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# RWARRI ANNUAL REPORT 2020

*Kigali, January 2021*



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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.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Mr. Gatera Augustin**  
*Chairman of Board of Directors*

As we celebrated our 25th Year Anniversary, Rwanda Rural Rehabilitation Initiative is pleased to report on the activities of 2020 in this Annual Report.

In this report, you will read how our long-time programs continue to successfully serve rural communities in their journey to economic and social stability.

In the spirit of transparency, this report shows both sides of the coin; our achievements, challenges, lessons drawn and future endeavours.

These pages are full of success stories which would not be possible without our supportive partners, community devotees, amazing staff and board members. On behalf of the board, I would like to thank and congratulate each and every one of you for your commitment, dedication and support over the past year.

Here is to another 25 years!



## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

- AGM:** Annual General Meetings
- AIF:** Africa Improved Foods
- BDE:** Business Development and Entrepreneurship
- CBOs:** Community-Based Organizations
- COAMAGI:** Cooperative des Agriculteurs de Maïs de Gishubi
- COAMANYA:** Cooperative des Agriculteurs de Maïs de Nyakibungo
- COHUNYA:** Cooperative Humura Nyagasenyi
- COOPIMU:** Cooperative Intiganda Mushishito
- CSA:** Climate-Smart Agriculture
- CSOs:** Civil Society Organizations
- EAX:** East Africa Exchange
- EWMR:** Embedding Integrated Water Resource Management in Rwanda
- FONERWA:** Rwanda Green Fund
- WFP:** World Food Program
- Fps:** Farmer Promoters
- Frw:** Francs rwandais
- FtMA:** Farm to Market Alliance
- GAP:** Good Agriculture Practices
- Ha:** Hectare
- IUCN:** International Union of Conservation of Nature
- Kg:** Kilogram
- KOPAGEKA:** Cooperative des Agriculteurs de Kansi
- LR:** Land Restoration
- MINAGRI:** Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources
- MINIMEX:** Minoteries Industrielles Import-Export
- Mt:** Metric ton
- NAIS:** National Agriculture Insurance Scheme
- NGO:** Non-Governmental Organization
- PHHS:** Post-Harvest Handling and Storage
- RAB:** Rwanda Agriculture Board
- RGB:** Rwanda Governance Board
- RGCC:** Research Genetics Cancer Centre
- RWARRI:** Rwanda Rural Rehabilitation Initiative
- RDO:** Rwanda Development Organisation
- SEDO:** Socio Economic Development Officer
- SNV:** Netherland Development Organization
- SSIT:** Small-Scale Irrigation Technology
- TA:** Technical Assistance
- TOTs:** Training of Trainers
- TVET:** Technical and Vocational Education and Training
- VLUAP:** Village Land Use Action Plans
- VSLAs:** Village Savings and Loans Associations

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# RWARRI OVERVIEW

Rwanda Rural Rehabilitation Initiative (RWARRI) is a national Non-Governmental Organization whose idea was conceived in 1994 but started its operations in Rwanda in 1995. The organization is officially recognized and registered by the Government of Rwanda as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) since 2003 and with registration No 37/11 14/SC&RT. It also has registration with the Rwanda Governance Board (RGB), a government body tasked with Civil Society Organizations' regulation (CSOs).

The vision of our organization is 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 vision realizes when community members themselves take ownership and responsibility for the entire development process.

Our mission is to be one of the most valued and respected NGOs in Rwanda and beyond; working towards achieving sustainable livelihoods among the rural poor contributes to shaping and implementing 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. The direct beneficiaries reached by RWARRI in 2020 through its interventions estimated to 50,177,000 beneficiaries in 2020.

Since its creation, RWARRI has implemented various projects, which contributed to Rwandan development and its citizens, and remains committed to this mission. Its operational areas include the Eastern,

Southern, Western, and Northern Provinces plus the city of Kigali. Our active calendar and the fiscal year starting in January and end in December.

The report covers five thematic areas that form part of our strategic plan (2018-2023): Economic Sustainability, Social Transformation, Technological Advancement, Ecological Viability, Institutional Strengthening, and Capacity enhancement transformation of the rural population. During the fiscal year 2020, RWARRI has undertaken the following projects:

**a.** Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA) in Burera, Kamonyi, Gakenke, Gasabo, Gisagara, Huye, Ngoma, Nyamagabe, Nyaruguru, Rulindo, and Rwamagana districts;

**b.** Implementation of the capacity building, community mobilization, and knowledge management for the project entitled “landscape and integrated water resources management and restoration in Sebeya catchments (EWMR)”; in Ngororero, Nyabihu, Rubavu, and Rutsiro districts;

**c.** Improving livelihoods and climate resilience of the smallholder farmers using green technologies”, operating in Mutenderi and Zaza Sectors of Ngoma District;

**d.** Institutional Strengthening and Capacity enhancement by providing training to staff and meeting our governance obligations of holding Board and Annual General Meetings (AGM)

The report describes vital activities undertaken in 2020 through significant achievements; lessons learned, challenges, the way forward, and the conclusion.



# ACHIEVEMENT BY THEMATIC AREAS

## 1. ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

Under the thematic area of economic sustainability, RWARRI has been implementing two projects; the Farm to Market Alliance Project (FtMA) funded by WFP and Implementation of Capacity Building, Community mobilization, and Knowledge Management for the project entitled “Landscape Restoration and Integrated Water Resources Management in Sebeya and Other Catchments (EWMR) funded by IUCN.

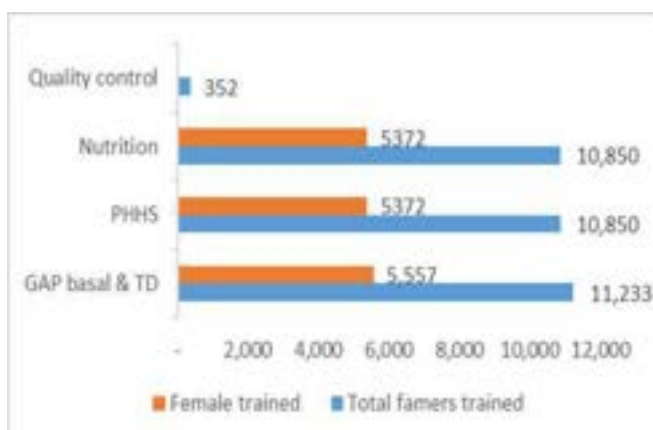
As a result of these projects implementation, the following are the achievements in 2020:

### 1.1. Capacity building of Cooperatives

Through the FtMA project, 11,233 farmers were trained in Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) and 11,202 farmers in Post-Harvest Handling and Storage (PHHS), nutrition, and quality control to increase farmers’ productivity, reduce post-harvest losses, and help farmers to meet quality requirement requested by most buyers.

Among targeted farmers, 88 % was reached, 49 % of them were women. Project beneficiaries benefited from the training in eight districts countrywide; Rwamagana, Gakenke, Rulindo, Huye, Gisagara, Nyamagabe & Nyaruguru.

### Training conducted in season 2021A



### Increased maize production as a result of the GAP training

**COAMANYA** Gishubi Cooperative in Gisagara District, Gishubi Sector, has around 500 farmers growing maize on 100ha. Niyitegeka Venuste, one of COAMANYA Gishubi’s members, confirms to have increased maize production from less than one metric ton to 5 metric tons per hectare due to Good Agriculture Practices/ GAP adoption.

“It is almost one year since we started being trained on Good Agriculture Practices/ GAP by the Farm to Market Alliance-FtMA project agronomists,” he said. Farmers in COAMANYA GISHUBI Cooperative used to practice traditional agriculture. He added that they did not know how to prepare their lands, use improved seeds, fertilizers and pesticides. Niyitegeka regrets he wasted time and energy in practicing traditional agriculture. “We couldn’t satisfy our basic need for food; we were always facing food shortage and malnutrition in our families,” he replied and confirmed that they saw their lives changing when they started receiving GAP training.

According to Niyitegeka, the land size didn’t change but production has increased from 1 to 5 metric tons per hectare. However, they still need to be trained since there are always new technologies and agricultural skills to discover.



## 1.2. Delivery of Production to the Formal market

Access to the formal market 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. Farmers' cooperatives have managed to aggregate and deliver 4,464 Mt of maize collected by 19,999 farmers. The sales generated an income of 1,266,720,446 Frw with an average income of 63,339 Frw per farmer. Formal buyers in partnership with the FtMA received 4,178 Metric tons (Mt), only 6% have sold to the informal market. Farmers' cooperatives were linked with different buyers such as AIF, EAX, MINIMEX, RGCC, GORILLA FEEDS, and SARURA and signed forward contracts at the beginning of the season.

## Quantity of maize sold per district in 2020

District	Contract commitment	Total delivery per district (MT)	Delivery to FtMA buyers (MT)	Delivery to other formal buyers (MT)	Delivery to Middlemen (MT)	% delivery to FtMA	Total income generated in RWF
NGOMA	775	1512	1,383	30	99	178%	403,999,868
RWAMAGANA	790	934	876		57	111%	258,905,585
GISAGARA	835	979	871		108	104%	300,295,784
HUYE	235	306	285		21	121%	84,179,087
GAKENKE	180	274	274			152%	78,415,558
NYARUGURU	275	302	302			110%	99,139,566
RULINDO	150	65	65			43%	17,006,833
NYAMAGABE	60	92	92			153%	24,778,165
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>4,464</b>	<b>4,148</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>126%</b>	<b>1,266,720,446</b>



Trend on maize delivery over three consecutive years





### Success story by Masengesho, Rwamagana District

*Eric Masengesho* is a member of Wisigara Nsinda Cooperative in Muhazi Sector, Rwamagana district. In the last two years, as a result of FtMA project interventions, Eric now owns a house and a plot that has the value of 15,000,000Rwf. It started in 2018 when Masengesho could only harvest 30kgs of maize, 15kgs of beans, and 12kgs of cassava on a hired land of a half hectare. Within that period, he decided to become a member of the cooperative and accepted to pay the membership fees of 55.000RwF to Wisigara Nsinda cooperative in installment. From Wisigara, he benefited from the Good Agriculture Practices and post-harvesting handling, storage, training, and marketing skills, which helped him realize his dream of increasing his productivity. “I benefited the most from FtMA assistance”, he confidently explained.

In the season of 2019A, Masengesho harvested 2.5 metric tons (MT) from a half-hectare when he started putting into practice the new farming practices to increase production and income. The knowledge he gained included proper land preparation, manure and fertilizer application, use of improved seeds, proper spacing, reduced post-harvest losses, and improved quality of maize grains that meet buyers’ requirements. Thus, accessing higher prices in the market. “That is how I managed to buy a plot and started building my own house with 450,000Frw. I earned from my production at the end of the season of 2019A”, he revealed. Season after season, Masengesho started working to increase his production to 6MT per hectare. The money he obtained from maize produce used to finalize the construction of his house. “Right now, I have equipped my house and installed the solar energy system with a total value of 529,000Frw. Eric Masengesho is a 27 year old married man and father of one.



## 1.3. Crop insurance mobilization among Cooperatives

### 1.3.1. Six hundred forty hectares insured by smallholder farmers in season 2021A

Climate change remains a significant challenge for farmers. Natural hazards such as droughts and floods caused a substantial reduction in crop yields and agricultural production in the 2020A season, damaging 154 hectares with an estimated loss of 308 Mt equivalent to 86,240,000 Rwf based on the average price of 280 Rwf/kg.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) launched in 2019 the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) called “Tekana Muhinzi Urishingiwe” to mitigate risks and losses incurred by farmers due to unpredictable natural disasters, pests, and diseases that affect their crops. The scheme enables farmers to easily access financial services and ensure credit flow to the agricultural sector. The Government contributes 40% on the premium, and farmers contribute 60% on the value of the cost of the premium. Since then, RWARRI, through the FtMA project, mobilized farmers to join the scheme to adopt and mitigate natural disasters’ impact on agricultural production. In the 125 supported farmers’ cooperatives, 33 cooperatives managed to collect 18,741,168 Frw and insured 701.68 hectares for season 2021A.

### 1.3.2. Insurance compensation of cooperatives in season 2020A and 2020B

Cooperatives that grew maize in season 2020A and 2020B positively experienced crop insurance. COAMAGI and COAMANYA GISHUBI cooperatives in Gisagara district, COOPIMU, and Urumuri Mushishito in Nyamagabe respectively received a compensation of 1,292,000Frw, 1,616,000Frw, 5,143,774, and 1,739,024 Frw for plantations affected by a natural disaster, primarily floods and droughts.

During the season 2020A, the COHUNYA cooperative in the Rwamagana district insured 8.86 hectares of maize and paid 193,140 Frw at Radiant Insurance Company. The cooperative received compensation of 463,300Frw when a strong wind devastated 8.86 hectares of their land. Despite the setback, the cooperative managed to harvest and sell 40.686Mt to EAX and received 12,612,660 Frw.

## NIYONTEZE testimonies on the crop insurance benefits

**NIYONTEZE Daniel** is a 64-year-old man and breadwinner. NIYONTEZE has been a member of COOPIMU since 2007. Today he testifies the advantage of crop insurance. During the season of 2020B, he was sensitized on the crop insurance and he insured his plot of 5.17 Acres located in the MUSHISHITO Marshland at the value of 1,099 Frw to SONARWA Insurance Company Limited. The same year the cooperative faced issues of drought that notably reduced yield to 32%.

NIYONTEZE Daniel in the previous season of 2019B, he harvested 180Kg of maize and 126 kg was sold to AIF making revenue of 31,500 Frw, and the rest was consumed. In 2020B after the drought, he only harvested 92Kg of which 57kg was sold to AIF at 217 Frw/Kg making revenue of 12,369 Frw and the rest was consumed. Likely He also received compensation of 14,395 Frw from 1,099 Frw paid to SONARWA to ensure his maize crop. When comparing the loss he could have incurred without the insurance he happily says that he will be the 1st to pay the Crop Insurance in the following seasons.



*NIYONTEZE Daniel in his maize plantation  
(Photo: Misago Paulin, RWARRI)*

### 1.4. Villages saving and credit training

Village savings and loans associations (VSLAs) are a micro-credit model introduced in the Sebeya catchment. A group of 30 members meets in a self-managed group to save and borrow money among themselves. The crucial role of VSLAs is to provide access to financial services for community members who do not have bank accounts.

In the SEBEYA catchment, where VLUAP is being implemented, casual workers benefiting from temporary jobs were mobilized to form saving groups. In collaboration with the SEDO (Social-economic and Development Officer), the community mobilizers facilitated the activity.



*Mobilization session of Community members on saving groups creation in Rubavu district, Kanama sector, Kamuhaza cell, Nyamushundura village  
(Photo: Kwibuka Uziel, Imbaraga)*

As a result of mobilization, the community members have formed 194 savings groups as follows:

- \* Rubavu: 72 VSLAs;
- \* Nyabihu: 52 VSLAs ;
- \* Rutsiro: 62 VSLAs; and
- \* Ngororero: 8 VSLAs.

Besides, RWARRI has identified 445 saving and solidarity groups were for capacity building. RWARRI, in collaboration with SNV, facilitated the training of ToTs on Village Savings and Credit Associations (VSLAs), targeting the SEDOs, Community mobilizers, district, BDE staff, Project focal person at each District level, and hub office staff. 76 VSLAs facilitators were trained as follows:

- \* Rubavu: 31 VSLAs facilitators;
- \* Nyabihu: 27 VSLAs facilitators;
- \* Rutsiro: 18 VSLAs facilitators.

## COMMUNITY MEMBERS MOBILIZATION



*Community members' mobilization session on saving group creation in Rutsiro district, Murunda sector, Kirwa cell (Photo: Kwibuka Uziel, Imbaraga)*

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“Among the saving and solidarity groups in Sebeya Catchment, 148 saving groups having 3440 members have committed 38,780,000 Rwf while the average saving per saving group is 262,073 Frw within five months.”

## 2. ECOLOGICAL VIABILITY

Under the Ecological viability, RWARRI implemented the Capacity Building, Community mobilization, and Knowledge Management for the project entitled “Landscape Restoration and Integrated Water Resources Management in Sebeya and Other Catchments (EWMR)” and the project entitled “Improving Livelihoods and Climate Resilience of the Smallholder Farmers by Using Green Technologies in the District of Ngoma.” Below are the achievements in 2020:

### 2.1. Village Land Use Action Plans mobilisation

The mobilization is key to Sebeya project activities. RWARRI is conducting it for the community to participate in the planning process so the implementation might come in response to the community’s needs.

In this regard, the Landscape Restoration and Integrated Water Resources Management Project in Sebeya introduced the community approach to 40 villages of Rutsiro Hub across Sebeya for VLUAPs implementation. RWARRI participated in the

introduction, the VLUAPs feedback provision, and the preparation for the implementation process.

In 2020, RWARRI led the mobilization of 54 cell community members to participate in the Catchment-based-Village Land Use Action planning process with active women participation. A total of 8,923 people, including 4,806 women, were reached through mobilization in Rubavu, Ngororero, Nyabihu, and Rutsiro district.

### Number of people reached through mobilization sessions

DISTRICT	NUMBER OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS		Total
	Female	Male	
RUBAVU	1,735	1,397	3,132
NYABIHU	835	463	1,298
RUTSIRO	1,941	2,074	4,015
NGORORERO	295	183	478
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,806</b>	<b>4,117</b>	<b>8,923</b>



*A session involving community leaders in VLUAPs implementation in Rutsiro district, the Ruhango sector (Photo: Sebarezze Wildebrand, RWARRI)*

## Open trenches are being operationalized and maintained during season 2021A due to mobilization using megaphones

Using megaphones in community mobilization and engagement, the messages conveyed using these megaphones include land preparation, preventing and controlling erosion in cultivated areas. The community members are also sensitized in installing new and maintaining existing trenches, radical and progressive terraces, planting trees, planting grass for animals' feeds, and rainwater harvesting. In addition, farmers are mobilized to adopt climate-smart agricultural practices by applying organic manure, crop rotation, planting in line and on time, using improved seeds, installing kitchen gardens to improve nutrition.



### 2.2. Mobilization on the landscape restoration and management actions

Local communities in four districts (Rubavu, Rutsiro, Ngororero, and Nyabihu) where the project is being implemented using a community-centered approach participate in the Village Land Use Action Plans (VLUAPs) as the initial project consultation phase. After the VLUAPs validation, the project implements the plans.

However, regarding VLUAPs implementation, RWARRI conducted the mobilization about the community participation, engagement, and contribution. The community work approach was introduced in 73 villages across Sebeya in Rubavu and Nyabihu districts. Communities under 73 villages are engaged in the Land Restoration (LR) activities and implementation.

The EWMR project and its community approach were introduced in 40 villages of Rutsiro and Ngororero Districts for VLUAPs implementation. The community under 40 villages is engaged in

the implementation of Land Restoration activities. RWARRI organized meetings to discuss the performance; by raising their interest in participating in the project activities by providing the labor, the land where terraces construction and other landscape restoration activities.

The intention is to discuss and raise the community's ownership of the project interventions and the maintenance.



*Landowners being urged to show more engagement in installing radical terraces in Rubavu district (Photo: Bizimana Viateur, RWARRI)*

Due to the community mobilization in Rubavu and Nyabihu Districts, the maintenance of damaged project activities such as trenches, planted trees, and radical terraces has started in all villages where land restoration interventions are being implemented. It is the mobilization of community members that resulted in the ownership, maintenance of terraces, and cleaning of the trenches. For example, before community mobilization meetings across the SEBEYA catchment, the community members used

to say erroneously that the Government already takes the land on which open trenches were excavated. The mobilization resulted in changing that mindset, and they knew that their land still belongs to them. Now, they see the essence of maintenance, such as removing mud from the trenches without much effort. 50% of project interventions such as the constructed terraces and open canals are being operationalized and maintained during season 2021A ( September 2020).

### Butera, a community member increases income due to adoption of terraces

*Butera Musafli* is a Nyabihu district resident living in Bigogwe Sector and a direct beneficiary of the project.

According to Butera’s statement, when the project started its activities in Nyabihu, he kept 8 cows in his farm of 4hectares. These cows gave him 20 litters of milk every day. Butera did not either know how to increase milk production or improve the way his land was exploited until he was sensitized by Sebeya catchment project mobilisers in 2020.

Sebeya project mobilisers introduced the project activities including establishing radical terraces to Butera and without hesitation, he agreed to the establishment of radical terraces in his farm to reduce soil erosion and land degradation that were leading to Sebeya river sedimentation and flooding. “Radical terraces on 4 hectares contributed a lot to Sebeya catchment protection and landscape restoration”, he mentioned.

As Butera continued explaining, he said that he shifted focus to his cattle when he got his land terraced. “I reduced the number of cows to 4 that I could easily feed with grass planted on the terrace risers”, he explained. Then he put the manure from his cows in the terraces, grew Irish potatoes, and today he expects to harvest 120 tons equivalent to approximately 20 million Rwandan francs. “My 4 cows have increased their milk production to 40 liters a day which has increased my monthly income”, he quipped.



### 2.3. Mobilization meetings with Local Authorities

The mobilization discussion of the activities conducted before and during the implementation of landscape restoration activities and the supportive measures commence on project sites. The contractor manages the majority of activities during a preparatory stage.

In the same context, the meetings were organized and discussed the project's community mobilization engagement's intentions and proposed actions. The mobilization team collected the participants' views

to appropriately target and prioritize interventions (considering other project interventions). The panels also discuss the mobilization tools and key messages based on livelihood setting, preferences, and increase participation while facilitating the mobilization sessions at the sectors, cells, and community levels.

The meetings' critical points of the presentation included sharing the information about the project, youth and women involvement, income-generating activities through the saving groups, and project interventions' sustainability.

#### Local authorities were the first to demonstrate the Sebeya project ownership

As a result of mobilization meetings, local authorities in Rubavu, Nyabihu, Rutsiro and Ngororero districts were the first to show ownership of the Sebeya project that aims at increasing livelihood and conservation benefits in Sebeya (& other) catchments from restoration & improved natural resources management.

In an interview with the Vice Mayor in charge of Economic Development in Nyabihu district, Mr. Habanabakize Jean Claude, said that protecting Sebeya catchment and restoring its landscape is saving people's lives. "As local authorities, we are on the forefront of this campaign since it's our responsibility to take care of our population in terms of getting improved welfare and economic growth. Many of the community members are employed by the project Landscape Restoration hence increasing their revenues", he added.

The Vice-mayor regretted that every rainy season, people and domestic animals died, several hectares of farmers' crops were destroyed due to Sebeya flooding. "We will celebrate when this project is successfully completed. Thus, ownership of the project interventions is assurance of better life to the population in Sebeya catchment", he joyfully explained.

An agronomist of Kanama Sector in Rubavu district, expressed that it is the role of local authorities to mobilize the community members and then to encourage them to sustain the project realizations.



*Community leaders' mobilization meeting in Nyabihu district and awareness-raising materials distribution (Photo by Bizimana Viateur, RWARRI)*

## 2.4. Awareness-raising through radio programs and articles

To raise community awareness and media engagement, pass the message to the communities across the catchment of Sebeya in the districts of Ngororero, Nyabihu, Rutsiro, and Rubavu. It also serves to share information about the progress and achievements with other partners.

With the above background, audio spots were aired on two radio stations, notably Rubavu Community Radio and Radio Isangano in Karongi. The audio places conveyed messages to mobilize farmers located in Sebeya catchment to prepare their land by controlling soil erosion in all cultivated plot areas, by excavating trenches, maintaining existing trenches, radical and progressive terraces, planting trees, planting grasses for soil stabilization and fodder for animals. Also, farmers were mobilized to adopt climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices by applying mulching, organic manure, crop rotation, planting on time, and rainwater harvesting. Farmers were sensitized to respect the central and local authorities' guidelines, farmer promoters, and experts in agriculture and livestock.

Below are the published articles on the RWARRI website:

1. Awareness-raising materials distribution for reinforced community mobilization and engagement that can be read on [https://www.rwarri.com/single-article.php?news\\_id=50](https://www.rwarri.com/single-article.php?news_id=50)
2. Farmers saving groups for Sebeya project sustainability that can be read on [https://www.rwarri.com/single-article.php?news\\_id=56](https://www.rwarri.com/single-article.php?news_id=56)
3. Megaphones Promote Effective Community Mobilization in Sebeya Project that can be read on [https://www.rwarri.com/single-article.php?news\\_id=47](https://www.rwarri.com/single-article.php?news_id=47)

## 2.5. Social media campaign

The community mobilization and engagement targets the stakeholders across the Sebeya catchment through communication and mobilization. These targeted groups include the public, local authorities, the private sector, the media (print, social media, radio, development partners (CBOs, cooperatives, and other villages based groups), civil society organizations

(CSO's), youth and women groups, opinion leaders, and faith-based organizations (churches, religious organizations) all concerned with the land restoration and water resource management in Sebeya catchment. In that regard, Forty (40) Tweets and Forty (40) Facebook posts were posted to share the progress and



Screenshots of tweets and Facebook posts from RWARRI social media platforms

raise awareness of the Sebeya landscape restoration & management actions.

## 2.6. Improved & integrated landscape restoration through Knowledge Management System

The project focuses on knowledge management by generating knowledge products for the communities and other project stakeholders to reflect the ground's interventions through mobilization and awareness-raising.

In this regard, RWARRI has produced and distributed awareness materials, including 2200 T-shirts, 900 caps, 25 pull-up banners, and five wide banners, all branded with the EWMR project and partners' logos.

The distributed awareness-raising materials conveyed the message: *“Together, let's join hands to protect Sebeya Catchment; by participating in the project activities; contributing to the achievements, and by ensuring the operations and maintenance”* translated in Kinyarwanda.



## Use of megaphones for community mobilisation

**RWARRI** provided eight megaphones to eight community mobilizers working across Rubavu, Nyabihu Rutsiro, and Ngororero to facilitate mass mobilization in compliance with COVID-19 preventative measures in the community and at the project intervention sites.



*Megaphones have eased the mobilization process. Here the mobilizer is conveying messages to farmers from Kima and Budaha villages in Rubavu district, Nyundo sector, Gatovu cell (Photo: Iradukunda Sophie, Imbaraga)*

### 2.7. Buffer zone protection through fruit trees plantation

**RWARRI**, in partnership with the Ngoma District, is implementing a green technology project of improving livelihoods and climate resilience of the smallholder farmers by using green technologies in

the Ngoma District at the Zaza site. In this context that 550 avocado seedlings were planted on 3.2 Ha of the Mugesera Lake buffer zone to protect the lake.

It is planned that in capacity building, 54 men, 50 women, and 16 youth smallholder farmers will receive training on Climate Smart-Agriculture.

## 3. Technology Transfer

**RWARRI** is implementing two projects in the thematic area of technology transfer. These are, improving livelihoods and climate resilience of the smallholder farmers by using green technologies in the Ngoma District and the Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA).

The Green Technology Project is implemented in partnership with the Ngoma district and funded by FONERWA and the government program for Small-Scale Irrigation Technology (SSIT) led by the Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB). The project operates in two Ngoma district sectors to establish two solar water-pumping stations, two clay-stone water reservoirs, and two irrigation systems to improve the livelihood and climate resilience for vulnerable groups. World Food Program leads farm to Market Alliance project, and RWARRI implements it in 10 districts. The project promotes establishing a sustainable pro-smallholder agricultural value chain to increase smallholder income and foster commercial viability of maize and beans for private sector actors engaged in the Alliance.

### 3.1. Improving livelihoods and climate resilience of the Smallholder farmers by using green technologies

This project is funded by FONERWA and SSIT/RAB and has been under implementation since November 2020. The project operates in two Ngoma district sectors to establish two solar water pumping stations and two clay-stone water reservoirs to improve the livelihood and climate resilience for vulnerable groups in the community.

The project targets 1,500 smallholder farmers with 600 women and 300 youth to produce high-value horticultural crops and increase their income using durable and adequate green technologies infrastructure.

The project goal is to build farmers' adaptive capacity to practice sustainable agriculture and use green technologies to increase farmers' productivity and income.

It intends to contribute to the adoption and development of resilient climate practices for the Ngoma District in Rwanda's Eastern Province.

Under this project, the following lines highlight the achievement of 2020:

#### 3.1.1. Project launch

The green technology project launch is the event that was organized and held at Ngoma district to raise awareness among project beneficiaries, partners, implementers, and local authorities about their roles and responsibilities for the successful project implementation.

At the green technology project initiation, various project partners had different responsibilities that were discussed during the launch. Among these responsibilities, the farmers are responsible for availing the plots for water reservoirs' construction. This indicates the joint project's ownership and preparedness, strong mobilization, and the assurance of the project's sustainability. The demarcated area for irrigation at both sites is 20 ha, and beneficiaries are 98 men, 86 women, and 28 Youth smallholder farmers to directly benefit from these green technology project interventions.



*Green technology project launch in Zaza Site  
(Photo: Bizimana Viateur, RWARRI)*

#### 3.2. Post-harvest equipment to improve the production quality

Since 2018, WFP, through the FtMA project, has been providing post-harvest equipment such as tarpaulins, hermetic bags, and silos at a subsidized cost of 50% to assist farmers in maintaining the quality of their produce, minimizing post-harvest losses, and promote food security through the use of silos.

In order to create a sustainable way of accessing post-harvest equipment facilities, the project is promoting the engagement of the private sector in the supply of tarpaulins and bags.

In 2020, 267 silos and 267 tarpaulins were distributed at a subsidized cost of 50%, and 55 tarpaulins were purchased from private suppliers by the project-supported cooperatives.



*Members of KOAGIMPA Cooperative in Huye District receiving post-harvest equipment (Photo: Misago Paulin, RWARRI)*

## Improved food security by the use of hermetic silos

**HAVUGIMANA Camille** is 61 years old and a father of 5. He is a member of KOPAGEKA cooperative and lives in Gisagara District, Kansi Sector Umunini Cell, and Agatare Village.

In 2019 Camille purchased a silo to store his maize harvest. It is until April 2020 that he stored 500 kgs from 2019 A harvest using the purchased silo. Using a silo to store maize has helped Camille's family especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. When schools reopened in November, Camille sold 200 kg at 300 Frw and obtained 60,000 Frw. This helped his family to fulfil household responsibilities such as to pay school tuition and meals and materials for his two daughters. In details, 25,000 Frw was paid as tuition for his daughter in TVET School, 9,000 Frw was paid for school meal for his daughter in primary school while the remainder was invested in the 2021A season cultivating activities. His family has consumed 100 Kg and 200 kg of maize still in good quality where stored in the silo keeping away weevils and rodents.



*Havugimana and his wife store their maize harvest in a hermetic silo (Photo: Murwanashyaka Prospere, RWARRI)*

## 4. SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

Under this thematic area, RWARRI contributes to social transformation and the improvement of the local community's livelihood through two projects, namely the Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA) and the Landscape and Integrated Water Resources Management Restoration in Sebeya and Other Catchments (EWMR).

### 4.1. Sustainable livelihood through communities capacity building

RWARRI in partnership with IMBARAGA, is leading the farmers' mobilization and engagement in the Sebeya Catchment protection and Landscape restoration. It is also focusing on capacity building and the socio-economic development of the people from the Sebeya catchment. Due to the role of the community mobilization and engagement, capacity building, and socio-economic development, the Sebeya catchment protection and landscape restoration, in a way or another, are contributing to current economic growth for local farmers involved in paid project activities.

Activities undertaken to promote social transformation from project interventions include saving and solidarity groups, kitchen gardens promotion to cater to nutrition issues, and Mituelle de Santé.

Consequently, climate-smart agriculture (CSA) has introduced an approach that guides actions needed to transform and reorient agricultural systems to effectively support the development and ensure food security in the Sebeya catchment. CSA aims to tackle three main objectives, namely to sustainably increase agricultural productivity and incomes, adapting and building resilience to climate change, and reducing or removing greenhouse gas emissions, where possible.

### 4.2. Kitchengarden s establishment to improve nutrition

For the kitchen garden, generally, every household in a rural area should have a kitchen garden to fight malnutrition in the local community. The kitchen garden's standard structure optimizes aeration, nutrients, light, and water use on a small surface area.

Hence, the training strengthens farmer promoters to increase their capacity to establish and manage the kitchen gardens across the Sebeya catchment.

The training on kitchen garden establishment targeted 56 people from four villages in Nyabihu and Rubavu districts. Twenty five people from two villages (Busogo and Rurembo) in the Nyundo sector, Rubavu district, and 31 people from two villages (Busasamana and Arusha) Nyabihu district.

RWARRI and IMBARAGA, in collaboration with SNV, have undertaken the mobilization, which results in establishing 45 demo sites, and select 45 lead farmers to receive the training.



*Farmer promoters training on installing kitchen gardens in Rutsiro district, Murunda sector, Nyenyeri Village Photo: Sebarezze Willdebrand, RWARRI)*

RWARRI, in collaboration with SNV, trained the trainers to establish the kitchen gardens in nine piloting villages that involved farmers, local leaders, Community Health Workers, and FPs.

After vegetable seeds distribution by SNV, RWARRI mobilized 782 households across the catchment to replicate kitchen gardens. They are distributed in four districts as follows:

- \* Rubavu: 202 Households;
- \* Nyabihu: 91 Households;
- \* Rutsiro: 336 Households;
- \* Ngororero: 153 Households.

### 4.3. Technical specifications for Villages Land Use Action Plans

The IUCN guides the technical specifications for Embedding Integrated Water Resources Management project interventions under VLUAPs as the TA lead organization. RWARRI as the TA member, in partnership with IMBARAGA, has collaborated in the validation of selection criteria sessions for the cows, small livestock, and water tanks for rainwater harvesting and improved cooking stoves. The role played by RWARRI was to provide inputs to the proposed criteria by the studies and get familiar with the local authorities as partners in the mobilization of beneficiaries and stakeholders in the Sebeya catchment.

### 4.4. Adequate use of income generated from harvest

After realizing that farmers' income is increasing over the years from maize produce, RWARRI took the initiative to mobilize farmers to solve social security issues such as shelter, health care, sanitation, malnutrition, and school dropout. Farmers are also sensitized to create saving groups, involve in the Ejo Heza scheme, and invest in other income-generating activities.

As a result of the above initiatives, the following were achieved;

- RWARRI has sensitized 17,700 farmers to organize themselves into saving groups, where they managed to keep 13,996,749 Frw.
- The FtMA Cooperatives were sensitized working with the financial institutions, and 70 cooperatives saved an amount equivalent to 124,111,818 Frw in their bank accounts after selling their maize produce. The saved amount will help cooperatives to buy inputs or aggregate maize production in the next season.
- RWARRI intervened in farmers' mobilization to pay Mituelle de Sante and ensured 99% of cooperatives' members paid for the health insurance.

The year 2020 was different due to COVID -19 pandemic outbreak, where movements and meetings have been restricted to prevent the pandemic. The organization tried to survive by leverage to the given situation. RWARRI has got two new projects and

## 5. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

increase its staff member with nine new staff. The organization introduced the online Quick-books to increase its accountability where the finance unity received training on using it.

Two board meetings were held. The staff attends several online conferences and workshops organized by partners on key thematic issues.

### LESSONS LEARNED

As a result of the collaboration with MINAGRI, through NAIS, the crop insurance has uptake increased from nil to 26% of supported cooperatives that managed to pay insurance for their maize crop for the season of 2021A to cover the loss that may occur due to droughts and flood damage.

- 93 % of maize produce was delivered to the formal market due to GAP and PHHS training due to improved quality of maize production.

- Mobilization held over maintenance and operations of constructed water retention trenches raised the commitment of the community in the Sebeya catchment about their active participation and ownership;

- Early engagement through meetings with community members and stakeholders in the project by knowledge sharing through mobilization meetings increased understanding of the project by beneficiaries in Village Land Use Action Planning (VLUAPs);
- Organizing the field training and demonstration activities requiring community involvement based on their availability and convenient location increased the community's participation.

- During this period of the Covid-19 pandemic, since the gatherings are not allowed, the use of megaphones by community mobilizers facilitated effective community mobilization at project intervention sites in the Sebeya catchment.

- At the beginning of the green technology project, various project partners had different responsibilities. Among these responsibilities, farmers have provided the plots for constructing the reservoirs, which increases ownership and sustainability.

# CONCLUSION

In 2020, RWARRI implemented three projects in 14 districts countrywide (Rwamagana, Ngoma, Gasabo, Gakenke, Rulindo, Burera, Huye, Gisagara, Nyaruguru, Nyamagabe, Rubavu, Rutsiro, Ngororero & Nyabihu). The three projects are under the five RWARRI thematic areas.

RWARRI has assisted 19,999 smallholder farmers in economic sustainability to access the market and generate an income of 1,266,720,446 Frw. The thematic area was achieved through good agriculture practice (GAP) and post-harvest handling and storage (PHHS) training, aiming to increase maize production, reduce post-harvest losses, and improve maize produce that meets the market requirement.

RWARRI has also participated in the identification of saving groups in the Sebeya catchment and participated in the Training of TOTs on village savings and credit associations (VSLAs) for inclusive financing mechanisms for sustainable livelihood and landscape restoration

Under the ecological viability, RWARRI participated in the Community mobilization on Catchment-based-Village Land Use Action Plans (VLUAPs) in 40 villages in Rubavu, Rutsiro, Ngororero, and Nyabihu.

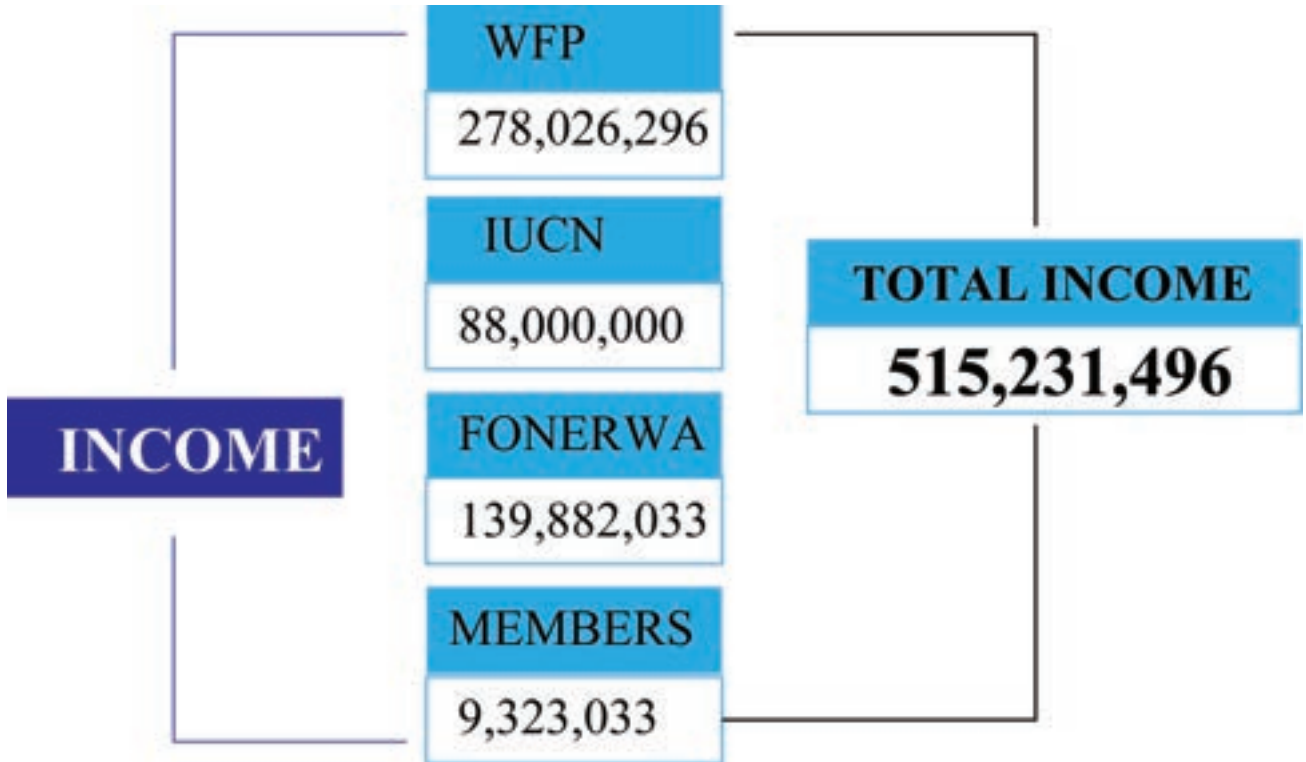
In the technology transfer, 267 silos were distributed at a subsidized cost of 50% of the initial price of 70,000 Frw per silo.

Under the social transformation thematic area, RWARRI has taken the initiative to mobilize farmers to pay the health insurance where 99% of farmers supported by the FtMA project paid the health insurance and managed to invest in other income-generating activities. RWARRI and IMBARAGA have collaborated with SNV in Farmer Promoters' training, training trainers on establishing kitchen gardens with 56 people from 4 villages in Rubavu and Nyabihu.

Thankfully, three partners, namely WFP, IUCN, and FONERWA, contributed financially to achieve our goals; their invaluable support has improved the wealth of thousands of Rwandan communities our organization worked within the 2020 year. We can't forget other partners and stakeholders we collaborated with to support vulnerable communities; their invaluable assistance and collaboration were a success key to our achievement-appreciation to donors who sustain communities worldwide for them to thrive.



# RWARRI SOURCE OF INCOME – 2020



## Partners

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



World Food Programme





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