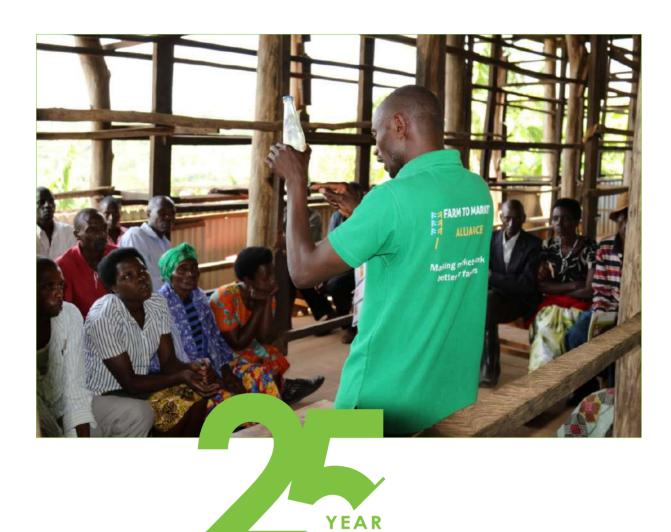


ANNUAL REPORT 2019

# RWARRI - RWANDA RURAL REHABILITATION INITIATIVE

February 2020





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Rwanda Rural Rehabilitation Initiative (RWARRI) is a non-profit making organization dedicated to the promotion and improvement of socio-economic welfare of rural communities in Rwanda. RWARRI is officially registered as a Non-Governmental Organization (registration number: 37/1114/SC&RT) and has its head office in Remera Sector, Gasabo District, City of Kigali.

**ANNIVERSARY** 

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# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

WARRI is celebrating the silver iubilee to recognize inestimable work done by the organization since 1995. RWARRI has implemented different projects ranging from emergency support, resettlement, and reintegration of Rwandese, rehabilitation, and setting up new infrastructures such as schools, domestic water supplies. and health centers; currently focuses is on agricultural and livelihoods improvement, management of natural resources and fight against malnutrition. RWARRI interventions have contributed to the development of the country and especially for rural families. In celebrating the silver jubilee, we are reporting the organization interventions for the year 2019 through project implementation following the prioritized thematic areas.

RWARRI and its partners intervened in four thematics areas from the organization's strategic plan such as economic sustainability, ecological viability, technology transfer, and social transformation. The interventions for economic sustainability, mainly have based on the supporting farmers to boost their production using good agriculture post-harvest handling practices, with estimation done the production increased from 2 Mt to 4 metric tons per hectare for maize. Smallholder farmers assisted in delivering their maize and beans produce to the formal buvers and thus generated the revenue to 17,108 farmers equivalent to 873,205,471Frw. The intervention also held on increasing the income from the promotion of

the horticulture through marshlands development, crops irrigation, and rainwater harvest and reuse conducted. In the ecological viability, RWARRI, and its partners contributed to the reduction of the erosion by promoting rainwater harvesting and protection of the catchments to reduce run-off and develop horticulture production in Kamonyi and Gasagara districts.

Through technology transfer, RWARRI and its partners participated in the distribution of the hermitic silos to store production in good condition where 109 silos received by 109 smallholders farmers in different districts.

We can't increase farmers' welfare if there is no social transformation, the organization has mobilized farmers to invest the income from product sales in payment of the mutuelle de sante, housing rehabilitation, rearing, and children's education. Through RWARRI interventions, we reported achievement on the social transformation thematic area for the mobilization conducted by the project staff to the smallholders working with the organization.

RWARRI has achieved a lot, through the thematic areas prioritized by the organization to achieve a sustainable livelihood among the rural poor, contributing towards shaping and implementation of national policies that lead to positive economic, social and technological transformation.

### **GENERAL BACKGROUND**

Rwanda Rural Rehabilitation Initiative (RWARRI) is a nonprofit making, and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) dedicated to the promotion and improvement of the social-economic welfare of rural communities in Rwanda. The organization came into being in 1994 but started implementing its activities in 1995. However, over time, it

has transformed into a strong membership organization with representatives with members of the rural communities on the board. The organization is officially recognized and registered by the Government of Rwanda as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) since 2003 with the registration number 37/1114/SC&RT.



#### **RWARRI VISION**

The ultimate realization of a rural Rwandese community that is economically sustainable, socially transformed, and food security.

Fundamental to our vision is the belief that the above vision realized when community members themselves take ownership and responsibility for the entire development process.



#### RWARRI MISSION

To be one of the most valued and respected NGOs in Rwanda and beyond, working towards achieving sustainable livelihoods among the rural poor, contributing towards shaping and implementation of national policies that lead to positive economic, social and technological transformation.

Since its foundation, RWARRI implemented many projects which contributed to Rwandan development and enabling the living conditions of many people. Its remarkable success concentrated in the east and south parties of the country where many projects implemented. The direct beneficiaries reached by RWARRI in 2019 through our interventions estimated to 45,000 beneficiaries in the projects implemented in 2019.



### YEAR

# ACHIEVEMENT BY THEMATIC AREAS

#### 1. ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

# 1.1. Demonstrations of good agricultural practices set up for the exchange of knowledge and skills among the women set up.

Under the horticultural productivity, farmers received horticultural fruit trees like tree tomatoes and mangoes planted around the water ponds under the irrigation. The picture below illustrates the farmers provided with tree tomato plants at a harvest stage.

Some of the tree tomato plants distributed have dried because of the dry season, but other plants are in good condition; see the photos below.



Ntivuguruzwa Celestin from Nkingo Cell, Gacurabwenge sector harvesting tree tomatoes in his garden.

# 1.2. Supply of vegetable seeds for demonstration sites

The Cooperatives have been given vegetable seeds for preparing the nurseries from which vegetable seedlings transplanted to the land under which irrigation demonstration plots have established. The Cooperatives' members decided on the types of vegetables they needed based on the local conditions and the market. Some of the preferred seeds include Cabbage, Tomatoes, and Sweet Paper.

The vegetable seedlings, including tomatoes and cabbage, among others, were transplanted from nurseries to the demonstration plots on the cooperative farms.

# 1.3. Demonstration for irrigation technology

Installation of irrigation infrastructure has done at two of 4,000 sqm, each site with the pipes and other accessories entirely laid in the ground and on the surface. However, for the demonstrations, the vegetable seedlings were transplanted on the land.

In the demonstration plots, different types of vegetables planted to demonstrate productivity after providing modern irrigation systems.

By planning the growing season and providing diligent care, it is obvious to have three successful cropping seasons in one year with crop rotations to avoid pests and diseases. Many species and varieties are available at local inputs sellers to suit both growing conditions and taste preferences. The harvest takes around 70 days for most green vegetables and to stagger the harvest of vegetables from one month to four depending on the types of vegetables.



Sprinkler irrigation during the vegetable transplantation to the main field.



The assembling of water pumping systems under the demonstration for sprinklers irrigation at the established demonstration plots, Sake sector.



Production of green pepper in the demonstration plots put in place to demonstrate the irrigation technologies as a solution to farming throughout the year.

# 1.4. Distribution of livestock feeds and livestock medicine to cooperatives

The inspection of the animal barns has followed by the distribution of livestock to the project beneficiaries. Livestock housing was a contribution from the beneficiaries. Each cooperative received four female goats and pigs and one male goat and pig. In total, 10 pigs and 10 goats provided to the beneficiaries.

The two cooperatives received the first batch of feeds lasting 76 days and an assortment of Veterinary drugs to support in maintaining the health of the animals.





Goats distributed to the women cooperatives; project beneficiaries from the Sake sector, Ngoma District.



Reproduced female pigs on a farm.



Reproduced kids and the female goat.

From the pictures above, the pigs have produced an average of 9 piglets (litter) from the pregnancies among distributed female pigs, while the female goat has an average of two kids per pregnancy.

# 1.5 Establishment of gender platform that brings together women beneficiaries

The establishment of the forum was held and brought together four women cooperatives, two of which are the project beneficiaries while the other two are not. The four Cooperatives represented included Dukomezanye Nkanga (36 members), Terimberemugore wa Sake (43 members), Ejo Heza (40 members), and Terimbere Muhinzi wa Sake (30 members).

During the launch of the platform, several decisions taken to govern the new platform. Other decisions taken were as follows:

- The gender platform established
- The platform objectives formulated as follow:
- · Preparation of the agricultural seasons
- Follow up and exchange of information about the agriculture and interventions to cope with climate change effects among the cooperative members
- Help the cooperatives to handle the mismanagement issues and management of the risks and conflicts
- Maintain and ensure the provision of security to the project infrastructures in place
- Elaborate the long-term goals and investments of the cooperative's members.

# 1.6 Capacity building of farmers on GAP & PHHS in 8 districts

The demand for maize has become more extensive over the years, but when it comes to competing on the market, farmers' organizations struggle because the quality is inadequate due to small quantity and high post-harvest losses.

It is in that context, good agriculture practices and post-harvest handling and storage training took place to help farmers to increase the yield and minimize post-harvest losses and meet quality standard requested by most maize buyers. The training conducted in the cascade model where lead farmers trained to train others framers. 370 lead farmers were selected, and they respectively trained 16,854 and 10,102 farmers in PHHS and GAP, Women representing 49% of farmers trained. Target districts: Ngoma, Rwamagana, Gakenke, Rulindo, Huye, Gisagara, Nyamagabe & Nyaruguru.



GAP training in Nyaruguru district

#### 1.7. Market access

The presence of intermediaries between farmers' organizations and maize buyers/ processors leave the smallholder farmers with little income, and poverty becomes permanent. FtMA project aims to make a difference by linking farmer's organizations with formal maize buyers through what is called the contracting session. During the contracting session, farmer's organizations are linked with 5 big buyers of maize in the country (AIF, EAX, MINIMEX, RGCC, and SARURA) and sign contracts at the beginning of the season as insurance to market.

This approach has several advantages as it allows access to finance opportunities, proper investment, and an increase in farmers' margin as they directly deal with maize processors. The objective is to honor the contract on both sides to build a long term relationship between buyers and farmer cooperatives



Maize packed into bags ready to be sold off as grains and cobs

Through the market, linkage, farmers have been able to aggregate and sell 3,168 Mt to formal market and 931Mt to informal market, generating an income equivalent to 873,205,471 Frw with an average income of 47,400 Frw/farmer. Also 81 Mt of beans sold in 2019B. The cob model has been a success where the post-harvest activities of drying, sorting, winnowing is no longer an issue for the farmer when he chose to sell on the cob.

Also, the mobilization of farmers to dry on natural drying shed reduced farmers' side selling increasing farmers' organizations' bargaining power over a considerable production of maize. The maize price at the beginning of 2019 A was 210 Frw/Kg and reached 260 Frw/Kg at the end of the season for grains and 187 Frw/Kg to 232 Frw/Kg for cobs. In 2019 B, the price ranged between 260 Frw/Kg and 280 Frw/kg. The 71 forward contracted signed compiling at a rate of 103%.



 Fable1: Quantity of maize sold in 2019 (2018C/2019A & 2019B)

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132% 328% 92% 71% 110% Commit ment vs sold to FtMA buyers % 38% 47% 305,235,285 38,996,456 92,388,262 38,629,021 73,010,550 81 Beans sold to formal market Total deliveries 164.0 262.8 200.2 309.0 1,554.3 Total deliveries to FtMA buyers 961.2 164.0 246.6 159.8 303.4 84.0 97.6 92.4 86.1 16.2 40.4 5.6 931 593.1 Quantitie s sold to f PRODEV 303.4 124.9 Quantitie s sold to SARURA 50.17 9 20.8 30.0 69.857 Quantiti es sold to EAX 121 Quantitie s sold to AIF 716.3 154.0 246.6 159.8 2,541 730 50 267 225 275 Commit ment (MT) 9 2 8 7 8 6 # of Fos NYAMAGABE NYARUGURU RWAMAGANA RULINDO GAKENKE District

# 1.8. Finance access

Table2: Input and Output loan applied in 2019

正	FI name	Output loan applied (Rwf)	Output loan applied (Rwf)		Loan rejected
mutar	nguha	Nyaruguru Umutanguha 15,900,000	15,900,000	15,900,000	
KCB		2,000,000			2,000,000
KCB		5,000,000			5,000,000
KCB		6,000,000			6,000,000

Only 4 cooperatives applied for output loans; however, the rejection was high because of a late application.

For input loans, none of the cooperatives applied for it because the cooperatives have developed a saving culture among farmers where they save money and used it to buy seeds and fertilizers instead of recurring to the financial institution.

#### 1.9. Equipment distribution

The equipment to reduce post-harvest losses, for farmers to maintain the quality of their products, and produce aflatoxin free maize, has distributed on subsidy cost of 50%. The equipment distributed is 4,047 tarpaulins, 3,680 hermetic bags, and 109 silos. Hermetic bags and silos are small technology used by smallholder farmers to store food for home consumption. This small technology allows them to have food all over the year.



Farmers receiving silos, bags & tarpaulins at the cooperative office

KODUIBI cooperative is among the cooperatives assisted by FTMA since 2017. The cooperative located in the Ngoma district, Mugesera sector, composed of 102 farmers, including 48 females. The cooperative grew maize on 180 hectares.

Before RWARRI intervention, the cooperative used to sell 10 to 15 Mt to intermediaries, in a disorganized way where each farmer used to sell to whomever he wants. Also, the management of the cooperative was impoverished, resulting in low production.

In the first year of intervention, KODUIBI assisted in building efficient working organs

and was mobilized to aggregate and sell in bulk to increase the bargaining power over the production. Later the cooperative was trained on good agriculture practices and post-harvest handling helping them to make sales of 92 Mt to AIF honoring a contract of 50 MT.



New Hangar constructed by KODUIBI in 2019

According to the cooperative's president, receiving tarpaulins helped them to construct temporary drying sheds, which encouraged farmers to bring their produce and dry together though working as a cooperative. KODUIBI received 140 tarpaulins, which they brought on a subsidy cost of 50%.

With the income made in 2018, the cooperatives have been able to mobilize farmers to save 580,000 Frw, which used to buy a plot a drying shed.

In 2019, KODUIBI continued to work hard, and at that time, they signed 150MT with AIF and manged to aggregate and sell 348MT of cobs at 189 Rwf/kg to AIF generating an income of 65,772,000Rwf. 2,950,000 Frw saved by farmers in the cooperative and served to contribute to the construction of the drying shed with the PASP grant.



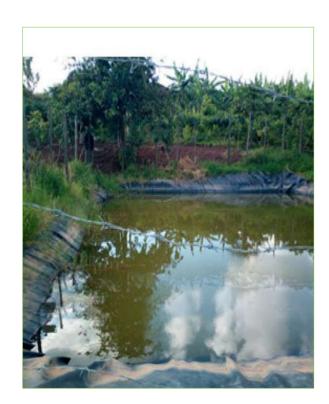
### YEAR

### 2. ECOLOGICAL VIABILITY

# 2.1. Construction of water ponds for use in agricultural production in Kamonyi District

The main activities have been focusing on maintenance and repairing of the water sheets across the District of Kamonyi in partnership with Rwanda Rural Rehabilitation Initiative (RWARRI).

This project of rainwater harvesting and reuse in Kamonyi District has been a response measure to climate change in controlling soil erosion while providing water for households and farming. Under this project, water from surface run-off harvested using the water ponds of 250 m3, among other project interventions.



Water ponds filled with water for horticulture production.



Passion fruit trees plantation for project beneficiaries.

The beneficiary of horticultural promotion interventions in Kamonyi District has specialized in tomatoes tree passion fruits and mangoes on a common area of 2 hectares (pictures above). From his heartfelt testimonies from donated water pond and horticulture seeds, now he can meet her basic needs like payment of mutual de sante, school fees of her children in secondary and at university.

# 2.2. Concrete bamboo rooftop water tanks for water harvesting for domestic use in Kamonyi District

The rooftop water tank constructed in communities to each cell across the 59 cells of the Kamonyi District. This activity was perceived to be a significant contribution to solve the water scarcity faced by the households in Kamonyi District. So now, all the constructed rooftop water tanks are maintained and repaired by the project.

### 3. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

# 3.1. Construction of main infrastructures under the development of Musizi marshland in Gisagara District

Three main intake structures built at the entry to the irrigation system. Its purpose is to direct water from the source of supply (Gasenyi and Ndurume rivers) into the irrigation systems.

The development activities in Musizi marshland put in place the construction of different infrastructures, including the main intakes, the bridges, Simple intakes, combined and straightforward offtakes and drops, canal bridges, and water ponds as a source of water for irrigation.

The development activities in Musizi marshland put in place the construction of different infrastructures as illustrated in the pictures below



The picture illustrates the water intake constructed at Gasenyi site serving the irrigation bloc 5 (IRB\_5) and the irrigation bloc 6 (IRB\_6)



Water intake dam constructed at Gasenyi to serve irrigation bloc 5 (IRB\_5) and the irrigation bloc 6 (IRB\_6)



The pictures illustrate the constructed simple secondary intake (left) and the combined drop and secondary intake as well as the scupper constructed for giving the water.

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# 3.2. The construction of Kibuza water dam and hydro-agricultural development

The feasibility study for the construction of the Kibuza water dam and the hydro agricultural development done, which proved to be feasible and the negotiations and contract signing initiated with the Reserve Force for the execution of the dam construction and Kibuza marshland irrigation network development.



Bridges constructed in sectors of Muganza and Mugombwa for crossing the Musizi marshland.

For supplying the water in the command area, the activities for constructing the channel of irrigation networks were initiated and completed in Kibuza Marshland.



The works for the Kibuza hydro agricultural development completed as planned to be executed in the marshland. The above pictures illustrate the achievements in terms of hydro agricultural development works.

#### 3.3. Grain silos for storage

Storage continues to be a significant problem at the household level due to pasting damage. It is in that context silo, and hermetic bags are small storage technology introduced for smallholder farmers with the capacity to store from 50Kg to 1250 kg. The storage technology is airtight and durable and can store up to 1 year. The silos technology was introduced by WFP through FtMA project to help farmers to maintain the quality of their products and ensure food security among beneficiaries. In 2019, 104 plastic silos, 5 metal silos distributed to smallholder farmers on a subsidy cost of 50%; however, the demand is still low as they are too expensive for farmers and not adapted to their house. For farmers to adopt the technology, one silo purchased is always accompanied by a tarpaulin and pay into installment.

Verda MUKAGATARE is a member of the TWITEZIMBERE KIYONZA cooperative in the Nyaruguru district. She is also a member of the marketing committee in the cooperative. It was in 2018 when Verna decided to buy a silo to store her maize and beans produce after experiencing a loss of 200kgs by granary weevils' damage. It is more than one year now Verna Mukagatare is using the grain silos to store her produce. Verna is testimony its benefits "This is the 3rd time storing my produce in the silos, the first time I stored maize for 3 months, then it was sorghum and now beans but I never experience weevils damaged again."



Plastic silos in front and metal silos filled with bean



Farmers receiving silos, bags & tarpaulins at the cooperative office for modern grain handling.



Verna Mukagatare with her silos

Verna said that after removing the maize, she sold it at 400 Frw when the price was high, and it helped her to pay the school fees of her child. Also, with the silos, she has been able to sell beans seeds to other farmers as they knew she had edible seeds stored in a silo.



Preparing to distribute silos, bags & tarpaulins to farmers and stakeholders.



# 4. SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION:

#### 4.1. Benefits and technical/ specialist services (disaggregated by gender) affected by Musizi marshland development

Two hundred seventy-one community workers are employed, all composed of 92 refugees from the Mugombwa refugee camp and 179 of the local community members. Of these, 190 representing 70% are males, and 81, representing 30% are females. From the camp of Mugombwa, 92 refugees found within the community workers from which 67 refugees representing 72.8% are males, and 25, representing 28.2% are females.

One hundred seventy-nine local community membersemployed, with 123 males representing 68.7% and 56 females representing 31.3%. The other staff-days are specialized workers in the construction of the marshland development infrastructures such as water intakes, drops, and secondary intakes.

# 4.2 Plotting, distribution of plots to the beneficiaries and leveling

As in most small-scale farming operations, an individual can operate the land leveling without relying on animal power or mechanized equipment. As the plot beneficiary waters his plot season after season, he can observe the locations of high and low spots on the field.

Then as he prepares the fields between plantings, he tries to move soil from the high spots to the low ones. Over a certain period, individual fields smoothed enough to be watered reasonably well.

In this perspective, the organization has used the farmer-beneficiaries in leveling from season A 2019 and season B 2019, which is a regular land preparation practice, and do not represent an extra task for the farmer during the following farming seasons. Training organized and held gathering representatives of the cooperatives board members, leaders of the zones, sub-zones leaders, agronomists from Mugombwa and Muganza sectors, and UNHCR agronomist.



Oral and hands-on training of 42 team leaders and zones leaders, cooperative board members, sector agronomists, and UNHCR agronomists on land leveling and water management and irrigation infrastructures maintenance.



Hands-on training of 42 team leaders and zones leaders, cooperative board members, sector agronomists, and UNHCR agronomists on land leveling.

A total number of 1,427 plots were demarcated and facilitated the distribution to both local community members and refugees from the Mugombwa refugee camp.

The pictures indicate the beneficiaries and plot distributed to them while the tertiary canals and leveling completed during the season 2019 to ensure minimized floods in the plots.

# 4.3. Mobilization of farmers on resolving social issues through adequate use of income generated from maize production

Farmers are making income from agriculture activities, but their living standard is not improving where stunting is still a problem in rural areas due to poor diet, children are dropping school and lack of mutuelle de sante.

It is in that context farmers were mobilized to create saving groups among cooperative members, create other generating income activities to overcome some of these social issues. Therefore in the total income of 873,205,471 Frw generated in 2019:

- Cooperatives members managed to save 124,111,818 Frw in the cooperatives, and women in the 8 operating districts saved 58 %
- 82% of cooperatives' members paid the mutuelle de sante (health insurance)
- 9 new projects developed from the money obtained from sales among other agro dealership business and investment in trees fruits:

 Only 10 children have stunting issue in Nyaruguru district, Abishyizehamwe Ngera coop

Sindayisenga Sebastien is a member of the COAMANYA Gishubi cooperative, in Gisagara district, Gishubi sector, and Nyikibungo cell. Sebastien is 54 years old, and he is a father of 5 children. Sebastien is growing maize on 0.6 hectares in the Akanyaru marshland.

For the previous seasons, 2019C and 2019B, Sebastien has been able to sell 4.020Mt to African Improved Food (AIF) suddenly he made an income of 884.000 Frw.

From the money earned, Sebastien has been able to buy a cow equivalent to 200,000 Frw, pay mutuelle de Sante (health insurance) for his family, and he is currently building the right house.

Sebastien used to harvest 1.8 Mt before, but the produce was being sold to intermediaries with little income because his cooperative has not linked to the formal buyers.

Sebastien is very confident with the market obtained; all his children are now able to study as he can sell enough produce and get much income from maize. According to SINDAYISENGA, "the market is no longer an issue."





# **5. LESSONS LEARNED**

During the reporting period, the following lessons learned;

- The community mobilization in which the local authorities played an important role has supported to increase community involvement;
- The community working approach appreciated by most of the project partners, including the beneficiaries who employed in the development works:
  - The water retention techniques using open trenches in the demonstration plots is to complement the run-off water harvesting and enhancing the soil and water conservation for horticultural production;
- The demand for silos is still low because they are expensive for farmers and not adopted to farmers' house;
  - 81 Mt of beans sold in 2019B, this is the first time to have beans produce sold to formal market in season B though there is hope for the upcoming season to increase the quantity of the beans that go to the formal market;
- Season plantation delays are mainly due to late harvest of season C in some cooperatives, and next time cooperatives should plant on time to avoid consequences that may arise from the late plantation.;
  - There are vast quantities of products delivered through local traders/ buyers; however, few quantities are recorded and reported; there is a need to capture all figures to know precisely the cooperative capacity to produce.

### 6. CONCLUSION

From 1995 to 2019, it was 24 years since the organization's establishment. The reported activities in 2019 is a testimony to the objectives set by the organization founders since its creation. In its intervention, RWARRI activities touched in each corner of the four thematics areas, such as economic sustainability, ecological viability, technology transfer, and social transformation.

25,958 smallholders farmers regrouped in 74 cooperatives supported to increase the production through good agariculture practices and post-harvest handling and storage up to 4mt/ hectare as an everage per farmer and the production of maize and beans equal to 3,249 mt sold to the formal buyers which is equivalent to 678,405,190Frw.

Three marshlands totalling 101 hecatres were developped for 1,915 beneficiaries in Kamonyi and Gisagara districts. The rainwater harvesting activities promoted by establishing a water pond with a copacity of 250 m3 and capacity to irrigate a half of hectare each.

The organization participated in the interventions to transfer the technologies to the smallholder farmers by distributing 109 silos to store in a long period the production and establish infrastructures to allow irrigation and drainage for farmers.

The organization has also introduced the monitoring of the activities that are increasing social transformation to the farmers targated by the projects' interventions to promote positive social change.

Different partners, including donors, have actively supported the organization to achieve its objectives such us the World Food Programme (WFP), FONERWA, African Union, and New Partnership for African countries (AUNEPAD).

Other partners played a crucial role, such us Rwanda Development Organization (RDO), Ministry of gender Promotion (MIGEPROF, Ministry of Agriculture and Animals Ressources (MINAGRI), Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB). Among athers partners, there are different districts, formal buyers, and some financial institutions.

25,958

Total number of smallholders farmers

**74** 

Cooperatives to which the farmers belong

3,249 mt

Number of tonnes sold to the formal buyers

**678**,405,190

Total amount earned in Rwandan Francs

101

Total number of hectares developed and cultivated

**1**,915

Beneficiaries in Kamonyi and Gisagara districts.

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