



# TRANSFORMATION TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS - KWIHAZA

RWA/025



**SECTOR** | Food security

**DURATION** | 48 months (January 2023 - December 2026)

## TARGET GROUPS

Cooperatives, producer groups, and SMEs and entrepreneurs, with a particular focus on youth and women

## SECTORIAL POLICIES AND REFERENCE STRATEGIES

- development of a National Strategy for the Aquaculture sector;
- government initiatives supporting SMEs in agriculture through insurance and access to finance;
- climate-smart and environmentally sustainable agricultural practices.

## INSTITUTIONAL ANCHORAGE

- main: Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources of Rwanda (MINAGRI);
- other institutional partners: Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB), Rwanda Inspectorate, Competition and Consumer Protection Authority (RICA), National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB), Rwanda Standard Board (RSB), University of Rwanda (UR).

**BUDGET** | EUR 15.5 million (Luxembourg contribution : EUR 5.5 million; EU contribution: EUR 10 million).

Additional EUR 2 million contribution from Luxembourg in preparation.



The Kwihaza project, funded by the European Union and Luxembourg Cooperation, and implemented by Enabel, is a transformative initiative in Rwanda's agricultural sector. This sector is vital for the country's economy, employing 70% of the workforce and contributing over a third to the gross domestic product.

This EUR 15.5 million project, spanning four years, is designed to enhance the fisheries, aquaculture, and horticulture value chains. The project targets cooperatives, producer groups, and SMEs and entrepreneurs, with a particular focus on youth and women. It aims to increase production, per capita consumption, and income in these sectors.

To achieve its goals, Kwihaza will implement integrated interventions, including improving access to finance and technical know-how, managing post-harvest losses, adopting climate-smart practices, and optimising production technologies. These coordinated efforts aim to drive sustainable growth, increase employment, improve household income, and enhance food and nutrition security across Rwanda. The project aims to

leverage government support for agricultural SMEs, utilising direct grants, calls for proposals, or contracts with European public entities, facilitated by a technical team from Enabel. A key focus is addressing the critical needs in animal feed quality and quantity, vital for the development of aquaculture and other livestock enterprises. For the aquaculture value chain, a comprehensive farm-to-fork approach will be adopted to ensure food safety and environmental protection. Concurrently, in the horticulture sector, strategies will be implemented for post-harvest loss reduction and value addition, contributing to the overall efficiency and sustainability of this sector.

Partners involved in the implementation of the project include public entities such as the Rwanda Agricultural and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB), Rwanda Inspectorate, Competition and Consumer Protection Authority (RICA), Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB), Rwanda Standard Board (RSB), as well as University of Rwanda (UR) and the Luxembourg-based NGO *Appui au développement autonome* (ADA).

To contribute to the transition towards socially and environmentally inclusive food systems with the development of the value chains in the aquaculture, fishery and horticultural sectors.

To increase in a sustainable way the production, per capita consumption and income generated by fish, aquaculture and horticulture quality products, with a focus on women and youth.

#### Result 1

The capacities of smallholder organisations, active in the targeted value chains, are enhanced to efficiently improve quality and quantity of produce, minimise post-harvest losses and improve access to local and regional markets.

#### Result 2

SMEs and aspiring young entrepreneurs active at different levels of the targeted value chains are strengthened to operate in an inclusive and sustainable way, create decent jobs and contribute to more sustainable food systems.

#### Result 3

A conducive environment for inclusive value chains development and sustainable food systems is strengthened.

## EXPECTED CHANGES/RESULTS

The objective is to transition to socially and environmentally inclusive food systems by increasing in a sustainable way production, per capita consumption, income, and jobs, in the targeted aquaculture and horticulture value chains.

The expected results include:

- enhanced capacities of smallholders and producer groups leading to reduced post-harvest losses and improved market access.
- strengthened and sustainable private sector, promoting income generation and job creation.
- improved regulatory and innovation environment fostering sustainable food systems.

## MAIN ACTIONS

- direct grants and facilitating access to finance and insurance for SMEs in agriculture;
- implementing climate-smart and environmentally sustainable agricultural practices;
- comprehensive analytical studies to inform effective interventions;
- addressing challenges such as the quality and quantity of animal feed, which are critical for aquaculture and other livestock enterprises;
- post-harvest loss management and value addition in the horticulture sector.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND NEXT STEPS

In its inception phase, the project has supported a National Aquaculture Strategy and identified gaps in information necessary for developing the fisheries and aquaculture value chains. Next efforts will focus on comprehensive value chain assessments for the fisheries, aquaculture, and horticulture sectors, which will provide critical insights into market demands, production costs, and existing challenges, helping to shape sustainable interventions.

Model farms and SMEs have been identified in the aquaculture sector, to be the base for dissemination of Best Aquaculture Practices, supported by training of master trainers, currently being tendered. Another significant effort will be the capacity development of cooperatives and producer organisations, enhancing their professional management and business viability. The project will also develop a National Aquaculture Environment and Biosecurity Plan to ensure sustainable and safe production practices.

Additionally, the Kwihaza project will focus on Business Development Services for SMEs, aiding in areas like financial management and market linkage, thereby strengthening the overall ecosystem supporting these enterprises in the agricultural sector.

## CONTACT LUXDEV

Rwanda office  
Fairview Building - SNV office | KG 622 St, Kimihurura Kigali City, RWANDA

[luxdev.lu](http://luxdev.lu)



**LUXEMBOURG**  
AID & DEVELOPMENT



**Enabel**

