

INCLUSION OF YOUTH IN MAIZE COOPERATIVES



THE SUCCESS STORY OF JEAN DE DIEU HARERIMANA

Jean de Dieu Harerimana is a young farmer from Kagitumba, Nyagatare District. He grows maize, soy beans and common beans on 5 ha of land. He joined KABOKU cooperative in 2022.

Before joining the cooperative, he was growing crops on less than one hectare of land facing a lot of challenges such as lack of agronomical and extension services. He didn't have access to a stable market that could give him a premium price for his produce especially for his maize on the cob. At that time, he could grow 2.5 Tonnes/ha.

After joining the cooperative, Jean de Dieu was able to extend his farm up to 5 ha, due to access to good agronomical and extension services from SDGP partner, HORECO through the Ministry of Agriculture. He increased his net income from \$150 to \$800 per season.

SDGP MAIZE PROJECT

SDGP stands for 'Sustainable Development Goals Partnership facility project'. It has an aim of increasing maize value chain efficiency in Rwanda. The project runs from July 2019 to June 2024 and targets 60,000 farmers organised in 15 maize cooperatives by providing them with services to increase maize productivity and improve post-harvest handling for better access to the market.

Additional realised objectives of the project include reduced post-harvest loss, increased farmer income through post-harvest loss improvement, better prices as well as cooperative capacity-building in management, member commitment, governance, operations, among others.

KABOKU is one of the cooperatives targeted by the SDGP Maize project and Jean de Dieu Harerimana is one of the cooperative members who has greatly benefited from working with KABOKU Cooperative.

Jean de Dieu sharing his journey of growing maize at Kagitumba Irrigation Scheme.



Jean de Dieu was able to benefit from agronomical and extension services provided by MINAGRI through a youth-led agribusiness HORECO.

Motorcycle and house

Jean de Dieu was also involved in seed multiplication with the help of TRI-SEEDS Co Ltd., and he acquired more than \$5000. With that money, he was able to add one hectare of land, buy a \$1500 motorcycle and start the construction of a modern house which will be completed in June 2024.

"Working with cooperatives helped me to elevate my knowledge and agronomical skills in addition to gaining access to the stable market of African Improved Food (AIF). In the future, I plan to expand my plot and diversify the business into livestock and selling inputs as an agro-dealer" says Jean de Dieu Harerimana.



Jean de Dieu is constructing a modern house which will be completed in June 2024.



"Working with cooperatives helped me to elevate my knowledge and agronomical skills."

Jean de Dieu was able to buy a motorcycle to help him in his daily agricultural activities.