

A Unique Opportunity for Food Systems Transformation in Rwanda

Rwanda has made remarkable progress in the past two decades, highlighted by rapid economic growth and sharp reductions in poverty. During this period, the country emerged as a leader among sub-Saharan African countries in promoting innovation, gender equality, and an enabling business environment. The government remains strongly committed to ambitious development goals, efficiency and transparency in implementation, strong collaboration with the private sector, and diplomacy through regional and global partnerships.

These encouraging trends present a unique opportunity for Rwanda to accelerate its agenda for sustainable development and inclusive growth by placing greater emphasis on its agricultural and food systems transformation. In fact, both the agricultural sector and rural nonfarm economy offer immense potential to reduce poverty and spur growth through linkages to other sec-

tors of the economy. Agriculture is a key component of Rwanda's economy, both in terms of employment and GDP, and naturally plays a prominent role in the country's development strategy.

The Rwanda Strategy Support Program (Rwanda SSP) is an initiative aligned with the Government of Rwanda's vision for accelerating agricultural transformation and rural development throughout the country. The program, a partnership between the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the Rwanda Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), supports Rwanda's forward-looking strategy for economic growth and transformation and, specifically, implementation of the 2018-2024 Strategic Plan for Agricultural Transformation (PSTA 4) through policy analysis, capacity development, and partnership.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- 1 Collaborative policy analysis** to prioritize agricultural transformation, increase agricultural productivity, improve nutrition, strengthen food systems and the rural nonfarm economy, and foster broad-based economic growth and development in Rwanda.
- 2 Capacity development and knowledge sharing** to undertake timely and relevant policy analysis, communicate actionable findings to policymakers and their development partners, and build linkages for knowledge sharing across research, government, civil society, and other stakeholder communities.



STRATEGIC RESEARCH AND POLICY ANALYSIS AREAS



Analyzing the heterogeneous impacts of COVID-19 at the macro and micro levels to support the multi-sectoral national economic recovery process.



Prioritization of policies and public investment for agricultural transformation to evaluate the most cost-effective and comprehensive solutions to achieve the country's development goals.



Advancement of sustainable agricultural intensification and modernization, focusing on technology and market-led solutions for resilient smallholder systems.



Strengthening agriculture-nutrition linkages by examining novel approaches to promoting nutrient-rich diets and improving nutritional outcomes.



Exploring strategies for agricultural export diversification and agrifood system development to create jobs and income.



Expanding inclusive growth opportunities through the promotion of nonfarm rural employment, small/medium rural enterprises, and rural-urban linkages.



Integrating gender and youth as a cross-cutting theme in all of these research and policy analysis areas.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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IFPRI Headquarters

1201 Eye Street NW, 12th floor
Washington, DC 20005 USA
Phone: +1-202-862-5600
Fax: +1-202-862-5606
Email: ifpri@cgiar.org

IFPRI Rwanda

KG 563 St. #7
P.O. Box 1269
Kigali, Rwanda
Email: IFPRI-Rwanda@cgiar.org



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