



Integrated Farm Planning (PIP) approach

Technical brief on the PIP approach

Lead partner: WENR (Alterra)

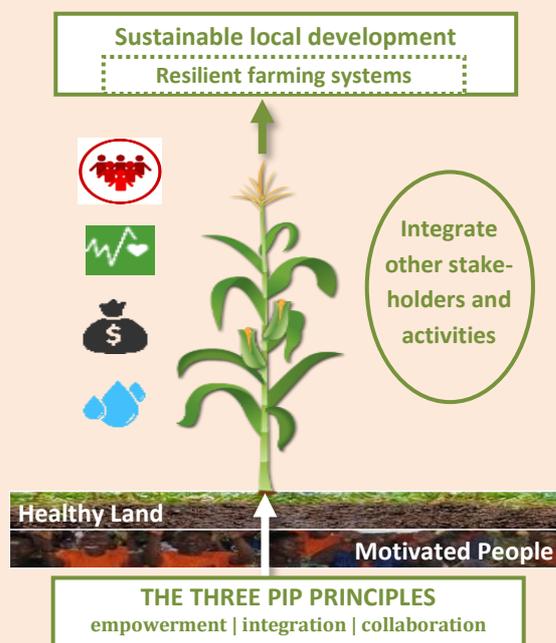
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Other partners involved: HU, RAB & ARC

Objective: To foster resilience-based stewardship and food security among smallholder farmers, based on a solid foundation of motivated people and investments in healthy land.

What is PIP approach?

Sustainable development, anywhere, needs a solid foundation of healthy land and motivated people. While many other approaches often start with “implementing solutions”, the PIP approach first builds this foundation. With a dynamic process of vision building, planning, learning and action, the PIP approach generates an ever-increasing number of proud farmers who realize that their land is their main asset, and who feel able and intrinsically motivated to invest in their farms. This is a huge change, because once this foundation is laid, collaboration with other stakeholders and integration of new activities further drives wide-scale change.



The 3 PIP principles

- **Empowerment:** to believe in one's own ability to change one's reality, see the opportunities to improve, and have intrinsic motivation to undertake action;
- **Integration:** to be aware of the importance of farm resilience, and develop an attainable future farm vision with integrated activities;
- **Collaboration:** to exchange knowledge and learn from others to improve, and carry out actions together to achieve wide-scale sustainable impact.

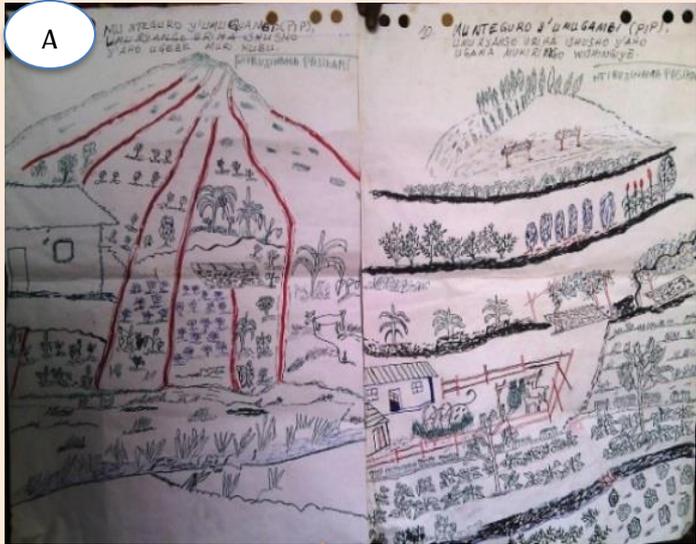
Source: Kessler et al., (2015)

Why and where to pilot the PIP approach?

Applying these principles to smallholder farmers means building their capacity and motivation to experiment with improved practices, to learn from others, and to undertake collective action to scale-up resilient farming village-wide. This implies a major change in mind-set: from “farming by default” to “farming by choice” or sustainable entrepreneurs, who invest in resilient farming. In InnovAfrica the PIP approach will be piloted in Rwanda, Ethiopia and South Africa.

How the PIP approach works?

At the core of the PIP approach lies the Integrated Farm Plan: the PIP, two drawings that visualize and the desired future situation. The plan is developed by the family, based on their aspirations and needs. The PIP gives specific attention to areas with high pressure on land, sustainable intensification by means of sound soil fertility management and optimal land use planning are paramount in the PIP - including measures such as compost use, erosion control and vegetable gardens.



the current farm situation



The desired future situation

Planning of PIP within InnovAfrica	Year 1	Year 2
PIP workshops with staff to familiarize with the PIP approach	X	
PIP creation workshops with Innovative Farmers (n =20) in each village	X	
Training and implementation of best practices planned in PIP	X	
First results, Open Days in each village, exchange visits	X	
PIP competitions to scale-up PIP within each village and train farmers		X
Monitoring of PIP scaling-up and impact assessment		X
Inventory of new innovative practices for agricultural intensification		X
Start of PIP scaling-up towards adjacent villages		X
Start of collective action in each village to work towards village visions		X

References & Links

Kessler et al. (2015). Bringing ISFM to scale through an integrated farm planning approach: a case study from Burundi. *Nutr Cycl Agroecosyst* DOI 10.1007/s10705-015-9708-3.

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