



Improvement of Food Security in cross-border districts of Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and DR Congo in support of the modernization of agriculture under NEPAD framework **GTFS/RAF/391/ITA**

Objective:

Improve food security and reduce rural poverty in Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and DRC under the NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) framework. The project aims to increase incomes and living standards of the small rural householders in the cross-border districts of Burundi, Rwanda, and Uganda and recently also of Democratic Republic of Congo, through more profitable crop system and increased market access. The project also addresses constraints specifically related to the post harvest segment of the value-chain.



Donor:

Italian Contribution to FAO Trust Fund for Food security and Food Safety

Duration:

2006 - 2013

Budget:

8,908,418 USD

Project Area:

Burundi (Districts of Kayanza, Kirundo and Ngozi), **Rwanda** (Burera and Gicumbi Districts in Northern Rwanda and Gisagara District in Southern Rwanda), **Uganda** (Kabale, Kisoro and Kasese) and recently activities have been extended to **DR Congo** (Districts of Kayanza, Kirundo and Ngozi).

Beneficiaries:

The project targets farmers, traders and agro processors, stockists and exporters individual and associations in selected project areas, trader associations, involved in the selected commodity value chains.

Main partners:

Ministries of Agriculture, service providers, NGOs and institutions active in the promotion of commercial agriculture, Producers' Association and private sector.

The project implementation started in March 2007 with an initial budget of USD 3 M to cover Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda. Based on the positive performance, in July 2009 the Government of Italy allocated additional funds amounting to USD 6 M to extend the project up to 2013, include the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and strengthen and scale-up ongoing activities in Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda. The project is in line with the rural development objectives of the recipient Governments, which are to ensure food security, increase incomes and employment to fight against poverty through the revival of the agricultural sector. In view of similarities of the agricultural policy strategies of the four beneficiary countries including the priority commodity value chains as well as in the constraints faced in the agricultural sector, the main expected project outcomes are:

1. Strengthened farmer, small trader and agro-processor associations into market oriented entities in order to improve access to input and output markets;
2. Enhanced entrepreneurial and technical skills and learning for producers and other value chain actors for increased market oriented production, increased marketing efficiency, and value addition and overall commodity value chain development;
3. Facilitate agri-business linkages and contract arrangements especially between producers/producer cooperatives, and traders/local agro processing firms;
4. Provide institutional and regulatory support for enhanced cross-border trade including support to exploit market opportunities within the Eastern Africa Community and COMESA.

The project is coordinated by the FAO Subregional Office for Eastern Africa and is implemented in close partnership with concerned FAO country Offices and with participating countries' Governments. After three years of implementation in Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda, the project has achieved the following results:

- Support to commercial contracts and linkages and business professionalism in market transactions;
- Increased traded volume and farm gate prices of most of target commodities;
- Improved market operations efficiency and value addition;
- Enhanced farming as a business for the target commodities.

Burundi:

The project provides technical support and capacity building through about 260 leaders of farmer associations, 30 traders, 6 exporters (passion fruit) and 6 agro processors as well as technical staff of rural organisations. The project has facilitated access to inputs, materials and equipments in order to break some bottlenecks hampering quick development of the selected priority value chains. More than 150 000 units of improved planting material (passion fruit, pineapple) have been distributed to grower cooperatives in addition to seeds and fertilizers. Three rural cheese factories have been renovated and equipped according to global standards. A veterinary drug shop, 3 collecting centres and appropriate equipment for milk transport are been provided to dairy farmers on a cost-sharing basis. Two private firms have carried out a study of good agricultural/manufacture practices in quality control, adopted by three factories i.e: Akarenzo, a passion fruit juice processor; Saint Ferdinand, a cheese factory; and the Centre de Technologie Alimentaire de Burasira.

Rwanda:

Access to improved planting material and quality seeds has been addressed. Village input stores are producing quality seeds and sell the product at a better farm gate price. Producer groups have established collection and sale centers for Irish potato as well as drying sheds for maize. The commercialization network of milk has been improved and marketed milk from the project partner cooperative (IAKIB) has been on the increase. Leguminous fodder crops have been spread among cattle farmers and a pilot plant for production and sale of animal feed has been established in Byumba town. Five hundred and sixty milk producers have been trained in quality control. A passion juice-processing unit, NZIZA Fruits, has been rehabilitated in Byumba town and is producing high-quality juices with the certification of the Rwanda Bureau of Standards (RBS). Improved cassava flour processing units have been established in Ndora and Mamba Sectors. Pineapple fruit collection and sale sites have been established in Nyanza Sector, while 75 000 improved sprouts have been distributed for multiplication.

Uganda:

About 2638 households have been mobilized to form groups and associations. Twelve associations have been registered and linked to other project partners including government programmes such as the Saving And Credit Cooperative Organizations (SACCOS) and the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS). The project has supported the establishment of 43 Information Board Managers (IBMs) through training in the management of information boards and in the exchange of information. Market awareness campaigns have been promoted through radio programmes and promotional material. The project has supported the establishment of 3 Farmer Field Schools for Irish-potato seeds. Forty-four seed producers have been organized into 4 groups and 4 seed potato stores have been constructed in Kabale and Kisoro. In partnership with KAZARDI the production and multiplication of resistant potato varieties have been promoted. The project has supported 5 Marketing associations and trained them in different aspects of marketing. The project has also constructed 4 potato stores in Kabale and Kisoro. A milk collection centre has been equipped in partnership with Rubuguri Dairy Farmers' Association and an input supply centre for the dairy farmers has been established in Kisoro. Beside the consolidation in the ongoing areas of intervention, the project is going to be scaled-up to support the pineapple and mango value chains through farmer institutional development, access to market, value addition and processing and linkages to financial institutions.

Democratic Republic of Congo:

DRC joined the project in 2010. Capacity building is the main focus at his stage. Smallholder producers are assisted to improve their technical skills to improve production of the selected commodities and to organize themselves to take advantage of market opportunities, mainly through increasing marketed output, value addition and improved marketing arrangements and linkages, as well as to market facilities to improve commodity value such as storage, packaging, sorting and grading and facilitation of agribusiness linkages. With respect to the selected value chains, the project will operate in the following areas: Ruzizi plains in the Uvira area in South Kivu for the rice value chain; Goma surrounding areas for maize; Area of Bukavu for the development of palm oil value chain.

II Phase:

The new phase will consolidate and scale-up these achievements, focusing on training on food safety standards for all the targeted commodities, on the rehabilitation of existing structures for collection and processing, on formal contract farming as well as on facilitating access to local micro-finance banks.

The need for increasing cross-regional activities and support to cross border trade has been observed throughout the first years project implementation. For this reason, a regional component for the project has been developed for the new phase, focusing not only on trade but also on synthesis of 'best practices' as well as capacity building and information sharing between the project sites and key stakeholders including agri-business regional policy strategy enhancement.

Inter-boundary trade is of interest because some key commodities the project has been supporting, such as passion fruit, are already traded and move across the countries. For passion fruit and other products, there are differences in harvest times that can serve as a basis for further strategies in developing regional trade. Secondly, many traders and exporters indicate that do not have up-to date information on trade protocols and procedures within COMESA and the East African Community.

Regional activities include:

- Continued support to conduct reviews and planning workshops at national level and regional consultation meetings;
- Development and implementation of an inbuilt M&E strategy including project reporting system and exchange of information within the project and with key stakeholders. This includes developing and implementing a communications and advocacy strategy for the project;
- Organizing exchange visits between and among the four country projects and with other value chain projects as well as carrying out joint training and inter-regional capacity building and institutional strengthening especially on value chain regional development strategies;
- Preparing and disseminating normative products of lessons learned from the country and sub-regional interventions;
- Support to project country teams information on policies, trans-boundary opportunities and procedures regarding trade and regional integration initiatives of COMESA and the East African Community.

Main partners:

Burundi:

Ministry of Agriculture, service providers, as Twitezimbere, CONSEDI (Conseil pour le Développement intégré) and FODEV (formation pour le Développement), private firms, Society for Analysis and Quality Control (SAC) and the Centre National de Technologie Alimentaire (CNTA).

Rwanda:

Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, NGOs, and institutions active in the promotion of commercial agriculture such as the Programme d'Appui au Plan Stratégique de Transformation de l'Agriculture (PAPSTA), the Projet d'Appui au Service National de Vulgarisation Agricole (PASNVA), the Rwanda Horticulture Development Agency (RHODA), the Rwanda Agriculture Development Agency (RADA), the Rwanda Animal Resources Development Agency (RARDA), the Institut des Sciences et des Recherches Agronomiques au Rwanda (ISAR), the Forum des agriculteurs – éleveurs (IMBARAGA), the Association Rwandaise pour le Développement Intégré (ARDI) and the Programme de Promotion de Petites et Moyenne Entreprises au Rwanda (PPPMER).

Uganda:

Research Kachwekano Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute (KAZARDI), the Uganda National Seed Potato Producers' Association (UNSPPA) and the NGO Netherlands Development Organization, in addition to the saving and credit institute Rubuguri SACCOS. Within the private sector, Birunga Dairy Corporation, Mwongeza & Sons stockists and with Nandos restaurant in Kampala. A partnership with the International Gorilla Conservation Project (IGCP) for the honey collection centre has been designed.

Democratic Republic of Congo:

The International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC), ADI Kivu BRALIMA.

Regional Level

Food Security