



ALOYS RIBAKARE IS A BENEFICIARY OF REALMS PROJECT WHO IS DETERMINED TO INCREASE HIS PRODUCTIVITY USING REGENERATIVE PRACTICES

Regenerative Agricultural practices for improved Livelihoods and Market System (REALMS) project aim to improve smallholders' livelihoods in Rwanda. Targeting four districts of Nyabihu, Rubavu, Rutsiro, Ngororero and seeks to reach 5,000 smallholder farmers in Rwanda.

In Season A, 2022 the REALMS project has coached 80 Farmer field school (FFS) facilitators, 20 facilitators per district on different regenerative agriculture techniques, which include integrated soil fertility management such as the use of well-decomposed compost, liquid organic fertilizers, complete biology extract liquid fertilizer (CBX), reduction of inorganic fertilizers, mulching and integrated pest management (IPM) techniques which



can be used to control pests and diseases like integration of onions with cabbage for controlling insect pests, mainly white aphids.

Each of these facilitators has established an FFS group where smallholder farmers came to exercise regenerative agricultural practices.

Through these FFS groups, RIBAKARE Aloys is a smallholder farmer from Rubavu district, Nyamikongi village, who adopted what he learned from FFS level on his small plot of land of 1.5 acres where he grew Irish potatoes in the previous season using 39 kg of Irish potato seeds, non-decomposed farmyard manure, and more than 5kg of NPK (17,17,17) have been used—spraying fungicides not less than 6 to 8 times per season while controlling *Phytophthora infestans*.

Unfortunately, the maximum yield harvested was only 140kg with all these high investments. In this last season A 2022, he adopted regenerative agricultural practices that he learned at FFS level where he grew Irish potato (KINIGI variety) on the same plot of land, using 25Kg of Irish potato seeds (concerning spacing, 200kg of well-decomposed farmyard manure (which he got from his compost pit with the help of REALMS district field officer guidance),



and only 1.5kg of NPK(17,17,17) 50% of the recommended dose, 250ml of CBX have been used.

The farmer also was coached on how to monitor his field and apply integrated pest management practices, and therefore, pesticide application has been reduced. Happily, through his little investments, he harvested 251.5Kg. This represents an increase of 179.2% in yield as a result of adoption of various regenerative agricultural practices.

During season B 2022, Aloys decided to lend his plot of land to the REALMS project to be used for training FFS facilitators because he was eager to learn a lot on different crops and help his neighbours who did not attend FFS during the last season to learn and practice regenerative agricultural practices.

Aloys is also committed to adopting regenerative agricultural practices on his entire land, and he promises to continue its adoption due to increased yield.