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NEW INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE CROP PRODUCTION

The Province of the Anglican Church Burundi has recently begun a partnership with AGROBIOTEC, a local institute of research into banana crops. The aim is to introduce a new variety of banana in order to improve crop production and ensure that farmers get harvests.



AGROBIOTEC's work has been important since the old variety of banana planted by farmers has been attacked by disease KBMV. As well as research into banana production AGROBIOTEC also provides training for farmers into the care and maintenance of the seeds.

The Provincial Development office has identified farmers from different parts of the country for training. After training, and in collaboration with Christian Aid, banana seeds circles are being established. As Leonidas Niyongabo, the Provincial Development coordinator explained those seed circles will encourage people to share seeds with their neighbours to ensure seed multiplication and spread information about the benefits of planting the new variety.

At the end of last month, the Province and AGROBIOTEC organized an intensive training workshop for banana farmers of the new variety in order to equip them with skills of planting and maintaining banana crops. At the end of the training Archbishop Martin Blaise Nyaboho delivered certificates to those farmers who will be assisting communities with the new variety.

In this agricultural season the Province is also distributing maize seeds and trees to the population in order to ensure food security in communities.



Working with ISABU (Burundi Agronomic Sciences Institute) the Province is introducing pre-basic seeds of varieties that resist diseases and are especially productive. With those seeds the farmers are committed to spread the variety in their community after the harvest.

The administrative authorities are thankful to the Province of the Anglican Church of Burundi for such initiatives that support the people of Burundi and usually have representatives attending social or economic activities organized by the Church.

In an audience that the President of the Republic of Burundi had recently with the new Archbishop, the Most Rev. Martin Blaise Nyaboho, President Pierre Nkurunziza expressed his gratitude towards the Anglican Church on behalf of the Government for the role that it is playing in the development of the country.