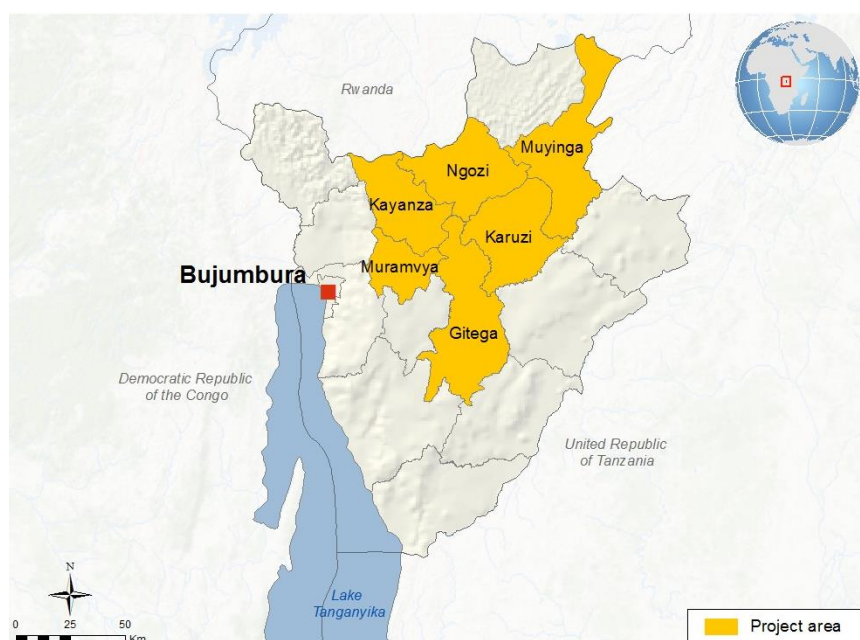


BURUNDI

Proposed grant to the Republic of Burundi for the Value Chain Development Programme – Phase II (PRODEFI-II)



The designations employed and the presentation of the material in the map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IFAD concerning the delimitation of the frontiers or boundaries, or the authorities thereof.

ISSUES

Ranking at 178th of 187 in the Human Development Index, Burundi is one of the world's poorest countries. In 2013 the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for Burundi was actually lower than it was in 1990. There is an estimated population of 10.2 million people, and 67 per cent of them live below the poverty line.

Agriculture is one of Burundi's biggest industries, and over 90 per cent of the population earn their incomes through agriculture. The rural population of Burundi was last measured in 2013 and was approximately 88.5 per cent. Family farming is falling short of meeting the required nutritional needs of the country, and considering that it provides 95 per cent of the country's food, this presents a serious health concern. Malnutrition affects over half of the children in poor households, the majority of which are located in rural areas.

Most of the poor rural peoples are smallholder farmers who use subsistence farming, usually on plots of less than one hectare of land, and are families headed by women or orphans. This highlights a vulnerable group that can benefit greatly from IFAD intervention. Their poverty is attributable mainly to low productivity. This has been brought about by a variety of circumstances such as extremely small landholdings, which necessitates the need to intensify production. This intensification leads to poor soil fertility. Especially in the absence of livestock and manure, and soil degradation from erosion. A further cause of poverty is a lack of equipment and technical and financial capital. This coupled with a deficiency in inputs such as seed and fertilizer owing to limited purchasing power makes it extremely hard, almost impossible, for these smallholders to break the poverty cycle.

Throughout Burundi's smallholder population, there is also an unfortunate lack of technical knowledge. Because of reasons already mentioned such as farming intensity, but also to do with changing climates, unpredictable seasons and weather, smallholder farmer coping techniques have proven to be ineffective. They lack the adaptation knowledge they need in order to combat the changes in the environment that is affecting yields so harshly. Extreme flood and drought events are estimated to reduce long-term growth in the region by about 2.4 per cent of GDP per year. There is expected to be average temperature increases, changes in rainfall intensities and patterns and an increase in frequency and severity of extreme climate events. These will affect the poor disproportionately as they lack the resources to combat these events.

Not only will yields be radically affected, but smallholders face other problems with whatever harvests they do manage to collect.



IFAD

Investing in rural people

Adaptation for
Smallholder
Agriculture
Programme

ASAP

Launched in 2012, the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) channels climate and environmental finance to enable smallholder farmers who participate in IFAD projects to increase their resilience. Through ASAP, IFAD is systematically integrating climate resilience into the overall IFAD portfolio.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Total cost: US\$44.9m

IFAD Grant: US\$36.6m

ASAP grant: US\$4.9m

Other contributions:
Government of Burundi:
US\$3.1m
Beneficiaries: US\$0.3m

Project period: ???

Executing agency:
Ministry of Agriculture and
Livestock

ASAP beneficiaries:
33,452 Households

Project objective: To
promote increases in
incomes and
improvements in food
security for poor
households

The markets in Burundi are poorly managed. Processing and markets nationwide are insufficient and smallholder farmer organisations are yet to ensure sustainability due to non-profitable under developed farming practices and activities.

ACTIONS

Project activity has been classified into separate components, however they all come together to deliver the same overall objective. One component revolves around sustainable growth and capacity building. It will focus efforts on things such as improvements to infrastructure and hydro agriculture; developing wetlands and watershed areas.

Adaptation to climate change will play a large and necessary role in PRODEFI-II. The establishment of protected waterbeds will do their part. The project will also seek to set national technical standards for rural engineering designs so that they are able to adapt to varying climates. Additionally there will be an intensification of forage and legume cropping systems. This will enable a resilience to be built against erosion and other climate shocks as these specific crops can help to combat them.

Agricultural intensification will take place, initially through the input supply. There will be changes to increase the quality of seeds, fertilisers and manure. There will be livestock intensification, by promoting small livestock rearing amongst younger people. Also Farmer Field Schools (FFS) will be utilised to provide training for crop and livestock farmers. ASAP funding will also be used specifically for the creation of early warning systems. These systems will be focused on climate warnings, and when functional will provide precious time for agricultural farmers to prepare harvests and avoid unnecessary losses to climate shocks. ASAP will also fund the testing of heat tolerant bean strains which can buffer climate impact on protein supply chains by fixing nitrogen in soils.

There will also be work carried out to provide links between private institutions and community organisations. There will be work to ensure that the project operates a gender equality strategy throughout Burundi whilst raising awareness of women's rights, adult literacy levels, reduction of women's workload, and providing legal and psychological support for victims of post-traumatic stress.

Furthermore there will be a series of project activities to combat chronic malnutrition. As many people as possible will be trained using the Food, Agriculture and Nutrition (FAN) method (in the home nutritional learning), and raising awareness amongst community leaders.

Other areas will include the strengthening of various value chains within Burundi. There

will be changes and inputs for dairy, rice, and secondary value chains. The financing of improvements will develop financial instruments to enable the value chains to become ever more successful and will also help to professionalise the cooperatives of farmers involved in these chains.

Finally PRODEFI-II will be improving sustainable employment for rural young people by establishing an environment that is conducive for youth employment. The training the project will provide will also help to make young people more attractive prospects for employers.

EXPECTED IMPACTS

The project will provide a lot of development to Burundi in varying ways and locations. A major part of the work discussed will be to do with water, and watershed management. In this regard, PRODEFI-II will create over 2,300 hectares of new wetlands on nine separate sites. In addition to over 23,000 hectares of watersheds on new wetland sites, including the 1,000 hectare Ruvubu watershed. There will also be new wetland sites developed, with 10 accredited to PRODEFI and seven to PAIVA-B. Of these 17 sites 10 per cent will be financed exclusively by ASAP funding.

The project will work very closely with agricultural rural farmers as well. It will be providing 3,000 cattle in order to strengthen the livestock industry. Additionally it will be creating 100 FFS's which will benefit nearly 40,000 farmers, providing training for farmers of livestock and rice and other food crops.

The project will also be responsible for many infrastructure improvements. It will create two mini dairies in Gitega and Ngozi, which will help dairy farmer cooperatives to milk and store their milk for market. There will also be harvest drying improvements made. Nearly 8,000 m² of new drying areas will be built. This, along with 2,600 m² of new storage warehouses will help to significantly reduce post-harvest losses in the Burundi agricultural sector.

Finally PRODEFI-II will build two husking units and two mini rice mills, in order to help farmers turn their harvest into market-ready produce at a scale that will ensure income. As mentioned previously, using 350 FAN, the project will be provide training to around 2,000 people on in home nutrition. This coupled with the creation of 150 jobs for youth and supporting income generating activities for a further 1,500 rural youth, the project will make great strides in combatting malnutrition and unemployment.

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