Farming system model

The family

Age: 51 yrs;
(farmer, 1 wife and 8 children);
wife serve as full-time farm labour and 5 children serve as part-time labour during holiday; Internal labout ratio: 1.66 acres/person

10 people in the HH
Farmer and

Main historic milestones of the farm/family

The farmer is a native of the communty; His parents cultivate mainly coffee, cotton and banana; Inherited some plots from his parents

The family project

To invest more in his business; To educate his children; To ensure food and nutrition security for his family; To buy more plots

Strengths

External: Readily available market particularly for sugar cane; External labour is readily available; Availability of credit facilities through bank and his cash-round group;

Internal: Cultivates 1.5 acres of coffee, 1 acre of banana; 0.5 acre of sugar cane and 2 acres of Eucalyptus; Rears 5 goats, 10 chickens and 4 pigs; Has a house to accommodate his family; Has a business that generate extra income; Has a motor cycle and car that facilitate his business and farming activities; Proximity to water in his farm; Has cash to invest; Belongs to a cash-round financial group; Have a bank account where he saves and can obtain a loan

Farm strategy

Objectives: To cultivate more of food crops (beans and maize); To cope with the disease challenge affecting banana; To change from coffee to another crop due to disease problem

Decisions: Cultivates banana and small plots of beans and maize for household food consumption; Cultivates coffee and eucalyptus to earn income; rears livestock mainly for household consumption and partly for sales to earn cash; invests more of the revenue from his farm into his business; Strategized to cope with banana disease by maintaining organic agricultural practice (use manure for fertilization, use sugar cane leaves for mulching and use mixture of urine and pepper to combat banana wilt and enrich the soil).

Constraints

External Lack of access to extension services; Crop diseases: Coffee virus, banana wilt, banana weevil

Internal: Farming equipment is limited (local tools); small farm plots; has no landtitle which he can be used as security for borrowing loan