



«My family is safe!»

Interview with Chantal M'balola.
DRC: Helping farmers secure their land. .



fhAgriculture
TRANSITION TO AGROECOLOGY





The question of land grabbing

For years, Food for Hungry has been supporting small family farmers in South Kivu, who are part of local associations involved in animal and plant production and environmental conservation activities.

These small landowners face several difficulties, including the **insecurity of their customary land rights**. This insecurity leads them not to make long-term investments in these lands, such as planting agroforestry trees, earthworks, etc.

Indeed, although these small farmers have been farming their family lands for many years or even generations, they are often coveted by powerful people, such as traditional chiefs and family members (co-heirs, neighbours, and even rich people).

Cases of clandestine production of registration certificates, fraudulent documents aimed at taking over the lands of these small farmers, are commonplace in the territories of Kabare and Walungu.



*Meeting with the farmers and their families.
The plots are measured and delimited*

The project

FH accompanies small farmers towards productive agro-ecological agriculture, but for fertility restoration efforts to be sustainable, farmers must be sure to conserve their land in the long term and be supported in the process of securing their rights on these fields.

FH has therefore concluded a contract with ASOP*, a local NGO known for its expertise in recognising and securing customary land rights for small farmers. This will provide reliable data on farmers' fields and eventually an official land document.

*ASOP: Social Action and Farmers' Organization

Activités

- Area recognition and ocalization, slope analysis and accessibility,
- Upgrading the knowledge of survey technicians for 8 days.
- Meeting with local authorities: heads of villages, groups and chiefdoms concerned.
- Sensitization of beneficiaries for the payment of fees for their land certificates.
- Identification of 8 helpers and training on survey and participatory mapping.
- Acquisition of technical equipment and supplies for land agents, including: GPS, compasses, decametres...
- Identification and participatory recognition of customary land rights on beneficiaries' plots or fields. Minutes are drawn up in the presence of the authorities and neighbours to authenticate the boundaries of the sit



Many farmers are interested

First results:

Out of 1214 planned plots, **409 plots were measured and delimited.**

There is a keen interest among beneficiaries in activities to recognize their customary land rights and many people who were not participating in the program now want to join it!





Measurement of a field



Chantal M'Balola is 45 years old and lives with her husband in the village of Cidundu in Kabare territory.

No more conflicts on the boundaries of my field!

« This project has changed my life! Now I no longer have any conflicts with my neighbours on the borders of our fields. And I can also plan what to plant now that I know the exact size of my field. But above all, it gives me confidence because I know that my home is safe! »

Your donation is important to support the farmers of the DRC

Thank you so much!

With CHF 50.- you allow a farming family to secure their land. She will obtain a land certificate that will protect her from those who would want to take it.

FH Switzerland is committed to the fight against poverty locally through personal and community development throughout the world. FH Switzerland is part of the international network of Food for the Hungry (FH).



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