BEYOND ONE COW:
AN IMPACT ANALYSIS OF THE ONE-COW-A-POOR-FAMILY (GIRINKA) PROGRAMME

What is the background to the project?

Rwanda remains one of the poorest countries in the world with poverty concentrated in rural areas where over 70 per cent of the population live. In 2006 90 per cent of poor people in Rwanda lived in rural areas and just over 60 per cent of the rural population were poor.

One of the programmes the Government has introduced to improve the incomes of those living in rural areas is the One-Cow-A-Poor-Family programme. Selected poor households that are considered to have the capacity are given a cow. They are then expected to give the first calf to someone else in the village.

This project will carry out a systematic impact evaluation of the programme.

What are the main research themes of the project?

The project will focus on the following themes:
- Are the households who get a cow better off?
- Are the members of household who get a cow better nourished?
- Is the well-being of the members of households improving?
- Are households using the manure on their land and/or for feeding a bio gas generator?
- Are other households being given a calf?
- Are household enterprises being started in the villages?
- Are there spin off benefits to those living in the villages who do not get a cow?

What is the methodology of the study?

The study will be a longitudinal impact evaluation using an experimental design and qualitative and quantitative research tools. A purposeful sample of households who get a cow will be matched to households who have yet to benefit from the programme. Monitoring and evaluation criteria will be established and both sets of households followed up at regular intervals. The outcomes from those who had a cow and those who did not will be compared so of that the impact of the programme can be assessed.

Who is coordinating the project?

IPAR-Rwanda
Project Director: John Rwirahira
Researcher: Paul Kayira
Advisor: Prof. Pamela Abbott

Who is funding the project?

The project is being funded from IPAR core funding as a demand driven project.

Who do I contact to find out more?

See the IPAR web site www.ipar-rwanda.org
John Rwirahira