALS played key role in fights against conflict in families; the tools which helped champions in this process of conflict resolution, was diamond dream tools, through seating together as couples for discussing on issues that are causes of conflict in their families, by explaining what they like, and what they dislike;
- All champions appreciated GALS methodology, and evoke on shortage period of GALS training and implantation.

3.10.4 Using of CEDAW rights, in assessing achievements of champions in Kirehe District

1. Right to live without violence,

- GALS methodology helped families members, to live in good relationship, and in harmony with community. Thus, it justified that champions took initiative to fight against conflict in their families and in their neighbourhood, and now they have confidence in community; this is through using diamond dream tool, and gender balance trees. A safe woman farmer in her family play key role, for making safe others. Families without violence live in harmony, and have good relationship with others. Thus, they plan together for development of their households. All champions reached to the right of living without violence.
- Champions and their spouses reduced drunkenness, and saved money used in bars. This is good indicator of safety for families members. When one of the couple is always drunker, it causes physical, economical, and sexual violence; because one of the spouse claims the wasting of money in bar. Reducing drunkenness is one of measures of fighting against violence. The used money in bar, is used now for responding to

household's issues as well as health insurance, buying food, buying seeds, and for paying schools fees for children. This commitment of paying family needs of households generate living in good situation in families, and violence reduction occurred.

2. Equality in the decision making

These activities done: planting of trees, mulching of crops, making of anti-erosion in land, fabrication of saving woods stoves, bricks; and also making of composts show that women take decision in doing these activities, through consent with husbands or through consent of children for women heading of households. These activities request investment, for that reason they make decision together for realizing these activities, if not, they could not be possible.

3. Equality of the property rights

Both women, men and children have the same rights to the properties. Champions testified that they bought small animal, and have money saved on banks accounts. These properties are shared by family members. The spouses have access to bank accounts, thus they can save or withdraw money. All bank account movement, are known by spouses. This is indicator of confidence among couples/ champions, and children. The small animals bought are for all, and are treated by all members. This rights to properties encourage everyone in families to play role in protection, treatment and in sustainability of properties. One woman champion said that my husband gave me money when we came from bank, and I bought mobile phone". This shows that money is controlled by women and men, and they decide what to buy. Furthermore, rights to properties encourage family members to be engaged, they are motivated to work, because there is not limitation.

Existing opportunities which helped champions to achieve their plans

- Agronomist at Sectors level have collaborated with champions for making trees nurseries;
- SACCOs helped champions to save their money, and existence of informal saving groups in their communities helped them;
- The meetings at local level organized by champions, help other champions who are struggling, to understand well GALS, and for making ownership.

PGR exercise, was helpful to champions, in term of making their self-evaluation related to what have been achieved, because of GALS methodology. As is illustrated in table, all champions had done many things at different level, despite challenges met, but all were committed to achieve their plans. They have plans, focusing on gender promotion, on their livelihoods and focusing on climate change issue mitigation and adaption.

Thus, all champions are farmers, this evaluation helped them to put more efforts in their plans no achieved at good level. Range of achievement is between 27% and 100%; the less is number of champions who respect agriculture seasons; most of them didn't respect it, because of climate change issue, where they lacked rain, for that they got difficult in respecting seasons in reason that most t of them, were not sure of weather. Concerning to the highest percentage of achievement, that is related to avoiding conflict in families; this reinforce that when farmers are living in harmony, their development will be possible, because of putting together their efforts, and having the common plans.

3.11 Study Visit of Joint Program Partners and other stakeholders

During the study visit,SAFE has invited Guests from IFAD and other organizations in the joint program: ADEPE,YWCA and DUHAMIC-ADRI, UN WOMEN AND WFP were invited also. Unfortunately there were limited guests from implementing organizations and partners due to end of year festives. Organizations and partners that attended were YWCA, IFAD and District Local Authorities.

In this visit,all SAFE's championsfrom 2016 to 2018 shared experiences about GALS methodology and climate change by showing how the GALS methodology changed their

life from social household, neighborhood and economic improvements and current planning in their family following the government program “Family Goals setting”.



Photo 21: Study visit to exchange Knowledge. Photo credit by SAFE and taken 24/12/2018

One of champion explained how GALS methodology change his household life: he said that before attending GALS he was disorganized in his family, living in life without any plan for the future. He explained then how he plans with my wife, mitigate and adapt climate change for increasing their productivity and how he is happy with his family after to attend trainings from GALS methodology. He said he promoted gender equality with her wife, they have planted trees in their farm, and they have a small tank to keep water from house.

Speech of leaders from other organizations: they said that GALS methodology have positive effect to community, where it changed lives of households and increased women empowerment in rural areas, and in the context of climate changes it came to explain how negative effects can be reduced by working together as family for increasing productivity and getting sustainable development.

The District Authorities have appreciated implementation of RWEE Project for its change in social development in the District. They requested that this GALS methodology to be trained to local government staff for changing their behavior and increase the productivities economically and socially. They asked the implementers to see how it can be done to teach this methodology to local authorities as they asked this in two last years.

The Testimony of URAYENEZA Leonille

Leonille URAYENEZA OF 43 years old,lives in Gahara Sector, kirehe district. She is a farmer, she has a husband with children.She said previously she had conflict with her husband, and their four children were disorganized in their daily life. The family was separated in planning and implementation of family activities, had no communication and the poverty was permanent in their life.

After learning the GALS methodology, by using vision journey tool, they started to plan with one target and on the same activities. She said “the results of using this tool in my family is the unit with my husband and children, to purchase different tool kits necessary for our family such as television, rehabilitation of our house, health insurance.We now have good collaboration with our neighbors, we improved our savings, we commonly take care of our livestock which also provide us organic manure and use it in composting.”



Photo 22: Leonille Sharing her testimony to the participants. Photo credit by SAFE and taken 24/12/2018

IV. INTERVENTION'S RESULT

4.1 Immediate results

The champions appreciated to work together as families this time because of GALS training. The champions said that their mind set on gender has been changed and

committed to be resilient in climate change. The following are examples of their testimonies a few months after the trainings:

- About agro-forestry: when one of them need to plant some trees in their land, have to inform her spouse
- They are happy because they can now plan together
- They were surprised how climate change can be mitigated and adapted
- 40% of champions testified that they have increased income generation, work in saving group and opened bank account for access to credits.
- 30% of beneficiaries who learnt GALS methodology and climate change through champions, they have appreciated the methodology and testify of change in their household compared to other times before.

4.2 Success stories from GALS and Climate change

The couples have been engaged in climate change resilience, by planting trees, water harvesting, installation of biogas, using anti-erosion trees and shrubs during crops mulching and using selected seeds. Other champions' spouses had their vision where they want to improve their agriculture by mitigating and adapting climate resilience.

GALS has changed my family's life: Today we work for the common of our family

NYIRARUKUNDO Estera, is a 35 yearold woman that lives in Kirehe Sector, Kirehe District. She has skills on general construction, she lives with her husband and three children.

Importance of GALS methodology approach at Ester household

“Before attending the GALS methodology, I had bad relationship with my mother because she hated my husband, also my husband hid me the income of the family. The Gender balance tree helped me in self-evaluation.” She says. She had not right on the family land, she was in conflict with his family.

“After being aware to the knowledge of GALS methodology, there is change in my family: it helped me increase the wealth and improve social equality in my family”

About climate change mitigation and adaptation

“Before to attend GALS, I had poor information about importance of planting trees on land even around my house, but after training I planned trees in our land. Now I have grown five grevilia trees, twoAcacia, and Iam sure in bad season Iwill be able to water and shedd our land.” She says. This woman has a kitchen garden with different vegetable for fighting hunger and malnutrition.

A model champion in GALS dissemination

By then, she understood that it was a chance to help other households to integrate GALS approach in their livelihood to increase their income and live a happy life in family. She started to teach GALS at the same time still learning

In short GALS methodology helped the families for self-evaluation and set commitments for future development, many testified that they were sources of family conflicts but after learning, their families started the journey of sustainable well-being.

V. KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Various stakeholders have contributed much in achieving successful results within this project:

- **Beneficiaries:** Champions of COAIGA cooperative, IFAD Funded projects like PASP project worked with SAFE to mobilize GALS methodology in Cooperative especially in contribution of climate resilience strategies which must be a source of increasing their productivity in cooperatives.



Photo 23: Local Authorities from Kirehe District with SAFE Champions(COAIGA Cooperative). Photo credit by SAFE and taken 24/12/2018

- **District and local authorities:** Team from Kirehe district in collaboration with SAFE in champion's selection and they have also participated in project implementation of some activities. and they have appreciated the targets of project to integrate climate change in household where in Kirehe district there are problems of strong natural hazards but SAFE came to work on the resilience.

VI. CHALLENGE AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The implementation of the project has been successful with some challenges from different sides, either internal or external of the project. Some key challenges encountered are the following:

- In the selection of champions, there has been high inclusiveness in that way some beneficiaries are old women over 65 years, which has in turn decelerated the rate of peer sharing to the community
- The timeframe for implementing was too short to teach everything about GALS methodology and climate change (which is a new context in GALS). To overcome this challenge, SAFE recommends longer period of GALS implementation in the future to help track outcomes and change but also monitor and follow up on peer sharing of champions to the community.
- For the first time of training most of champions were afraid of drawing, and they were requested to have one day to attend GALS trainings with their spouses, where they shared together lesson learnt and to make it in practice in household without ignorance. This requested extra budget and time, therefore SAFE requests to adopt this practice in the future.

VII. CONCLUSION

The JP RWEE project implemented in Kirehe district has got successful results and partners have appreciated its relevance following participatory workshops. The project has supported 30 champions to receive knowledge from GALS methodology, up to now it has integrated GALS to 236 beneficiaries about climate change resilience and gender equality.

SAFE has encountered some challenges in implementation of this project, thereason why it has got 236 beneficiaries mainly the short time of project implementation and demographics of champions (e.g. age of 60-65) meaning that GALS dissemination will achieve the target of 300 beneficiaries after the current phases' closure. However , SAFE will ensure to continue monitoring on this roll out process.

SAFE is grateful for IFAD support to empower rural women inRwanda even if to encourage them how to mitigate and adapt climate resilience is a long-term vision for SAFE. SAFE has also drawn good lessons during the implementation of the project and expect a better success in the future IFAD funded projects.

VIII. RECOMMENDATION

- For best result GALS methodology must be included with economic activities of the cooperative, as evaluation the change in cooperative and individual activities planned in their vision journey.
- There is need of Budget for monitoring activity of the project for sustainability of implemented activities and follow up of communities taught GALS by the champions.
- After GALS Training, local Authorities invited, they appreciated that methodology which is best way to open champion mind and change lives of family, they have requested to IFAD as donor, and SAFE implementer to focus also to local government to train them about GALS methodology for changing their family for better resolution of rural family conflicts.
- Teaching communities given knowledge about GALS by champions as the wish to be expert like their neighbour,
- Recommendation from the implementer is that they wish to get feedback on deliverables for scaling up the project from recommendation of donor
- Long interval for grant payment delayed the implementation of the project activities this affected the project results and work plan time sheet discounted, as in agriculture season the beneficiaries concentrated on their daily activities and missed time to disseminate knowledge gained in training
- The timeframe for implementing were short period to teach about GALS methodology and climate change where it is a new context in GALS, for overcoming this challenge, SAFE request long period for doing very well roll out and follow-up of GALS methodology without pressure due to short time.
- Many champions after to gain Knowledge from GALS methodology, they requested to attend together with their spouses for better understanding lesson learnt from GALS methodology.