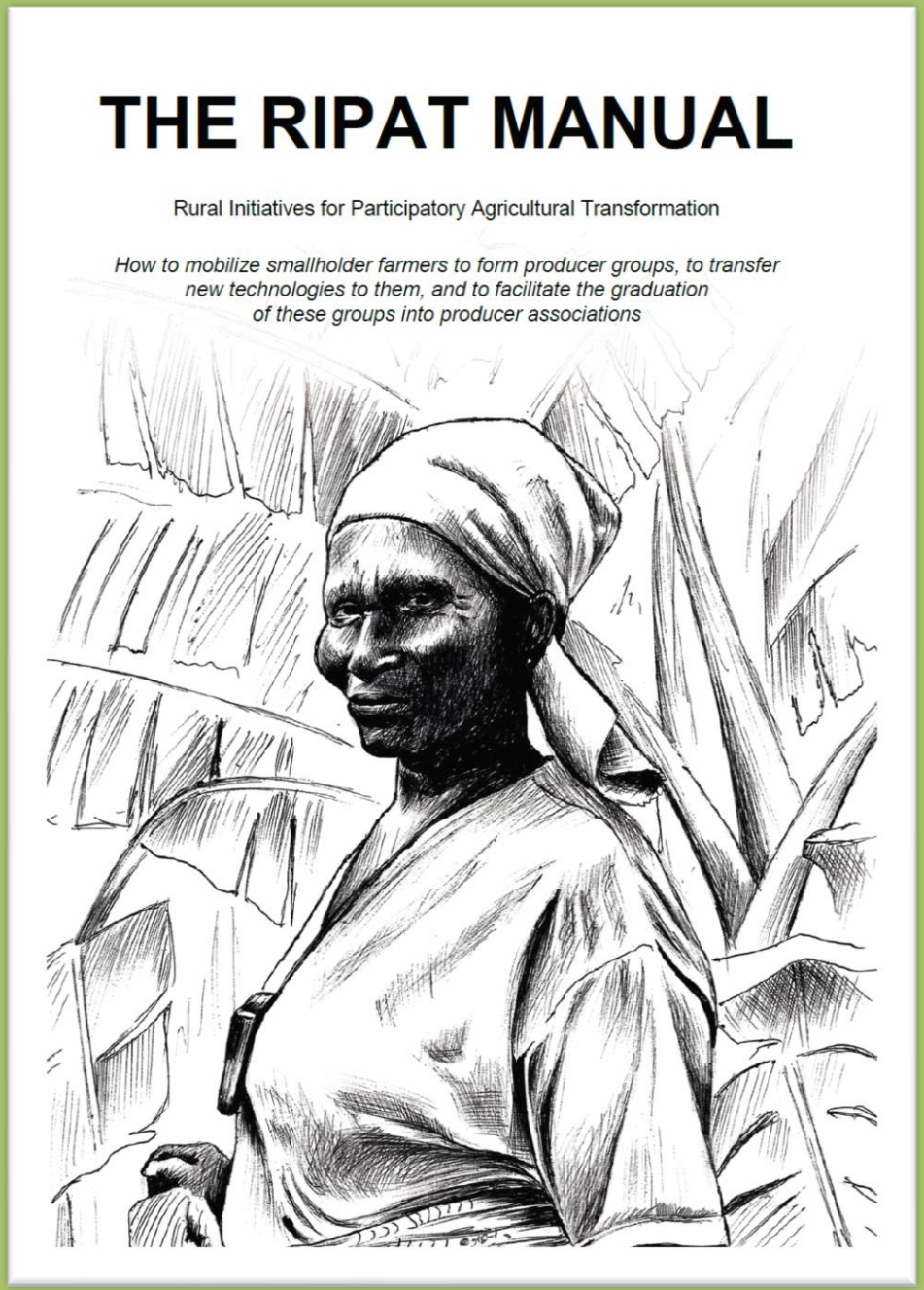


Rural Initiatives for Participatory Agricultural Transformation

(RIPAT) extension approach for microfinance, climate and agriculture.

Introduction

Self introduction

RECODA

- RECODA is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) registered in 2001 and operates all over the country with head-quarters in Arusha
- The organization envision prosperous, strong, sustainable and enlightened community free of poverty and ignorance.

Reality about Agriculture

The main argument is Sub-Saharan countries are poor because agriculture which is the main source of livelihood has very low production and the situation is made worse due to climate change hazards.

RIPAT in relation with to Agroecology & Climate Change

- RECODA &Rockwool Foundation collaborated in explored:
  - why many agricultural development projects have generated so little impact among rural farmers, and
  - why technology gaps still exist in small-scale farming contexts while so many improved agricultural technologies have been developed.
- The study resulted into RIPAT *(www.ripat.org)* with a general objective of improvement of livelihoods of small scale farmers through enhanced productivity and crop value chains emanating from community mobilization and sensitization to utilize local available resources.
- The approach is documented in a Manual as an easy-to-follow, step-by-step guide on how organizations working with small-scale farmers should approach their task.

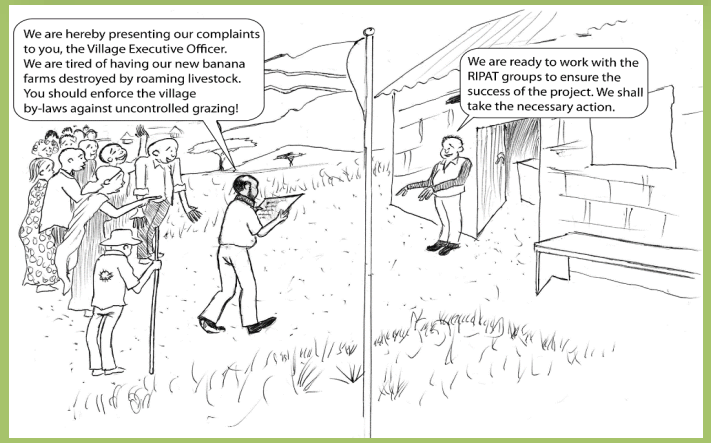
- The RIPAT approach is founded on three pillars:
  - creation of a vision of a better future (mind-set change),
  - establishment of farmer groups for learning and later forming producer/market associations and local institutions.
  - close collaboration with local government authorities.

- The approach facilitates the *help to self-help* philosophy through solidarity chains and payback of inputs.
- Low cost of the projects applying the RIPAT approach is because of the paybacks and use of Lead farmers (LFs).
- Under RIPAT, microfinance (VSLA) is must so as to instil the culture of saving for capital creation to invest in farming and at the same time gluing the groups (group cohesion).

- Promotion of rainwater harvesting and drought – tolerant crops contributes to climate smart agriculture i.e. counteract the hazards of climate change.

- Through a situation analysis, basket of options – (BO) is developed based on ecological diversity in a project area to enable farmers to have a development vision (Super household Model) in a context wise - *one size does not fit all*.

- Mobilization is carried out to have a voice regarding how they want to organize themselves and advocate for the changes they want



Formation of Market Associaton from RIPAT groups

- RIPAT project is implemented into two phases i.e. RIPAT “start” & “spreading”; with two or more producer groups (PGs) per village.

- Later the PGs change into Producer Associations (PAs) where a value chains of specific crops are enhanced.

- The network of PAs form Market Association (MA)

Agro-ecology under RIPAT for climate smart agriculture

AE Elements	RIPAT project's interventions
1. Diversity	Achieved through designing the basket of options (BOs) which ensures agricultural potentials are taped, and challenges are solved through climate smart agriculture in order to ensure food security and nutrition while conserving, protecting and enhancing natural resources.
2. Co-creation & sharing of knowledge	Participatory situation analysis to develop BOs together with community sensitization led to development vision which addressed the rural-communities' felt needs (food and nutrition security, income and environmental conservation) in an organized and collaborative manner including knowledge sharing.
3. Synergies	Project implementing organizations (IO) facilitate recruitment of lead farmers (LFs) and Extension Officers (community-based experts) who work together, in conformity with the Public Private Partnership (PPP).
4. Efficiency	Advocate the use of locally available materials i.e., manure, compost, rainwater harvesting, mulching, local/recycling seeds, intercropping cereals with legumes and other indigenous technologies which make the agro-ecological practices produce more while using lesser external resources.
5. Recycling	Intercropping (cereals and legumes), mixed farming (crops and livestock production) and incorporation of crop residues in the soil ensure maintenance of the soil health/fertility and management of pests and diseases which lower costs of production while conserving the

6. Resilience	The development of BOs and their implementation in a holistic manner helps to solve a wide range of challenges facing livelihoods (agricultural) improvement such as drought (rainwater harvesting and planting drought tolerant crops), lack of capital (introduced VSLA), inadequate post-harvest handling (local value chain development),
7. Human and social values	Protecting and improving rural livelihoods whereby the project participants are selected with a gender lens i.e., to be a member, one should be of the age of at 18years and above (youths included) and 50% or above should be women.
8. Culture and food traditions	The project embraced community mobilization to utilize locally available resources and opportunities i.e. traditional / staple food production and utilization are promoted while considering the ecosystem's health.
9.Responsible governance	Dealing with advocacy aiming at establishing and/or enforcing by-laws at local government levels (district, ward and village) which protect small-scale farmers' rights and ensure their well-being. Policy briefs are developed to advocate the same at national and international levels.
10. Circular & solidarity economy	The project started with producer groups (PGs) with a microfinance (VSLA) component; the PGs later united to form a producer association (PA); and later market associations.

Note: 10 elements of Agroecology as per FAO

Thank you