ACF Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation

Alliance of Champions
for Food Systems Transformation

Rwanda
Progress framework

About The ACF

The Alliance of Champions (ACF) is a strategic coalition of ambitious countries driving Food System Transformation, taking a 'whole of government' approach, and inspiring others to go further and faster to deliver better outcomes for people, nature, and climate, in accordance with Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement.

This framework sets out the progress made in following up on the COP28 Emirates Declaration.

ACF members exchange experiences—highlighting both successes and challenges – and communicate on progress (ACF Terms of Reference) showcasing national policies and initiatives, for inspiration and presentation at COPs and other international forums, emphasizing that food system transformation is not a linear journey.

These progress frameworks are authored by the ACF Secretariat, in consultation with governments, and aim to capture implementation of membership commitments to strengthen national food system pathways, follow up on sustainable development and climate goals, and demonstrate progress on priority interventions in the 10 ACF action areas.

1. Country Background

RATIONALE FOR RWANDA'S MEMBERSHIP

Rwanda is a founding member of the ACF. As Hon. Dr. Ildephonse Musafiri, Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, remarked at its launch:

"Our journey in Rwanda has always been one of resilience and innovation. By joining forces with the Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation, we reaffirm Rwanda's commitment to strengthening and transforming our food systems. This is a journey towards sustainability, rooted in our land and people, aiming to feed and inspire Africa and the world."

Under President Kagame's leadership, Rwanda has pursued an ambitious programme of domestic agricultural reform. Rwanda has also positioned itself as a leader in global food system dialogues, most recently hosting the Africa Food Systems Forum in 2024.

COUNTRY CONTEXT

Agriculture is a major driver of the Rwandan economy, contributing 25% to GDP and employing 55% of the population and 76% of land use. The top three commodities produced are bananas, cassava and sweet potatoes [See Progress Snapshot]. Rwanda exports coffee, tea, livestock products, cereals & grains, hides & skins, pyrethrum, and horticulture. Agricultural goods account for 48% of Rwanda's total export revenues and are a valuable source offoreign exchange.

83% of Rwanda's agricultural production comes from smallholder farmers. The average farm size is 0.45 hectares. Rwanda is the most densely populated country in Africa and population is predominantly rural, with more than seven in ten Rwandans living in rural areas.

Rwanda has a favourable climate, with high rainfall and fertile soils. In 2025, organic fertilizer was applied by 88% of farmers and over 46% of farmers practiced agroforestry.

Challenges:

Rwanda has identified the following challenges which need to be addressed in their food system transformation:

- **Vulnerability to Climate Change:** Rwanda's heavy reliance on rainfed agriculture makes it highly susceptible to climate shocks. The country has experienced increasing droughts, erratic rainfall, strong winds, and shifting seasonal temperatures. 1.1 million hectares are at risk of soil erosion.
- **Market Access and Value Chains:** Smallholder farmers continue to face significant barriers in reaching larger markets and integrating into formal value chains, limiting income and competitiveness.
- **Land Fragmentation:** Rapid population growth has led to increasingly fragmented landholdings, constraining efficiency and the potential for scalable production.
- **Access to finance:** Despite efforts to increase financing for agriculture, only 6% of commercial credit is allocated to the sector, compared to the target of 10.4%.

2. Progress against commitments

01

Strengthen national visions and food systems transformation pathways, inclusive of ten priority action areas and consistent with science-based targets.

In December 2024, Rwanda launched its Fifth Strategic Plan for Agriculture Transformation (PSTA 5). It is the first plan to adopt a full food-systems andclimate-resilient approach, extending beyond crop yields to include nutrition,markets, climate adaptation, innovation, and youth and gender inclusion.PSTA5 sets out 3 strategic objectives: i) the modernisation of agriculture andanimal resources production for resilient food systems; ii) the developmentof inclusive markets and post harvest management for sustainable food systems; and iii) strengthening food system enablers for effective and efficient foodsystems. As Minister Bagabe said at the launch of the plan:

> *"PSTA5 is the first food systems and climate resilient centric strategy in our country, covering the period 2024–2029".*

The ambitious targets set out in PSTA 5 include:
- Increase agriculture sector growth from 2% in 2023 to 6% in 2028/9;
- Reduce undernourishment from 31.8% to 18%;
- Increase agriculture exports from $875m in 2023 to $1.54 billion in 2028/29; and
- Increase food self-sufficiency from 80% in 2023 to 100% in 2028/29.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) is now focused on operationalizing the strategy. This includes moving forward with the roll out of agrihubs and food baskets, to support the production of crops for food security and commercial purposes, and the development of food systems indicators.

2. Progress against commitments

02 **Update Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS), and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)** in line with these updated National Food System Transformation Pathways and/or Implementation Plans, by 2025.	Rwanda launched its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0), at COP30. Building from NDC 2.0, the revision, led by the Ministry of Environment in close collaboration with sectoral ministries including MINAGRI, adopts a food-systems approach aligned with PSTA 5 and national development goals. This includes strengthening agriculture-sector measures such as climate-resilient crops and livestock, climate-resilient post-harvest and value-addition facilities and technologies, strengthening crop management practices, sustainable land-use management, and expansion of crop and livestock insurance, among others. The development of NDC3.0 was inclusive, engaging multiple stakeholders including government institutions, and other partners to ensure ownership and coherence across sectors.
03 **Report annually** on targets and priority intervention areas.	This Progress Framework and the accompanying Progress Snapshot fulfil the reporting requirement.

Action Areas

Action Area 1	Indicator	Progress Made
Increase the affordability and availability of nutritious, diversified and sustainably produced foods (including blue foods, nutrient rich foods, alternative proteins, pulses, legumes, fruits and vegetables), without sacrificing yields	**Outcome:** FSCI 6: % Population experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity (FIES)	**2024 data:** 16% Moderate food insecurity 1% Severe food insecurity Comprehensive Food Security & Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) - 2024 **(Baseline) 2022 data:** 18.8% Moderate food insecurity 1.8% Severe food insecurity Comprehensive Food Security & Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) - 2022
	Process: Coordination of actions and policies across two or more sectors dealing with climate change, agricultural development, dietary guidelines, food procurement, and food security at national, regional and local level.	The Government of Rwanda has introduced several initiatives to improve the affordability and availability of healthy foods. Key measures include: • PSTA-5 aims to contribute to ending malnutrition, **increasing the number of food-secure households** from 79.4 % to 90% by building a resilient, inclusive and nutrition-sensitive food system, rather than one driven simply by yields. • Rwanda has strengthened cross-sectoral coordination to **increase the affordability and availability of nutritious foods**, integrating social protection, health, agriculture, and education considerations to address both access and nutrition outcomes. For example, the Vision 2020 Umurenge Programme (VUP) combines safety nets, livelihood development, and community mobilization to reduce poverty and build resilience. In 2024, it supported 142,115 mothers and infants in their first 1,000 days with nutrition-sensitive direct cash transfers and nutrition support services. • Complementing this, the **School Feeding Program**, implemented jointly through the education and agriculture ministries, serves almost 4 million students, with universal coverage contributing to a significant drop in school dropout rates from 9.4% in 2020 to 4.7% in 2023 (Ministry of Education, 2023/2024 Education Statistical Yearbook, 2024). Other programs implemented collaboratively by multiple ministries, such as **Early Childhood Development Centers** and the **One Cup of Milk per Child** initiative, further illustrate Rwanda's multi-sectoral approach.

Action Area 2	Indicator	Progress Made
Improve livelihoods for those working throughout food supply chains, including increasing incomes, creating jobs and economic opportunity, including for youth, and ensuring a just transition for producers and for rural and coastal communities.	**Outcome:** Poverty headcount ratio at RWF 560,127 per adult equivalent per year.	**2024 data:** 27.4% 7th INTEGRATED HOUSEHOLD LIVING CONDITIONS SURVEY REPORT (EICV 7) **2017 data:** 39.8% 7th INTEGRATED HOUSEHOLD LIVING CONDITIONS SURVEY REPORT (EICV 7)

	Process:
	Measurable value for total official flows (official development assistance plus other official flows) to the agriculture sector (SDG 2.a.2) and complementary national actions to improve livelihoods.
		According to OECD data, in 2023 the total official flows to the agriculture sector (forestry and fishing included) equalled $65.5m in official development assistance (ODA) and $3.4m in other official flows (OOF) disbursed. Commitments totalled $4,103m (ODA) and $6.3m (OOF).
		
		The Government of Rwanda is working to improve livelihoods for those working throughout food supply chains through:
		• Ejo Heza Long-Term Saving Scheme. This has now enrolled over 3 million Rwandans, promoting financial resilience and security. Established by the Rwandan Government through the Ministry of Finance, this operates as a defined contribution scheme, administered by the Rwanda Social Security Board (RSSB), and catering to both salaried and unsalaried individuals.
		
		• Social Protection Sector Strategic Plan (SP-SSP) 2024-2029. Approved by Rwanda's Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC) in June 2024, this outlines a comprehensive framework to enhance social protection systems and reduce poverty.
		
		• Local Administrative Entities Development Agency (LODA), which is mandated to execute social protection programmes aimed at eradicating extreme poverty and reducing moderate poverty. In 2024, LODA supported livelihoods through
		  • Distribution of **13,580 cows** to vulnerable families to address malnutrition;
		  • Provision of 49,942 tons of fertilizer, enhancing yields and incomes.
		  • Construction of 735km of new water supply lines and rehabilitation of 471km of existing systems, improving access to water and sanitation.
		  • Job creation initiatives, offering employment to 84,963 households through classic public works and 83,254 households through expanded public works targeting unemployment among the extremely poor.
		  • Direct support provided to 104,560 households, improving living standards for the most vulnerable.

Action Area 3	Indicator	Progress Made
Build and enhance the resilience of food systems and their associated supply chains, reducing exposure to climate-, energy- and water-related risks, protecting vulnerable communities and actively promoting climate-smart agriculture.	**Outcome:** Land area (ha) under climate-resilient soil and water conservation (terracing).	**2024 data:** Radical: 142, 319 ha (2024) Progressive: 1 031 283 ha (2024) MINAGRI, Annual Report, 2024 **(Baseline) 2022 data:** Radical: 138,579 ha (2023) Progressive: 1,008,855 ha (2023) MINAGRI, Annual Report, 2023
	Process: Coordination of actions and policies across two or more sectors dealing with climate change, agricultural development, dietary guidelines, food procurement, and food security at national, regional and local level.	The Government of Rwanda is working to build and enhance the resilience of food systems through: • **Conservation Agriculture:** the government aims to increase the area under conservation agriculture by 10-fold from 1,173 to 10,000 hectares by 2028/2029, thus enhancing soil health, productivity, and farms' resilience. • **Climate Smart Agriculture:** an investment plan of $335.4 million has been made to support PSTA 5, with a focus on improved irrigation, climate-smart cropping and livestock systems, and soil health, leading to a robust food system. Additionally, as part of the climate smart farming practices, the agricultural area under radical terraces[1] will be expanded to 167,268 ha in 2029, whereas for progressive terraces it will expand to 1,102,282 ha by 2029. • **Improved Irrigation:** PSTA5 aims to increase the area under irrigation from 71,549 Ha to 132,171 Ha. By 2029, 20 additional irrigation schemes covering 45,000 hectares will be operational, alongside the scaling up of small-scale and water-efficient irrigation technologies, enhancing farmers' resilience to drought and rainfall variability. This represents a significant step toward realizing Rwanda's full irrigation potential of almost 600,000 hectares • **Farmer Insurance:** Through the agriculture insurance scheme, farmers have been supported to better deal with climate change impacts. Since 2019, the government has invested RWF 1.7bn (USD 1.174m) in subsidies, RWF 2.5 billion has been paid out in compensation to losses, and farmers have also received up to RWF 2 billion in agricultural loans using insurance as collateral. Further efforts are being made to ensure universal coverage. 1 Radical terraces are constructed rapidly using labor-intensive methods, often with machinery, to create level platforms on steeper slopes. Progressive terraces are built more slowly over time through the combined actions of contour bunds, ditches, and vegetation, which harness natural erosion and sedimentation to form terraces on gentler slopes.

		Additionally, under the "Rwanda Green Fund" the nation's environment and climate change investment fund, investments are being made across the whole food systems including climate smart agriculture, water, renewable energy, biomass replacement, sustainable transport, green cities, and alternative waste. Under this fund: • More than **46,000 hectares** of forests and agro-forests have been established, • Over **31,000 hectares of watersheds** and water bodies have been protected, • More than **24,000 hectares** of land have been secured against erosion, • Over **126,000 tons of CO_2eq emissions** have been avoided, • **88,000 households** now have improved access to off-grid clean energy, • **120,000 people** have been supported to cope with the effects of climate change, and • **176,000 green jobs** have been created among others.

Action Area 4	Indicator	Progress Made
Improve gender parity and income equality, including increased protection of IPLCs rights and access to land, water and resources. d and enhance the resilience of food systems.	**Outcome:** Percentage of female-headed agricultural households who owns agricultural land	**2024 data:** 92% versus 92.5% for men (2024). Agricultural Household Survey 2024 (latest report) **(Baseline) 2021 data:** 88.3% versus 87.4% for men (2021). 2024 National Gender Statistics Report
	Process: Existence of constitutional and legal provisions guaranteeing equal land and inheritance rights for women and men.	Rwanda has built on a strong legal foundation to promote gender equality in agriculture and land governance. The 2003 Constitution (revised in 2015) guarantees equal rights for women and men, while the 2013 Land Law ensures equal access to, ownership of, and use of land for both genders. Building on this, the government has strengthened the policy environment to further advance gender parity and reduce income inequality. Key measures include the revised National Gender Policy (2021), the National Policy against Gender-Based Violence, and the National Policy for Family Promotion. These efforts have contributed to Rwanda being ranked 2nd in Africa and 39th globally in closing the gender gap in 2024, and recognized as the 5th best country for women in Africa (39th worldwide). Specifically in agriculture, the Government of Rwanda's efforts to promote gender equality have resulted in a 72% score on the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index as of 2023. Under the Fifth Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture, the government aims to increase this index from 72% to 100% by 2029. In addition, the 2024 National Gender Statistics Report shows that 94.8% of women farmers have access to agricultural land (men have 93.7%), and 75.4% of women farmers have the right to sell or use land as a collateral for loan.

Action Area 5	Indicator	Progress Made
Protect and restore nature, including forests, peatlands, oceans, freshwater habitats, wetlands and coasts, as well as other natural ecosystems, thus supporting biodiversity and contributing to climate change mitigation.	**Outcome:** Forest area as proportion of total land area.	**2022 data:** 30.4% Republic of Rwanda Climate Change Portal **(Baseline) 2014 data:** 20.4% Republic of Rwanda Climate Change Portal
	Outcome: Terrestrial and Marine protected areas % of total territorial area	**2024 data:** 9.1% World Bank Data **(Baseline) 2022 data:** 9.1% World Bank Data
	Process: Measurable targets for the protection and restoration of biodiversity within forests, peatlands, oceans, freshwater habitats, wetlands, and coasts, that are consistent with the Global Biodiversity Framework.	Rwanda has adopted measurable biodiversity targets aligned with the Global Biodiversity Framework. Under its 2016 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, the country committed to: • Safeguarding at least 10% of its land in protected ecosystems; • Maintaining a minimum of 30% forest cover; • Restoring degraded ecosystems, including wetlands and inland waters; and • Protecting threatened species. At COP15 in December 2022, Rwanda reaffirmed these ambitions by endorsing the global goal to protect 30% of land and seas by 2030 and 50% by 2050 (MoE, 2022). Additional commitments include: • Expanding protected area coverage to 37.7% by 2050; • Increasing resources for biodiversity preservation and restoration from 0.5–0.9% to 2% of national GDP. Rwanda aims to restore 2 million hectares of landscapes are being restored, enhancing crop yields and forest products while reducing emissions by approximately 190 mega tonnes of CO_2 equivalent per year.

Action Area 6	Indicator	Progress Made
Increase the share of land, ocean and freshwater under nature positive, ecosystem-based, and sustainable management practices (including agroecological, regenerative and other sustainable agricultural approaches).	**Outcome:** Agriculture area under organic agriculture	**2023 data:** 5,421 hectares FAOSTAT **(Baseline) 2022 data:** 5,028 hectares FAOSTAT
	Process: Measurable national targets for increasing the share of land, ocean, and freshwater under agroecological, regenerative, and other sustainable agricultural approaches, consistent with the Global Biodiversity Framework.	Rwanda is increasing the share of land and freshwater under agroecological, regenerative, and other sustainable agricultural approaches. This includes increasing the total and area under conservation agriculture from 1,173 ha to 10,000 ha by 2029, in line with the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) Target 10. Rwanda is also maintaining and growing its forest coverage (currently at 30.4%), to increase carbon stocks and habitat. To further increase the share of land and water under nature positive, ecosystem-based, and sustainable management practices, Rwanda has implemented several projects: • Green Amayaga Project: Launched in 2020, this is a six-year project that aims to "promote biodiversity, foster ecosystem services, increase agricultural productivity and reduce the vulnerability of people and ecosystems to the adverse effects of climate change." The targets of this project included planting 8 million trees to restore degraded forests, restore and rehabilitate 263,000 hectares of agricultural land, and plant 25,000 hectares with fruit trees to increase agro-forestation. Some of the anticipated impacts include reducing 4.7 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions over five years, and 13 million tons of indirect greenhouse gas emissions over 20 years. • Green Gicumbi Project: Under its watershed and climate resilient agriculture component, this project aims to reduce soil erosion and land degradation on cultivated areas. It targeted producing and planting 2 million fruit trees seedlings. Some of the achievements under this component included establishing 600 ha radical terraces, 850 ha progressive terraces, and installing three automated weather stations. • Transforming the Eastern Province Through Adaptation (TREPA): This aims to Restore ecosystems and transform fragile landscapes in the Eastern Province of Rwanda, a region which has been degraded due to climate change. It targets to restore more than 60,000 hectares of drought-degraded landscapes, rehabilitate 6,545 hectares of degraded smallholder forests, and avoid 9.7 million tonnes of emissions.

		• Volcanoes Community Resilience Project: This project aims to strengthen climate resilience, reduce flooding risks, improve natural resource management, increase agricultural productivity, and improve livelihoods. Targets include enhancing adoption of climate-smart land management practices among 102,500 households, having 502,000 people benefiting from reduced flooding losses and damages, and improve 404,000 people's livelihoods. • Congo-Nile Divide Restoration Project: This project aims to increase climate resilience of vulnerable rural communities in the region of Congo-Nile Divide by building capacities on integrated landscape planning and management through landscape restoration. Among targets include having 250,000 hectares of land under sustainable management, avoiding more than 1.2 million tons of emissions, and improving livelihoods of 10.5 million people.

Action Area 7	Indicator	Progress Made
Reduce all GHG emissions throughout the entire food value chain (including from AFOLU and energy sectors, and including post-farm and consumption-related activities); increase carbon removal activities in the AFOLU sector; and scale land mitigation opportunities in line with Paris Agreement targets.	**Outcome:** GHG emissions (total) and % of the world total (Mton CO2eq)	**2023 data:** 7.49 Mton Share of Global total 0.01% European Union **(Baseline) 2022 data:** 7.47 Mton European Union
	Outcome: FSCI 15: Agri-food systems greenhouse gas emissions (kT CO2eq)	**2022 data:** 8,268 kiloton FAOSTAT **(Baseline) 2021 data:** 8,480 kiloton FAOSTAT
	Process: Measurable targets for the protection and restoration of biodiversity within forests, peatlands, oceans, freshwater habitats, wetlands, and coasts, that are consistent with the Global Biodiversity Framework.	Rwanda has nationally established, measurable GHG reduction targets covering the entire food value chain, including AFOLU, energy, post-farm, and consumption-related activities, as outlined in its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). The NDC 3.0 aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 53% reduction by 2035 compared to a business-as-usual (BAU) scenario, a significant increase from the 38% target for 2030 under NDC 2.0. Rwanda aims to reduce emission by up to 5.37 million tCO2e in 2035; a reduction of around 37% compared to BAU the second largest sectoral share of their total mitigation efforts. Soil conservation measures, which include terracing, conservation tillage (e.g. low, and no-tillage), mulching and multi-cropping and crop rotation practices, account for the majority of the sector's estimated mitigation potential. Progress toward these targets is tracked through national reporting systems, including the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), and National Communication Reports, all submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Action Area 8	Indicator	Progress Made
Reduce food loss and waste.	**Outcome:** % food lost from the farm level up until retail. Food Loss Index (FLI) - FAO	**2023 data:** 13.8 Fifth Strategic Plan for Agriculture Transformation **(Baseline) 2019 data:** 16.4 Fifth Strategic Plan for Agriculture Transformation
	Process: Coordination of actions, policies, and partnerships aimed at reducing food loss across the food supply chain.	Through the Second National Strategy for Transformation (2024-2029), Rwanda is aiming to reduce food loss from 14% to less than 5% by 2029. In line with this strategy, the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources is working to link 2.3 million farming households to post-harvest infrastructure and better market opportunities by 2029. Additional activities include the establishment of 555 food crop storage facilities, 120 cold storage facilities, 141 cereal mobile dryers, 1199 maize and bean drying shelters, 765 rice and wheat drying grounds, and 180 collection centres for Irish potato, cassava, vegetables, honey and eggs among others. Rwanda has also partnered with Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) to establish a national post-harvest center (NPC), and four Local Postharvest Centers (LPC) for reducing horticultural crop loss, mainly onions and chilli. These initiatives not only reduce food loss but also create job opportunities along the targeted crop value chains.

Action Area 9	Indicator	Progress Made
Realign public financial and policy incentives to promote low emission, resilient, nature positive production and healthy diets.	**Outcome:** National budget allocated to Agriculture	**2025 / 2026 data:** 222.3 billion Budget Framework Paper 2025/2026 - 2027/2028 **2024 / 2025:** RWF 210.7 billion (2024/2025) Budget Framework Paper 2024/2025-2026/2027
	Process: Coordination of actions and policies (including finance flows) across the sectors dealing with climate change, biodiversity loss, agriculture and healthy food/diets at national, regional and local level.	Through the Second National Strategy for Transformation (2024-2029) worth RWF 63,559 billion (42.8m USD), Rwanda aims to modernize its food systems to be climate-resilient and productive. As part of this strategy, a climate-smart agriculture investment plan (worth RWF 449.7 billion in private investments) has been developed serving as a roadmap to mobilize climate finance at scale. For better monitoring, reporting and decision making in climate public spending, Rwanda institutionalized Climate Budget Tagging (CBT) and introduced brown tagging to monitor spending with negative environmental or climate impacts. For 2025/26, fossil fuel and inorganic fertilizer are the main categories, reinforcing climate-conscious decision-making across sectors. Additionally, the budget allocated to agriculture and climate has been increasing: • For agriculture: from RWF 210.7 billion in 2024/25 to RWF 222.3 billion in 2025/26, ensuring that financing aligns with the strategic plan for agricultural transformation. • For climate change: from RWF 465.9 billion in 2024/25 to RWF 595 billion in 2025/26, demonstrating Rwanda's commitment to realigning public financial and policy incentives toward low-emission, resilient, and nature-positive production.

Action Area 10	Indicator	Progress Made
Accelerate innovation through increased investments in R&D and digital technology.	**Outcome:** FSCI 43: Mobile cellular subscriptions (per 100 people)	**2024 data:** 97.7% NISR - Mobile-Cellular Telephone Subscriptions Report As Of April 2024 **2022 data:** 80.6% NISR – Mobile-Cellular Telephone Subscriptions Report as of May 2022
	Process: Documented national strategies, programs, and actions to promote agricultural innovation and adoption.	Under the fifth national strategic plan for agricultural transformation, Rwanda aims to develop over 100 climate-resilient, disease-resistant crop varieties and introduce 11 market-driven animal breeds by 2028/2029. The Government of Rwanda is also spreading innovative practices through the Customized Agriculture Extension System (CAES). This is bringing extension services closer to beneficiaries and increasing coverage from 35% (2023) to 69% by 2028/2029 whilst raising adoption of innovative climate-smart farming practices to 70%. To strengthen technical capacity and foster innovation, 1,250 youth and professional farmers will be trained in technical courses, while 21,620 extension agents will be trained on delivering new extension packages by 2028/2029. Additionally, 50 specialized short courses in agri-food systems will be provided annually through 2028/2029. More actions, indicators, and their monitoring framework are detailed in Section 6 of PSTA 5 (MEL plan), which is publicly accessible.

3. Investment in Food System Transformation

DOMESTIC INVESTMENT

Environmental protection makes up 8% of the 2025/26 total government budget. Rwanda also increased its domestic expenditure on agriculture in the 2025 budget by 6% from RWF 210 billion (147m USD) in 2024/25 last year to Rwf 222.3 billion (157.5m USD) in 2025/2026, working towards the CAADP target. This includes funding for the Rwanda Agriculture Board, investment in Smart Food Value Chain Management and Food Basket Sites. Agriculture accounts for about 3.3% of the total government budget. But their significant investments in infrastructure will also help to make the food system more efficient.

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT

Rwanda receives significant funds for the agriculture sector, securing the following major investments in their food system since becoming a member of the ACF in November 2023:

- USD 300m from OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) to support agriculture and food systems, particularly irrigation and post-harvest management, renewable energy projects focused on solar power, and infrastructure upgrades in the aviation sector.
- In September 2024, IFAD launched the Rwanda Dairy Development Project (RDDP) phase II valued at USD 100.37m.
- USD 30m of 50m raised for Rwanda's catalytic fund, including $20m from AGRA and Mastercard.

4. Looking to the future/Priorities for the next 12 months

The Government of Rwanda is looking to secure $1,712.8 billion to fund PSTA5 and is looking for support from MDBs, donors and the private sector.

In June 2025, the Rwandan Government launched the Rwanda Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Investment Plan, supported by IFC. This identifies over $335 million in potential private sector investment opportunities to improve and increase food production in the country, supporting food security and job creation.

For more information about the Alliance of Champions for Food System Transformation:

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