

Regional integrated agricultural development project in the great lakes (PRDAIGL)

Improving productivity and marketing of milk and dairy products in Burundi

Livestock contributes about 14% of Burundi's national GDP and 29% of agricultural gross domestic product. However, livestock productivity is low due to factors such as small landholdings, low productivity of indigenous livestock breeds and unavailability of forages.

The regional integrated agricultural development in the great lakes (PRDAIGL) project has been working to improve dairy production and productivity in Burundi's Cibitoke, Bubanza, Bujumbura, Rumonge, and Makamba provinces. The project has been facilitating access to modern animal husbandry practices, strengthening Burundi's capacity for disease surveillance and control, accelerating genetic improvement through artificial insemination, improving animal nutrition through improved forage varieties, and building the capacities of government institutions.

Project duration: Nov 2020 - Dec 2022

Objectives

- Increasing livestock productivity in Burundi
- Improving the marketing of milk and processed milk
- Building capacities of government institutions and facilitating integration of livestock activities in the region
- Policy support to the livestock sector in Burundi

Approach

To achieve these objectives the project has been:

- building the capacities of Burundian institutions to improving livestock genetics, nutrition, and health
- developing marketing infrastructures for milk and processed milk which involves setting up of dairy business hubs, training value chain actors on milk hygiene, and conducting studies on the dairy market to map value chain actors



- supporting Master of Science students with their studies on forages, livestock genetics, animal health, and dairy markets
- organizing scientific exchange visits and short-term training to livestock officers and technicians of the Burundi national veterinary laboratory and farmers
- working closely with the Director General-Livestock office to developing enabling policies around the livestock sector.

Partnerships

Led by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the livestock development component of PRDAIGL is implemented in partnership with the Institute of Agronomic Sciences of Burundi (ISABU), the University of Burundi, and the Provincial Bureaus of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock in the PRDAIGL implementation areas.

Project achievements

- Trained 118 researchers and extension staff on the Feed Assessment Tool (FEAST) and conducted an inventory of local forage varieties.
- Trained 110 provincial livestock officers, veterinarians, and community animal health workers (CAHWs) from the Provincial Bureaus of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock on good animal husbandry practices.
- Developed five (5) training modules on forage and animal feeding, genetic improvement, habitat, hygiene, health. The modules were compiled into a dairy production manual.
- Introduced and tested nine (9) nutrient-dense forage varieties such as, legumes (Desmodium intortum, Common stylo and lucerne); grasses (Rhodes, Buffelgrass, Brachiaria marandu, Brachiaria sabia, Brachiaria molato, Brachiaria basilisk, Brachiaria piata, Setaria grass); and Pennisetum Kakamega I, for adaptability with the local environment
- Distributed Kakamega I and mucuna to 1,200 farmers



- Provided technical support to develop the national genetic improvement strategy.
- Provided technical support to the National Centre of Artificial Insemination and Genetic Improvement (CNIAAG) and the Director General Livestock's office with an AI campaign that involved training of 55 laboratory technicians, provincial veterinary workers, CAHWs and CNIAAG staff.
- Trained 21 CNIAAG staff and provincial livestock officers and veterinarians on rapid pregnancy diagnosis kits.
- PRDAIGL coordination unit and the Office of the Director General-Livestock imported 3,000 Friesian cross-bred dairy from Uganda and distributed to farmers in rural households in the Ruzizi region and along the Lake Tanganyika between 2020 and 2022.
- Three contingency plans on foot-and-mouth disease, capri poxes, and brucellosis were developed and validated by stakeholders.
- Participatory Epidemiology (PE) manual, PE tools, disease surveillance and reporting, and clinical diagnosis manuals were developed.
- Helped the Director General-Livestock's office with updating Burundi's CAHW curricula.
- Seventy-two (72) extension staff from BPEAEs were trained on PE, clinical diagnosis, and disease reporting techniques.
- Thirty-six (36) technicians from the Burundi National Veterinary Laboratory (LaboVet), staffs of the National Institute of Public Health and ISABU were trained on microbiology, quality assurance, milk quality, molecular PCR, sequencing and bioinformatic techniques.
- ILRI's One Health Research, Education and Outreach Centre in Africa (OHRECA) trained LaboVet staff on RVF detection and control through a One Health approach.
- Five milk market assessment studies namely, Rural Household Multi-Indicator Survey (RHoMIS) survey, value chain mapping exercise, performance of traders and processors survey, performance of milk collection centres and producer organizations and consumer preference, were conducted to assess the status and performance of value chain actors.
- Field visits were conducted to identify the potential areas for milk production and consumption.
- Provided technical support to bureaus of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock (BPEAE) including advise on a list of equipment needed for dairy infrastructures, development of standard operating procedures and layout of the dairy business hubs.
- Provided ToT to 105 participants from BPEAEs and dairy operators on the dairy business hub approach.
- Developed and distribute farmer manuals on forage, dairy business, genetics, and animal health to 300 farmers.
- Trained 60 dairy operators in the project sites on milk hygiene and processing.
- Organized seven (7) scientific exchange visits for scientists, extension staff, dairy producers, and livestock officials, to the Democratic Republic of Congo, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)-funded livestock development projects and to Kenya.
- PRDAIGL partnered with the Egerton University to support six (6) Burundian Master of Science students with their studies on animal nutrition, animal breeding and genomics, medical parasitology, and agribusiness management.
- Short-term ToT was provided to 98 extension staff from BPEAEs on forage production, and silage and hay making technologies.



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