



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



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Rwanda

Anticipatory actions to support farmers' resilience impacted by low rains

Context

Despite Rwanda's overall positive growth and development over the past 25 years, the country is still highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change because of its heavy dependence on rainfed agriculture. Poor households and communities face challenges in managing climate risks, increasing their vulnerability to climate-related shocks. Rwanda is facing greater periods of enhanced drought, which are often followed by heavy rainfall events and flooding. This has directly affected farmers' crops, adversely impacting their livelihoods.

The country also experienced a spike in food prices in 2022, driven by a decline in domestic production, the war in Ukraine, high energy, fuel and fertilizer costs, and regional conflicts. The rising prices were of particular concern as households in Rwanda are heavily market-dependent.

These early warnings triggered the rapid activation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' (FAO's) Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA) – Anticipatory Action window, thanks to the contribution of the Government of Belgium.

Failure to have taken action would have contributed to below-average household food stocks and an early lean season, putting greater demand on the country's agricultural output. This would in turn have driven food prices even higher and contributed to greater food insecurity among vulnerable households.

Anticipatory Action activation overview

Intervention areas	Southern Province: Kamonyi, Muhanga, Ruhango, Nyanza, Huye, Gisagara, Nyaruguru and Nyamagabe districts
Budget	USD 500 000
Population reached	45 963 smallholder farmers
Anticipated hazard	Low rains
Sector	Agriculture (irrigation)
Anticipatory actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distribution of 295 irrigation water pumps• Training on climate-smart agriculture and weather and crop calendar mobile services
Implementing partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources• Southern Province officials and local authorities

Anticipatory Action in Rwanda



August 2022

Forecast of below-average rainfall conditions, together with very high prices for food and agricultural inputs.

November 2022

Activation of anticipatory actions, including the distribution of irrigation water pumps, and provision of training in climate-smart agriculture and mobile services.



The intervention supported local food production and availability, improving the food security and resilience of smallholder farmers impacted by low rains.

Media updates

FAO in Rwanda shares news, stories and updates on its #AnticipatoryAction activities through the FAO emergencies and resilience website and on social media @FAO emergencies and @FAORwanda.

Features

- Rwanda: Belgium's contribution through the SFERA – Anticipatory Action window
- Mobile applications are transforming agriculture in Rwanda
- Understanding Rwanda's water users and uses

Thanks to the financial contribution of



Belgium

partner in development

REQUIRED CITATION

FAO. 2023. *Rwanda: Anticipatory actions to support farmers' resilience impacted by low rains*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc8886en>



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Results

- **Improved food security in households which expected to face the impacts of combined shocks** – drought plus high food and agricultural input prices.
- **Boosted the productivity of smallholder farmers and improved their resilience during future dry agricultural seasons**, through the distribution of irrigation water pumps.
- **Strengthened the livelihoods of farmers in the long term** by helping them build resilience to climatic shocks and events.
- **Improved understanding of climate change vulnerabilities and available adaptive solutions**, thanks to training on climate-smart agriculture approach and weather and crop calendar mobile services.

Lessons learned

- **As Rwanda is becoming more and more prone to climatic shocks such as drought, floods and landslides, it is essential to encourage partnerships between institutions and maximize synergies.** This will help build a resilient population and create an environment in which climatic events are anticipated and actions are taken in advance to counteract effects on the ground.
- **The partnership between FAO and the Rwandan authorities enhanced the overall effectiveness of the anticipatory actions for the benefit of those in need.** It ensured that stakeholders were all informed, prevented duplication of efforts, optimized resource allocation and promoted a more coordinated and organized response.

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