IMPROVING SKILLS FOR HOLISTIC EMPLOYMENT IN MODERN AGRICULTURE

RWA/030

SECTOR | Education, vocational training and employment

DURATION | 72 months (November 2024 - October 2030)

TARGET GROUPS
- institutional Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) stakeholders;
- TVET students in agriculture, animal health and food processing;
- private sector actors benefitting from improved access to talent and agricultural innovations.

SECTORIAL POLICIES AND REFERENCE STRATEGIES
- Rwanda's Vision 2050;
- National Strategy for Transformation;
- Education Sector Strategic Plan 2024-2029.

INSTITUTIONAL ANCHORAGE
- Ministry of Education;
- Rwanda TVET Board.

BUDGET | EUR 30 million

Rwanda's Vision 2050 is an ambitious long-term development strategy aimed at transforming the country into a high-income nation with high living standards for all citizens. A key challenge is transforming the agricultural sector, which currently employs 69% of the population, to increase productivity and sustainability while reducing the percentage of people working in subsistence agriculture. This requires significant innovation in agricultural practices and a strong focus on developing high-quality agricultural TVET to equip workers with the necessary skills for a more productive agricultural sector. Empowering women and youth is crucial, as they represent a significant portion of the agricultural workforce and play a vital role in driving innovation within their communities.

OBJECTIVES

The project aims to sustainably transform agricultural systems in Rwanda and improve livelihoods for women, youth, and persons with disabilities through enhanced climate-resilient TVET in agriculture. To achieve this, the project will establish TVET Centres of Excellence (CoEs) that provide high-quality skills training and formal certification in agriculture, food processing, and animal health. The project has two specific objectives:

- improving access to high quality training;
- enhancing mechanisms for agricultural innovation and job placement in the agricultural labour market.

By aligning training programmes with industry needs and fostering connections between CoEs and the economic ecosystem, the project seeks to empower graduates, support rural communities, and contribute to the overall modernisation of Rwanda's agricultural sector.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

The project will focus its support on three CoEs and the districts in which these are situated: Ngoma district, Kirehe district and Ruhango district.

BENEFICIARIES

Direct beneficiaries include the government agencies (and their staff) who are involved in the enhancement of the quality of agricultural vocational training in Rwanda. This includes over 150 teachers and administrative staff at the targeted CoEs. The final beneficiaries are current and prospective students, including school dropouts, who will gain access to high-quality training and support services. Additionally, adults seeking employment or new skills through short courses will benefit, with special attention given to women and persons with disabilities. Finally, the private sector, including farmers and small businesses, will benefit from a more skilled workforce and innovative agricultural practices that improve productivity.

EXPECTED CHANGES/RESULTS

- strengthened governance of central and district institutions to provide better guidance and oversight for TVET schools, ensuring curricula align with economic needs;
- establishment of 3-5 TVET CoEs with conducive learning environments that incorporate modern teaching methods for long-term training programmes and short courses for upskilling, ensuring alignment with market demands;
- establishment of production units within the TVET CoEs to provide practical training and commercial services to enhance student employability;
- assessment centres will be set up to facilitate Recognition of Prior Learning, allowing individuals to gain qualifications based on their existing skills;
- to improve Labor Market Insertion, the project will enhance mechanisms for workplace learning and career guidance, connecting graduates with employment opportunities in the agricultural sector.

MAIN ACTIONS

- build capacities of and support central and district institutions in reviewing curricula, trainers' and learners' guides, in developing the CoE model and standards, and in quality assurance;
- upgrade the infrastructure and equipment of 3-5 Agriculture Technical Secondary Schools to create conducive learning environments, including the integration of green technologies and digital learning tools;
- provide training for management, administrative staff, and teachers at the CoEs to enhance their skills in delivering high-quality long-term and short courses in agriculture, food processing, and animal health;
- create production units within the CoEs to offer practical training and commercial services that link students with real-world agricultural practices and that can become a sustainable income generation option for the operation and maintenance of the schools;
- set up assessment centres at CoEs to facilitate certification of existing skills;
- enhance workplace learning opportunities and career guidance services at CoEs to support the transition of students into the agricultural labour market;
- support CoEs to engage with research institutions and local communities to foster agricultural innovation and improve productivity through modern practices.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND NEXT STEPS

The project officially started its implementation phase in November 2024. Anticipating on the start of the project, a preliminary study on infrastructure and equipment needs was carried out which confirmed that the project will focus its support on three CoEs:

- EAV Gitwe TSS (Ngoma district) for animal health and livestock related processing;
- APENA TSS (Kirehe district) for agriculture and plant related food processing;
- Kinazi TSS (Ruhango district) for all occupations.