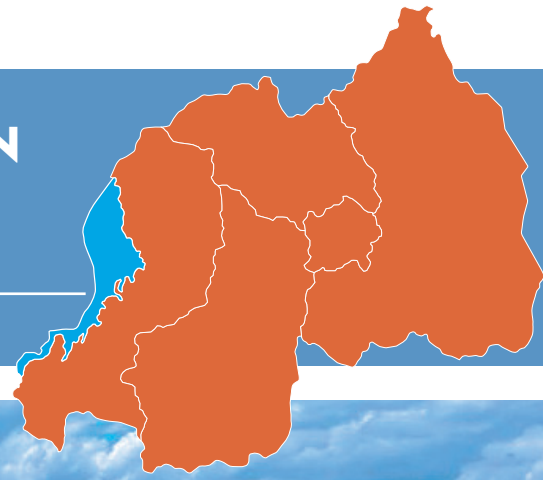




KWIHAZA - TRANSFORMATION TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

RWA/025



SECTOR | Food security

DURATION | 48 months (January 2023-December 2026)

TARGET GROUPS

Cooperatives, producer groups, and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs, with a particular focus on youth and women

SECTORIAL POLICIES AND REFERENCE STRATEGIES

- Rwanda's Vision 2050
- National Strategy for Transformation
- Strategic Plan for Agriculture Transformation

INSTITUTIONAL ANCHORAGE

- Main: Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources of Rwanda (MINAGRI)
- Other institutional partners: Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board, Rwanda Inspectorate, Competition and Consumer Protection Authority, National Agricultural Export Development Board, Rwanda Standard Board, University of Rwanda

BUDGET | EUR 17.5 million (Luxembourg contribution : EUR 7.5 million; EU contribution: EUR 10 million).



Kwihaza, a 4-year, EUR 17.5 million project funded by the European Union and the Government of Luxembourg, and implemented by Enabel, is a transformative initiative for aquaculture and horticulture value chains. Rwanda's agricultural sector is vital for the country's economy, employing 70% of the workforce and contributing over a third to the GDP.

OBJECTIVES

This project is designed to enhance the 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 and income in these sectors while increasing the national per capita consumption of the products from the two value chains.

Kwihaza follows a multi-faceted approach focusing on:

- capacity building, improving the quality and quantity of product, minimising post-harvest losses, adopting climate smart practices, and increasing access to local and regional markets;
- support for SMEs and young entrepreneurs to facilitate productive investment and create decent jobs;
- fostering a conducive environment for sustainable food systems, including the development and enforcement of standards and regulation, as well as initiatives to change consumer behaviour to boost consumption.

For the aquaculture value chain, the critical needs in animal feed quality and quantity represent the main issue. Also, a comprehensive farm-to-fork approach will be adopted to ensure value chain resilience, food safety and environmental protection.

In the horticulture sector, the project focuses on the reduction of post-harvest losses and on value addition for local and international markets, contributing to the overall efficiency and sustainability of this sector.

BENEFICIARIES

The primary beneficiaries of the Kwihaza project are cooperatives and producer organisations of smallholders involved in the horticulture, aquaculture, and fisheries sectors, especially those targeting regional and domestic markets.

SMEs operating at various stages of these value chains, including intrants and inputs (such as animal feed, fertiliser, seedlings, etc.), production, processing, logistics, transport, and distribution, are also key beneficiaries, with a particular emphasis on women and youth-led businesses.

Additionally, the project aims to benefit consumers, sector organisations, federations, farmer unions, and key public institutions.

EXPECTED RESULTS

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

- Comprehensive analytical studies to inform effective interventions.
- Direct grants and facilitating access to finance and insurance for SMEs in agriculture.
- Implementing efficient, climate-smart, and sustainable agricultural practices.
- Building capacities of the value chain actors, both in technical and management skills, including through business development services.
- Addressing challenges such as the quality and quantity of animal feed, which are critical for aquaculture and other livestock enterprises.
- Creation of market linkages (such as commercial contracts) and development of infrastructure (such as cooling, drying or cleaning facilities) for post-harvest loss management, for enhanced aggregation at cooperative level, and for value addition through the processing of products.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND NEXT STEPS

The Kwihaiza project has developed a National Aquaculture Strategy, and identified crucial information gaps in the fisheries and aquaculture value chains, especially regarding market demands, production costs, and regarding specific challenges such as fish feed supply. To address these information gaps, comprehensive value chain assessments were launched, to gather detailed data and guide the interventions. The development of a National Aquaculture Environment and Biosecurity Plan has also been launched.

Model farms and SMEs in the aquaculture sector have been identified to disseminate Best Aquaculture Practices, with master trainers supporting the capacities of cooperatives and producer organisations. Furthermore, the Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board is supporting aquaculture producers with extension services (decentralised technical services) and lake management plans.

On the horticulture sector, the National Agricultural Export Development Board has begun providing post-harvest tools to cooperatives and SMEs to reduce losses and improve quality. They are also developing aggregation models for avocado and passion fruit producers to enhance market access and create jobs.

The project is providing Business Development Services for SMEs, focusing on enhancing financial management and market linkage.

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