

I. Contact Information

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| Website : www.diobass.com |
| Type of organisation: Non-governmental organisation for development –Network of community-based organisations. |
| Plate-forme Diobass au Kivu was established in 1994 as a mechanism for bringing together networks of farmers' organizations and community-based organisations, local non-governmental development organisations, agricultural research centres and universities/colleges as well as individuals willing to develop together a practical inclusive and equitable process of co- development. Diobass aims at encouraging intensive exchanges between different social strata to build up a mixture expertise that takes into account the contributions from diverse social actors (farmers, scientists, technicians, etc.) working together to address concrete problems in rural areas. Since 1994, DIOBASS has mobilized collective efforts to address, support and promote local and scientific innovations on soil fertility and pest management, participatory evaluation and dissemination of improved crop varieties; land tenure systems, biodiversity and environmental conservation, gender and empowerment of women, urban and peri-urban agriculture, micro-finance and recently demobilisation and reintegration of youth and child soldiers in DR Congo. Diobass Kivu is also a member of Diobass Ecologie et Societe, with links in Burkina Fasso and Cameroun; CG-NGO Forum, etc.. |

II. Project Details

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| Title of Proposal | Mobilizing Innovation Platforms for Bringing More Quality Benefits to More People in Post-Conflict Central African Great Lakes Region |
| Project Duration | 24 months |
| Countries of Implementation | Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda |

III. Primary CGIAR Centre partner

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IV. Other Partners:

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| 2. Consortium for Improving Agricultural-based Livelihood in Central Africa (CIALCA-Rwanda-Burundi-DRC) | Type : CGIAR Consortium |
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| 4. Institut National d'Etudes et Recherches Agronomiques (INERA-Mulungu), | Type : NARI |
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| 5. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) | International NGO |
| Name of partner: Phemba Phezo | Email: pphezo@crs.cd |
| 6. Province du Sud Kivu (Local Government) | Local Government |
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V. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Project Title: **Mobilizing Innovation Platforms for Bringing More Quality Benefits to More People in Post-Conflict Central African Great Lakes Region**

2. PROBLEM DEFINITION

The Central African Great Lakes region, comprising of Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo is densely populated with people living in extreme poverty on a relatively rich natural resource base—volcanic soils, significant biodiversity, high rainfall and ample water. The basic agricultural technologies have essentially remained unchanged since colonial times, and in many cases yields of food crops have considerably declined, while population continues to grow at high rates. The low yields of food crops and livestock within this region are largely the result of the low yield potential of unimproved landraces confounded by diminishing soil fertility and uncontrolled pests and diseases. This region is also easily described as “emerging from conflicts”. After the 1994 genocide in Rwanda which claimed over 800,000 lives; the humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo has been described as one of the worst in the world. It has been estimated that up to 3.6 million civilians have died in eastern Congo since the war began, many of them as a result of malnutrition and preventable diseases. In Burundi, more than two million people are internally displaced, living on food aid. Such conflicts have had significant negative impacts on agricultural research and development capacity in the region, to the extent that the region is commonly described as “weak national agricultural systems (NARS)” (ASARECA, 2005). These NARS have lost much of their prominence due to decades of neglect, deteriorating research infrastructure, limited research capacity, political turmoil, wars and civil strife. The lack of coordinated service provision, up-to-date technical information, and appropriate skills for innovation have hampered research and extension staff to deliver the right services and improved technologies to farmers in Central Africa. Furthermore, organizational and institutional challenges appear to be central to overcoming this problem.

With the ending of conflicts in Rwanda, the recent successful democratic elections, and prospects for peace and stability in DR Congo and Burundi, it is imperative that farmers are helped to rebuild more resilient agricultural systems, enhance and diversify agricultural production and broaden their livelihood opportunities through the adoption of improved agricultural technologies. Most civil society organisations (CSOs) are now moving away from relief and humanitarian interventions towards more sustainable agricultural development activities. However, their existing food security interventions are often inappropriate because they lack access to appropriate technologies, tools and approaches for sustainable agricultural development. At the same time, some CGIAR centres in sub-Saharan Africa (CIAT, IITA, CIP, ICRAF, ILRI, etc.) have made considerable successes with a number of improved technologies. These include bio-fortified varieties of beans, sweet potatoes; improved cassava varieties resistant to mosaic diseases and other viruses, potatoes varieties and management practices for controlling bacterial wilt and late blight, improved highland banana varieties, and a range of integrated soil fertility management options. However, many of these proven technologies are simply not yet available in the Great Lakes region, or where available, they are only achieving limited impacts on very small numbers of experimenting farmers in pilot areas. Individual CGIAR centres are now having small, localised projects in DR Congo, Rwanda and Burundi or supporting small grant projects, with no or very little involvement of civil society organisations and other local stakeholders. Their activities remain largely uncoordinated, and opportunities for greater synergies are often missed. Under these circumstances, the CG-led “technology pipeline” approach to agricultural R&D cannot deliver the scale of impact required to improve people’s livelihoods and help in the recovery of agricultural systems after decades of conflicts. The centralized, top down, pipeline approaches of the CG have been discredited.

One recent initiative to coordinate CGIAR activities in the Great Lakes region is the Consortium for Improving Agriculture-based Livelihoods in Central Africa (CIALCA). CIALCA (www.cialca.org) is a recently created consortium that brings together three CGIAR centres (CIAT, IITA and Bioversity International) and their national research and development partners in DR Congo, Rwanda and Burundi to develop and promote improved technologies (legumes,

banana, cassava and NRM). However, CIALCA's efforts are still in their infancy and have not benefited farmers beyond those participating in experiments. There is real risk that CIALCA, like most CG projects, will remain "islands of success", often localized and small scale, if new institutional arrangements, such as the Innovation Platform are not put in place. An Innovation Platform is a flexible alliance framework that brings together the diversity of stakeholders from both the supply and demand sides of value chains; and provides a forum for articulating stakeholders' (including farmers' organisations) demands for research and development interventions, and matching such demands with effective and adequate supply of technologies and innovations. This project seeks to empower local stakeholders so that they can participate in dynamic processes of innovation systems.

The proposal was developed with key stakeholders, in a three day interactive participatory workshop attended by 25 people representing civil society organisations including Diobass, CIALCA, farmers' organisations, NARS, provincial government, private sector, local and international NGOs. In addition to refining and building on the concept note, the participants also conducted a participatory stakeholder analysis to collectively define partners' roles and responsibilities. They also deliberated on project management and implementation strategies as well as on key milestones and deliverables. The result framework (Table 2) was collectively developed through a participatory indicator development and visioning process.

3. Project Rationale and Objectives

The innovation system approach calls for changes in the way agricultural research is being conducted (Hall et al., 2001; Sayer & Campbell, 2001). Within this framework, there is a wide recognition for the need of more pluralistic arrangements for conducting research with a greater role for civil society, including farmers and other non research organizations, rather than just acting as conduits of technology. Stakeholder participation and ownership form key cornerstones of this new paradigm of agricultural research *for* development that aim to improve the relevance, efficiency, equity, ownership, sustainability and impacts of agricultural and natural resources management technologies and innovations. This project aims at building such multi-stakeholder platforms, the "Innovation Platform"¹, for bringing quality benefits to more people in the Great Lakes region, an area still recovering from a decade of conflicts. The central focus of this project will therefore be to create, manage, monitor and promote "innovation platforms" in designing and implementing collaborative action research in order to increase the delivery of benefits to end users, male and female small scale farmers and rural entrepreneurs in the region. The Innovation platform should give rise to a more cohesive and integrated way of working together that generates and accelerates greater impacts of both CG technologies and CSO approaches of mobilizing and working with rural communities, thus reducing vulnerability of the poor and rebuilding their agricultural-based livelihood systems.

While building on and strengthening CIALCA, this project proposes to experiment with a different institutional arrangement where the CGIAR centres are partnering with CSOs, on a coherent agenda driven by stakeholders' demands and opportunities. To add value to, and enhance impacts of CIALCA at scale, this project proposes innovations in five key areas:

- 1) **Innovation Platforms Vs. Consortium:** Current experiences with CG-CSO consortia tend to be top-down and lack an effective process of stakeholder and community learning and empowerment. The decisions on what technologies to test and promote are often prescribed by the CG, and are often limited to CG mandate crops, with limited involvement of local stakeholders. This project intends to bring together stakeholders along the resources-to-consumption and policy continuum, with complementary skills and expertise, on the principles of mutual learning, resources sharing and knowledge management that facilitate institutional change to form "Innovation Platforms". The "Innovation Platform" is a collective learning and capacity building process with evolving roles and responsibilities of multiple

¹ The Innovation platform is embedded in the concept of integrated agricultural research for development (IAR4D) as advocated by the sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Program (SSA-CP), led by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA).

stakeholders that facilitates the sharing, co-generation and spread of agricultural knowledge and technologies. It also provides a platform where local innovations and knowledge interact with scientific knowledge to achieve greater synergies, and put research results into use..

- 2) **Value chains Vs. Commodity:** Current CIALCA's focus is on testing and resolving constraints in the production of banana, beans and soybeans. This project will identify market opportunities for these crops and new options, and develop integrated strategies for competitive production and marketing of selected value chains. The project will identify and develop at least three value chains that have better market opportunities and develop them into community-based integrated agroenterprise projects.
- 3) **Institutional Innovations Vs. Technology push.** While building on CIALCA's current focus on technology development and adaptive research, this project will promote innovative institutional arrangements that facilitate multi-stakeholder partnerships to prepare the ground for accelerating the adoption and impacts of CG technologies, and rebuild agricultural systems and livelihoods of the poor emerging from conflicts.
- 4) **Producer Associations Vs. Farmer Group.** Whereas current CIALCA interventions focus on working with a number of relatively small farmers research groups, this proposed project will focus on bridging and networking second-level producers associations to undertake larger scale issues in collective marketing, watershed management, policy advocacy and linking with service providers and local government.
- 5) **Impacts at scale Vs. farm-level impacts:** CIALCA's current focus is on farm and household level impacts, with no clear framework for scaling up at landscape level as well as beyond pilot sites. The project will integrate scaling up and communication strategies from the onset, rather than a post project activity as is the case in CIALCA. The Innovation Platform aims at stimulating the uptake of technologies in rural communities and to create opportunities and synergies for scaling out and influencing policy and rural service providers. Some of the tools used will include knowledge and technology fairs, field days, and other knowledge for development tools that will involve and benefit more people from different areas.

The goal of the project is to improve food security, income, and nutrition of rural populations while conserving the natural resource base in the post-conflict African Great Lakes region. The purpose is to validate and promote the potential of Innovation Platform as a more coordinated and cohesive approach to improve delivery and impact of agricultural research, and assist in the recovery and rehabilitation of agricultural systems in post-conflict contexts.

The specific objectives are:

1. To build strategic partnerships between research and development organisations, farmers organizations, public and private sectors, and strengthen their capacities for achieving impacts at scale.
2. To identify and promote innovative approaches for identifying market opportunities and increasing the participation of the rural poor in more efficient markets.
3. To support community adaptive research and promote wide dissemination of productivity enhancing technologies that respond to stakeholders demand and market opportunities of selected value chains.
4. To promote institutional arrangements and policy options for uptake promotion and scaling up "islands of success" and for bringing more quality benefits to more farmers, quickly and over a wider geographic area.

4. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

This project will be implemented in the Sud-Kivu province of the DR Congo, bordering Rwanda and Burundi. We envision a coordinated, goal-oriented, and demand-driven program of research for development in authentic partnership with multiple CGIAR Centers (expanding CIALCA), national agricultural research systems (NARS), including universities, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and farmers' organisations. This project will mount an across-the-board research and capacity building effort that will

ultimately benefit and empower the poor farmers in the often harsh and marginalized conditions of post conflict societies. The key features of our implementation plan include:

- i. **Stakeholder engagement:** A multi-stakeholder analysis and learning process will be used to identify and involve a range of stakeholders in the resource-to-consumption and policy continuum to build the Innovation Platform. This Platform will provide a mechanism for the joint identification of a compelling agricultural problem, planning and joint implementation on the ground building on existing success and experiences of multi-stakeholder collaboration. Throughout this project, interactions with policy makers through policy dialogues will be actively pursued. To implement these strategies, a range of participatory techniques and mechanisms for building strategic multi-stakeholder partnerships ensuring effective participation, ownership, constructive feedback, reflective analysis and building trust and capacities will be utilised.
- ii. **Strengthening capacity of the ‘demand side’** to better organize themselves to articulate their demand and access technologies, markets and services from R&D service providers. The focus will be on strengthening existing farmers’ organisations to network and form producers and marketing networks, and then building their capacities to identify, access and profit from market opportunities. This project will also build capacity of CSOs in innovative tools and approaches for accelerating the delivery and impacts of integrated agricultural research for development solutions and technologies.
- iii. **Participatory market opportunity identification.** Enhancing the ability of smallholder farmers to access market opportunities, and diversify their links with markets is one of the most pressing development challenges in the Great Lakes region. The identification of market opportunities will combine participatory market research (PMR) with formal market surveys. PMR is an iterative process that builds community and entrepreneurs capacities to undertake market research, identify demand for existing crops and products that can be produced profitably in the area without damaging the resource base. Formal market studies will use a multi-market (sub-national regional) model to delineate markets, products, demands, market conduct and performance. The information gathered through the two approaches will be analysed and used for screening and selection of preliminary list of agro-enterprise options, based on economic, agronomic, financial and community criteria.
- iv. **Participatory market chain analysis** will then be conducted for the selected enterprises to identify bottlenecks and actors involved in the supply chain, and develop plans and strategies to overcome them. Some of these constraints especially those related to production will lead to farmer’s experimentation, adaptive and strategic research. An inventory of existing business development services and demands for new services will be assessed to detect gaps in the capacity of existing services to support the agro-enterprise. These may include input supply systems, microfinance, business support services, and other market institutions.
- v. **Strengthening innovation delivery capacity: for achieving impacts at scale** is a multi-layered challenge. It requires the development of new generations of agricultural and social scientists within the NARS and CGIAR, trained in new approaches including mixed evaluation methods (participatory, randomized, and survey-based), innovation systems, and the collection, maintenance and analysis of high quality longitudinal social science data. Since the capacity for analyses of markets, market institutions, agro-enterprise opportunities, and development strategies is inadequately developed and constrained by funds within current initiatives, there will be an extensive need to re-build and strengthen such skills at different levels within the NARS, the private sector, and the CGIAR.
- vi. **Community-based adaptive research and seed systems.** Based on identified market opportunities, output 2 will start with a cycle of participatory evaluation of existing improved germplasm, best-bet NRM, value addition technologies to overcome constraints in production and marketing of the selected agro-enterprises. Given the rather short time frame of the project, it would make sense to start with technologies with relatively short term benefits that have considerable potential for widespread dissemination. The project will facilitate participatory evaluation, testing and dissemination of bio-fortified varieties of beans, sweet potatoes, soybeans, quality protein maize, and resistant cassava varieties. These will serve as entry point to the testing and promotion of more integrated technologies (NRM, water use, processing and value addition) while providing opportunities for CGIAR

scientists to identify new constraints that warrant strategic research. Both formal and informal community-based seed systems will be encouraged in order to achieve widespread access to and benefits from modern technologies and improved varieties of selected value chains.

- vii. **Participatory market development:** A key feature of this project is to build capacity of local stakeholders and farmers organisations to identify market opportunities through participatory market research approaches, market chain analysis. The project will support action research to improve collective marketing, entrepreneurship skills, and fostering partnerships with the private sector at different stages of the value chain to improve supply and demand of improved technologies. The project will develop and promote differentiated strategies and approaches for identifying and expanding market opportunities (beans, banana, cassava, etc.) and diversifying into higher-value agro-enterprises (vegetables, horticultural crops). Participatory action research under this output will focus on: (1) identifying opportunities for expanding market access and sustained commercialization of staple crops and high-value agricultural commodities; (2) market studies and market chain analysis to understand and delineate demands, markets, products and market conducts (3) market chain analyses for identification of constraints and opportunities for small farmer participation in more profitable and competitive markets; (4) analyzing options for increasing market efficiency, agricultural trade, and market participation of smallholders in domestic, regional, and global markets; (5) options for developing integrated agroenterprise projects; and (6) testing and evaluating alternative financial mechanisms to support community-based agroenterprise projects.
- viii. **Policy dialogue and communication.** Translating research results into local development impacts requires effective policy dialogues and communication. Platforms to facilitate iterative double-learning loops between research, development, and policy formulation will be established as well as channels for more effective dialogue and collaboration with the private sector, whose role in market-led development is pivotal. The project will use a participatory action-research approach to (i) analyse policy constraints and incentives for uptake of NRM options and innovations, and how to tackle them, (ii) methods for formulating and implementing effective policies and byelaws, (iii) opportunities to use research results by policy makers, (iv) and approaches and strategies for developing and influencing agricultural and NRM policies in the different districts. Policy dialogues and proactive communication strategies in a variety of formats targeting different stakeholders groups will seek to raise awareness of policy actors and increase their capacities to address bottlenecks and increase incentives for small-scale farmers' adoption of improved technologies and participation in more efficient markets. The project will create a unique opportunity for establishing a coalition of partners that will share a joint platform for action research and learning to accelerate pro-poor agricultural and rural transformation.
- ix. **Participatory monitoring & evaluation, adaptive learning and institutional learning.** At the inception of the project, a baseline study will be conducted to analyze livelihood assets and opportunities for wealth creation, agricultural growth poverty alleviation, and food security in the area. Rather than using a design perspective, the project will promote a more dynamic process will help to identify a range of options for interventions, strategies, policies and institutional development , and develop a set of tools (diagnostic approaches, methodologies, practical guidelines, etc) for empowering stakeholders to monitor and evaluate their actions, processes and their outcomes. A participatory monitoring and evaluation system will be developed to ensure constructive feedback and provide the opportunity to evaluate what works, how and why, but also to induce a process of collective learning and sharing empirical examples and experiences with partnerships, and to examine the critical factors that may have contributed to successes or difficulties in partnerships.
- x. **Uptake promotion and scaling up.** The Innovation Platform will focus on developing a plausible impact pathway and a coherent strategy for scaling up and reaching more people from the start by including a broad range of organizations and people who have potential to accelerate delivery of technologies to more people over a wider geographic area. This would include, among others: (i) engaging with policy-makers and government institutions; (ii) identifying strategic entry points and value chains that will serve as the “sparks”; (iii)

developing and promoting innovative tools and methodologies for going to scale, (iv) developing a proactive communication and knowledge management and sharing strategy; (v) leveraging and mobilizing additional resources and other sustainable funding mechanisms; (vi) developing an impact pathway and building in a participatory monitoring and evaluation systems for institutional learning and change; and (vii) using spatial analysis to identify niches for higher-value commodities, and determine adoption and scaling-out potential for technologies and innovations.

Table 1: Deliverable milestones, responsibilities and indicative time line.

| Outputs and Deliverable milestones | Responsibilities for delivery | 2007 | | 2008 | | | | 2009 | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|------|--|------|----|----|----|------|----|----|-----|--|--|
| | | Q 4 | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q 4 | | |
| Project inception report and stakeholder analysis | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Approaches and lessons for building functional multi-stakeholder innovation platforms. | Diobass | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Participatory multi-stakeholder processes for R&D priority setting and project implementation | Diobass | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Capacity building materials and training workshop proceedings related to the five outputs. | CIAT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Market chain analyses of selected value chains | CIAT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mechanisms for organizing collective action for input, output and financial marketing | MECREBU | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gender analysis and intra-household and community dynamics in market participation, decision-making and control of income | CIAT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Functional farmers' research groups and farmer field schools for experimentation | INERA | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Participatory evaluation of technologies (crop varieties, NRM, IPM, value addition) | CIALCA | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Participatory monitoring and evaluation systems for Innovation Platforms | CIAT-DIOBAS S | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ex-ante assessment of adoption potentials and uptake pathways of agricultural and/or soil fertility management technologies/innovations | CIAT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Inventory of appropriate technologies/innovations to improve agriculture and ISFM | INERA | | | | | | | | | | | | |

research to impact), improve the relevance and efficiency of R&D systems. The greater participation of end users in the generation, adaptation and application of innovations (new technologies, knowledge, institutional arrangements, will speed up the innovation and adoption process, and generate research and development spill-overs. Innovation Platforms will link agricultural research and development efforts with the social, economic, institutional and policy domains in which they operate and hope to effect change in these institutions. In other words, Innovation Platforms will catalyse institutional change process to make agricultural and NRM research and development more inclusive, consultative and participatory, and responsive to and engage with a wide range of stakeholders' interests, agenda, priorities and opportunities. This will result in building the capacity of local systems to generate, use and share new technologies and institutions. Ultimately, these technologies and innovations will enhance opportunities for income generation and employment that will benefit male and female farmers, farmers' organisations, rural entrepreneurs, rural communities and other actors in agricultural innovation systems. As users increasingly generate and adopt solutions for productivity enhancing technologies, expand and diversify their linkages with more efficient markets, their income streams should improve, providing the basis for welfare gains and improvement in the welfare of the poor. Scaling out within and beyond the PLS will occur through participation and strategic partnership with the IP stakeholders, recognizing that this is the route to greater impacts for research investments.

4.2. Project Result Framework

A key thrust of this project is stakeholder participation and ownership. Consequently, one of the key activities of the project development workshop was to facilitate and empower stakeholders to collectively determine the project outcomes, formulate indicators, determine baseline conditions and set realistic targets. The following result framework is an initial attempt by project stakeholders to develop a more robust result-based management framework at the start of the project. A particular difficult in post-conflict zones is lack of baseline data. We therefore assume zero values for baselines and set some targets. A participatory monitoring and evaluation system will be further developed to enhance collective learning and reflective feedback to improve project performance.

Table 2: Project Result Framework

| Outputs | Outcomes | Outcome indicator | Baseline | Target |
|---|---|---|--|------------------|
| Output 1. Functional innovation platforms for targeting and achieving impacts of agricultural innovations at scale tested and promoted | Rural communities and other local stakeholders' capacities to better articulate their demands and participate in ARD validated and promoted | 1.1. By 2008, at least five functional multi-stakeholder innovation platforms are established and functioning in the PLS. | 0 | 5 |
| | | 1.2. By the end of the project, at least 50 CSOs, especially farmers organisations, are actively involved in R&D priority setting and project implementation | Token participation or participation for material incentives | High (collegial) |
| | Increased capacities of the CGIAR centres, NARRS and CSO partners to target research and development interventions to environmental and socio-ecological niches and market conditions | 1.3. By the end of the project at least 200 individuals of partners have acquired new skills, approaches and methodologies related to the five outputs. | 0 | 200 |
| | | 1.4. By 2008, a stronger and more pro-active participation of innovation platform member in the development of strategic plans of agricultural research for development . | None | Strong |
| Output 2. Opportunities for expanding market | Increased capacities of rural communities to identify market | 2.1. By the end of 2008, at least three value chains with better market opportunities have been | 0 | 3 |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|----------------------------------|------|
| access and diversifying into higher value agricultural products identified and promoted. | opportunities and to participate in more dynamic markets Increased income opportunities through the development of value chains and increased market access for small scale farmers | identified | | |
| | | 2.2. By the end of the project, at least 50% of farmers associations in the action learning sites have successfully organized for collective input and output marketing | 0 | 50% |
| | | 2.3. By 2009, participating farmers have increased their income from the selected value chains by at least 30% in the pilot sites. | 0 | 30% |
| | | 2.4. By the end of 2009, an increase of at least 30 % of income under women's control | 10% | 30% |
| Output 3. Community-based adaptive research and dissemination capacities developed | More effective targeting of germplasm and research innovations in response to stakeholder needs, demands and market opportunities | 3.1. By the end of 2008, at least 100 farmers' research groups and farmer field schools will be established to conduct experimentation and evaluate technologies (crop varieties, NRM, IPM, value addition). | 8 | 100 |
| | | 3.2. By 2008, at least 10 community-based seed systems established. | 2 | 10 |
| | | 3.3. By the end of the project, at least 20% of households in project area successfully using agricultural and/or soil fertility management technologies/innovations | 0 | 20% |
| | Improved access to technologies and innovations generated by CG and NARS | 3.4. By the end of the project, at least 12 appropriate technologies/innovations to improve agriculture and ISFM generated and/or promoted. | 2 (beans, soybean new varieties) | 12 |
| | | 3.5. By the end of the project, at least 12 000 households have access to CIALCA agricultural technologies. | 60 | 1200 |
| | | | | |
| Output 4. Strategies and policy options for uptake promotion and scaling up islands of success validated and promoted | Improved and faster delivery of agricultural research. Evidence-based policy options, guidelines and tools for targeting investments in agricultural research for development. | 4.1. By the end of the project, at least three alternative strategies and scenarios for uptake promotion and scaling-up successful innovations for linking farmers to markets tested and evaluated. | 0 | 3 |
| | | 4.2. By the end of the project, at least 10 communication products and extension materials developed and promoted to different stakeholders groups. | 0 | 10 |
| | | 4.3. By the end of the project, at least three policy options derived from the Innovation Platform are debated by relevant policy actors. | 0 | 3 |

6. Project Partnerships: Innovation, Roles, Responsibilities and overall organisational sustainability

The main innovation of this project is building innovation platforms that engage multiple stakeholders, (farmers' organisations and producers associations, development and research organisations, market chain actors, policy makers -) in processes of co-innovation and creating impacts at scale. The Innovation Platform will promote synergy among CG centres who have expertise in breeding and developing improved varieties and other technology innovations; NGOs with expertise in mobilizing rural institutions for sustainable development; the private sector for expanding market participation of smallholder farmers, and government and policy actors for supporting and providing incentives for the adoption and marketing of agricultural technologies. The project will strengthen the capacities of CSOs (with emphasis on farmers organisations) to better articulate their demands, and the capacities of CG centres to match demand and supply of agricultural innovations in order to achieve impacts at scale. This project brings together stakeholders along the resources-to-consumption-and- policy continuum, with complementary skills, expertise and considerable experience working in the region. We recognize that partnerships are dynamic and therefore efforts will be directed to identify and engage with other important stakeholders in the selected value chains to form a functional and dynamic and more inclusive innovation platform. The Task Force will be coordinated by Plateform DIOBASS au Kivu.

The roles of different partners will include:

1. **Farmers' associations** will be the primary stakeholders and direct beneficiaries in the action learning sites. They will actively participate in identifying and evaluating market opportunities, selecting and developing agro-enterprise options; experimenting with technology options to support their enterprises, and manage community-based seed systems. They will facilitate collective input/output marketing, link farmers to service providers, and promote uptake of results within and beyond the action learning sites. The participation of women and different categories of farmers will particularly be encouraged.
2. **Private business sector:** These include traders, agro-dealers, micro-finance, transporters, processors, etc and rural entrepreneurs will purchase produce from farmers and facilitate access to domestic, regional and international markets. They will also provide advisory and mentoring services on entrepreneurship, support technology development and input supply. MECRECO will provide micro-finance services to farmers including internal savings and loans.
3. **National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems:** will conduct adaptive research, support farmers' experimentation and provide technical support to NGOs and private sector. University staff will be involved in specific studies and in supervising graduate student research.
4. **Non-governmental organisations:** will be responsible for managing social processes and strengthening local innovation systems that enable rural communities to benefit from the technologies and market opportunities. They will ensure wide promotion, dissemination and uptake of project results beyond the action learning sites.
5. **Policy makers and other government institutions** (from communities to national levels) will be involved in policy dialogue and learning events for linking communities to higher-level policy institutions. They will co-organize district policy stakeholder workshops/meetings, and mobilize farmers' organizations, local leaders, NGOs, government services to participate in dissemination activities. They will also lobby for conducive policy and advocacy at high levels to influence local and national policy
6. **CGIAR Centres** (CIAT, IITA and Bioversity International under CIALCA) contribution lies in their ability to draw together its biological scientists (breeders, agronomists, etc.) and social scientists (economists, sociologists, anthropologists, and nutritionists), thus offering a rare and unrivalled capability to ignite high-impact research for the poor. CIALCA is responsible for facilitation the participation of CGIAR centres. CIAT's scientists will lead research on rural agroenterprise development, innovative participatory approaches, snap bean research, and social science support to partners. TSBF will provide scientific and technical support on integrated soil fertility management research. IITA and *Bioversity International* will lead strategic research on their mandate crops (cassava, banana and plantain) and ways of integrated these in the farming systems.

VI. Proposed Budget

| Item | Grant Request | Co-financing | Total |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Personnel | 50000 | 20000 | 70000 |
| Research supplies and services | 50000 | 30000 | 80000 |
| Equipment | 20000 | 5000 | 25000 |
| Training and other knowledge-sharing activities | 60000 | 20000 | 80000 |
| Travel (including local travels) | 20000 | 15000 | 35000 |
| Communication and publication | 30000 | 15000 | 45000 |
| General Administrative Expenses (6%) | 13800 | - | 13800 |
| TOTAL Project Cost | 243800 | 105000 | 349100 |
| Co-Financing and Funding (no less than 30% of total project cost) | | 105000 | |
| GRANT Funding Request (no more than 70% of total project cost) | 243800 | | |
| Details of co-financing and funding sources | | | |
| Plate-forme Diobass and NGO partners | | 30000 | |
| CIALCA | | 60000 | |
| Cabinet du Gouverneur du Sud-Kivu (Local Government) | | 15000 | |

Budget notes

1. Personnel: Contributions toward four months equivalent of CG Senior Scientist; Salary for Project Coordinator, Community Development Facilitators and Research Associates
2. Research supplies and services include costs for adaptive research, participatory plant breeding, seed multiplication, market chain analysis, surveys, policy dialogues, institutional strengthening, capacity building and operation costs for the Innovation Platform
3. Equipment: Computers and accessories for data processing, communication and publication, digital cameras, 2 motorcycles for monitoring community-based adaptive research trials and seed multiplication
4. Travels: Regional travels for CG scientists, local travels for project staff and IP members, exchange visits and farmers' exposure visits.
5. Communication and publication: consultancy fees for communication expert to design communication strategies, publication of extension materials, policy briefs, leaflets and training materials, production of dissemination materials, etc.
6. General administrative expenses to cover indirect costs and bank transaction costs