

P.39 - With honeybees, they can (a case study in Gasabo, Kicukiro and Bugesera District)

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Rwanda is a poor rural country with about 90% of the population engaged in (mainly subsistence) agriculture. Most of that population engaged in agriculture use pesticides in effect to protect their crops against diseases. Pollution of the environment by pesticides is an increasing problem in the tropics and subtropics. YPARD RWANDA often finds heavy use of pesticides in small vegetable gardens producing food for the family and local markets. YPARD RWANDA experienced that the basic problem is a lack of information about the harmful effects of pesticides Lack of knowledge about the need for bees to pollinate many crops result in careless use of pesticides on flowering plants, and this causes the death of all the bees in a neighbourhood. In this context, Jean Claude NDAYAMBAJE assisted by YPARD RWANDA recognizes a vital role to protect farmers and honeybees and conduct a case study in three districts of Rwanda. The study objectives: to demonstrate a possible way to reduce the use of pesticides in rural areas and improve the environment of pollinators with a focus on tomato farmers and beekeepers; to elaborate a document which can be used by more stakeholders. Methods and approach: PLA and tools carried out by policy makers, governments, NGOs, and researchers. Results: Farmers and beekeepers are not cooperatives. Farmers are not informed about the harmful effects of pesticides and the role of pollinators. Identified multipurpose trees like calliandra are not fully sustained even though they are appreciated by farmers and beekeepers. Beekeepers do not provide any kind of protection against the death of their honeybees. Conclusion: policies and strategic elements need to be taken into consideration in the design and implementation of a sustained use of pesticides in the area.