



COUNTRY FACT SHEET ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE POLICY TRENDS

Country situation and role of agriculture

Rwanda is a small landlocked country in east-central Africa. With a population of over 11 million and a fertility rate of 4.6 births per woman, it is the most densely populated country in Africa.

The Rwandan economy is primarily based on rain-fed agriculture, with coffee and tea as the major cash crops. Farms are small, fragmented, and semi-subsistence-oriented. Agriculture accounts for 35 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) and almost 90 percent of total employment.¹ Rwanda, along with other African countries, has committed to generate sustained agricultural growth. It was one of the first countries to sign the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture

Development Programme (CAADP) in 2007.² Following the CAADP recommendations, the share of the national budget allocated to agriculture increased from 3 percent in 2006 to 10.7 percent in 2013.

Rwanda is recovering from the 1994 genocide, which severely impoverished the population and stalled the country's private and external investment. This made the country highly dependent on external aid. The Government of Rwanda (GoR) has embraced an expansionary fiscal policy to reduce its external reliance by improving education, infrastructure, foreign and domestic investment and pursuing market-oriented reforms.³ However, Rwanda still remains

Selected indicators		2007	2009	2011	2014
SOCIO-ECONOMIC	GDP (current billion US\$) *	3.8	5.3	6.4	7.89
	GDP per capita (current US\$) *	380.3	504.2	574.9	695.7
	Agricultural value added (% of GDP) *	35.1	33.9	32.3	33.1
	Agricultural value added (annual % growth) *	(average 2007-2013)	5.18		
		(2013)	5.3		
	Total population (thousand)	9 481.1	10 024.6	10 556.4	11 341.5
	Rural population (% of total)	82.6	80.9	79.3	77
	Agricultural labour force (% of total labour force)	89.9	89.6	89.2	88.9 [2013]
Human Development Index **	(2014)	0.483			
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION & TRADE	Per capita cultivated land (ha)	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.13
	Area equipped for irrigation (ha)	96000 [2012]			
	Value of total agriculture (current million US\$)	1 783.5	2 788.1	3 339.4	4 377.7 [2013]
	Value of cereals production (current million US\$)	145.9	322.8	388.0	4 74.3 [2013]
	Yield for cereals (hg/ha)	10 136.5	17 479.0	2 1062.3	2 1718.2
	Cereal import dependency ratio (% , average 2009-2011)	23.7			
	Top 3 commodities	Production quantity	plantains; cassava; potatoes [2012]		
		Production value	plantains; potatoes; cassava [2012]		
		Import quantity	wheat; maize; sugar raw centrifugal [2011]		
		Import value	wheat; palm oil; sugar raw centrifugal [2011]		
		Export quantity	tea; coffee, green; potatoes [2011]		
Export value		coffee, green; tea; flour of wheat [2011]			
Top 3 trade partners (2011)	Import value	Uganda; Kenya; Italy [2011]			
	Export value	Kenya; Switzerland; Democratic Republic of the Congo [2011]			
FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION	Top 3 commodities available for consumption	Plantains; Cassava and products; Beans [2011]			
	Per capita food supply (kcal/capita/day)	1 997	2 128	2 148	NA
	General (g) and Food (f) CPI (2000=100)	NA	96.7(g), 96(f)	104.1(g), 103.3(f)	124.0(g), 135.0(f)
	People undernourished (million)	4.5	4.4	4.2	4.0
	Proportion of undernourished in total population (%)	(2008-2010)	45.2	42.8	40.1
	Prevalence of underweight children under 5 years of age	11.7 [2010]			
	Global Hunger Index ^	(2015)	30.3 (serious)		
	Access to improved water sources (% of population) *	71	72	74	76

Sources: FAOSTAT; *WB; **UNDP; ^ IFPRI (accessed on day, month, year)
Note : Food CPI 2009 and 2012: Index base 2008=100

1 Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, 2013. Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture in Rwanda Phase III. Available at: www.minagri.gov.rw
2 CAADP aims to eliminate hunger and reduce poverty through agriculture. The CAADP recommends allocating 10 percent of the national budget in agricultural expenditure and improving the quality of those expenditures so as to achieve 6 percent annual growth. For more information, please see: in <http://nepad-caadp.net/>
3 As a result, Rwanda was one of the top reformers in the Doing Business 2015 report, and is now ranked the third easiest place to do business in Sub-Saharan Africa.

heavily dependent on foreign aid, which currently accounts for almost one third of its national budget. The major development constraints include poor transport infrastructure and lack of access to electricity. Rwanda is also trying to leverage regional trade since, despite its fertile ecosystem, food production often does not keep pace with demand, requiring food imports.

In terms of living standards, Rwanda has successfully halved the proportion of people suffering from hunger and has made good

progress toward reducing under-nourishment, yet 44 percent of Rwandans still live under the national poverty line.⁴ Remarkable progress has also been made especially in reducing child mortality by two-thirds, the attainment of near-universal primary school enrolment, HIV prevalence reduction and environmental sustainability. The country is also known worldwide for its good governance, zero tolerance for corruption and promotion of gender equality.⁵

1. Government objectives in agriculture, food and nutrition security

The Government of Rwanda (GoR) stated in 2000 its national strategy in the **Vision 2020** document. The primary objectives are to transform Rwanda into a middle-income country by the year 2020 and to evolve from a low-income agriculture-based economy to a knowledge-based, service-oriented economy. Vision 2020 includes modernisation of agriculture and animal husbandry as one of its six pillars for building a diversified, integrated, competitive and dynamic economy.⁶

The vision is being implemented through medium-term planning frameworks, which began in 2002 with the first **Poverty Reduction Strategic Plan (PRSP I)** and has been followed by the **Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS)**, which covered the 2008-2012 period. EDPRS II (2013-2017) has been validated and recognizes agriculture as a key objective, together with increasing GDP per capita to US\$ 1 000, reducing the poverty rate to below 30 percent and reducing the extreme poverty rate to below 9 percent by 2018.

Rwanda's policy objective for the agricultural sector (to increase rural household incomes, to provide incomes from diversified sources and increase food security) are described in the Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture (PSTA III), which was last renewed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) in 2013. PSTA III's targets are: agriculture growth of 8.5 percent per annum, reduced share of agriculture GDP to 25 percent and 90 percent of households with good food

consumption. PSTA III strategic programme areas are: agriculture and animal resource intensification; research, technology transfer and organization of farmers; private sector-driven value chain development and expanded investments; and institutional results-focused development and agricultural cross-cutting issues.⁷

Rwanda's National Social Protection Strategy and Action Plan (2011 – 2016) incorporates four principles: protection, prevention, promotion and transformation. The goal of the social protection sector is to contribute to reduce poverty and vulnerability and to promote equitable growth, which links directly to the EDPRS 2 aim of ensuring a better quality of life for all Rwandans by promoting growth and reducing poverty.⁸

The GoR has demonstrated its commitment to improving nutrition through the institutionalization of various national policies and initiatives. From 2010 to 2013, the Ministry of Health implemented the **National Multisectoral Strategy to Eliminate Malnutrition** and its action plan. Furthermore, the **National Food and Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan (2013-2018)** were developed to guide the implementation of nutrition activities with a multi-sectored approach to address stunting. Nutrition programs are decentralised through District Action Plans to Eliminate Malnutrition (DPEM) and Joint Action Development Forum District Levels (JADF). Since December 2011, Rwanda also takes part in the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) initiative.⁹

2. Main policy decisions from 2007 to 2014

2.1 Producer-oriented policy decisions

Rwandan agriculture has made major advances in the last decade. Productivity for a number of crops has sharply improved (and therefore, rural incomes) due to significant interventions regarding land consolidation, expansion of areas under irrigation

and protected against soil erosion, increased cultivated terraces and improved use of inputs. Access to agricultural finance and microfinance services has sharply increased, playing a key role in risk reduction and investing in many farms along the country.

4 World Bank website. Accessed on 25 May, 2016.

5 UNICEF. 2016. Rwanda at a glance (website). Accessed on 23 April 2016. Available at: www.unicef.org/rwanda/overview.html

6 Some Vision 2020 goals, such as GDP per capita and the percentage of farmers using fertilisers, were exceeded in 2010, and have been revised to drive further improvements.

7 http://www.minecofin.gov.rw/fileadmin/templates/documents/sector_strategic_plan/PSTA_III_Draft.pdf

8 Ministry of Local Government. 2011. National Social Protection Strategy. Available at www.ilo.org.

9 SUN is a global movement that unites national leaders, civil society, bilateral and multilateral organizations, donors, businesses and researchers in a collective effort to improve nutrition. For more information, see <http://scalingupnutrition.org/>

Input support

Low productivity in Rwanda is mainly attributed to low use of inputs.¹⁰ Because most of them need to be imported, the cost of transportation combined with poor demand keeps prices high. The GoR is overcoming these constraints by distributing and subsidising inputs through the **Crop Intensification Program (CIP)**, a flagship programme launched in 2007 which also promotes under its multi-pronged approach the consolidation of land use, the provision of extension services and the improvement of storage mechanisms. CIP uses a 'supply-push' approach whereby the government initially distributes the inputs (improved seeds and fertilizers) and the farmers are persuaded to use them. For fertilizers, the CIP auctions the imported fertilizers to private distributors. To access these fertilizers at subsidized prices, CIP distributes vouchers to farmers which buy fertilizers from the distributor/dealer by presenting the vouchers. Under CIP, the use of improved seeds by farmers has risen from 3 percent to 40 percent. Fertilizer use increased from 4 Kg/Ha in 2006 to 30 Kg/Ha in 2013, while fertilizer availability increased from annual quantities of 8 000 tonnes to 35 000 tonnes.¹¹ PSTA III targets that fertilizer availability increases to 55 000 tonnes per year and fertilizer use increases to 45kg/ha in 2017/18.

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Farmers learn how to diversify their farming techniques in order to allow different crops to grow in alternated and spaced out cultivation in order to maximize the production.

Increasing areas under irrigation for marshlands and hillsides

Owing to the limited land resources and the demographic pressure on land, intensification of existing production systems represents a tangible approach for increasing food production in the country. Since 90 percent of domestic cropland is on slopes ranging from 5 to 55 percent, investing in land management and related training to farmers has been essential in improving productivity. In fact, Rwanda has been intensifying production in marshlands and hillsides with the support of the World Bank (WB) since 2001 through the Rural Sector Support Project (RSSP). Since 2010, support is also provided through the Land Husbandry Water Harvesting and Hillside Irrigation (LWH) Project. So far, over 7 200 hectares of marshlands and nearly 30 000 hectares of hillsides have been sustainably rehabilitated. This has directly contributed to increases in maize yields from 1.6 tonnes/ha to nearly 5 tonnes/ha, potato yields from 7 tonnes/ha to 20 tonnes/ha and rice yields from 3 tonnes/ha to 7.9 tonnes/ha¹². So far, over 61 000 people have benefited from the RSSP projects and 87 000 people have benefited from the LWH, women being almost half of them in both cases.¹³ According to the WB, poverty among beneficiaries has been almost halved from 65.6 percent to 39.3 percent. For 2015/16 the GoR has allocated 10 billion (US\$ 3.9 million) and 10.5 billion (US\$ 14.6 million) for the RSSP and LWH projects respectively.

Improved financial and microfinance services

Different models of savings mobilisation exist among Rwandan communities, many of which are informal. In 2007, almost 80 percent of Rwandans were not using formal banking systems, so expanding the coverage of the financial system became a key priority. In response, the government in 2009 started to establish a Savings and Credit Cooperative (SACCO) in each of the country's 416 *umurenge*s (sectors) to boost savings and increase access to affordable financial services as part of a broader programme that also included cash transfers and public works.¹⁴ These SACCOs are farmer-owned financial cooperatives where the dividends are shared equally among members. Since their nature is local, they mobilize savings within the community and the profits are returned to members in the form of loans which have normally been used by farmers to buy machinery, fertilizers and other inputs.¹⁵ With initial government support in the form of manager salaries and staff training, Umurenge SACCOs have spread quickly,

10 MINAGRI. 2012. More_information_about_the_Crop_Intensification_Program. Available at: www.minagri.gov.rw

11 Diao et al. 2014. The Role of Agriculture in the fast-Growing Rwandan Economy

12 According to the 2015 Seasonal Agriculture Survey, rice yield was of 2.8mt/ha in 2015 season A and 5.1mt/ha in 2015 season B. For more information see: www.statistics.gov.rw/publication/seasonal-agricultural-survey-report-season-2015

13 World Bank website. www.worldbank.org/en/country/rwanda. Accessed on 13 April 2016.

14 Umurenge Programme (VUP) is a flagship programme under the EDPRS II. VUP is a key pillar of the National Social Protection Policy

15 GOR and UNDP. 2014. Rwanda 2014 national human development report. Available at: www.undp.org

which has caused an increase from 48 to 72 percent in financial inclusion (formal and informal) and the strengthening of the micro-finance sub-sector.¹⁶ So far, 491 Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs), including 478 SACCOs have been established and provided regular services to farmers in all sectors.¹⁷

2.2 Consumer-oriented policy decisions

Rwanda has made remarkable progress since the 1994 genocide, particularly in delivering education and health services to the poor. However, two decades later, around 44 percent of Rwandans are estimated to be still living below the poverty line and many survivors and refugees continue to live on social protection programmes from government and NGOs for school, medical care, food, shelter and other basic necessities. The Girinka programme has recently attracted substantial attention, also because of its presumable positive impacts. Although initially aimed at making poor Rwandans more self-reliant economically and socially, nowadays it has also become a fundamental part of the school feeding programmes in the country.

Launching of 'One cow per family' programme

In response to the alarmingly high rate of childhood malnutrition and as a way to accelerate poverty reduction while combining livestock and crop farming, the GoR launched in 2006 the Girinka Programme, also known as *One cow per family*.¹⁸ The programme's main activity is the distribution of cows to improve livelihoods and nutrition, generate employment and provide stable income for vulnerable families.¹⁹ This way, malnutrition is reduced by increasing the milk intake and family income through sales of milk surpluses. Credit facilities have also been put in place from Popular Bank of Rwanda for farmers who can afford to buy their own cows. By the end of 2013, most beneficiaries produced enough milk to sell some at the market. Girinka has expanded significantly and now covers all districts in the country. Although Girinka originally aimed to reach 257 000 beneficiaries, this target was revised upwards in 2010 to reach 350 000 beneficiaries by 2017.²⁰ According to the Rwanda Agricultural Board, close to 200 000 beneficiaries had received a cow by September 2014. Of these, many were 'pass on' cows whereby a beneficiary is obliged to give the first born female calf to another selected beneficiary in the community, often a neighbour.

Scaling-up the Vision 2020 Umurenge Programme

In 2008 the Government launched an innovative social protection programme, the Vision 2020 Umurenge Programme (VUP). A



Girinka has expanded significantly and now covers all districts in the country. By 2017 Girinka is expected to have benefited 350 000 families.

flagship programme under EDPRS1, VUP aims at reducing extreme poverty from 36.9% in 2005/6 to 24% in 2012.²¹ In the EDPRS2, VUP was listed under the Rural Development Thematic area. Since then, the GoR provides beneficiaries with cash in three different ways: VUP cash for work in public works for the poor who can supply labour (started in 2008), direct support consisting of cash transfers for very poor households without labour capacity (started in 2009) and support to credit (started in 2010), as already explained in the producer support section. The programme was initially piloted in 30 sectors and has been scaled up in an average 30 sectors/year basis. VUP targets the landless extremely poor, considering also households owning less than 0.25 ha. This targeting uses the *Ubudehe* approach, where households are categorised into six steps of poverty. VUP beneficiaries are vulnerable people that fall under the first and second *Ubudehe* categories. Through this programme, beneficiaries also get medical insurance. In financial year 2014/2015, VUP earmarked Rwf 11.8 billion (US\$ 16.4 million) for direct support in 330 sectors while Rwf13 billion (US\$ 18 million) was earmarked for public works targeting 130 000 households. In 2015/16 VUP is expected to be scaled up to cover all 416 sectors.²²

Enhancing school feeding programmes

As a result of Girinka Programme, milk production increased sevenfold between 2000 and 2011, allowing the Government to procure milk from the farmers and start distributing it at schools. Since 2010, the government initiated the One Cup of

¹⁶ The density of microfinance service points has also increased and by the end of 2012 more than 90 percent of adult Rwandans lived within 5 kilometres of a formal financial institution.

¹⁷ GOR. 2015. Budget Speech 2015/16.

¹⁸ The word Girinka can be translated as 'may you have a cow' and describes a centuries old cultural practice in Rwanda whereby a cow was given by one person to another, either as a sign of respect and gratitude or as a marriage dowry.

¹⁹ The selection of beneficiaries is conducted at the local level whereby the local community meets to decide which members should benefit from Girinka (and other social security programs).

²⁰ MINAGRI website. Accessed on 23 May 2016. www.minagri.gov.rw/index.php?id=28

²¹ UNICEF. 2011. Vision 2020 Umurenge Programme.

²² Ministry of Local Government. 2015. 2015/16 Social protection sector review report. Available at: www.minaloc.gov.rw

Milk per Child Programme, where all students from lower levels (nursery school) up to 3rd class of primary started to drink one litre of milk per week at no cost. Additionally, the GoR from 2008 to 2012 enhanced its School Feeding Program, through the participation in an IFAD project called Food assistance for Education, which targeted 350 000 primary school children in 11 food insecure districts. Children were provided with nutritious daily cooked meals and 300 schools were equipped with kitchen infrastructures.²³ Additionally, the GoR is running other initiatives such as the promotion of mineral-rich beans to fight malnutrition among children in the country. In order to coordinate this and other actions targeting child nutrition, the GoR launched in 2014 the National School Health Strategic Plan, where these interventions have been listed, and plans to develop a nationally owned Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) programme with a high degree of community ownership in the coming months.²⁴

2.3 Trade- and market-oriented policy decisions

Rwanda Trade policy dates back from 2010. One year later, the National Export Strategy was released. Complementary policies such as the Rwandan Industrial Policy and Master Plan and the Rwandan Small and Medium Enterprise Policy and Strategy create an enabling environment for Rwandan businesses, particularly the SMEs. Rwanda is a member of the East Africa Community (EAC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Commonwealth. Other international arrangements allow Rwanda to enjoy duty-free and quota-free access to the EU and US markets. Although it still faces a trade deficit, exports are steadily increasing. The government priority is to move from subsistence to commercial agriculture and boost and diversify quantity and value of exports.

Tea export promotion

Since its introduction in the 1950s, tea has been one of Rwanda's strongest sectors, mounting to almost 35 percent of national exports. The government privatised the tea sector in 2006 and currently Rwanda's tea industry employs directly around 600 000 people, many of them smallholders.²⁵ Export value of tea grew from US\$ 59M in 2007 to US\$ 81.5M in 2013. Since 2008, following the Rwanda Tea Strategy recommendations, GoR has improved fertilizer efficacy, offered training in plucking and pruning, improved transportation, as well as consolidated land plots. In July 2012, the GoR passed a reform to the green leaf pricing mechanism, which came into force at the end of 2012.²⁶ The reform links green leaf prices to international market prices for 'made tea'. Beside of expanding factory capacity, the GoR is

ensuring product diversification by promoting the processing of higher value and organic teas. The strategy has also improved marketing of teas by targeting specific channels for high-end teas. However, Rwanda's goal of achieving US\$ 159 million in revenues from tea by 2015 has not been achieved, so now MINAGRI plans to increase tea farm extensions by 18 000 hectares and distribute over 43 million seedlings of tea to growers by the end of 2017 to help increase harvested area. This move is expected to increase tea export receipts to US\$ 94.9 million by 2018.

Import tariffs reduction

Rwanda joined the EAC in 2007 but joined the EAC Customs Union in July 2009, along with Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. Customs tariffs, rules of origin, import prohibitions, and trade remedy regulations have been therefore harmonized to meet EAC regulations. Rwanda had maintained tariff reduction/suspense after the 2007/08 crisis. This trend was reinforced after the adoption of the EAC Common External Tariff (CET) in 2009. The CET replaced Rwanda's 0-5-15-30 normal tariff structure (0 percent tariff for raw materials, 5 percent for goods with economic importance, 15 percent for semi-finished goods, and 30 percent for finished products) with a 0-10-25 normal tariff structure (for raw materials, semi-finished products and finished products). However, aiming at protecting local markets, some products were identified as "sensitive" and had associated tariff rates, included an extra 35 percent for wheat, a 60 percent for milk and wheat flour and a 100 percent for sugar. Likewise, Rwanda was allowed by the CET to increase the import tariff on rice to protect local rice farmers from Asian rice first to 75 percent. This tariff has been reduced to 45 percent on July 2015, when also sugar CET was reduced to 20 percent and wheat tariff was eliminated.²⁷ Although CET adoption represented a large reduction in overall tariffs, its impact on poor households' incomes has been rather negative. A reason for this is that CET adoption led to higher prices for some selected products that were highly consumed by poor households.²⁸

Export diversification

Major agricultural exports in Rwanda are coffee, tea and pyrethrum. Rwanda's trade policy and export strategy recognises the need to boost and diversify exports and boost the horticulture industry, which is expected to fetch more than US\$ 129 million per year by 2018. The GoR is focusing on supporting French beans and peas, horticulture specialties - baby corn, chilli, mini leek, African eggplants, mushrooms and herbs. NAEB is also encouraging the private sector to invest in processing exotic fruits, especially apples,

23 Government of Rwanda. Rwanda School Feeding Programme Cost Analysis

24 Ministry of Education. 2014. National School Health Strategic Plan. Available at: www.mineduc.gov.rw

25 The European Times. 2015. Factsheet on Rwanda. Available at: www.european-times.com/publications/rwanda.pdf

26 World Bank. 2013. Impact Evaluation of Tea Sector Reforms in Rwanda. Available at: www.wbginvestmentclimate.org

27 Although the CET on rice imports is nominally 75%, member states have made use of national exemptions approved on a year-by-year basis.

28 International Growth Centre. 2012. The EAC Common External Tariff (CET) and Rwanda. Available at: www.theigc.org/

bananas, passion fruits, avocados and flower growing. Rwanda's horticulture industry fetched more than US\$ 6.1 million in 2015, an increase of 41.3 percent from 2014, according to NAEB.²⁹ Another emerging market in Rwanda which is receiving increasing support from the GoR is pyrethrum. The US\$2.4 million Rwanda Pyrethrum Program started in 2012 as a collaboration between

different public and private stakeholders. As a result, pyrethrum production in Rwanda has increased by 371 percent from 209 metric tonnes of dried flowers to 985 metric tonnes in 2015 and its value to farmers has increased by 289 percent to over US\$1.5 million in 2015.³⁰

3. Emerging issues and challenges

Improving equal access to land with a focus on gender

In Rwanda, land is the most important asset for production. Also from a social-cultural point of view, Rwandans are very attached to land. Competition for access to land is also growing due to the combined effects of scarcity, population growth, small average farm size and a high number of landless.³¹ Until 2007, the regulation for tenure rights was ambiguous, which frequently led to conflicts.³² In order to address this issue, Rwanda instituted a comprehensive land-tenure reform between 2007 and 2012 which included the introduction of a systematic land registration programme. The programme started as a pilot phase between 2007 and 2009 and became national in 2009. In 2010 the Land Administration Information System was introduced and in 2011 the National Land Use and Development Master Plan was approved by the Cabinet.³³ Some of these developments have also provided improved gender equalities in land rights through modifications in laws and the launch of sensitizing campaigns. This way, Rwanda is considered unique among many African countries in sensitization on women's land rights, even in the rural sector.³⁴ Nevertheless, women in Rwanda still experience several challenges in accessing land or taking decisions, especially those not officially married, and are often dissuaded from claiming inheritance rights.³⁵

Reducing transport costs by investing in infrastructure development

Inadequate infrastructure regarding mainly transport and energy has been identified as a key bottleneck to improving Rwanda's competitiveness and attracting domestic and foreign investment to the agricultural sector.³⁶ Smallholders have poor access to market because the state or tertiary road transport costs represent as high

as 40 percent of export and import values, which constitute an evident obstacle for competitive trade.³⁷ The GoR acknowledges this situation and has planned to invest US\$ 11 400 million until 2030 in improving its road and railway transport infrastructure.³⁸ The Government of Rwanda targets paving an additional 830km and 2 478km of national and district roads respectively by 2017-2018. Rwanda is also working with the other East African Community partner states to develop railway connectivity with the ports of Dar es Salaam and Mombasa.³⁹ This project will reduce the cost of transportation for imports and exports and will play a key role in promoting trade with the region and beyond.

Climate change mitigation

Rwanda is considered a climate vulnerable country with high risk of increased weather extremes such as floods and droughts. Aware of this, the GoR launched the National Strategy of Rwanda on Climate Change and Low-Carbon Development (2011) to take into account recurrent shocks related to climate change in the next planning frameworks. In addition, in 2015, Rwanda joined the Vulnerable Twenty (V20).⁴⁰ According to their estimations, Rwanda's GDP will be reduced a 4.5 percent by 2030 by the effects of climate change.⁴¹ The biggest contribution will be due to changes in the agricultural sector, where farmers are increasingly exposed to extreme weather events. In fact, harvesting is now taking place at wetter times of the year, which means that farmers can no longer dry cereals and pulses to safe moisture-content levels for storage. In dairy value chains, water scarcity is influencing fodder production and temperature fluctuations complicate the storage and transport of milk. In this regard, the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Program (ASAP) launched by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

29 NAEB. 2015. Accessed on December 2015.

30 MINAGRI. 2013. Professionalization of sustainable pyrethrum growing in Rwanda. Available here: www.newtimes.co.rw/files/promo/1432877586RPP-May-29.pdf

31 Rurangwa, E. 2013. Land Tenure Reform: The Case Study of Rwanda. Available at: www.landdivided2013.org.za/

32 USAID. 2010. Country profile: Rwanda property rights and resource governance. Available at: www.usaidlandtenure.net

33 MINAGRI. 2012. Building Land Administration in Rwanda through Systematic Land Registration. Available at: <http://geospatialworldforum.org/>

34 USAID in 2014 found out that now daughters are increasingly securing land through inheritance and more often in equal shares with their brothers and married women are exercising greater decision-making power over land held jointly with their husbands.

35 USAID. 2014. The gendered nature of land and property rights in post-reform Rwanda. Available at: www.usaidlandtenure.net

36 African Development Bank, 2011. Rwanda: Bank Group Country Strategy Paper 2012-2016. Available at: www.afdb.org

37 Transport costs at US\$ 165/ton/km are almost twice the regional average of US\$ 95/ton/km.

38 African Development Bank, 2013. Rwanda Transport Sector Review and Action Plan. Available at www.afdb.org

39 African Development Bank, 2014. Improving economic competitiveness to bring about shared growth. Available at www.afdb.org

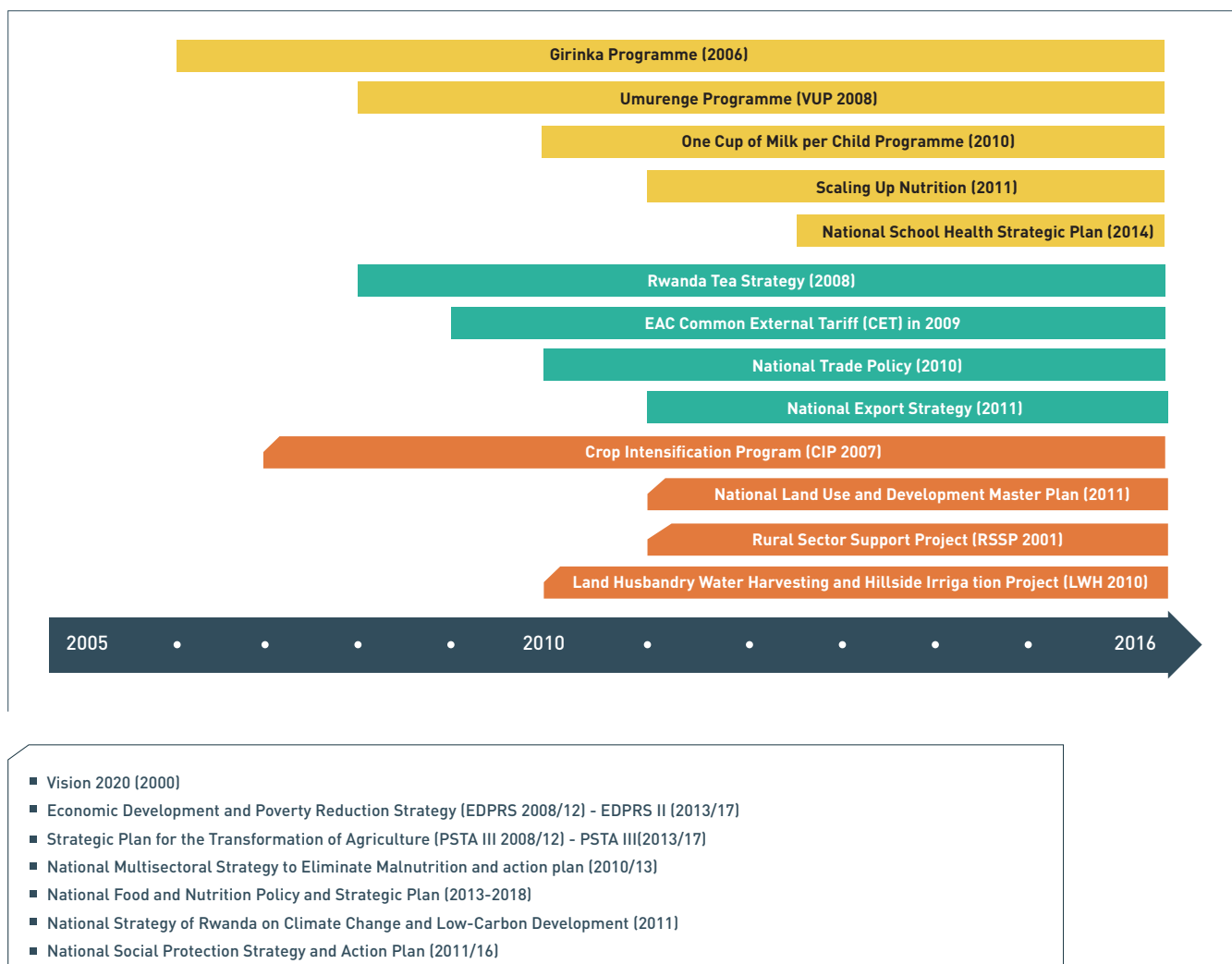
40 A group of 20 climate vulnerable developing nations that aim to bring attention and increase financing of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures..

41 V20. 2013. Climate Vulnerability Monitor. Country Profile: Rwanda. Available at: www.v-20.org.

in 2012 is trying to increase the resilience of Rwandan farmers through the Post-Harvest and Agribusiness Support Project (PASP). This programme is implemented by MINAGRI and focuses on improving post-harvest processing and storage techniques.

However, further financial incentives and policy mechanisms are needed to bring these climate risk management investments to scale.⁴²

MAIN RECENT STRATEGIES AND POLICIES RELATED TO AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION (FSN)



42 IFAD. 2015. ASAP Rwanda factsheet. Available at: www.ifad.org/climate/asap/factsheets/ASAP_factsheet_Rwanda_WEB.pdf.



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or contact us at: fapda@fao.org



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