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**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL SCIENCES AND VETERINARY MEDICINE (CAVM)**

***SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCE***

***DEPARTMENT OF CROP SCIENCE***

***OPTION OF CROP PRODUCTION***

***MODULE: AGRICULTURE EXTENSION AND POLICIES***

***ASSIGNMENTS OF AGRICULTURE NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND POLICIES***

***SWOT ANALYSIS OF CIP PILLARS***

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**PILLARS OF CROP INTENSIFICATION PROGRAM**

Crop Intensification Program (CIP) is a flagship program implemented by the Ministry of

Agriculture and Animal Resources to attain the goal of increasing agricultural productivity

under PSTA II. CIP was established aiming at accomplishing this goal by significantly increasing the production of food crops across the country. CIP currently undertakes a multi-pronged approach that includes:

1.Consolidation of land use

2.Facilitation of inputs (improved seeds and fertilizers)

3.Provision of extension services

4.Improvement of post-harvest handling and storage mechanisms

It was started in 2007, It mainly focuses on six priority crops namely maize, wheat, Rice, Irish potatoes, beans, and cassava (Kathiresan, 2011).

**1.Consolidation of land use**

The first pillar of the CIP strategy is ‘land use consolidation’ (LUC), a policy that aims to rationalize land use for profit maximization and ecological sustainability. Farmers keep their land rights, but they must use their land in such a way that ‘farmers in a given area’ grow ‘specific food crops in a synchronized fashion that will improve the productivity and environmental sustainability. (Rutayisire, 2018)

**SWOT Analysis for consolidation of land use**

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| **Strengths** | **Weaknesses** |
| * Better conditions for the development of rural infrastructure * Competitive agriculture is being formed * New jobs * System of rational land use is being created * Sustainable development is being planned | * It involves only planning, and not the final clearing-up work of the territories * Low activity of landowners * Limited opportunity of some interested person, who wish to participate in the process (Selmone, 2016) |
| **Opportunities** | **Threat** |
| * Better utilization of farm equipment and other fixed assets * Reduction in average costs of farm input and enhanced profitability of farm enterprises * Improved labour productivity arising from effective work organization and supervision * Public and private investments in agriculture related infrastructure are increased (Girum Getachew Alemu, 2019) * Enhanced transport efficiency to and from residential places | Threat here occur due to the fact that the authors of projects only copy the regulating provisions of land consolidation projects and do not get into a more comprehensive interpretation of norms of these provisions. Moreover, they do not give the details on their analysis, interpretation, or at least preliminary assessment (Selmone, 2016) |

**2. Facilitation of inputs (improved seed and fertilizer)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Strength*** | ***Weakness*** |
| * High yielding and disease resistant * Seed availability at all times * Improved planting materials(cutting) of crops and distributed to farmers * Maintain a wide diversity of crop varieties * Good quality seed * Increase productivity of improved crops like hybrids * Distribution of fertilizers at different locations | * Poor quality seeds * Quality of seeds available may be small to cultivate large farms * Very high costs in seed production and seeds were expensive. * Poor adaptability and acceptability of improved inputs like genetically modified organisms * irregular supply of seeds in local areas * Mostly hybrids that require purchase of seeds every season |
| ***Opportunities*** | ***Threat*** |
| * Vibrant market/ demand for indigenous crops * Training of some farmers to become small scale seed producers * Training of farmers in seed conservation * Increasing demand * Creation of new job * May reduce use of chemicals such as fungicides * Availability of facilitators * Government offers or discount on certain policy like Smart Nkunganire | * Poor infrastructure unavailable of needed resources * Reduced production level * Low demand and cost * Climatic changes may worsen the effect of pests and diseases * Existing seed legislature availability of funds * Most seeds were imported thus supply depends on political stability in the foreign country * May require high use of fertilizers |

**3. Provision of extension service**

Agriculture extension is important means in alleviating poverty and attaining food security. Broadly speaking, agricultural extension is the “delivery of the information inputs to farmers” (Anderson and feder, 2007). Studies show that sustainability and productivity of agricultural sector worldwide depends on the quality and effectiveness of extension services among others (kimaro et.al, 2010). Within this line of CIP strategy, Rwandan government initiated National agricultural extension services or strategies in 2009, with the purpose of ensuring the ideal conditions of dissemination and exchange of information between producers, farmer organizations, and other different partners in order to transform and to modernize the agricultural sector (NAES, 2009). The extension services under CIP are performed by agronomist (A2 and A1 grades) in areas under intensification process. Currently each extension covers about 500 ha of consolidated land use areas. The materials and knowledge distributed by extension agents are managed by the service in each district. Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB) coordinates the extension services and serves as a nodal agency for knowledge dissemination and other consulting services for farmers. The frontline basis of extension system was organized around agriculture officers at the level of decentralized entities (from district to cell) supported by service providers (KATHIRESAN, 2011).

**SWOT analysis for Provision of extension service**

**The Strength of the Provision of extension service**

Farmers` capacity has been strengthened through the easy access to inputs, extension services and finance through agricultural cooperatives, and proximity advisory service to farmers with farmers with the promotion of the use of TWIGIRE Extension model. In 2014, Rwandan government have launched TWIGIRE Muhinzi extension system with the main purpose of improving access to agricultural advisory services, increasing agricultural productivity and in turn, transforming and modernizing the agriculture sector.

Here are different strengths of provision of extension service:

* High qualified competent and experienced personnel.
* Good in-house training programmes have produced a credible staff
* Extensive grassroots coverage with districts and /or village-level representation
* Public research system has a broad spectrum of researchers
* Abundant financial resources
* Better logistical support (transport and equipment)
* Good networking skills
* Small independent decision making unit facilitate quick decision-making and greater flexibility in project and programme implementation
* Tend to be collaborative: desire to maximize the profits
* Improved understanding of community needs

**Weakness are:**

* Limited financial resources
* Poor logistical support: no transport and equipment
* Lagging technical knowledge in new enterprise
* Lack of self-discipline: few can work without supervision
* Programmes that are too short to have an impact
* Lack of information and technical expertize
* Poor grassroots representation
* Time wasting
* Inadequate in extension (particularly for emergent farmers)
* Lack of collaboration: little effective community development

**Opportunities are:**

* Improved collaboration and efficiency through department mergers
* Potential for improved effectiveness and efficiency through transformations
* Better service and more tangible benefits for members would improve membership base
* Donors will fund a well-designed programmes with demonstrated impact

**Threats are:**

* Inadequate budgets are declining in real terms (inflation)
* Unstable macroeconomic and environment
* Donors are withdrawing or scaling down
* Political pressure may force closure
* Natural disaster
* New skills may never be used because of lacking of capital (FAO, 2017)

4. **Improved Post-Harvesting Handling and Storage Mechanism**

**Strength**

* Minimization of post-harvesting loss of priority crops
* Improving handling and storage of harvested farm products
* Making an inventory of available community storage facilities
* Establish models of storage house in each district

**Weakness**

* Lack of controlled environment in store house therefore results in deterioration of stored products
* Lack of well skilled workers in PHHS
* cost of establishing storage room is too expensive

**Opportunities**

* having proper Post-harvesting treatment and storage will ensure the rise of quantity of agricultural products exported
* Provides hands-on training to farmers at two levels –farmers ‘cooperative and household levels
* Embark on construction of public drying areas in each district
* Acquisition of small tools and equipment for improving post-harvest, processing and storage by farmers

**Threats**

* Lack of capacity in post-harvest handling and storage
* Low skills of post-harvest handling and storage technicians
* Destruction of produces during harvesting time
* Lack of storage facilities and post-harvest investors
* Poor storage techniques and grain pest control
* Lack of security on storage room

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