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Poster Presentation
Strengthening local systems to control Xanthomonas wilt (BXW) in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo

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Background

• Two-thirds of households in South Kivu Province are food insecure - the highest in DRC

• Bananas occupy 30% of cultivated land and represent 60% of household income

• Over 70% of banana fields in South Kivu were severely impacted by BXW

• BXW led to a spike in prices of bananas and substitute commodities
Intervention

- 4,950 farmers (70% women) participated in BXW control activities through **farmer field schools**

- 13 macro-propagation sites established with **INERA and SENASEM** produced 40,000 plantlets

- **Farmer-to-farmer network** used to multiply 300,000 plantlets and disseminate knowledge (**IPAPEL**)

- BXW Surveillance committees formed to create awareness and enforce community by-laws (**CARG & CDCs**)

- Integrated interventions for health and nutrition, economic empowerment done through **savings groups** targeting women
Outcomes

Trends in knowledge and adoption of BXW control measures in Minova and Kalehe

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<th>Minova</th>
<th>Kalehe</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Knowledge</td>
<td>Adoption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Removing male bud</td>
<td>+29%</td>
<td>+63%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uprooting diseased plants</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>-35%</td>
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<td>Disinfecting tools</td>
<td>+80%</td>
<td>+87%</td>
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- BXW incidence has decreased to below 10% in targeted communities
- Production increased from 18 bunches per month/HH to 48 bunches
- Banana prices have fallen but incomes have increased
- Banana sales through farmer business associations supported by World Vision increased from 143 MT in 2013 to 348 MT in 2015
Key Lessons

Strengthening local systems requires:

- Identifying change agents and leveraging their motivations
- An integrated approach
- Consultation and adaptive learning
- Culturally appropriate solutions e.g. farmer-to-farmer networks and local by-laws
Implications

• Increase in production needs to be coupled with market development in order to sustain farmer motivations.

• Can coordination mechanisms established be used to scale-up and perhaps address similar constraints e.g. cassava mosaic disease?
Thanks! Merci! Asante!