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Protocol of implementing behavioral experiments for fruit tree marketing options in Rwanda: A discrete choice experiment

International Climate Initiative (IKI)

Harnessing the potential of trees on farms (TonF) for meeting national and global biodiversity targets

March 2020









Experiment Methods
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OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The objectives of this study are (1) to elicit trust, risk and time preferences of smallholder fruit tree farmers in eastern Rwanda using monetary incentivized experiments, and (2) to investigate key attributes or features of marketing contracts that are preferred by farmers using a discrete choice experiment (DCE). We investigate farmer preferences related to six hypothetical marketing contract attributes: sales mode, timing of payment, input/service provision, form of contract, relation to the buyer, and investment costs. To demonstrate the relation between trust, risk and time preferences and the adoption of marketing contracts, we couple these experimental data with the results from the DCE about farmers' preferences for marketing contract attributes. We estimate a random parameters logit model, including interaction terms between contract attributes and behavioral preferences, to disentangle preference heterogeneity. Disentangling these behavioral preferences can give interesting insights on how contracts should be designed in order to meet farmers' preferences. The results can also provide guidance for the fruit marketing development to ensure that smallholder farmers benefit from the full potential of their fruit trees.

DESCRIPTION OF EXPERIMENTS

a. Experiment on risk preferences

We measured individual trust, risk and time preferences using monetary incentivized experiments. At the end of the three experiments, one experiment was randomly selected to be played for real money to encourage participants to reveal their true preferences (Andersen, Harrison, Lau, & Rutström, 2006; Holt & Laury, 2002). Risk preferences were measured using the method developed by Eckel and Grossman (2002, 2008). This method was explicitly designed to be a simple way of eliciting risk preferences that allows enough heterogeneity in choices to estimate utility parameters. The method asks respondents to make only one choice. That is respondents are presented with a number of lotteries and are asked to choose one that they would like to play (Figure 1). Each of the lotteries, listed in Table 1, involves a 50 % chance of receiving the low payoff and a 50 % chance of the high payoff. One of the lotteries is a sure alternative. In this case, 'Lottery 1' with a certain payoff of 2,800 RWF. For 'Lottery 1' to 'Lottery 5', the expected payoff increases linearly with risk, as represented by the standard deviation. Note that 'Lottery 6' has the same expected payoff as 'Lottery 5', but with a higher standard deviation. The lotteries are designed so that risk-averse respondents should choose those with a lower standard deviation ('Lottery 1' to 'Lottery 4'), risk-neutral respondents should choose the lottery with the higher expected return ('Lottery 5'), and risk-seeking respondents should choose 'Lottery 6' (Dave, Eckel, Johnson, & Rojas, 2010).

Table 1. Design of risk experiment (in Rwandan franc)

Lottery (50/50)	Low payoff	High payoff	Expected return	Standard deviation	Implied CRRA ^a range	Risk category ^b
1	2,800	2,800	2,800	0	3.46 < r	RA
2	2,400	3,600	3,000	600	1.16 < r < 3.46	RA
3	2,000	4,400	3,200	1,200	0.71 < r < 1.16	RA
4	1,600	5,200	3,400	1,800	0.50 < r < 0.71	RN
5	1,200	6,000	3,600	2,400	0 < r < 0.50	RN
6	200	7,000	3,600	3,400	r < 0	RS

^a Coefficient of relative risk aversion.

^b Risk category RA = risk-averse, RN = risk-neutral, and RS = risk-seeking.

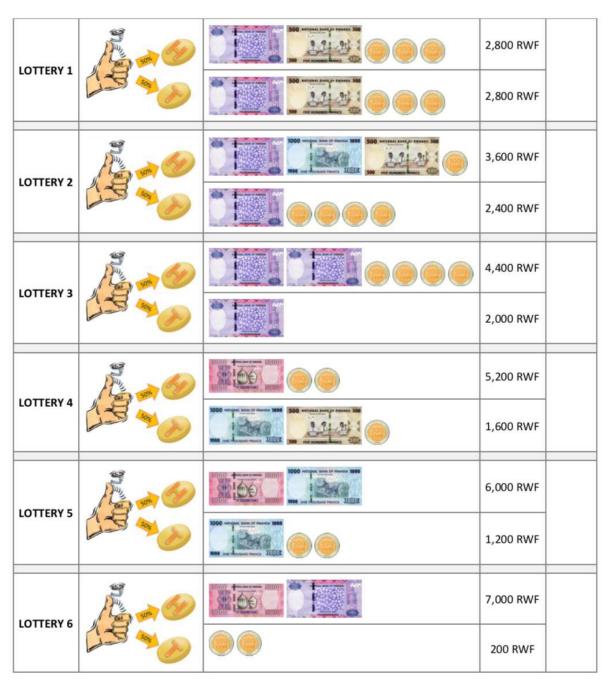


Figure 1. Picture card of the risk experiment. Source: Authors.

b. Experiment on time preferences

Time preferences were elicited with a simple money allocation task similar to the task developed by Angerer et al. (2015). In this experiment, respondents are endowed with 1,000 RWF and have to allocate money between two dates in time — 'tomorrow' and 'in four weeks'. The money that is allocated to the later date, that is 'in four weeks', is doubled and paid out only four weeks after the experiment. The money that is allocated to 'tomorrow' is paid out tomorrow (Figure 2). The amount invested in the future is a simple measure of farmers' future orientation and patience, without explicitly eliciting discount rates.

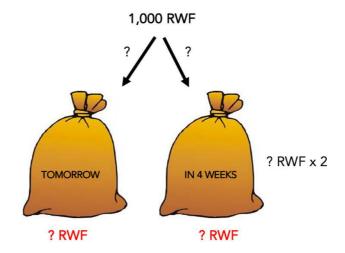
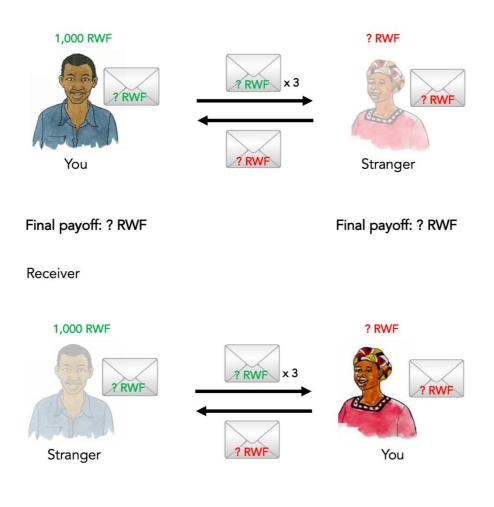


Figure 2. Picture card in the time experiment. Source: Authors.

c. Experiment on trust

We also conduct a two-person binary version of the trust game (Berg, Dickhaut, & McCabe, 1995). Random pairs of respondents are formed and assigned the role of 'sender' and 'receiver'. The 'sender' receives 1,000 RWF and has to choose whether to send any round amount between 0 and 1,000 RWF to the 'receiver' or to keep them. The money sent is then tripled by the experimenter. The 'receiver' then makes a decision using the strategy method. Accordingly, the 'receiver' is asked to decide whether, in the event that the sender sends some money, he/she would keep the money or split it evenly between himself/herself and the 'sender' (Figure 3).

Sender



Final payoff: ? RWF

Figure 3. Picture card in the trust experiment. Source: Authors.

d. Discrete choice experiment

Final payoff: ? RWF

We used a DCE to analyze farmers' marketing preferences of fruit tree products. In a DCE, respondents are presented with alternative descriptions of a good, differentiated by their attribute levels, and are asked to choose one of the alternatives (Holmes & Adamowicz, 2003). In order to identify contextually relevant attributes and their levels, we conducted key informant interviews and focus group discussions with farmers during a preliminary field visit to the study area. Based on their feedback, we selected six attributes that they deemed important in a marketing profile with two to four levels (Table 2). The first attribute relates to the sales mode, namely individual marketing (i.e. payment for the quantity produced), and collective marketing (i.e. payment as share of total revenue). The timing of payment is the second attribute. The two levels are immediate payment (i.e. at delivery), and delayed payment (i.e. four weeks after purchase). As the third attribute we consider input/service provision and define four levels: none, inputs (seedlings, fertilizer), inputs (seedlings, fertilizer), and credit, and inputs (seedlings, fertilizer), credit, and training. The fourth attribute is the form of contract, either a written or no written contract. The fifth attribute concerns the relation to the buyer in three levels: buyer personally known, buyer known by friends, relatives, or cooperative, and buyer not known at all. The last attribute in the choice experiment is the investment cost, categorized in four levels: no entry costs, 10,000 RWF, 20,000 RWF, and 30,000 RWF.

Table 2. Overview of attributes and levels used in the choice experiment

Attributes	Definition	Attribute levels
Sales mode	Refers to the mode of selling and payment system	 Individual marketing (payment for the quantity produced) Collective marketing (payment as share of total revenue)
Timing of payment	Farmers can be paid cash on delivery or payment can be delayed	 Immediate payment (at delivery) Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)
Input/service	Refers to input and/or service	1. None
provision	provision to alleviate the	2. Inputs (seedlings, fertilizer)
	operating capital constrains often	3. Inputs (seedlings, fertilizer), and credit
	faced by farmers	4. Inputs (seedlings, fertilizer), credit, and training
Form of contract	Refers to the contract/agreement	1. No written contract
	form	2. Written contract
Relation to the buyer	Refers to the relationship with the	1. Buyer personally known
	buyer	2. Buyer known by friends, relatives, or cooperative
		3. Buyer not known at all
Investment costs	Corresponds to membership fees	1. None (no investment costs)
	to become a cooperative	2. 10,000 RWF
	member/ entry costs	3. 20,000 RWF
·		4. 30,000 RWF

The six attributes and their different levels imply a full factorial design with 384 ($4^2 \times 3^1 \times 2^3$) combinations. Theoretically, each unique combination of attribute levels represents a specific market profile. To produce a more manageable experiment, a d-optimal design was used to generate a subset of market profiles that covers the range of variability between all possible combinations (Hensher, Rose, & Greene, 2015). In total, 32 choice sets were included in our design. The choice sets were further subdivided into four subsets containing eight choice sets each. To reduce the response burden and to avoid fatigue, respondents were randomly assigned one of these four subsets, with an even number of households allocated to each of the subsets. A choice set consisted of two alternative market profiles (A and B) and an status quo ('none of the market profiles') option. The status quo option is provided because a respondent might not have a preference for either of the market profiles listed. Moreover, illustrations were included in the choice sets to increase respondents' comprehension of the attributes and levels (Figure 4). Before conducting the DCE, we explained to the respondents that the drawings used hypothetical marketing profiles rather than real ones. The attributes and levels used were carefully explained. Respondents were also informed that the choices they made in the experiment would not have any immediate consequence. It was clarified that the results would be used more generally to better understand farmers' preferences for particular characteristics of market profiles that may inform project design or future project implementation.

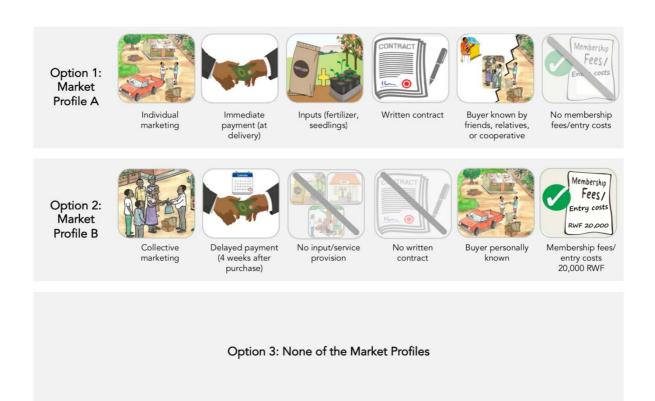


Figure 4. Example of a choice card. Source: Authors.

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Choice card 1A















Individual marketing

Immediate payment (at delivery)

No input/service provision

No written contract

Buyer personally known

Membership fees/ entry costs 30,000 RWF

Option 2: Market **Profile B**



Collective marketing



Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)



Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings) and access to credit



Written contract



Buyer known by friends, relatives, or cooperative



Membership fees/ entry costs 20,000 RWF

Choice card 2A















Individual marketing

Immediate payment (at delivery)

Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings)

Written contract

Buyer known by friends, relatives, or cooperative

No membership fees/entry costs

Option 2: Market **Profile B**



Collective marketing



Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)



No input/service provision



No written contract



Buyer personally known



Membership fees/ entry costs 20,000 RWF

Choice card 3A















Individual marketing

Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)

Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings) and access to credit

No written contract

Buyer known by friends, relatives, or cooperative

Membership fees/ entry costs 10,000 RWF

Option 2: Market **Profile B**



marketing





Immediate payment (at delivery)



Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings)



Written contract



Buyer not known at all



Membership fees/ entry costs 20,000 RWF

Choice card 4A

Option 1: Market **Profile A**













Collective marketing

Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)

Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings)

Written contract

Buyer personally known

No membership fees/entry costs

Option 2: Market **Profile B**



Individual marketing



Immediate payment (at delivery)



No input/service provision



No written contract



Buyer known by friends, relatives, or cooperative



Membership fees/ entry costs 20,000 RWF

Choice card 5A















~

Collective marketing

Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)

No input/service provision

No written contract

Buyer not known at all

No membership fees/entry costs

Option 2: Market Profile B







Immediate payment (at delivery)



Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings)



Written contract



Buyer personally known



Membership fees/ entry costs 30,000 RWF

Choice card 6A

Option 1: Market Profile A



Collective marketing



Immediate payment (at delivery)



No input/service provision



No written contract



Buyer personally known



No membership fees/entry costs

Option 2: Market Profile B



Individual marketing



Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)



Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings) and access to credit



Written contract



Buyer known by friends, relatives, or cooperative



Membership fees/ entry costs 10,000 RWF

Choice card 7A















Individual marketing

Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)

No input/service provision

Written contract

Buyer known by friends, relatives, or cooperative

Membership fees/ entry costs 30,000 RWF

Option 2: Market **Profile B**



Collective marketing



Immediate payment (at delivery)



Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings) and access to credit



No written contract



Buyer not known at all



No membership fees/entry costs

Choice card 8A

Option 1: Market **Profile A**













Collective marketing

Immediate payment (at delivery)

No input/service provision

No written contract

Buyer known by friends, relatives, or cooperative

Membership fees/ Entry costs 10,000 RWF

Option 2: Market **Profile B**



Individual

marketing



Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)



Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings)



Written contract



Buyer not known at all



No membership fees/entry costs

Choice card 9B

Option 1: Market **Profile A**













Individual marketing

Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)

Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings)

No written contract

Buyer personally known

Membership fees/ entry costs 10,000 RWF

Option 2: Market













Profile B

Collective marketing

Immediate payment (at delivery)

Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings), access to credit, training

Written contract

Buyer not known at all

Membership fees/ entry costs 20,000 RWF

Choice card 10B

Option 1: Market Profile A













A

Collective marketing

Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)

No input/service provision

No written contract

Buyer not known at all

No membership fees/entry costs

Option 2: Market Profile B



Individual marketing



Immediate payment (at delivery)



Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings), access to credit, training



Written contract



Buyer personally known



Membership fees/ entry costs 20,000 RWF

Choice card 11B















4

Individual marketing

Immediate payment (at delivery)

Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings), access to credit, training

No written contract

Buyer is personally known

No membership fees/entry costs

Option 2: Market Profile B



Collective marketing



Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)



Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings) and access to credit



Written contract



Buyer not known at all



Membership fees/ entry costs 30,000 RWF

Choice card 12B















Collective Immediate marketing payment (at

Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings)

No written contract

Buyer personally known

Membership fees/ entry costs 10,000 RWF

Option 2: Market **Profile B**









delivery









marketing

Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)

No input/service provision

Written contract

Buyer not known at all

Membership fees/ entry costs 30,000 RWF

Choice card 13B















Individual marketing

Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)

Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings), access to credit, training

r, No written ess contract

Buyer not known at all

Membership fees/ entry costs 10,000 RWF

Option 2: Market Profile B



Collective marketing



Immediate payment (at delivery)



No input/service provision



Written contract



Buyer personally known



No membership fees/entry costs

Choice card 14B

Option 1: Market **Profile A**













Individual marketing

Immediate payment (at delivery)

Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings), access to credit, training

Written contract

Buyer personally known

Membership fees/ entry costs 30,000 RWF

Option 2: Market **Profile B**



Collective marketing



Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)



Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings)



No written contract



Buyer known by friends, relatives, or cooperative



Membership fees/ entry costs 20,000 RWF

Choice card 15B





marketing









Written contract



Buyer not known at all



Membership fees/ entry costs 20,000 RWF

Option 2: Market Profile B



Collective marketing



payment (at

delivery)

Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)



Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings), access to credit, training



No written contract



Buyer known by friends, relatives, or cooperative



Membership fees/ entry costs 30,000 RWF

Option 3: None of the Market Profiles

24

Choice card 16B

Option 1: Market **Profile A**













Collective marketing

Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)

Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings), access to credit, training

Written contract

Buyer personally known

No membership fees/entry costs

Option 2: Market **Profile B**



Individual marketing



Immediate payment (at delivery)



Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings)



No written contract



Buyer not known at all



Membership fees/ entry costs 20,000 RWF

Choice card 17C

Option 1: Market **Profile A**













Individual marketing

Immediate payment (at delivery)

Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings) and access to credit

No written contract

Buyer not known at all

No membership fees/entry costs

Option 2: Market **Profile B**



Collective marketing



Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)



No input/service provision



Written contract



Buyer known by friends, relatives, or cooperative



Membership fees/ entry costs 30,000 RWF

Choice card 18C

Option 1: Market **Profile A**













Collective marketing

Immediate payment (at delivery)

Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings)

No written contract

Buyer known by friends, relatives, or cooperative

Membership fees/ entry costs 30,000 RWF

Option 2: Market















Profile B

Individual marketing

Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)

No input/service provision

Written contract

Buyer not known at all

Membership fees/ entry costs 10,000 RWF

Choice card 19C

Option 1: Market **Profile A**













Individual marketing

Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)

Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings) and access to credit

No written contract

Buyer personally known

Membership fees/ entry costs 30,000 RWF

Option 2: Market **Profile B**



Collective marketing



Immediate payment (at delivery)



Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings)



Written contract



Buyer known by friends, relatives, or cooperative



Membership fees/ entry costs 10,000 RWF

Choice card 20C

Option 1: Market **Profile A**













Collective marketing

Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)

No input/service provision

No written contract

Buyer not known at all

Membership fees/ entry costs 10,000 RWF

Option 2: Market















Profile B

Individual marketing

Immediate payment (at delivery)

Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings) and access to credit

Written contract

Buyer known by friends, relatives, or cooperative

Membership fees/ entry costs 20,000 RWF

Choice card 21C















Individual marketing

Immediate payment (at delivery)

Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings), access to credit, training

Written contract

Buyer not known at all

Membership fees/ entry costs 10,000 RWF

Option 2: Market **Profile B**















Collective marketing

Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)

Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings)

No written contract

Buyer known by friends, relatives, or cooperative

Membership fees/ entry costs 20,000 RWF

Option 3: None of the Market Profiles

30

Choice card 22C

Option 1: Market **Profile A**













Collective marketing

Immediate payment (at delivery)

Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings) and access to credit

No written contract

Buyer known by friends, relatives, or cooperative

Membership fees/ entry costs 20,000 RWF

Option 2: Market















Profile B

Individual marketing

Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)

Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings)

Written contract

Buyer not known at all

Membership fees/ entry costs 10,000 RWF

Choice card 23C















Profile A

Individual marketing

Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)

Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings), access to credit, training

Written contract

Buyer personally known

Membership fees/ entry costs 20,000 RWF

Option 2: Market **Profile B**



Collective marketing



Immediate payment (at delivery)



Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings) and access to credit



No written contract



Buyer not known at all



Membership fees/ entry costs 30,000 RWF

Option 3: None of the Market Profiles

32

Choice card 24C

Option 1: Market Profile A













Collective marketing

Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)

Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings), access to credit, training

er, No written cess contract

n Buyer not known at all

Membership fees/ entry costs 30,000 RWF

Option 2: Market Profile B



Individual marketing



Immediate payment (at delivery)



No input/service provision



Written contract



Buyer known by friends, relatives, or cooperative



Membership fees/ entry costs 10,000 RWF

Choice card 25D

Option 1: Market Profile A













Collective marketing

Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)

Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings) and access to credit

Written contract

Buyer personally known

Membership fees/ entry costs 10,000 RWF

Option 2: Market Profile B



Individual marketing



Immediate payment (at delivery)



Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings), access to credit, training



No written contract



Buyer known by friends, relatives, or cooperative



No membership fees/entry costs

Choice card 26D















Individual marketing

Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)

Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings), access to credit, training

No written contract

Buyer not known at all

Membership fees/ entry costs 20,000 RWF

Option 2: Market Profile B



Collective marketing



Immediate payment (at delivery)



Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings) and access to credit



Written contract



Buyer personally known



Membership fees/ entry costs 30,000 RWF

Choice card 27D

Option 1: Market **Profile A**













Individual marketing

Immediate payment (at delivery)

No input/service provision

Written contract

Buyer known by friends, relatives, or cooperative

No membership fees/entry costs

Option 2: Market **Profile B**







Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)



Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings), access to credit, training



No written contract



Buyer personally known



Membership fees/ entry costs 20,000 RWF

Choice card 28D

Option 1: Market **Profile A**













Individual marketing

Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)

Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings) and access to credit

Written contract

Buyer known by friends, relatives, or cooperative

No membership fees/entry costs

Option 2: Market **Profile B**







Immediate payment (at delivery)



Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings)



No written contract



Buyer personally known



Membership fees/ entry costs 10,000 RWF

Choice card 29D

Option 1: Market **Profile A**













Collective marketing

Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)

Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings), access to credit, training

Written contract

Buyer known by friends, relatives, or cooperative

No membership fees/entry costs

Option 2: Market **Profile B**



marketing





payment (at

delivery)





No written contract



Buyer not known at all



Membership fees/ entry costs 30,000 RWF

Choice card 30D

Option 1: Market **Profile A**













Collective marketing

Immediate payment (at delivery)

Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings), access to credit, training

No written contract

Buyer known by friends, relatives, or cooperative

Membership fees/ entry costs 10,000 RWF

Option 2: Market **Profile B**



marketing









Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings)



Written contract



Buyer personally known



Membership fees/ entry costs 20,000 RWF

Choice card 31D















A

Collective marketing

Immediate payment (at delivery)

Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings), access to credit, training

Written contract

Buyer not known at all

Membership fees/ entry costs 30,000 RWF

Option 2: Market Profile B



Individual marketing



Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)



Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings) and access to credit



No written contract



Buyer personally known



No membership fees/entry costs

Choice card 32D

Option 1: Market Profile A



marketing

Individual D



Delayed payment (4 weeks after purchase)



Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings)



No written contract



Buyer known by friends, relatives, or cooperative



Membership fees/ entry costs 30,000 RWF

Option 2: Market Profile B



Collective marketing



Immediate payment (at delivery)



Inputs (fertilizer, seedlings) and access to credit



Written contract



Buyer personally known



Membership fees/ entry costs 10,000 RWF