PROJECT FACTSHEET

PROMOTING SMALLHOLDER AGRO-EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS PROJECT (PSAC)

Building an inclusive, climate-resilient and competitive Agro-Export sector



Project overview

The Promoting Smallholder Agro-Export Competitiveness (PSAC) Project is a 5-year initiative designed to increase the incomes of smallholder farmers and strengthen Rwanda's export-oriented agricultural value chains, particularly coffee, tea, and horticulture.
The project focuses on improving climate-smart productivity, reducing post-harvest losses, strengthening cooperatives and value-chain actors, enhancing quality and market access, and expanding access to finance and infrastructure.
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Government of Spain, the Government of Rwanda, and Heifer International co-finance the project.

Heifer International was mandated to facilitate farmers in adopting climate-smart and resilient horticulture production for the highly valued value chains (tomato, garlic, onion, carrots, French beans, Chili), focusing on the domestic/regional market.

PROJECT PERIOD	**Five years; 2024-2029**	**GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE**	13 targeted districts: • 4 districts in pilot phase (2024-2026), • 4 Additional districts (2026-2027), • Remaining 5 districts (2027-2028)
OVERALL PROJECT BUDGET	**USD 62.89 million**	**Target Participants**	2,000 rural households (Heifer's target within the project).
FEMALE Participants TARGET	**40%**	**YOUTH Participants TARGET**	30%

HEIFER MANAGED GRANT	**USD 6.96 million grant and technical assistance**	**LEAD IMPLEMENTING PARTNER**	National Agricultural Export Development Board

Development objective

Support the inclusion of rural poor in targeted export-driven value chains, by increasing their climate-resilient productive capacity and market access.

Three delivery pillars

PILLAR	FOCUS
1. Enhance Smallholder Climate-Smart Production and Productivity	Increase the **productivity, resilience, and quality** of smallholder production in targeted export value chains—primarily **coffee, tea, and horticulture**.
2. Enabling business environment along selected export-driven value chains	Make the targeted value chains **more competitive, market-oriented, and inclusive** by strengthening farmers' organizations, cooperatives, private-sector actors, and exporters.
3. Policy support and coordination.	Strengthen policy, institutions, project management, monitoring, evaluation and learning.

Expected results by project closure

RESULT AREA	PROJECT-CLOSURE TARGET
Household income	80% of targeted horticulture households increase their income by 30%.
Jobs	1,600 new jobs created across horticulture production, marketing and processing.
Climate resilience	80% of targeted dairy households adopt environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient technologies.
Nutrition	45% of targeted households report improved nutritional security.
Organizational capacity and Enterprise development	2,000 people supported to form 80 Self-Help Groups and 10 cooperatives and in horticulture entrepreneurship through improved access to markets and finance.

PROGRESS TO DATE

Combined results from April 2025 to June 2026

PROJECT STAFF AND FARMERS SELECTION

Indicator	Reported achievement
Project Staff recruitment	5
Selection and validation of farmers	631
Recruitment of Community Market Facilitators (CMFs)	12

FARMER ORGANIZATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Indicator	Reported achievement
Farmers trained in Values-Based Holistic Community Development	594
Frontline personnel trained (Field staff and CMFs)	15
New Self-Help Groups and members mobilized	24 groups comprising 631 members
Groups legally registered as formal cooperatives	3
SHGs registered at Sector level as tontines (in the process of becoming formal Cooperatives)	19
Farmers trained on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)	590

Indicator	Reported achievement
Farmers trained on Post-harvest Handling technologies	611
Farmers trained on Gender, Equity and Social Inclusion	579
Farmers trained on Cooperative governance and Entrepreneurship	273

FINANCIAL INCLUSION

Indicator	Reported achievement
Local resources leveraged – Total FY25+FY26 (	RWF 76,227,897
Self-Help Group savings - Cumulative	RWF 20,993,270
Self-Help Group loans disbursed - Cumulative	RWF 18,401,180
Self-Help Group member investments Cumulative	RWF 28,323,897
Cash & In-Kind Contribution – from other partners	RWF 15,540,000

PRODUCTIVITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Indicator	Reported achievement
Horticulture value Chains promoted /supported	Carrots, Chili, Garlic, French beans, onions, tomatoes
Farmers supported with inputs	609
Volume of sales, Season A &B 2026 (Kg)	105,229
Value of sales, Season A&B 2026 (Rwf)	65,662,884

Sources: Project design parameters and closure targets – RDDP-2 Final Design Report (2023). Implementation achievements – RDDP II Two-Year Achievements Report covering FY25 and FY26

With sincere appreciation to our partners, the Government of Rwanda through the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), for their continued support in advancing climate-resilient agro-export value chains for Rwanda's smallholder farmers.

Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of Agriculture & Animal Resources

IFAD
Investing in rural people

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