



## **Assessment of the performance of the agricultural extension system “Twigire Muhinzi Model” in Rwanda**

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### **Abstract:**

**Purpose:** As part of the institutional reforms and agricultural restructuring in Rwanda, this paper provides an assessment of the performance of the agricultural extension system “Twigire Muhinzi” as well as factors explaining it.

**Method:** This paper involves key informants’ interviews and surveys of 2000 extension agents including 217 stakeholders, 857 farmers, Promoters and 926 farmers in randomly selected Kigali City and Province , 30 Districts, 68 sectors, 125 Cells and 857 villages, analyzed using qualitative and logistic regression methods from May to June 2015.

**Findings and Practical Implications:** Results show there is a good progress in implementation of Twigire Muhinzi extension on its all components, capacity building of extension agents, establishment of Farm Field School and demonstration-plots. However, even the Twigire Muhinzi extension has a positive impact on production, Rwanda fails to deliver knowledge and technologies to rural areas due to lack of coordination, delay of inputs to farmers, no unified and clear policy and mandate, lack of funding, aging and low competencies of agents, and lack of mobility and interactions of agents with key actors. In this paper, enabling conditions that are found to be statistically significant are external funding, enforcement of performance targets, systems of rewards and sanctions, mobility to foster linkages, and skills development. To overcome these constraints the government of Rwanda and in particular MINAGRI should consider contracting the private sector to offer extension services in the and the public sector should fund extension significantly but in ways that do not duplicate services already being provided by sustainable alternative extension providers.

**Keywords:** Rwanda, Agriculture extension, Twigire Muhinzi, extension agents.