PIGGERY FARMING PROJECT
By Sandrine Kwizera
CorpsAfrica/Rwanda Volunteer Group 4

District: BUGESERA
Village/Community: Kabaya Village, Gihembe Cell, Ngeruka Sector, in Rwanda’s Eastern Province
Google Maps link: https://goo.gl/maps/m5rsDbMVWKMSgYwu9

Community Partner Organization: Kabaya Community Organization
Community Counterpart Name and Bio: Genevieve MUSHIMIYIMANA lives in Kabaya Village, where she completed her ordinary level of Secondary School education. At the village and sector level, she leads COPITWITEKI, a rice farmers’ cooperative, and COPA-Bushenyi, a cooperative of pineapple farmers, and because of that and her position as a Community Health Worker, she is viewed as a leader in Kabaya. She is an honest and hard worker, who has built advisory skills through her many leadership engagements. As a Community Health Worker and a village leader she has also participated in formal trainings on gender issues, leadership, agriculture and livestock, so she is well suited to take on the role of Project Leader for the community organization.

Project Timeline:
The project is planned to start on August 2020 and by December 2020 all project activities will be done.

Project Summary:
Most of the community members agreed that the problem of extreme poverty in their community is due to the lack of both organic and chemical fertilizer. Since their income is dependent on agriculture, low crop yield affects their profits greatly, leading them to struggle financially. After conducting a community mapping exercise and door-to-door home visits, we found that a large number of the problems raised were related to the lasting problem of infertile soil as well as seeking income generating opportunities. They concluded that piggery farming was best for them.

The objectives of this project are to provide manure to increase production of crops in the fields and in their at-home kitchen gardens, which will reduce malnutrition in the community and generate income. Through this project the community organization will work together to increase the productivity of their crops and reduce the rate of unemployment. Raising the pigs will also generate a good source of meat quickly, because there are good conditions of management (feeding on forage and leftovers) and pigs’ reproduction cycle is short (10-20 piglets per year).
This community is ready to contribute their efforts to find pig feed and to build the pig shelters at their homes. In addition, every member contributes 200frw per week to the group’s savings which will help to cover material costs for the pig shelters. The remainder of the money saved by the organization will be used to buy medicines and to cover other project expenses.

Describe the community:
KABAYA Village community is located in NGERUKA Sector, BUGESERA District, in the Eastern Province of Rwanda. It is situated directly south of Kigali bordering Burundi. Kabaya Village has a population of 278 where women make up 70% of the population, many of them under 30 years of age. More than 98% of its people are subsistence farmers, an occupation that has been practiced for a long time in this area. This is due to the nature of this area’s topography which is made of plateaus and undulating hills. The people of Kabaya cultivate maize, beans and cassava because the climate is favorable for those crops. Currently, the production of these crops has decreased due to infertile soil and shortage of rain. Because of this, poverty levels have increased and malnutrition remains a big problem.

Kabaya village is located in a remote area. Men and women participate in agricultural activities from 5am to 4pm as a means of survival. After those activities, women are busy at home, engaged in activities like cooking, cleaning, and taking care of their children. Children and youth go to school during the day while the young ones stay home. Every Tuesday and Friday is market day, when people gather at Ruhuha Market to buy and sell food and other household items. Other activities occur during the week, for example a village meeting each Tuesday evening, and Community Organization meetings every Monday and Thursday to discuss the project. On Sundays, many people go to church to pray.

How did this project come about?
Most of the community in Kabaya lives under the poverty line. Although they are hardworking and are committed to agriculture, they don’t earn enough money to take care of all their needs. After sitting together and sharing the many ideas that might help them overcome poverty, they concluded that a pig farming project is a solution to their major problem of infertile soil. It will help them to get organic manure to fertilize their land and their kitchen gardens. Reproduction of pigs (which takes about three months) is also a good motivation towards pig farming, as they know they can sell pigs or piglets and earn additional income. Managing a piggery is not difficult or expensive.

How does the project engage the community and build on local assets?
This project was decided upon by community members, and it will be facilitated by a Corps Africa volunteer as an established field partner. They will directly benefit as community members from Kabaya and their neighbors will be indirectly benefiting by way of nearby markets that get manure, meat, and live pigs and piglets from Kabaya pig farming. This project will indirectly affect the local government, churches, and schools because, as a very small community, when Kabaya Village prospers through the production of pig farming, the positive effects will be felt by all.

How will this project be sustainable?
This project was decided upon by community members after many one-on-one and group discussions. Every member of the community participated in these meetings, and together they chose the project of pig farming. All organization members are invested in the project goal of fertilizing soil on their farms and in their kitchen gardens with the pig manure, which will lead to an increase in crop production and income and a decrease in malnutrition rates. They know that they are the owners of this project and they want to see the project succeed. By working together, they will continue to think of ways that they can develop this project to reach their goals as a team. Learning from previous activities carried out by the community like building kitchen gardens, building latrines for the needy, and creating savings groups to address urgent needs, we know that when beneficiaries start to observe the positive changes in their agricultural production and household income through the pig farming project, it will motivate them to sustain their work.

The Community Organization has a representative committee that is very committed, hardworking, and responsible. The members of the Community Organization all have different gifts and they have the capacity to make positive change in our community. When we work together as team, we will make this project last. By deciding to meet every Monday and Thursday each week, the Community Organization has shown that they are committed to our activities. Communication and collaboration are very important and they are reliable ways to ensure project sustainability. I will communicate and collaborate with committee members by asking for weekly report of piglets and what’s going on in community. They will also conduct monitoring and evaluation of the project to gather information and hold one another accountable. Lastly, they have a saving group to contribute to building the pig shelters, pig feed, vaccination of the pigs, and sustainable project management. Through this savings structure, every member’s contribution supports the success of this project.

**Sustainable Project Elements**

This pig farming project was designed to be smart and sustainable. Some elements of the project that will make this project easy to manage for a long time are

- Simple management because pigs will feed on forage and leftovers
- Climate of Kabaya village is favorable for piggery farming
- Short reproductive period: one pig gives birth to 10-20 piglets per year
- Income generation from selling piglets and manure along with continued community savings will help the beneficiaries manage any project growth or setbacks

**How will success be measured for this project?**

- Increasing income level per household, especially for women. Pig farming can quickly generate income because pigs are farm animals that give birth to piglets in a short period of time (three months). One pig can be give birth 10-20 times per year, and one piglet sells for 15000frw (approximately $15 USD) at the local market. This means that it can help beneficiaries, most of whom are women, to pay school fees for their children, which costs between 6000 and 144000 frw (approximately $6 and $144 USD). It can help to create other business in order to continue their economic development. On average, people in this community earn less than 200,000 frw ($200 USD) per year, and through this project they hope to increase their income to at least 450,000 frw ($450 USD) per year, an improvement...
of 75%. Earning such a large amount of money will make a huge difference in the lives of these women. Raising pigs will be a good means of community development and it will help to create the small business in order to reduce the high number of unemployment especially the youth in kabaya village.

- Improving health status of community members. Through pig manure, which can be used to fertilize their soil and their kitchen gardens, organization members will be able to provide food that is normally inaccessible to poor families in this region such as vegetables. This, in addition to the meat produced from the pigs, will improve their health status by helping them to consume a more complete diet, and with the added income generated from this project they will be able to pay for their families’ health insurance.

- Improvement of good harvest. Most people in Kabaya village are engaged in agricultural activities. When they get the pig manure, they can fertilize their soil and their kitchen gardens. The rich and fertile soil will result in a better harvest for their crops like maize, beans, and cassava. Through the pig farming project, the Kabaya community hopes to increase their crop yield by 98% percent, a vision that is motivated by their commitment and hard work. This will contribute to both increasing household incomes and improving the health status of community members.

**What will be the impact of the project be on the community?**

The impact of pig farming on the community of Kabaya will be to increase welfare by fertilizing farm soil and kitchen gardens with pig manure in order to fight the malnutrition in the community. This will increase harvest, improve living standards in the community (especially for women and children), and help to reduce levels of poverty and hunger. This project will be a good means of community development because it will help to generate household income which can lead to the creation of small businesses, reducing the high number of unemployment in community of Kabaya village. The community will work together as a team to make this project successful, bringing positive the social impact to their families that results from accessing basic needs and feeding their families.
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