



## Summary in English

### Lack of markets for maize production

Land consolidation policy has been adopted by farmers since the introduction of it in 2009 and farmers who adopted the policy are satisfied with the benefits which include good harvest and markets. For many, joining farmers co-operative has been a life-changing experience that has seen their standards of living and income improve greatly over the past few years, however, maize farmers in Kazo sector, Ngoma District in the Eastern Province, it is a different story.

Farmers in Kinyonza cell Kazo sector who are organized under the IBUMBA Co-operative Society, are complaining that even though they get good harvests.

Nyawera Ephiaphanie is a widow with 5 children she invested all her money in maize farming amounting to 500.000 Frs. and now it as if she threw her money in to a hurl

She says: “I have produced 5 tons of maize expecting to get market as promised by the Sector Authority and now even I don’t have money to buy bean seeds for planting this season, all the money I spent it to buy pesticides to spray in the store, what will happen”.

Nkangura Emmanuel, one of the farmers says: Though the land use consolidation policy ensures increase in production, they are not happy about not having a steady market for their produce and price rates.

He says: “We are forced to sell our produce at low prices in black markets so that our families can survive and also send our children to school, just imagine the money we get from this black markets, its only Rwf 110 paid for kilograms of maize which is not worthy the amount of money I have invested at least we get on 200 frs.”

According to Butera Martin, the local authority had promised to look for market for the cooperative but till now they never considered their request. What they help was only to mobilize farmer to put their lands together, give the seeds and there after during harvest period the visits they used do stopped.

The secretary executive of KAZO sector BUSHYAYIJA Francis responding on that issue says they were promised by the Rwanda Agricultural Board (RAB) to buy maize seed from them but it is now 3 month since they promised.

HAKIZIMANA Crispin, working for RAB in charge of Crop intensification program in Eastern province, blames farmers that they had bad quality and small in quantity.

He says: “We want seeds which are dried enough, which has good quality and also in high quantity, we don’t expect to buy”.