Farming system model

The family

Father and brother passed. Took care of a nephew and a step brother as long as he could.

Married with several children (we do not know the exact number)

Main historic milestones of the farm/family

1977-1994: Childhood and works at his mum's house
1994-2011: Fisherman, securing capital and investing in land and cattle
Around 2011, he tried to invest in a taxi but in the end he lost money
2012: buy land and initiate poultry business. 20 pigs, maize, bananas and
coffee. In 2014, he owns 8 acres. Still employ 8 fishermen and own 2 boats

The family project

To manage to stabilize a regular income and start building a capital.

To pay school fees for the children. To allow them to go on higher education (like medicine) and/or to develop the farm.

Build a house for the family.

Strengths

External

Big network : to buy animals and chemicals, to be counselled, to obtain loans

Internal

Diversity of sources of income: chicken rearing, fishing, some crops.

Well organized, account books, record books etc.

His motorcycle insures his loans

Farm strategy

Objectives

To invest more in poultry business and disengage little by little from fishing (because of decreasing of livestock) in order to insure a regular and reliable income

Nevertheless, to keep a diversity of sources of income : coffee, fishing, crops for auto-consumption ...

Decisions

Saving money to invest in equipment to reduce his current costs and save more money: truck, pump for water and/or dig a borehole.

Testing new crops or ways of growing plants (like coffee) to find new sources of income.

Constraints

External

Maize bran and eggs prices impact his income

Hard access to vet

No farmers organization

Internal

Cost of inputs in poultry

Lack of savings to optimise purchases and sales.

Need employees to carry water